

Israel In Bible Prophecy

For many years, Israel has been in the headlines, either because of disputes over land or over personal disputes between the Arabs and Israel. This conflict has been going on for nearly 60 years and will continue until true ownership of the land has been established.

This conflict has the nations puzzled, because they do not understand the basic problem, or if they do understand, fail to recognize God's plan in the situation. We need to review and refresh our understanding of this prophesy of Israel, lest we too, be caught up with the feelings of the natural world. For in war, there are times when it is hard to understand what ought and what ought not be done. For our human minds are not able to grasp the right and wrong of the matter, only if we allow the scriptures to speak to us and remember God has a plan and it will unfold according to that plan. At times God's way's are hard to understand, because, as he speaks in Isaiah 55:8-9, "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*"

The present problems in the middle-east all began with a man named Abraham in the Bible. In Genesis 12, God speaks to Abraham and tells him to leave his fathers house and go into a land that He would show him. Abraham obeyed, left his homeland, not knowing where he was going (Heb. 11:8). Then in Genesis 15:18, God gives Abraham the boundaries of that inheritance; "*In the same day the Lord made a **covenant** with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.*" If you will check a bible map, you will notice the river of Egypt is on the south end of Israel and the Euphrates river is on the north. Then the sea would be the west line, but the bible does not give us a definite east boundary line. But it extended considerably over into present day Jordan and north into Syria, on the East side of the River Jordan (Josh. 22:1-4). We do not know exactly how far east it extended. Notice it says "*...the Lord made a covenant with Abram...*" A covenant is a promise or contract. More will be said about this later.

Abraham had a son named Isaac (Gen. 17:19). He had an older son Ishmael (Gen. 16:11). Normally the older child always received the first inheritance, but it was not to be in this case, for in

Gen. 17:21, God said, “*But my covenant will I establish with Isaac...?*” So Isaac and his descendants were to receive the above inheritance that God had promised to Abraham.

Isaac then marries and a set of twins were born to his wife. We need to look closely as to what is recorded regarding these two sons, as found in Gen. 25:22-23, “*And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; **and the elder shall serve the younger.***”

Much information is contained in the above two verses. First, these two sons represent two nations, diverse from the other. It also says the older will serve the younger. Remember, this is the plan of God. How we think or feel from here on will have nothing to do with the plan of God. We are not to think in terms of human reasoning, but how God has it planned.

As we find in verses 24-27 of Gen. 25, the first twin that came out was called Esau and the second, was called Jacob. Also, as they were born and came out, “*the hand of Jacob took hold of Esau’s heel...*” indicating the conflict that would always exist between these two nations. How did this conflict began?

In verses 29-34, it is recorded that Esau came in from the field and he was very hungry, so hungry, he felt he was going to die. He ask Jacob for something to eat. Jacob seeing an opportunity (from a human stand point) to get ahead, said in verse 31, “*Sell me this day thy birthright.*” Now from our point of view, Jacob should not have done this. He should have had compassion and given Esau something to eat. But remember, God is working out His plan . The birthright would of gone to the older son. But Jacob was chosen by God to receive the inheritance. Also remember, Esau had a choice in the matter. He chose to give up his birthright. He sold it for a bowl of “sod pottage.” Now, the older will serve the younger and

the conflict begins.

Jacob and his descendents have a long and interesting history which due to space we can not cover. But in time, Jacobs name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons which became the twelve tribes of Israel. Abraham's son Ishmael (the son of the handmaid) and Esau (Jacob's first twin) became the father of the Arabic nations. Although both were born as firstborn sons, yet neither is included in the covenant made to Abraham in regards to the land that was given to Abraham.

In time a great famine came upon the land of Canaan. Jacob and his family had to go to Egypt to live to survive the famine. There they dwelt for 430 years (Ex. 12:40-41). During that time the descendents of Ishmael and Esau populated the land that was promised to Abraham. When life became unbearable in Egypt, Israel cried out for deliverance and God heard their cry. God led them back to the promised land, Canaan. But to receive it, they had to drive out the Philistines, Moabites and all the other heathen tribes, which they did and were victorious.

In Deut. 28, God told them, "if they obeyed and served Him faithfully" they would always dwell in the promised land. But "if they did not obey and serve Him" they would not be able to dwell in the promise land. Now notice, their inheritance was unconditional, but the privilege to dwell or live there was conditional. As we know, they failed and lost this privilege, not once, but more than once.

The last dispersion came in 70 AD, in fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophesy in Ezek. 12:2 when he said, "*Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.* They were no longer listening to His Word, nor to His prophets. God speaks of his attitude toward them in Ezek. 36:17, *Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: Their way was before me **as the uncleanness of a***

removed woman.” Under Moses law, during a womans menstrual period, she was unclean and everything she touched was unclean. That was the way God had come to regard Israel.

Because God has become so angry with Israel He said in Ezek. 12:8-11, “...*Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house...Say thou unto them...all the house of Israel.. like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: **they shall remove and go into captivity.**”* God would take their rebellion no longer. When God could no longer get their attention, He allowed them to go into captivity and under persecution from their captors, He would again get their attention and they would cry out to Him. This time God would scattered them into all the world as He said He would in verse 15, *And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall scatter **them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries.*** There is hardly any country in the world where we do not find some Jews.

Their being scattered into all the world was not to be a message to Israel, but to the rest of the world. Notice God’s words in Ezek. 39:23, when He says, “*And the **heathen shall know** that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: **because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies...***” God wanted the heathen (the Gentiles) to understand He does not condone disobedience. “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...*” Rom. 15:4. That’s why Paul gives us a warning in Rom. 11:20 “*...be not highminded, but fear...*”

Notice again in Ezek. 39:23 above, it was not one enemy, God was going to give them unto, but “enemies.” This agrees with God’s statement, when He said He was going to scatter them “*unto all countries.*”

Even though God scattered Israel into all countries because of their disobedience and

His wrath toward them, yet He spoke a word that would show His mercy and kindness even during their captivity. Notice what He says in Ezek. 11:16, *“Therefore say, thus saith the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.”* That was why Paul was able to say with conviction in Rom. 11:1-2, *“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid...God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...”*

Yes, Israel has suffered severely, even at times unbearably. But God has protected them as a nationality, and has not allowed them to lose their identity.

Modern Time Israel

We have seen prophecy fulfilled. Israel was scattered among all countries and has suffered immensely. Yet the bible tells us their punishment would come to an end. Notice God’s assurance to them in Ezek. 36:6, *“prophecy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord God; behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen:”* Here God is talking to the mountains and the rivers, which are inanimate objects, but He is referring to Israel. All those years, they bore the shame of the heathen. But notice what He says in verse 7, *“Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, **they shall bear their shame.**”* What is God saying here? He is saying, “you have been punished long enough, the punishment has fit the crime, now the heathen (Gentiles) will “bear their own shame.” Webster gives his meaning of “shame”, (the second meaning) “To make appear worthless by comparison.” As God had given His power to the heathen (Gentile) nations over Israel, now the table will be turned.

Even though they would outnumber Israel hundred to one, they will appear helpless (worthless) compared to the success of Israel.

Why does God do this? Does the bible give us the answer? Yes, it does. The answer is found in Ezek. 36:21-22, *“But I had pity for mine holy name...Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name’s sake...”*

God’s name embodies His character. What is God’s character? It is “love, compassion, forgiveness.” We have to agree, Israel is not a Godly nation or as we say, “a Christian nation.” They still do not believe in Jesus as the Messiah or Savior of the world. So God is not doing this for their sakes, but to show the world that He is still a God of love and compassion. He does not stay angry forever, nor His wrath extends forever.

To show the Name of God embodies the character of God, see Exodus 34:5-7 where God proclaimed His name. It says, *And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”*

What promise does God then extend to Israel? Notice verse 24 of the above chapter, *“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”* What a glorious promise. Once again, Israel would have their own home, their own homeland.

Notice the promise in Ezek. 34:11-13, *“For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver*

them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and bring them to their own land...” Who can read such words and not have their heart touched. Israel knows of these promises. They now know and understand this is what God has promised.

Then there is the interesting prophesy found in Ezekiel 37 that some individual’s find hard to understand. But in the light of scriptures we have already considered, the bible practically explains itself.

In the first verse, Ezekiel was set down in a “*valley full of bones.*” As Ezekiel walked among them, God ask him “*can these bones live?*” (Verse 2-3) Verse 5 God said, “*...I will cause breath to enter unto you, and ye shall live.*” Verse 7 says, *So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.*”

Now what was God trying to tell Ezekiel? Apparently Ezekiel could not understand what this was all about. But God explained to him in verse 11, “*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel...*”

God was explaining to Ezekiel that Israel (as a nation) had died. For hundreds of years they would not reveal to the world God’s power and leadership. This is clearly revealed in Ezek. 34:28-29, “*and they shall no more be a prey to the heathen...neither bear the shame of the heathen anymore.*” The shame was, people would look upon them and say, “God has forsaken them, God is no longer with them.” That is the shame they had to bear all those years. But God is saying in Ezekiel 37, this is going to change. They are going to come alive and once again God’s power is going to be revealed through them.

But what was going to cause them to come alive? Let’s go back to verse 7 of Ezekiel

37 and we will see what caused the bones to come back together and life once again to appear in the nation of Israel. In verse 7, you will notice it was “a great shaking.” What was the great shaking? It was none other than the “Holocaust,” where five million Jews were slaughtered.

The Zion moment began in 1897 and a few Jews went home. In 1922, when the League of Nations approved a British mandate over Palestine, the British government appointed a Zionist Board and a few more went home.

But following the Holocaust during the second World War, at the end of the war, 600,000 Jews had gone back to their homeland. Once again people would say, “God is with Israel,” “God is showing His power through them.” Their shame no longer is shown or exists. Israel once again is alive today.

That is why God tells Ezekiel in Ezekiel 37:12, *“Therefore prophesy and say unto them (Israel), Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, O my people, **I will** open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you unto the land of Israel.”*

Yes, Israel had been buried many years (but where?) in the different countries where they had been scattered. But God was going to open those graves (countries) and God was going to bring them back to their own country.

What will they then know and understand? See verse 13, *“And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.”*

When they became a sovereign nation in one day (1948) as Isaiah 66:7-8 said she would, and the possibility of their going back to their homeland, Israel realized God once

again was with them. Even though it was made possible for them to go back to their homeland, the desire was not really there until the “great shaking” during the second world war. Then the desire became so great the world wondered if Israel would be able to absorb such vast amount of people. But here again, God showed His power and provision. They were able to absorb them and Jews are still going back. Their shame no longer exist among the Gentile nations.

Even the little book of Amos speaks of their return to their homeland, in Amos 9:14-15, *“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.”* Notice that God speaks of a permanent presence in their land. They are going to build, plant, eat and enjoy. Further God says, “they will never be pulled up out of their land again,” no matter who tries to destroy them. Once Israel returned, it would be for ever. No one would uproot them again.

That is why Israel is not afraid of their enemies. They seem to feel that God is with them. With the following promises, why would they feel afraid. In Psa. 1-3, 8 (NKJ) their feelings are expressed, *“If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,” Let Israel now say— “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive...Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.”* Then another great promise is made in Isa. 41:8-10 (NKJ) *“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions, And said to you, You are My servant. I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with*

you: Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Then the Lord’s promise to them in Isa. 49:13-15 *“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The LORD hath forgotten me. Can a Woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, Yet will I **not forget thee.**”* I am sure that many times during the time of their being scattered into the various countries and especially during the time of Hitler’s torture, Israel felt God had forgotten them, but He hadn’t and never will.

They have never ask for anyone to fight their battles for them. They have ask for weapons and money to buy them, but never help in fighting. Every engagement they have had, they have always enlarged their borders. Israel has not gotten all the land yet that was promised and included in the covenant to Abraham, but they will. They did not get it all at once in the beginning, nor are they getting it all at once today, but little by little they will, and there will be more engagements yet.

THE PRESENT PROBLEMS

Since Israel became a sovereign nation, there has been nothing but trouble between the two nationalities (Arabs and Jews). While the Jews have been in exile, the Arabs (the decedents of Esau) have populated all the land that was promised to Abraham. Just as Israel had to drive them out before they could occupy the land the first time, they are having to do it again. The Arabs say they were there first, where driven out of their homeland and feel they should have it back. This is where human feelings come into play. People feel, they were

there before 1948, when Israel became a nation, so they feel the Arabs are being unfairly treated. Israel needs to stop their aggression. But the land has never belonged to the Arabs. God in His covenant to Abraham gave it to him and his descendants. The Arabs have never recognized that agreement, nor Israel as a nation. Because of that, they hate Israel with a passion.

.Some feel this hatred only started when they were driven from their land in 1948. But the hatred existed long before that. If you will check Gen. 27:41, it says, “*And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him...*” Here is where the hatred began. Esau seems to of forgotten he had sold his birthright and was going to cheat his brother out of the blessing, but it did not work out that way.

Then check with Gen. 28:8-9, “*And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath, to be his wife.*” Esau takes a daughter of Ishmael to be his wife. Now hard feelings exist between Ishmael and Isaac and upon the union to Esau and the daughter of Ishmael, there is double hatred bred into their offspring. So the hatred has existed down through the centuries, and the problem that arose in 1948 over the land, only fueled the fire.

God is using this hatred to destroy the Arabs. Notice Ezekiel 35:2-5, “*Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it, And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate. I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord. Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end.*” Now you see why God is destroying mount Seir, it is

because of their hatred of Israel.

Now just who is mount Seir? We do not have to guess, the bible tells us. Turn to Gen. 36:8-9 and you will see who they are; *“Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir;”* (see also Josh. 24:4) Since Esau is the father of the Arabs, then those close to the land of Israel are the descendents of Esau and since these two brothers have always hated one another, we can understand why the hatred exist. It is over the inheritance or the land. It belongs to Israel because of the covenant of the Lord with Abraham and no one can change that.

The bible does not give an account of all the engagements that will occur against Israel, but the last one (and the big one) that is mentioned is found in Obadiah 17-18, *“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the **house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.** And the house of Jacob (Israel) shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau (Arabic nations) for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there **shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau** (Arabic nations); for the Lord hath spoken it.”* When this engagement takes place, Israel will annihilate the Arabic nations.

If we take the beginning, or birth of the twin sons of Isaac, as the beginning of the problems between the two sons, why not then take the end of the life of the two sons, as to what will happened in the later day of their relationship. In Gen. 32, Jacob decides to return home, but he is afraid of his brother Esau, because of what had happened in the past. But God said He would be with him. In verse 18, Jacob sends out a truce, a present to his brother Esau. In Gen. 33:3-4, it says, *“And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother (Esau). And Esau ran to meet him,*

and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him; and they wept.” So there was a reunion of the two. So it will be after Obadiah 17-18, when Israel practically annihilates the Arabic nations, Israel will send out peace offerings and it will be accepted. Then there will be peace in the middle-east. How long, we do not know. For Israel’s victory will effect the balance in the European countries. The bible does not give us the full answer to this, only, Zechariah 14:2 says, *“For I will gather **all nations** against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”* Since Israel became a nation in 1948, America and her Allies has been close friends with Israel, loaned her money, sold her weapons, and planes. But here it seems all nations are against her. Is it because now she is in control of most of the worlds oil and resources?

ISRAEL’S FUTURE

What about Israel’s future. We have found that Israel will possess their homeland once again (Ezek. 34:12, Obadiah 17), and the completeness of that is still future. But what about their future with God? Does the bible speak of a full and close relationship that God desires to have with mankind, with Israel? Let’s again let God speak for Himself.

In Ezek. 36:24, it says, *“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.”* Notice what the following verses say;

Verse 25, *I will sprinkle clean water upon you.*

Verse 26, *I will give you a new heart.*

Verse 27, *Will put my spirit within you.*

Verse 29, *Save you from your sins.*

Up until now, these verses have not been fulfilled. Israel is not serving God fully, nor do they recognize Jesus as the Messiah that was to come and die for the sins of man. Yet God said that He was going to do all the above. Has God failed or is it yet future? Let’s search

further and see.

Turn to Jer. 32:31-34, where we will find a very interesting promise. *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them out of the land of Egypt; ... But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; **After those days**, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

Some feel the above was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those that believed. Upon the 144,000, the firstfruits of the gospel. That is true. But notice God is talking about the nation of Israel, not just a few. Notice verse 34, *“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **for they shall all know me**, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*

This did not happen on the day of Pentecost. The whole nation of Israel did not accept the Lord. Not all of them knew Him.

Let's back up to verse 33 and notice three words that are the key to understanding this prophecy completely. The words are *“...After those days...”* God did not say, “after these days,” the Levitical time (days), but “after those days.” The Gentile time or period.

I know it can be said about the above, that it is a personal opinion, so this will have to be proven by other scriptures. It is always wise to prove anything by two or more witnesses (Matt. 18:16).

But before we do that, we find that the author of Hebrews quotes the same prophecy in Heb. 8:8-12, and again the same words are used, “*after those days,*” and he was referring to the time when “*all would know Him.*”

Now let’s call the Apostle Paul to the witness stand and see what he has to say about the above subject. Turn to Rom. 11:1-2 and notice that Paul says emphatically, “*...Hath God cast away his people...God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...*” Paul very plainly says God is not done with His people. Then he begins with verse 13, speaking to the Gentiles and explains the reason they become a part of Christ’s body, was because of Israel’s rejection of Christ and were broken off and the Gentile grafted in. Verse 18, he reminds us not to boast, for in verses 23-24, he says, “*...God is able to graff them in again,* (and will).”

Remember Jer. 31:31-34 and Heb. 8:8-12 spoke of “*...after those days...*” Well in verse 25 of Romans 11, Paul said Israel would be blinded (cut off) “*...until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*” So it is quite evident “*after those days,*” refer to “after the Gentile time.”

Now let’s look at what Paul said in verse 25 of Romans 11, “*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.*” Yes, there is coming a time when the whole nation of Israel will know the Lord, from the greatest to the least. Then Paul reminds us in verse 27, “*For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*” Paul is reminding us of the covenant that God made to Israel and that God had not cast away His people.

Now let’s go to some old testament scriptures that will tie all the above information together. The first is found in Zech. 12:9-11, where the prophet Zechariah foretells of Israel's future relationship with their God. “*And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to*

destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” This gives us the time period, the day of Armageddon or the coming of the Lord. Then in verse 10 it say, “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning (conversion) in Jerusalem.”

When they look upon him, how will they know it was the one they pierced, “by the nail prints in his hands.” When they see this, the whole nation of Israel will repent and accept the Lord. They will really mourn (feel sorry) for having crucified the Son of God.

Conversion to Israel will not come before that time. It was God that blinded Israel and it will be God that will take away their blindness and graft them back into the tree again (see Rom. 11:23-24) Notice Zech. 13:1, “*In that day (day of their conversion) there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*” “*In that day*” means, not before the coming of the Lord. Everything in God’s plan.

This agrees with Hosea 6:1-2, “*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. After **two days** will he revive us: in the **third day** he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*”

Now if one would look up the word day in the concordance, there are three and only three meanings to the word day. One is a twenty-four hour day. The second, it can refer to a year. The third, it can refer to an age. These are the only three meanings to the word “day.” The first two do not seem to fit what Hosea is talking about, but the last one makes sense and harmonizes with what all the others scriptures speak about, in reference to this

subject. Since it is talking about Israel, then the first age, would be the Levitical age, the second would refer to our present age and the third age would be the millennial age. Complete harmony. But notice also verse 3, “*Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the mourning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as **the latter and former rain** unto the earth.*” Notice how the wording is, “*the latter and former rain.*” It does not say “the former and latter rain, but *the latter and former rain.*” It is Israel that will receive the latter rain, not the Gentile.

All of this seems to agree with Jer. 23:5-6, “*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days (not before) Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.***” In His days, in the days when the Lord reigns on the throne of His father David (Luke 1:30-33).

Then tie this in with what Jesus himself said, when Peter was questioning Him what their benefits were going to be if they served Him, He assured them in Matt. 19:28, “*And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, **in the regeneration** when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*”

You do not judge an immortal person, so during the millennial age, Israel is not an immortal people, but mortal. They are having to prove themselves, just as you and I are having to prove ourselves today.

So Israel will have a future relationship with God. It is all planned and spoken about in scripture, if we will only search it out and put the information together. We should rejoice

that God is with Israel today in her struggle to get her homeland back. We are sorry that she does not recognize their Messiah as to who He truly is, but rejoice that in God's time, Israel will rejoice, also mourn (weep) that they have crucified the Son of God.

Let us believe and accept God's plan.

