

2. The Re-gathering:

St. Luke. 21. 20 - 28; *"Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled..."*

a. There is an amount of time when Israel will be delivered of her enemies.

This generation has lived to see a present re-gathering of the Jews in the Middle East. This is according to God's word to Jeremiah 16. 14-17;

"... However the days are coming, declares the Lord, when men will no longer say, 'as surely as the Lord lives who brought Israel up out of Egypt', but they will say, 'as surely as the Lord lives who brought up Israel out of the land of the north and out of the countries where He had banished them. For I will restore them to the land I gave their fathers. But now I will send many fishermen' says the Lord, 'and they shall fish them: and afterwards, I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For my eyes are on all their ways: ...' See also Ezk. 37. (valley of dried bones). And Zech. 12. "... I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling ..., Ezk. 38. 8; "After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war who's people had been brought from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had long been desolate.."

b. Various commentators:

F. R. Barns. Studies on the Second Advent [1963].

Comments Zech. 14. *"... Israel is to pass through her fiercest battle. All nations shall be gathered against her in a final attempt to exterminate [her]. When will the nations learn that this race is indestructible. God has only set them aside. He has not cast them off [altogether]. See Lk. 21. 24; "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the gentiles till ..."*

There is an amount of time when Israel will be delivered from her enemies.

(Barns goes on to say – interestingly) *"Fifty – sixty years ago (from the time he published his book – nineteen sixties) some Bible teachers taught that Israel would become a nation again."*

Al Lindsey: 'Late Great Planet Earth.' Zondervan 1970 *"For many years scholars denied the possibility of accepting the prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel in the land of Palestine. As a matter of fact many Bible Teachers taught that prophecy concerning Israel's future was fulfilled in Israel's past. Others taught prophecies relating to Israel must be applied to the Church. Modern Bible Teachers have taken the trouble to search for commentaries dating back as far as 1611 AD. And found some who clearly understood that the Jews would return to Palestine and re-establish their Nation before the Messiah would return. In spite of mocking and ridicule."*

Dr. John Cummings: 'Redemption Draws Nigh.' 1864: *"How comes it to pass that as a Nation they [Israel] have been dispersed over every land, yet insulated, separated and alone amid the Nations? The prediction of their restoration are in words as definite yet only not fulfilled (note the time of publication). As a Nation they were cut off and dispersed, and it is as a Nation they shall be gathered and restored."*

James Grant. (English Scholar and Bible Teacher) 'The End of Things.' Darton and Co. London. 1886. *"The personal coming of Christ to establish His Millennium [Kingdom] reign on Earth will not take place until the Jews are returned to their own land; the enemies of the Jews and Christ have gathered together their armies from all parts of the world; and have commenced the siege of Jerusalem. Now the return of the Jews to the Holy Land and the mustering and marshalling of these mighty armies, with a view to capturing Jerusalem, must require a considerable time yet."*

The above was written eighty two years before Israel was a nation again.

Increase Mather: (Famous minister in the early Colonies of America, son of puritan clergyman Richard. 1639 – 1723.)

'The Mystery of Israel's Salvation – Explained and Applied.' (Published 1669: London: (printed for John Allen.) *"... developed many of the crucial prophecies of Israel's restoration, showing that the Jews would return to Palestine and become a Nation before their, spiritual conversion, and return of the Messiah."*

Quotation: A. Lyndsay: 'The Late Great Planet Earth.' (see above).

It is said: *"We ought to believe when scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense."*

We in this generation have lived to see some of these prophesies fulfilled.

In Jer. 16. 14 – 16; God said, *"I will bring them back again to their land that I gave to their fathers.."*

c. **Important Events:**

To be specific about Israel's significance as a sign of the times; there arises three things that were to happen:

- i. The Jewish Nation would be reborn in Palestine. (Jer. 16. 14-17; Lk. 21. 20-28; Mtt. 24. 34;)
- ii. the Jews would repossess *Old Jerusalem* and the *Sacred Rites* (Dan. 9: Lk. 21. 24; Mtt. 24. 20;)
- iii. They would rebuild the *Ancient Temple* and its *Worship*. (Mtt. 24. 15;)

d. **The Significance of 'The Old Dry Bones' Ezk. 37:**

In this chapter we read about a valley of parched dry bones. In verse 11; the Lord reveals to the Prophet what these bones represent: *'Son of man these are the whole house of Israel.'*

The phenomena of Israel's return to nationhood has taken place in our generation. Now her troubles as people will become the troubles of other nations who deal with her.

Many have said, 'the near East situation is the powder keg of the world that could set off WW.111.

Israel is the nation that will affect the nations of the world as predicted in Zech.12. 2; *'I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all surrounding nations reeling...'* (A.V. 'a cup of trembling')

In Ezk. Ch.38. there are four clues which pronounce/predict this time of restoration: v8; *cl i. 'after many days'* *cl ii. 'in the latter years'* *cl iii. 'gathered from many peoples'*.

In ref to 'latter years' - Dr Arthur Kac a Jewish medical doctor and writer (also one of the leaders of 'Hebrew Christian Alliance' – now 'Messianic Jewish Alliance' who's best work was a book published in 1958 'The Rebirth of The State of Israel; Was it of God or Men?') Stated: *"The phrase latter years always refers in the Old Testament of Israel's final and complete; National redemption. This restoration is clearly after a long term desolation of the land of Israel out of many nations."*

In Chapter 37. We see the physical resurrection of the Jews to their 'home land.' Afterwards their spiritual resurrection/conversion.

It was predicted to occur at a time when the world would be saying, *'their bones are dried up.'*

See Ezk. 37. 11; *'Behold they say our bones are dried up and our hope is lost, we are completely cut off.'*

See . Zech. 12. 10; *'And I will pour out on the House of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of Grace and supplication. They will look on Him they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a first-born son.'*

See Zech. 13. 1; *'on that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and impurity'*

Ezk. 37. 7;9; The dead bones began to stir and come together, *7"...there was a noise and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to his bone.. " 9."He said unto me, prophesy to the breath (wind AV) , prophesy son of man, and say to the breath (wind AV.) 'thus says the Lord God: come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'"*10."So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army." 11."Then said He unto me, 'son of man these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' 12."Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'thus says the Lord God: behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.'" 13."then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves." 14."I will put my Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I the Lord, have spoken it and performed it.' Says the Lord"

Israel is the pointer of God's world clock. Already it is pointing to midnight. Everywhere there is evidence of God fulfilling His word. The Fig Tree (Israel) is shooting forth its branches. Israel is rising from their *graves

After more than two thousand years of silence; back to the land of Israel from the four corners of the world. After indescribable persecution Israel is back. Now we must look and pray for Israel's spiritual rebirth. See *Ezk.37. also Zech. chaps. 13 and 14.

