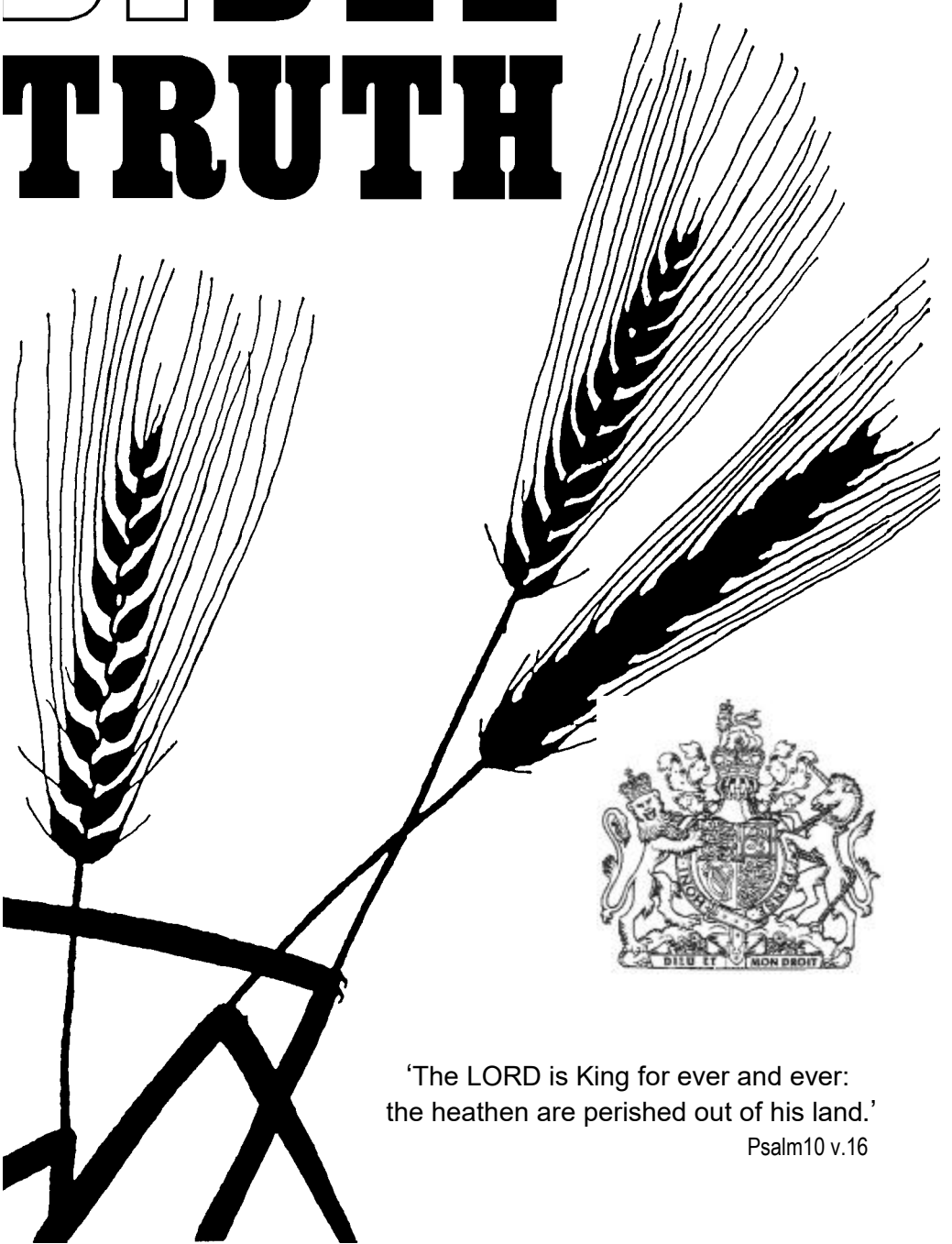


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 307
May / August 2023



'The LORD is King for ever and ever:
the heathen are perished out of his land.'

Psalm10 v.16

Jeremiah's Final Message For Our Day

Seven Latter-day Prophecies of Israel and Judah in Jeremiah chapters 50-51

The Book of Jeremiah has fifty-two chapters, with a concluding epilogue constituting all of chapter fifty-two, apparently written by another, later hand. Dr Howard B. Rand pointed out,

‘The fifty-first chapter of Jeremiah closes with the statement, “Thus far are the words of Jeremiah”, indicating the end of the prophet’s message insofar as the book of Jeremiah was concerned’.

Study in Jeremiah, 1967, p.275

The important set of closing prophecies given in chapters fifty and fifty one were therefore Jeremiah’s final prophetic message, his final forecast of the future. In these two concluding prophetic chapters are seven separate predictions concerning latter day Israel. They are as follows.

1. Israel would be Lost Sheep far from their forgotten homeland.

‘My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.’

Jeremiah ch.50 v.6

Exiled Israel went on quite a journey, from mountain to hill. What do the Bible Commentaries say about that? *Barnes Notes* says,

‘Israel is a scattered sheep ... driven in all directions. Not just to Nineveh or Babylon. Specifically Jeremiah says, “... they have gone from mountain to hill ...”’.

What mountains did they traverse? There are no mountains in Mesopotamia where Assyria and Babylon were located; it is a flat dry desert land. The mountains are to the north, the Caucasus. And what people are called Caucasian, having come into Europe from the Caucasus? Jeremiah said that the Lost Sheep of Israel would go from mountain to hill and had forgotten their original resting place, and so they did.

2. A Future Reunion of Israel and Judah.

‘In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, ...’

Jeremiah ch.50 v.4a

(See also vv 20 & 33 & ch.51 v.5)

When is this?

Barnes Notes says, ‘[In] Those days ... The days of the Messiah.’

This is at the return of Christ and the dawn of the Millennium; Israel and Judah are to be reunited, and return to the Lord in faith. Not in 539 BC when Babylon fell, but at the end of the age and dawn of the Millennium.

3. They Would Repent and seek the Lord.

‘... going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.’

Jeremiah ch. 50 v.4b

‘“Israel and Judah should yet know him as a Saviour - God ...” The prophecy says “In those days”, the days of the return of the Messiah, the two houses of Israel, still separate, will acknowledge their Saviour is Jesus Christ. This was not fulfilled in 539 BC, nor in 1946 AD, but awaits the return of Christ.’

H.A. Ironside

4. They will Ask the way to Zion.

‘They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, ...’

Jeremiah ch.50 v.5a

Nor was it merely the temporary return under Ezra and Zerubbabel that is referred to here, for this will only be when,

‘they shall look upon me whom they have pierced,’

Zechariah ch.12 v.10

and the remnant of Judah, as later the remnant of the ten tribes (still separate) shall say,

‘Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up’.

Hosea ch.6 v.1

H.A. Ironside

They would return to Zion in faith, not unconverted.

5. They would be bound to the Everlasting (New) Covenant.

‘... saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.’

ch.50 v.5b

'Rabbi Kimchi owns that this verse belongs to the days of the Messiah. Both the Christian and Jewish view is that Israel's return includes a spiritual return to the Lord in faith and acceptance of Jeremiah's "Perpetual" New Covenant in Jeremiah ch.31 vv 31-34. There is no true return without faith in Christ!'

John Gill

6. Their Guiltless sins covered by faith in Christ.

'In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.'

Jeremiah ch.50 v.20

How are the sins of each of the separate two houses of Israel atoned for? By the New Covenant spoken of by Jeremiah in chapter 31, verses 31-34, and requoted in the New Testament in Hebrews chapter 8, verses 8-11.

7. Evangelists, giving joyful national testimony of the Lord's faithfulness.

'... be as the he goats before the flocks ... The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.'

Jeremiah ch.50 v. 8 & ch.51 v.10

The 'He-Goats' led and guided the rest of the flock. Israel was to be like He-Goats leading the nations to Christ.

'God's people must in the general redemption go like rams before the herd of the nations, that these may also attach themselves to Israel, as this was fulfilled at the time of Christ in the first churches and the apostles, who now draw the whole heathen world after them to eternal life.'

John Peter Lang

Conclusion, when will Jeremiah's final prophecies take place?

Kelly, 'It seems clear that, whatever the application to the past, these words cannot be satisfactorily explained without awaiting a yet larger and closer fulfilment in the last days, when the sons of both Israel and Judah shall take the place of penitence and shall return from their long and distant wanderings to Zion under the everlasting covenant and their Messiah'. Again, Israel's return is firmly linked to her acceptance of the Everlasting New Covenant.

'It awaits a future fulfilment ... Israel and Judah will need to be restored because they have been lost sheep wandering over mountain and hill (cf. Jeremiah ch.23 vv1-2). It was a physical exile and migration to other lands as we have documented in our other studies.'

Bible Knowledge Commentary
