

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS



March 2005



A LAND DIVIDED,
A NATION UNITED

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Outreach Israel Ministries
1492 Regal Court
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Phone: (407) 933-2002
Fax: (407) 870-8986
Web: www.outreachisrael.net
E-mail: info@outreachisrael.net

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AIM Associate

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, Who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

There is only one assembly of chosen ones/elect, the people of Israel, of which all Believers in Messiah are a part. God does not have two groups of elect: Israel and "the Church."

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be followed and studied by Believers today.

The proper name of God is YHVH/YHWH, or Yahweh, and should be used by all Believers. The original name of Messiah is Yeshua/Y'shua which means "Salvation."

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the saints after the Tribulation period.

For more specific information, consult OIM's home page <outreachisrael.net> and Articles of Faith for Judah and Ephraim at <tnnonline.net/two-housenews/intro/articles-faith/>.

OIM Update March 2005

This month, as we begin to enter the Spring holiday season, the hearts of many who love and support the State of Israel are heavy with anticipation and consternation about what is currently happening in the Promised Land. As we watch and read the reports about the decisions being made by the Prime Minister of Israel to unilaterally remove the settlers from Gaza and other settlements in the coming months, the confusion is turning to anger. To compound the problem, the President of the United States is making the creation of a “democratic” Palestinian State one of his “legacy” milestones that he believes will usher in the peace, security and now prosperity for not only the Middle East, but will be one of the stepping stones in his idealistic goal to eradicate global tyranny.

Quite frankly, from a logical perspective of one who has been intimately following the affairs of the State of Israel for the past ten years, these machinations do not make much sense. So in my search for answers to these seemingly contradictory actions, I returned to a passage of Scripture that was actually brought to my attention back in January of this year when I wrote about the *Vayera* Torah Portion (Shemot/Exodus 6:2-9:35) in a **TorahScope** commentary. At that time, I was impressed with some of the statements that the Prophet Ezekiel made in his declarations about the judgments coming upon the nations of the world and in my enthusiasm, I read chs. 25-36 in order to understand the context of the Haftarah selection that corresponds to the *Vayera* reading.

Since that time, we have had “elections” among the Palestinian and Iraqi people and the momentum for implementing the “Road Map for the Middle East” is proceeding without even its mention taking center stage. Instead, our attention is being diverted to following the progress of the leaders of the State of Israel continuing their plans to relocate settlers and the leaders of the U.S., E.U., Russia, and U.N. ostensibly unifying in their efforts to present a united front on the “war against terrorism.”

As we all struggle to understand what our Heavenly Father is doing with His Creation, I hope that this lengthy article gives you some hope. Whether it is a correct understanding of what Ezekiel is declaring will only be understood in the course of time. In the meanwhile, the work of the ministry continues as perhaps the Holy One is going to allow this excruciating situation to bring the subject of Israel to the minds and hearts of millions in the coming weeks, months and years. So when confronted with the inevitable questions, may He use each one of us to declare the only answer that will calm the fear of the unknown, the Hope of the Messiah that is within us.

Until the restoration of all things...

Mark Huey

A Land Divided, A Nation United

By Mark Huey

“And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of Yahweh. **Thus says the Lord Yahweh, “Because the enemy has spoken against you, ‘Aha!’ and, “The everlasting heights have become our possession”**” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:1-2).

There is a lot of chatter being spoken and written these days about the power of freedom and the efficacy of democracy around the globe. Although the autocrats have a lot to grumble about, perhaps the most confused group on the planet are those who claim to know and follow the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **Those who declare that they are Israel, whether physical, spiritual, or both, are each facing quite a dilemma regarding the possible establishment of a Palestinian State in the Holy Land!**

Since maintenance of credibility is of paramount importance to those in positions of ecclesiastical authority, various theological persuasions are desperately attempting to retain some degree of lucidity for their adherents through somewhat myopic views of the Holy Scriptures. One group adamantly rejects the more recent Apostolic Writings while the other discounts the importance of the foundational building blocks of the more ancient texts. Theories about how to understand and deal with the political predicament in the Promised Land abound as convoluted interpretations compounded by Orthodox Jewish or dispensational Christian presuppositions further cloud the air with prejudice that outweighs truth. **Nevertheless, is it possible that a divided land can actually unite a nation?**

If so, how does one balance faith and understand the written Word in light of the realities of geopolitical machinations? By first recognizing and conceding that whatever conclusions are made using the Holy Writ are conjectures at best. **This is not the time or the season to declare, “thus says the LORD!”** However, it is often beneficial to enter the fray of discourse, hoping and praying that perhaps in some small way, another opinion can encourage the truth seekers, inundated with queries that only time will answer.

The persistent drumbeat of peace and security, under the obfuscating shroud of freedom and democracy, is difficult for mankind to avoid. After all, inherent in the heart of every human is an innate desire for a calm and safe environment in which to pursue dreams, aspirations and life itself. The compelling lure of “government by the people” is arguably the most logical and compassionate way for citizens to secularly govern themselves as evidenced by historical facts. Yet, compounding the enigma for “people of faith” is when they interject their religious predilection into the mix.

This is most apparent when “people of faith” concede that there is a Creator with one attribute that can be summarized by this simple Biblical axiom, **“God cannot lie.”** Most “Judeo-Christian” sects understand that God cannot

lie or else His righteousness would be invalid. The Apostle Paul references a statement from the Book of Tehellim/Psalms, **"But let God be true, and every man a liar, as it is written, 'THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND OVERCOME IN YOUR BEING JUDGED'"** (Romans 3:4; cf. Tehellim/Psalms 51:4).

For American Jews and Christians, and perhaps even Israeli citizens, who are observing the phenomenon of the winds of freedom and democracy filling the sails of the most powerful nation on earth, the quandary is quite perplexing. Since it appears that the United States, in its perceived responsibility and sincere desire to attain peace and security for the world community of nations is being led by a President who acknowledges allegiance to a Sovereign Creator that he declares, is intimately involved with the affairs of mankind. Depending on your religious perspective, which will not necessarily be in one accord with the President's opinion, criticism is valid. But, if you have faith in the veracity of the Holy Scriptures, then rest assured, **God is still in control of the affairs of mankind.**

Remember that the Creator has a plan that no matter what occurs on His terrestrial plain, it is **ALL** according to what He has planned from eternity past. There are no surprises. In truth, there is a proverb that states that the heart motivated actions of the "visible rulers or kings" of the world are controlled like a Master Gardener would direct a hose to water His plants.

"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of Yahweh; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but Yahweh weighs the hearts. To do righteousness and justice is desired by Yahweh more than sacrifice" (Mishle/Proverbs 21:1-3).

From the statements of the U. S. President, it appears that he is bound and determined to divide what many Jews and Christians consider to be the "Promised Land" into two separate entities, in order to achieve his goal of establishing an independent self-governing democracy for the Palestinian people. This controversial objective, deemed by him to be a stepping-stone toward the "elimination of global tyranny," seems to be his and his advisors solution to finally bring stability to the region that is fostering the greatest threats against the nation the President has vowed to protect. **Needless to say, many around the globe have justified concern!**

Two things come to mind. One has to do with the "heart" and man's propensity to do what is right in his own eyes. An elected leader without another election to wage and a legacy to establish is in a vulnerable position. But let God be the judge in the matters of the heart. The other has to do with the fulfillment of ancient prophecies and God's promises and plans to execute His will according to His perfect righteousness. This thought generates a hypothetical question.

Is it possible that the "professing Christian" president is merely fulfilling some of the writings of the Prophet Ezekiel in order to justify his ambitious goals for the nurturing of democracy in the Middle East and in the Promised Land in particular?

For declared in the words of Ezekiel, speaking from the banks of the Euphrates River some 2,600 years ago, are some statements that could possibly be construed to say that a future division of the Land promised to the true followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a **part of the Father's plan for the whole House of Israel. Let me explain.**

Since it is critical to study the Holy Scriptures in proper context, the section of Ezekiel from vs. 35:1-36:15 is copied below for easy reference. Please take note of references to **Mount Seir, the Mountains of Israel**, and **rest of the nations** are of particular interest as you read through the text:

"Moreover, the word of Yahweh came to me saying, 'Son of man, set your face against **Mount Seir**, and prophesy against it and say to it, "Thus says the Lord Yahweh, 'Behold, I am against you, **Mount Seir**, and I will stretch out My hand against you and make you a desolation and a waste. I will lay waste your cities and you will become a desolation. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. **Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end**, therefore as I live,' declares the Lord Yahweh, 'I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you; since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you. I will make **Mount Seir** a waste and a desolation and I will cut off from it the one who passes through and returns. I will fill its mountains with its slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those slain by the sword will fall. I will make you an everlasting desolation and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. **Because you have said, "These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,"** although Yahweh was there, therefore as I live,' declares the Lord Yahweh, **'I will deal with you according to your anger and according to your envy which you showed because of your hatred against them; so I will make Myself known among them when I judge you.** Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have heard all your revilings which you have spoken against the **mountains of Israel** saying, 'They are laid desolate; they are given to us for food.' And you have spoken arrogantly against Me and have multiplied your words against Me; I have heard it." Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "As all the earth rejoices, I will make you a desolation. As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, so I will do to you. You will be a desolation, **O Mount Seir**, and all Edom, all of it. Then they will know that I am Yahweh"" (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 35:1-15).

"And you, son of man, prophesy to the **mountains of Israel** and say, '**O mountains of Israel**, hear the word of Yahweh. Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "**Because the enemy has spoken against you, 'Aha!' and, 'The everlasting heights have become our possession,**' therefore prophesy and say, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "For good reason they have made you desolate and crushed you from every side, **that you would become a possession of the rest of the nations** and you have been taken up in the talk and the whispering of the peo-

ple.'"" Therefore, **O mountains of Israel**, hear the word of the Lord Yahweh. Thus says the Lord Yahweh to **the mountains** and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the forsaken cities which have become a prey and **a derision to the rest of the nations which are round about**, therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh, **'Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.'** Therefore prophesy concerning the **land of Israel and say to the mountains** and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, **'Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations."** Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh, **'I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults.** But you, **O mountains of Israel**, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. I will multiply men on you, **all the house of Israel, all of it**; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt. I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am Yahweh. **Yes, I will cause men-- My people Israel-- to walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again bereave them of children.'** Thus says the Lord Yahweh, 'Because they say to you, "You are a devourer of men and have bereaved your nation of children," therefore you will no longer devour men and no longer bereave your nation of children,' declares the Lord Yahweh. **'I will not let you hear insults from the nations anymore**, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will you cause your nation to stumble any longer,' declares the Lord Yahweh" (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:1-15).

This passage of Ezekiel comes in what the great majority of Bible commentators, both Jewish and Christian, regard as Ezekiel's visions (chs. 34-39) concerning the restoration of the **whole House of Israel** at the end of the age. This context is particularly important because many of the things that are written are yet to come, although arguments persist that some of the fulfillment of aspects of these prophecies have and are currently occurring. But without dissecting different interpretations that have been made over the ages, the highlighted inanimate references above that Ezekiel speaks to and refers to have transcended through the ages and still exist today. Unlike mere mortals who return to the dust, "Mount Seir," the "mountains of Israel," and the "nations" of the world are, in many respects, remaining witnesses to the declarations echoed millennia ago. This is a reminder that the Eternal One has occasionally used aspects of His creation to be viable witnesses to His pronouncements. Moses records one prime example in one of the summary chapters of the Torah.

“But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. **I call heaven and earth to witness against you today**, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving Yahweh your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them” (Devarim/Deuteronomy 30:17-20).

Is it possible that the current existence of Mount Seir (Esau, Edom, and all that this name represents), and the literal mountains of Israel and the existing nations of the world are even today three witnesses that are not only watching, but also in some respects, even participating in the fulfillment of these prophecies? For clearly heaven and earth continue to remind mankind of the stated choice between life and death. Now, in light of the current political environment in the State of Israel and the desires of the other nations of the world that are seeking to establish a sovereign democratic nation named Palestine, are there some insights contained in the words of Ezekiel even today? **Perhaps, but remember prophetic utterances can have multiple interpretations that change from age to age depending on the current facts that exist.**

For certainly, it must be noted that in Ezekiel’s era, the division of Israel into two nations had already taken place as the Ten Northern Tribes of “Ephraim dominated” Israel had years earlier separated from the “Judah dominated” Southern Kingdom. So it is evident that from his Babylonian exile perspective, **he was receiving visions of the restoration of the “whole House of Israel” at some future time on the mountains of Israel.** This completed restoration of the “whole House of Israel” has never been completed.

Remember that Edom, who lived in the region of Mount Seir, was the nation that created great difficulties for the sons of Israel during their sojourn through the desert march from Goshen to the Promised Land by not letting Israel pass through their territory (Bamidbar/Numbers 20). This establishes the framework for the following statement as the prophecy comes forth.

“Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 35:5).

This is an interesting verse that has traditionally been interpreted to refer to Edom’s sin of refusing Israel passage through their territory during the Exodus from Egypt. **But is it possible that Ezekiel was looking forward to a much greater calamity that comes at a future time when the sons of the “whole House of Israel” are attempting to repopulate the mountains of Israel?**

Some parallels do exist. For the descendants of Esau/Edom and today,

their Palestinian agents, continue to make vile declarations that echo some of the statements made millennia ago. Does this sound familiar?

“Because you [**Esau/Edom, Mount Seir**] have said, “**These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,**” although Yahweh was there, therefore as I live,’ declares the Lord Yahweh, ‘I will deal with you according to **your anger** and according to **your envy** which you showed because of **your hatred** against them [the whole House of Israel]; **so I will make Myself known among them (the whole House of Israel) when I judge you**” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 35:10-11).

As you can read, the everlasting enmity of Edom against Jacob results in anger and hatred as they have repeatedly over the ages declared that the two nations, whether ancient Judah and Ephraim/Israel or the modern day State of Israel and the pending State of Palestine, will be their possession. Because remember, as far as the Palestinians are concerned according to their own statements, once the Palestinian nation is created, the next goal is to destroy the existing State of Israel. **The longtime goal of Esau and his agents is to utterly annihilate the sons of Jacob.** However, the Sovereign will of the Almighty has a different plan and He is simply using those who choose death to execute His judgments. Interestingly, according to Ezekiel’s prophecy, it is by the eventual judgments against Mount Seir that the “whole House of Israel” will **FINALLY** come to know the Holy One of Israel (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 35:11b).

Next as the prophecies continue in chapter 36, Ezekiel turns to the “mountains of Israel” to make additional declarations that begin to reveal a more global perspective that includes the “nations of the world.” At this point, it appears that the “enemy” or the spirit of Edom has finally declared a hollow victory with possession of the “mountains of Israel.”

“Thus says the Lord Yahweh, ‘Because the enemy [**Mount Seir, Edom/Esau**] has spoken against you, “**Aha!**” and, “**The everlasting heights have become our possession,**” therefore prophesy and say, “Thus says the Lord Yahweh, ‘For good reason they have made you [mountains] desolate and crushed you [mountains] from every side, that you [mountains] would **become a possession** [*morashah*, מורשה] **of the rest of the nations** and you [mountains] have been taken up in the talk and the whispering of the people” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:2-3).

It appears that the very “mountains of Israel” are a witness to what has transpired. In fact, what we discover in world history is that the “mountains of Israel” have indeed witnessed various nations controlling the majority of the heights since even the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity. However currently, if we examine the status of the “mountains of Israel,” we discover that a remnant of Judah is now living on portions of the Samaritan and Judean highlands. This disputed land is also the home of millions of Arabs from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, but principally known as Palestinians.

As you continue in Ezekiel’s narrative, you discover that the “**rest of the**

nations” are involved in this goal to take the mountains from the children of Israel and they have succeeded. That has been the fact down through the centuries as various empires have asserted their will on the “mountains of Israel.” But let us move to current events. Today, the Israeli government has strategic military control of the mountains of Israel. **However, with the momentum for human rights, rule of law, freedom and the establishment of democratic governments being led by the U. S. President, the “nations of the world” just might have finally found the formula for temporarily denying the “whole House of Israel” its prophesied inheritance!**

How ironic is it that a “professing Christian” President, who is championing a global campaign to eradicate terrorism, is now willing to overlook his belief system and avowed disdain for the evils of brutality and murder, to reward those who utilize these methods for achieving their preliminary goal of a sovereign Palestinian State on the “mountains of Israel.” Even more perplexing is the complicity of the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, an acknowledged military expert, who is voluntarily embracing the “two-state” solution by acquiescing to the intended plan. Certainly, the bewildered followers of the Holy One of Israel do not know what goes on behind closed doors, but even the possibility of these leaders accomplishing their objectives does not compute, in light of recent interpretations of the Scriptures from most who practice some form of Judaism or Christianity. The paradox is additionally dubious when one ascertains that both the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel were elected by the concerted efforts of a majority of “religious” voters in their respective elections. One might simply conclude that a Sovereign Power, far greater than the Quartet that is behind the scenes applying the appropriate pressures to implement the “two-state” solution, is allowing these machinations to move forward. **Perhaps He has a “Plan” that is beyond the comprehension of the staid theological entities that influence the great majority of the Judeo-Christian world.**

Is it possible that Ezekiel was indeed looking way beyond his immediate time frame to an era much closer to the end of the age? For certainly, when you examine Ezekiel’s mention of the “rest of the nations,” it is possible that he might have envisioned the architects of the “Road Map for the Middle East.” Is it possible that the United Nations, the European Union (of nations), Russia, and even the United States are part of “the rest of the nations” that are being led by the spirit of Edom to fulfill some of these prophecies in our time rather than millennia ago? Certainly, the “talk and the whispering” of the ruling people of these entities are pressing forward with their desires to establish a democratic Palestinian State on the very “mountains of Israel.”

As Ezekiel continues in chapter 36, he now broadens his appeal to not only the mountains but also the literal hills, ravines, valleys, desolate wastes and forsaken cities of Israel. **To ALL the physical aspects of the Land of Promise and to any son or daughter of the “whole House of Israel” who will listen, He makes these declarations:**

“Therefore, **O mountains of Israel**, hear the word of the Lord Yahweh. ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh to **the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the forsaken cities** which have become a **prey [baz, צ]** and a derision to the **rest of the nations** which are round about, therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh, ‘Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the **rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession [morashah] with wholehearted joy and with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey [baz]**” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:4-5).

It seems from this statement that the “rest of the nations” and Edom have accomplished the goal of possessing the mountains of Israel with “wholehearted joy and scorn of soul.”

At this point, two Hebrew words, translated as “possession” and “prey,” come into further scrutiny. In Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:3, it is clear that the mountains of Israel will become a “possession” of the rest of the nations. The first time the Hebrew word *morashah* is used in the Torah is when the Holy One is declaring that the Promised Land will be given to the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

“I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and **I will give it to you for a possession [morashah]**; I am Yahweh” (Shemot/Exodus 6:8).

This leaves little doubt that when an entity has possession of some land, it is considered ownership or control. It appears that the rest of the nations or their Palestinian agents are on the verge of obtaining possession for at least a period of time. On the other hand, the word translated as “prey” is the Hebrew word *baz*. This word is also translated as “booty,” “robbery,” and “plunders” in other places in Moses’ writings, and the earlier writings of Ezekiel. One interesting example from Ezekiel has to do with judgment that God will execute upon the false shepherds of Israel who have made the sheep of Israel nothing more than a prey or booty for their self-aggrandizement:

“‘As I live,’ declares the Lord Yahweh, ‘surely because My flock has become a **prey [baz]**, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but *rather* the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 34:8).

However, elaboration on the subject of false shepherds alluded to earlier is for a future article. Suffice it to say, that the “rest of the nations” have simply made a prey or plunder out of the possession of the “mountains of Israel.” As a result, there are consequences to those very nations who have possessed the mountains of Israel with their insults and reproach.

“Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say **to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys**, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh, “Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because **you have endured the insults of the nations.**” Therefore thus says the Lord Yah-

weh, **“I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults”** (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:6-7).

Once again, Ezekiel is speaking to the inanimate witnesses of the physical components of Israel. Apparently, the culpable nations of the world who have insulted the land of Israel will instead endure their own insults while the land of Israel will not bear the insults anymore.

Then Ezekiel declares what will eventually happen to the mountains of Israel in a time yet to come:

“But you, **O mountains of Israel**, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. I will multiply men on you, **all the house of Israel, all of it**; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt. I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am Yahweh. Yes, I will cause men—**My people Israel**—to walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again bereave them of children” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:8-12).

Here is the critical verse that is possibly misunderstood by the great majority of Bible expositors because of their inherent ignorance about the “whole House of Israel” and just who it constitutes. It is absolutely certain that Ezekiel is speaking about the “Whole House of Israel” and not just the Judah part of Israel. The word for “all” in the Hebrew text is *kol* (כּוֹל), and is used two times in close proximity to make a very strong point. The “whole House of Israel” will be living on the mountains when the eventual blessings of fruitfulness come forth for the Land of Israel. Currently, this is not the case, as most of Judah claim that they represent the “whole House of Israel.” When in fact, they represent just a relatively small percentage of Believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who remain scattered abroad.

Still speaking to the mountains of Israel, Ezekiel speaks about a future restoration that will include the Whole House of Israel living on the mountains of Israel. The prophet speaks about **“all of the house of Israel, all of it”** in such a way that you can conclude that the current settlement situation on the “mountains of Israel” just do not line up with this expression. Certainly Judah has great representation on the mountains of Israel with settlements totaling approximately 250,000 residents who are Jewish. But what about the other sons of Israel who were scattered to the nations? Is it possible that the current profile is only partially complete?

For surely, we can read that at some future time, the mountains of Israel will no longer hear insults from the rest of the nations or bear disgrace from the peoples of the nations. Eventually, the nation of Israel, the “whole House of Israel,” will stumble no longer.

“I will not let you [mountains of Israel] hear insults from the nations anymore, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will

you cause your nation to stumble any longer,' declares the Lord Yahweh' (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:15).

Obviously this has not yet occurred. Maybe there is a problem with the fact that great numbers of the other tribes of Israel and their companions are being denied access to settling on the mountains of Israel? Is it possible that our theological assumptions are inaccurate when it comes to understanding what is taking place in current events?

Is it also possible that some of the additional statements made by Ezekiel in the continuing prophecy are indicative of the inherent problem? Ezekiel steps back and reviews some historical perspective about the "whole house of Israel" and its unclean ways that required Him to scatter them to the nations. No part of the nation was exempt from the punishment that God administered to ALL twelve tribes of Israel for their idolatrous and unclean ways.

"Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. **Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.** When they came to **the nations** where they went, **they profaned My holy name,** because it was said of them, 'These are the people of Yahweh; yet they have come out of His land.' **But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.** Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, **but for My holy name,** which you have profaned among **the nations** where you went. **I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am Yahweh,'** declares the Lord Yahweh, 'when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. **For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land'**" (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:17-24).

But as you have read, the scattered sons of Israel continued in their ungodly ways and profaned the holy name of the Lord. So in order for God to rectify this problem with His people Israel, He is going to have to fulfill His word in order to vindicate the holiness of His name before the nations of the world. So part of that vindication is by bringing His people back to the "mountains and Land of Israel" in order to prove that His prophecies are indeed truthful and His promises are eventually going to be fulfilled. Some claim that the current return of Judah to the mountains of Israel is fulfilling this prophecy about returning Israel from the nations to which Israel was scattered. To a certain extent, this is a valid argument but it is only being partially fulfilled.

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will

cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God” (Yechezkel/Ezekiel 36:25-28).

For in the centuries since the resurrection of the Messiah of Israel, the impartation of the new heart of flesh and the indwelling power of the Ruach Ha-Kodesh (Holy Spirit) has been in full force. But of course, as we know from “Church History,” theological authorities with their own agendas have hijacked the desire and ability to walk in His statutes and observe His ordinances. However, in recent years we have witnessed the combination of the indwelling Spirit and the desire for Torah obedience, as led by the Ruach, to become increasingly more widespread. The washing of the water of the Word, and in particular, the return to the study of the Torah, is creating a generation of worshippers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who fulfill other prophecies that come through the writings of John in the Book of Revelation. For now, just like in the First Century Apostolic Era, we are finding men and women of God who have a testimony of Yeshua and obey His commandments (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).

In the meanwhile, as the sons of Judah are returning to the Land of Promise, He is sprinkling these children of Israel with water in order to cleanse them from sin and idol worship. As a result, greater numbers are receiving a heart of flesh and with the placing of His Spirit within them, are walking in His statutes and observing His ordinances.

These are exciting times to witness the beginning of these things prophesied so many centuries ago. But there is one major problem. As stated earlier, the government of the State of Israel is not in concert with God’s plan. Instead, it appears that hearts of stone in the political leaders of Israel are resilient to the work of the Spirit. The Prime Minister and his cohorts are still trying to attain peace and security through the manipulative methods that the other nations concoct. As a result, they are working with our President in order to follow a Road Map for the Middle East that will once again place the “mountains of Israel” in the hands of the agents of Edom and, in essence, the “nations of the world.”

We do know one thing. It is generally conflict that finally causes people to cry out to the Creator for deliverance, salvation or a solution to the problems they face. Is it possible that with the possible creation of a Palestinian state that the sons of Israel living in the Land of Promise and perhaps around the globe will finally cry out to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for His deliverance? Is it possible that through the creation of a Palestinian state on the mountains of Israel that the prophesied judgment will come to Edom and the other nations who are in league with them?

Finally, is it possible that if and when these events occur, that the “whole House of Israel” will realize that the Holy One requires *all* (*kol Yisrael*) twelve tribes and their companions to participate in the settling of the mountains of Israel, before He can execute His will for His people Israel?

No one really knows the answers to these and a slew of additional questions that come to mind. But one thing we do know is that through all of these machinations, the will of the Almighty will be accomplished.

Remember that the God “**who cannot lie**” gave His followers some additional information through the Prophet Isaiah about the responsibility of Israel to be a “light unto all of the nations”:

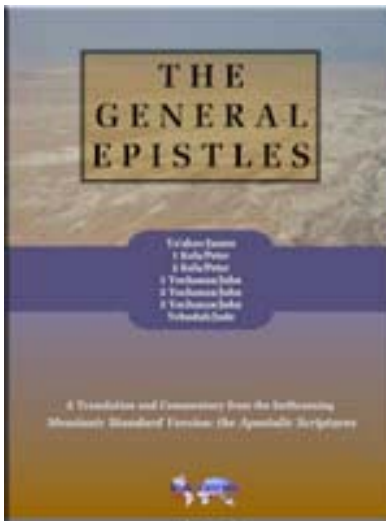
“He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His Torah. Thus says God Yahweh, Who created the **heavens** and stretched them out, Who spread out the **earth** and its offspring, **Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it,** ‘I am Yahweh, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, **as a light to the nations**” (Yeshayahu/Isaiah 42:4-6).

And it is through the Almighty’s judgments that justice will prevail in His creation. Perhaps as we observe what is transpiring in the Promised Land, and what is going to happen in the years ahead, we will be individual living witnesses rather than mountainous lumps of earth that do not have breath nor the Spirit that indwells our vessels of clay!

Finally, remember that two nations divided by One can also be two nations united by One, and that a land divided can become a nation united. Eventually, as we read in Yechezkel/Ezekiel 37, the Two Houses of Israel will once again be united in the hands of the Almighty. Perhaps in some mysterious way, the situation in the mountains of Israel at this hour is simply creating the tension and inclination for the “whole House of Israel” to be reunited in the Land of Promise. This is something to think and pray about as we watch the drama unfold.

We can wait and see and, of course, pray for the peace of Jerusalem in the interim!

Until the restoration of all things...



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