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## The Unwanted Nation Whither Bound?

Unwanted, hated, persecuted, driven from place to place—and yet remaining a distinct people tho scattered in all the nations of the earth. That is the story of but one people—the Jews. Of the civilized nations in existence at the time of Christ, only one remains today and that is the Jews. The Roman empire was over-run by the barbarians. The nations of Europe today are the descendants of those peoples. But the Jews who were in all parts of the empire then, are the same race of Jews who are in all parts of the world today, the most remarkable and peculiar people in history.

In the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses put the proposition before them—the wonderful blessings they would receive if they remained obedient, but the great curse which would come if they disobeyed God. “And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God...”

“But it shall come to pass if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God ... cursed shalt thou be in the city and cursed shalt thou be in the field. . . the Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. . . Thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations whither the

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explain further in regard to this return. Jeremiah in Ch. 19:11-15 describes the scattering of Israel as the breaking of an earthen dish, which cannot be made *whole* again. From this we would understand that *all* of the Jews or, possibly all of the 12 tribes of Israel, will never again make up a kingdom in Palestine. But this same prophet Jeremiah predicts a return. "For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, and the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither." Jer. 31:6-9.

We are today seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy. The World War brought Turkish rule of Palestine to an end, and the less than 100 thousand Jews there then have grown to the more than 500 thousand who are there today. A "great company" has returned—and while some have come from every country in the world, most of them are from the "north country"—Germany.

"When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory." What is the meaning of this prophecy found in Psalm 102:16? Exactly what it says. Zion—Jerusalem and Palestine remained desolate from A. D. 70 until 1917. Since then there has been a marvelous re-building and Jerusalem is now larger and more beautiful than ever before in history.

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Lord shall lead thee." Deut. 28:13, 15-16, 25 and 37. This has all happened because they did turn from God. The prophet Ezekiel telling this very thing, says, "... when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their doings. . . wherefore I poured out my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols where-with they had polluted it: and I scattered them among the heathen (nations), and they were dispersed throughout the countries. . ." Ezekiel 36:17-19.

### THE DISPERSION

When Ezekiel wrote this prophecy he was a captive in Babylon. Israel had then been carried away captive to that *one nation*. One hundred forty years later many of them returned to Palestine under Nehemiah. The nation struggled for existence there for about 500 years and then was completely dispersed by the Roman armies which destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A. D. Then the prophecies of Moses and of Ezekiel came into complete fulfillment and the Jews, the only known remaining people of Israel, were scattered to every nation in the world—including Africa, India and China.

As we find them today, the plight of the Jews in much of the world is sad indeed, but all of this is in fulfillment of prophecy and is carrying out the Word of God in regard to a promised re-gathering.

### RE-GATHERING PREDICTED

In the 36th chapter of Ezekiel we also find the prophecy of the return. "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land." Vs. 24. Others of the prophets

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Yes, these things are a sign that soon the Lord will appear in His glory. And what event is thus referred to? "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Matt. 25:31. Yes, this return of a great company of the Jews and the re-building of Palestine and Jerusalem is a sign of the very soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ at His great second Advent. It is one of the most remarkable signs to be seen in this present day. This re-building is to continue and Palestine become very prosperous. In this condition it leads the nations there for the last great battle—Armageddon. See Ezekiel 38:11-23.

All prophecies of the return of the Jews also speak of their returning to the Lord their God—after they return to Palestine. "Then (after the return) will I sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean. . . a new heart also will I give you . . . and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:25, 26, 28. This has not yet begun for the Jews are returning in unbelief, many being irreligious. But eventually the unwanted nation will again return to God and it appears that they will have a special work following Armageddon.

And so today the Jew is a living witness to the truth of God's word and to the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you ready for that day?

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