

THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL - AS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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From a chapter of "The Exclusiveness of Israel" by Arnold Kennedy

Today we find much written and spoken in religious circles insisting that the establishment of the modern Israeli state is the fulfilment of end-of-age prophecy concerning the regathering of Israel. Others hold a view that God will no longer have and purpose in the land he covenanted to give to Abraham and his seed after him. There are those who declare that the USA is to be the new Zion. The latter two breach the covenant God swore unto Abraham.

The contention in this paper is that this is a false insistence and that the bulk of the peoples being gathered to the Israeli state could not possibly be Israelites as a race of people. Since the *seed* of Abraham is genetic, and since those going to Palestine are multi-racial, the only common "Jewish" connection can be by religion, sympathy, upbringing or some false pseudo-racial association. Rather than being Israelites, these people are more likely to be descendants of Esau. Prophecy declares Esau's descendants will be brought together for destruction centred on Jerusalem. Many of the prophecies concerning the fate of Esau [also known as Edom, Idumea, Mt. Seir, Teman, etc] have been presented in the chapter entitled, *Could the Modern Jews Be Israel?*

Furthermore, the timing of the Israeli build-up is incorrect if it is to be portrayed as the re-gathering of Israel. When we consider other events associated with the return of the nation of Israel to "The Land", we find the sequence does not fit the Israeli state. In this chapter we will examine the timing factors.

When writings from Evangelical, Zionist and Messianic Jewish sources are examined, a limited number of Scriptures quoted by these groups are repeated over and over again to support their views claiming that the Israeli state is a fulfilment of prophecy.

who are regathered?

The very titles that we find in the margins of our popular Bibles, such as *regathering* and *Jews Return*, suggest correctly that this all pertains to Israel only. However, the popular acceptance is that all converted people are *true Jews*; [meaning true Israelites because they think that "Jews" and "Israel" mean the same thing]. This is a consideration that has been disproved in earlier chapters, mainly on the basis that the Bible is a book about Israel and is addressed to Israel only (including the so-called Gentiles of the dispersed Houses of Israel and Judah).

what saith the law, the psalms and the prophets?

In considering this subject, we cannot ever move away from the foundation given by Scripture. This is, that New Testament fulfils the Old Testament prophecy, as given in the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets. All through the Old Testament we find references to this promise of national gathering being made to the people of Israel only. This selective aspect of the gathering is a fact of Scripture even though this may be difficult to accept because of the sentimental objections that arise from our pre-conditioning and religious upbringing or education.

There are Scriptures used to suggest that *all the families of the earth* are to be blessed in Abraham, but it has been demonstrated that *all the families* does not mean all people of all races. Without going over all this again, it might be well to ask how Israel could have been a blessing to all those nations God told Israel to destroy? There are many similar contradictions. For example:

Amos 3:1,2 Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O Children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up out of the land [earth] of Egypt, saying you only have I known of all the families of the earth ...

Something is obviously wrong with the traditional teachings!

THE REGATHERING AS FOUND in the law

Addressed specifically to Israel as a people [and not to any other race], we read:

Deut 30:1-6. ... and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, ... That then will the Lord thy God turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God has scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee ... And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed ... and the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of they seed ...

This is the original promise made to Israel; this has not changed, and there are things that must be noted:

1. The PEOPLE in this passage are Israel – not any others.
2. GOD is repeatedly presented as the Lord God of Israel – not of others.
3. GOD does the gathering – they do not come back unconverted under their own steam.
4. It is FROM THENCE not OF all nations. *Whither* also speaks of place.
5. The TIME is given as *when thou [Israel] shalt call to mind* all the things presented at Mt. Sinai and set their mind to return to the Lord and to obey His voice. There is no evidence of this in the Israeli state.
6. The PLACE is given as the *land which your fathers possessed ...* [Note all the New Testament references to “The Fathers”]. It is a specific geographical place on Earth. It is the land where *the fathers* [of Israel] lived.
7. The FULFILMENT is isolated to the children of “The Fathers”. It is not the mythical, spiritual children of Abraham in the sense that Galatians 3:7 is commonly taught, because “The Fathers” includes Isaac and Jacob.

This passage in Deut 30:1-6 gives us the time of this event and goes on to tell us that Israel’s enemies will be cursed and not be blessed. This racial separation is always present. Provision is also made for those of Israel who deny the Lord, to be cursed instead of being blessed. Being born an Israelite is no guarantee of eternal life. Each must come through The Door. Jesus says *I am The Door of the sheep* [John 10:7]. Jesus does not say that He is the door for races other than the sheep. Jesus gave His Life for the sheep! But, it is NOT recorded that He gave His Life for goats or anyone else. Israel is often spoken of as being the *sheep of His pasture*.

From here we go on to find the very same message that the Apostle Paul teaches in Romans 10:5-13 that is so often quoted in religious gospel preaching. Paul is addressing Israelites only who are stated to be “brethren” (*kinsmen of the womb*). These were of the same kin and of the House of Israel who Paul said also knew the Law [Rom 3:19 and 7:1-4]. The Law was given to Israel only.

1 Chron 16:35,36 *And say ye, Save us, O God of our [Israel's] salvation, and **gather us together**, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name ... Blessed be the Lord God **of Israel** for ever and ever ...*

In all these verses, kindly take note of the separation or identification that is made by the pronouns. See just who the *gather us* refers to and understand how this cannot ever be extended to include others. Note God is always stated to be *The Lord God of Israel*.

In this song of David, we find the prayer for Israel's gathering together, prayed by David on behalf of Israel. This regathering has not yet happened. In the New Testament, Jesus taught Israelites to pray, *Thy Kingdom come*. This is the hope of Israel, under both covenants. It is never presented as being the hope of all races, even in the New Testament.

Neh 1:8-10 *Remember, I beseech you, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I **gather them from thence**, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*

Some might like to argue that this refers only to those of the House of Judah who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. But, the original promise was made to the whole nation, and in this verse, the gathering is from "nations" in the plural. Again, the action relates to the redemption of Israel. It is through the Redeemer OF ISRAEL, Jesus, who came *to save His people from their sins*. The PLACE is always a specified place; it is not a condition as many New Testament teachers suggest, but a physical place that God has chosen on Earth. It is the *land which **your fathers** possessed*.

THE REGATHERING in the psalms

Ps 102:21,22 *To declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; when the people are **gathered together**, and the kingdoms [of Israel] to serve the Lord.*

Ps 106:47 *Save us, O Lord our God, and **gather us**, from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, ...*

Ps 105:42,43 *For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant. And he **brought forth** his people with joy, and His chosen with gladness.*

This psalm is addressed to *O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen*: [verse 6]. It speaks of the everlasting covenant made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob [Verses 8,9 - 19] and refers to the land of Canaan.

Ps 107:2,3 *Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; and **gathered them** out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north and the south.*

In verse 7 of this Psalm, it is God who leads Israel unto a *city of habitation*. This Psalm is about the gathering of the redeemed of the Lord from the East, West, North and South. It is always to a place. It is centred upon Jerusalem. This Psalm ends with:

Ps 107:43 *Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.*

What are *these things*? Are they not to do with Israel and her gathering? Would it be improper to suggest that if we do not *observe these things* we must therefore be lacking in understanding? Jesus pointed out the same thing in John 3:12 *If I have told you earthly things and you believe not, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?* Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, a *Master in Israel* about knowing these things. It is absolutely necessary to understand the earthly things about Israel as a racial entity before we can ever understand heavenly things. The facts concerning the gathering of Israel are most important!

THE REGATHERING in the prophets

Isaiah 11:9-13 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And **in that day** there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall be for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles [nations] seek and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass, **in that day**, the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and **gather together** the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.*

Twice in this section there is the phrase *in that day*. So it does not apply to other than the time specified. This is the day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the kid, etc, and when *the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea* [v9].

Isaiah is telling us a basic fact about the House of Israel who are at enmity against the House of Judah until the time of the regathering of all Israel [Isaiah 11]. These two Houses [or parts of Israel] must exist today as specific entities. The gathering is clearly spoken of as being of two parts that come from among [not of] all nations in *the four corners of the earth*. If Israel has now been “taken over” by the Church, how ever could this prophecy be fulfilled? We will see a lot more about this separation between Israel and Judah as we go along. What do the end-of-age teachers say about this matter? Nothing! If we take this literally, we see the route Israel is to take back to the promised land, as well as the timing. So far men do not go dry-shod over the Egyptian sea [verse 15]. A highway expressed in verse 16 as being from Assyria is not presently manifest either. The time of *in that day* is the time of the latter days when Jesus comes to smite the earth with *the rod of his mouth* ... [Isaiah 11:4].

Reading on we find that the time is when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose [Is 35:1] The fact that the Israeli state has organised the watering of desert areas does not prove anything in itself Do the same in the interior of Australia and that desert will also blossom as the rose This chapter ends with, *and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads*. Those going to Palestine today are not returning this way! They do not make any claim of being ransomed

Isaiah 40:5 *And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

Isaiah 40:11 *He shall feed his flock [Israel] like a shepherd: he shall **gather the lambs** with his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those with young.*

Could this possibly refer to the first advent? All flesh has not yet seen the glory of the Lord, but when He returns, *every eye shall behold Him*. In the Word of the Lord we do not see a multi-racial mix going back to Palestine. The glory of the Lord is revealed to all the flesh of Israel, and then He gathers His lambs. Although there is no *in that day* in these passages, the times are the same. The expression, *in those days* or *in that day* refers to the time approaching the close of this age.

THE REGATHERING IN JEREMIAH

There is so much in the book on this subject, that it is difficult to select quotations. In chapter three there is the same separation of Israel and Judah, with the same time feature as given by Isaiah. These two factors are so important yet they are what the popular ministers have to omit to support their traditional teachings. The present Israeli state is a mis-fit in terms of the timing given.

Jer 3:18 *And in those days [the timing], the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall **come together** out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance **unto your fathers**.*

Once again we find the gathering is to the same specific land area and a repeat statement about the time of the gathering of Israel as being *in those days*. This is a time when Israel will no longer be walking after the imagination of their evil hearts. In this verse and in this chapter of Jeremiah we again find the same reference to the differentiation between Israel and Judah. They are separate parts of Israel [for example, see Jer 3:11; 3:18; 5:11; 11:17; 30:3,31; 31:31; 33:14; 36:2; 50:4]. Again, it has to be pointed out very clearly that something is very wrong with the popular doctrines that do not allow for this. There are many Scriptures in this book of Jeremiah alone about this matter. Let us look further into Jeremiah for the gathering of these two Houses.

Jer 23:3 *And I will **gather** the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again unto their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.*

v5 *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth.*

Some like to say that this applies to Jesus' time, but Jesus did not reign and prosper as a King at the first advent.

v6 *In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.*

Note the usual Israel and Judah separation, and again that it is in the day when Jesus reigns.

v7,8 *Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and there they shall dwell in their own land.*

It must be noted that the gathering is only of the seed of Israel, that is, the Children [descendants] of Israel. Also, the return is from the North Country [singular] where Israel is to be found.

DO OUR MODERN PROPHETS AGREE WITH JEREMIAH?

Jeremiah goes on to say something sad and searching, yet most significant.

Jer 23:9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness.

v11 For both prophet and priest are profane, yea, in my house have I found wickedness, saith the Lord.

We can now examine the full passage above to see if today's prophets are equally profane in not believing what God says about the gathering of His people Israel. This is the context in which Jeremiah is speaking. Should we feel as bad about it as Jeremiah did? These Pastors and Teachers with the universalist all-races doctrines are the pastors who are said to be destroying the sheep of God's pasture [verse 1]. These are hard words and God pronounces woe on all and every one of these pastors who will not teach what Jeremiah is saying about the gathering of Israel and Judah. It is time for a personal check up on what we believe about this, to avoid this woe!

- [a] Those regathered are a very small remnant of the two Houses [all Israel] only. [Zeph 2:9; Micah 2:2; Ezek 14:22; Jer 6:9, 23:3, 31:7; Is 1:9, 4:3, 11:16, 37:4; Rom 11:5, 9:27]
- [b] They are only from God's flock [Israel].
- [c] Israel as a whole are gathered from out of all countries where God had driven them. But Israel is not of the racial content of the races of those countries.
- [d] The timing is in the days of the Righteous Branch. This is not the First Advent time, because Jesus does not yet sit on David's present throne on earth. He is yet to return to David's throne [over Israel].
- [e] Judah and Israel are separate entities until this time. Their present enmity has been stated clearly [Isaiahxxx 11:11-13]. Do we believe this?
- [f] It is *in his days* that the two entities re-unite. The *middle wall of partition* that the Apostle Paul talks of is then broken down under the New Testament that is made with Israel and Judah alone [Heb 8:8]. And then, Paul says, *All Israel shall be saved*. In prophecy, the two parties are never other than Israel and Judah, they are never "Jews and Gentiles" in the way that is commonly presented. There is no line of Old Testament prophecy that the popular teachings could be shown to fulfil.
- [g] The people concerned are always the *seed* [genetic] of the House of Israel [v8].
- [h] The "Land" is that which was given to their Fathers [genetic]. There are not two promised lands, nor is this promised land a place to which "saints" are raptured to before the Millennium. Israel is to *dwell* in their own land; the same one that was given unto their fathers. They are gathered from out of nations on Earth, and not from some place outside of earth from where they supposedly might have been raptured.

Let us look at this passage from Jeremiah again, and examine our hearts:

1. Are we those upon whom God says He will bring evil [v12]?

2. Are we those who cause *my people Israel* to err [v13]?
3. Do we *speak a vision out of our own heart* and not out of the mouth of the Lord [v16]?
4. Do we say to our people, or think, *no evil shall come upon you* [v17]?
5. Have we yet *marked his word and heard it* [v18]? Indeed, look at the rest of this chapter of Jeremiah about teachers and pastors who carry on stealing *my words every one from his neighbour*.
6. Is what we teach or believe just what we learned at Bible College or at church?
7. Will we yet continue not to accept what God is saying through His prophets about the gathering of Israel?
8. Will we continue to ignore the present separation of Israel and Judah?
9. Will we continue to ignore the time when Israel is gathered and confess that this is NOT what is happening in the Israeli state? If we do not yet do so, we still have the rest of the prophetic books to contend with and be convinced, for all tell the same story.

Let us probe this subject further in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:8-11 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, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child, together: a great company shall return thither. And they shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them: ... He that scattered Israel will **gather him**, and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock. For the Lord has redeemed Jacob. ...

We find a place that they come from, [this is another subject, as is the *North country*]. Women still are getting pregnant at that time and life on Earth continues. They were not raptured away anywhere, nor do they come from a place where they *neither marry or are given in marriage*. It is the returned Lord who leads them back; this Scripture again shows the timing of this gathering! The flock is made up of two parts; remember how Jesus said He had other sheep than the Judean fold? One is Judah and the other is the House of Israel. The two add together to make up the *Jacob* we see in the verse above.

It is only Jacob-Israel [both Israel and Judah] that is spoken of in Scripture as being redeemed. It is never a multi-racial church. [Note again, only Israel was given the Law, and therefore only Israel needs redeeming from that broken Law]. In Jer 31:2, it is Israel who finds grace in the wilderness; it does not include anyone else. Could all the factors in this chapter be spiritualised away?

Jer 31:1 At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

God is never spoken of as the God of all races, and Israel is *my people*. As God says *of old* [v3], *I have loved thee* [Israel] *with an everlasting love*. Jeremiah 31:31 is the very chapter Paul repeats in the Book of Hebrews [Heb 8:8] telling of the New Testament that is made with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. The New Testament is made with none others, even in the New Testament pages!

Jer 32:41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul

Who, and who only, are planted in *this land*? Israel can never be spiritualised away as a *church* in the modern concept. Jeremiah 31:35-37 and 33:17 tells us that Israel will always be A PEOPLE in the same way Peter does in the New Testament. This is to be so as long as the stars are shining and the moon can be seen. So Israel is still an individual two-part racial entity today, consisting of the House of Israel and the House of Judah! Jeremiah also tells us about the House of Israel always having a monarch over them [Jer 33:17], and so this part of Israel must contain a monarch today. [Note again the separation of Israel and Judah in this chapter].

NB There are no separate prophecies concerning any non-Israelite church.

Jer 50:4,5,19 In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: and they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, ... And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, ...

It is always Israel and Judah only! Again they are mentioned separately as seeking God together. There is not one drop of a stream of prophecy to the contrary! This verse is certainly not being fulfilled in the Israeli state today. Some would say that “Zion” is a figure of speech, or that the prophecy concerns the return of Judah to the Land under Ezra and Nehemiah. But here it is both houses, not just Judah, who are mentioned as separate entities making up *all Israel* as being brought to his habitation.

Israel will be sanctified in the eyes of all the other races when God gathers His people ... *then shall they dwell in THEIR LAND that I have given unto My servant JACOB* ... [Jer 28:24-26]. The word “Jacob” can never include other races.

THE REGATHERING IN EZEKIEL

This book tells the same story. In chapters 37 and 38 in particular we find some verses are commonly extracted to support popular views. But these chapters also give a repeat of the timing factors which immediately put this subject in the right perspective. Ezekiel was told, *Behold I send you TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL* [Eze 2:3 and 3:1]. To extend this limitation beyond the Children of Israel is to deceive! We are told by the Apostle James who wrote to THE TWELVE TRIBES, that many deceivers are entered into the world. Our modern deceivers extend these twelve tribes to include every race on earth. They claim other races are joined to Israel by *adoption*. If this was so then other races and churches would have to come to belong to one of the Twelve Tribes! They would have to be in either one or the other of the Houses of Israel or Judah [see the chapter entitled *Adoption*].

*Ezek 11:17 ... Thus saith the Lord God, I will even gather you [Israel] from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give **you** the land of Israel.*

Ezekiel tells the same story as Jeremiah! He makes the same complaint about the pastors and prophets who ignore the national message of the Bible and who have not *made up the hedge for the House of Israel*. He says that their teaching is *prophecy out of their own hearts* [Ezek 13:1-16]. The rest of this chapter tells how their teaching seduces Israel. Today the modern teachers *see visions of peace* for Jerusalem [v16] and they think that the Israeli state is the start of the fulfilment. But, there will be no peace in Jerusalem until Edom is destroyed there and the Prince of Peace brings the righteous remnant back to enjoy the abundance of peace they alone are promised. This gathering is after Esau’s descendants have been destroyed in ‘The Land’ by a complete and utter destruction.

God says that these false prophets will have God's hand against them, *and they shall bear their iniquity* [Ezek 14:9-11]. They will be taken out from among Israel! It is God who is saying these things, like it or not! We can see the severity of God in this and just how seriously we must take heed to this message.

Although Israel is punished much for their abominations, God says:

Ezek 6:60 *Nevertheless, I will remember my covenant with thee [Israel]: ... and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.*

But, the gathering of Israel, from among the countries *wherein you are scattered*, is with fury, purging and judgement [Ezek 20:34-38]. All flesh shall know that *I the Lord have drawn my sword* [Ezek 21:5]. Can we perceive the sword sharpened as Ezekiel did [Ezek 21:8-17]? Or do we prophesy lies saying God's people shall be raptured away out of it? God's principle is always, *the unrighteous shall be severed from among the just* [Matt 13:49]. How dare our teachers reverse what Jesus says. They teach that the righteous are raptured away from wicked. These teachers must face their judgement! In the parable of the Tares and the Wheat, is it not the Tares who are FIRST burned? We must have a good think about this!

Ezekiel 34 is too long to quote, but it is a mine of treasure on the subject of the gathering of Israel. It ends by saying:

Ezek 34:30,31,33 *Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, **even the House of Israel are My people**, saith the Lord God. And you my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men and I am your God, ...*

"Sheep" and "flock" are the people who personally belong to God. Israel is bought back for a price and "found". The *bring* [v13] and *seeketh out* [v12] parallel the *bought* and *found* through the New Testament parables. The *new heart* is a promise made to the House of Israel. You will look in vain for the *new heart* to be put in anyone else but Israel ... [Ezek 36:21-38].

What is the timing? We must look at this timing and see if this is what we have been taught. And with this, note the desolation that is yet to come upon the land before Israel returns. Other prophets write about this too, but you will not find our modern teachers ever mentioning it. They are too busy prophesying smooth things about the Israeli state! These are the false prophets. These are the ones with the dangerous doctrines, every one of them.

THE PROPHECIES OF THE DRY BONES AND THE TWO STICKS

Our end-time teachers and book writers use extracts from these chapters, but again they ignore the timing factors of the regathering as well as exactly who this prophet is addressing.

THE DRY BONES

In the parable of the dry bones, we find:

Ezek 37:11 *Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole House **OF ISRAEL**.*

They are expressly stated to be Israelites, so how could they be anyone else?

Ezek 37:14 *... and I shall place you in your own land ...*

Just who, and who only are to be placed in their own land? It is Israel as a people who alone are being addressed. So we must again ask if this gives support for the present Israeli state. To support the Israeli state is to say, in effect, that the resurrection is past. The current teaching about the Israeli state is pure deception!

THE TWO STICKS.

Even the Jehovah Witnesses have a play on this one. However, the Bible states the one stick represents Judah and the other represents Israel. They are *companions* ... [v16] ... or *fellows* ... [v19]. The sticks become joined together. This is a picture of the gathering together of all Israel. It includes no one else! It is not “Jews and Gentiles” in the popular context.

The prophet goes on to say:

Ezek 37:21-23 ... Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king unto them all; and they shall no more be two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all.

Anyone who denies that Israel is made up of just these two peoples has a serious problem. If they are not prepared to believe this *earthly* thing, Jesus says they cannot ever believe *heavenly* things [John 3:12]. At present Israel could not possibly be a singular “church” as some teach. The two parties could not possibly be “Jews and Gentiles” as is commonly taught. All the *kosmos* [or order] of Israel that Jesus is talking about is changed by our teachers to be *all the races on the Earth*.

Ezek 37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one Shepherd ...

Religious denominations teach that Jesus is the King of Christians of all races, but they fail to observe that Jesus says He is gone away to a far country, AND WILL RETURN to take His kingdom and be one shepherd to Israel. Those falsely occupying the vineyard part, at present, will be destroyed *with the brightness of His coming*. The vineyard is not the whole earth; it is a specific area of the earth.

Ezek 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant ... and my servant David shall be their Prince, for ever.

This “land” is a defined area on earth, being that given to Jacob. There is both racial separation and place separation.

Ezek 37:28 And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

In these verses we see two groups, *the heathen* and *Israel*; they are two completely separated identities.

Ezek 39:21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgement that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.
v22,23 *So the **house of Israel** shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward ... and the heathen shall know that the **house of Israel** went into captivity for their iniquity ...*
v25 *Thus saith the Lord God; Now I will bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the **whole house of Israel**, and will be jealous for my holy name.*

v27 ... and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;
v28 Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen, but I have gathered them [Israel] unto their own land ...
v29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit **unto the house of Israel.**

Note here the segregation of Israel from the other nations. The mercy upon Israel is *in the sight of many nations*, so Israel and these many nations coexist, but are separate. On whom do the prophets say the Spirit is poured out? Do the prophets say it is poured out upon all races? From Joel 2:28 [and from the New Testament] we have been taught that *all flesh* is not limited to Israel's sons and daughters, even if Israel are the people being addressed. But *all flesh* is almost always the *all flesh* of Israel.

The important thing to note in connection with the gathering of Israel, is that Israel is still a separate racial entity from the other nations, not only at this late stage of this present age, but into the next age. It is impossible that Israel has become a multi-racial "church". There is no prophecy at all about any portion for anyone of any race other than the Twelve Tribes. God's sanctuary is stated to be *in the midst of Israel* and NOT in the midst of the heathen nations or races.

At the end of Ezekiel, we find listed the apportioning of the land which is divided *according to the Tribes of Israel*. All those who want to continue to call the Tribes of Israel "The Church" will continue to blur what is on the pages of the Bible in black and white. The more this subject is examined, the more impossible the popular evangelical teachings become.

THE REGATHERING IN DANIEL

The "stone" kingdom of Daniel 3 is touched upon earlier in the chapter *Why Not Proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven?* and a summary of the position is given in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:13,14 ... one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages, should serve him: ... and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Yet again, this kingdom is separate from other peoples and nations. The other peoples are servants to Israel. The Lord of Hosts, the Lord of the armies of Israel, has the whole Earth and all the other peoples in subjection. At the end of this book of Daniel, the archangel Michael *standeth for the children of thy [Daniel's] people* [Dan 12:1]. Daniel's people were Israel. The limitation is specific! Again, there is no suggestion of a "church" in the way it is presented today.

THE REGATHERING IN HOSEA

Hosea says the Children of Israel will be known as *The sons of the living God*.

Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the **children of Israel** shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are not my people there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.* Then shall **the children of Judah and the children of Israel** be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, ...

Here again we find that the separation of the two Houses must still be existing today. Peter, in the New Testament quotes Hosea, and does not say anything about anyone other than *a* [singular] *nation*. He is writing to Israel.

Hos 8:10 *Yea, though they [Israel] have hired among the nations, now I will gather them ...*

God says He will then be as the dew to Israel [Hos 14:5]. But note, none of these things are said to anyone of any other race. Israel is scattered “among” the other nations.

THE REGATHERING IN JOEL

In *those days* of the pouring out, the blood and fire, the pillars of smoke and the sun being turned into darkness with the moon into blood, Mount Zion and Jerusalem shall be delivered. This is the time when God says He *will be jealous for His land and pity His people*. God’s people, expressed as being Israel, are still that entity. The land is still the same area. The other races are still separate.

Joel 3:1,2 *In those days ... and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*

God says that His heritage is still the unchanged nation of Israel who are *My people*. It is not *The Church* in the common concept. “My land” is still parted today.

The remnant left of God’s people are NOT raptured away from this time of trouble. They are very much present. Joel points out that at that time, the Lord will be the hope of *His people* and the strength of *The Children of Israel* [Joel 3:16,17]. *The Children of Israel* are not multi-racial non-Israelites. No strangers will pass through Jerusalem any more [v17]. Note this well. This means that such must be *passing through Jerusalem* up to this time! We can see that this passing through of strangers is not God’s intention and the effect of the mixed multitude within Israel is always to Israel’s detriment.

THE REGATHERING IN AMOS

This prophet speaks about the grievous judgements upon Israel. He reminds us of the terror of these days and of the sun going down at noon and of the destruction in “The Land”. But of those of Israel who are left, He says:

Amos 9:11-15 *In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof, and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom ... And I will bring again the captivity of **my people of Israel**, and they shall rebuild the waste cities ... And I will plant them upon their own land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.*

Amos did not prophesy about any rapture!

Our modern teachers like to take an expression like *rebuild the waste cities* and then say this is what is happening in the Israeli state today. Cities are being rebuilt, but the tabernacle of David is not raised up; neither has *the sun gone down at noon-day*. The cities of the Land have never been devastated so much that there is not a person, a blade of grass or even a fish [Zeph 1:2,3]. This must come to pass before the notable day of the Lord, and before Israel returns to the Land. This level of destruction has never happened yet to what is commonly called the “Holy Land”. The

wasted cities will then be rebuilt by Israel, but not before this time. That which is being built now in Palestine, must be something other than what the prophets are talking about concerning Israel.

We will see that the reference to the remnant of Edom in verse 12 is confirmed when we quote from Obadiah. These peoples falsely calling themselves “Jews” will be exterminated and:

Obad 1:17 ... and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

This is the time when Israel displaces Edom [see the chapter entitled *Could the Modern Jews by Israel?*]. The “House of Jacob” never means all races. Neither was Obadiah a believer in a multi-racial church!

THE REGATHERING IN MICAH

By now the consistency of the message about the gathering together of Israel has to be apparent to anyone with half a mind to evaluate the evidence objectively. Not one of the prophets of Israel is an universalist! This continues through the minor prophets.

Micah 2:12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together ...

Micah agrees with all the other prophets that the gathering only involves Israelites.

When Israel is gathered, Micah tells the position of the other nations.

Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

This is the time when Jesus rules, with Israel, over the nations with a *rod of iron*. *The nations shall see and be confounded at thy might* [Micah 7:16]. Metaphorically, the other nations are *to lick the dust* [Micah 7:17].

For the duration of the millennium, there is no more war among the nations, all of whom are still separate from Israel. Israel is described as a “nation”, as are the others. Other nations and Israel are always separate peoples in Scripture. All the prophets agree.

Micah 5:7,8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord ... And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles [nations] in the midst of many peoples as a lion among the beasts of the forest, ...

Micah goes on to remind us of the Doctrine of Balaam and that to walk humbly with her God, Israel must avoid the idolatry that comes through racial intermarriage. Idolatry always is a reason, through Scripture, for judgement upon Israel. Balaam prophesied blessing upon Israel when Israel dwelt as a separate people. Moabite intermarriage with Israel destroyed this separation leading to idol worship. As with the other prophets, Micah concludes with the usual message:

Micah 7:20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Despite what all the prophets have to say about this subject, it is ignored, or spiritualised, by almost all of today's teachers.

THE REGATHERING IN NAHUM

This prophet's message on this subject is missed because the word for "gather" is translated as "turned away" [KJV] or "restore" [NIV].

Nahum 2:2 For the Lord hath turned away [gathered] the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: ...

But Nahum is just as exclusive about Israel as are all the other prophets. This prophet mentions other peoples only as they relate to Israel.

THE REGATHERING IN HABAKKUK

Habakkuk is the prophet who declares that the vision is for an appointed time and that it will surely come [Hab 2:3 and Hab 3:13 – *You went forth for the salvation of Thy people, the salvation of Thy anointed.*]

To call Israel *God's anointed* is never taught today. It could not possibly be taught together with popular concepts. This was covered in the chapter entitled *Seeds, Natural and Spiritual*. When we consider the time factor of chapter three when the Lord goes forth for the salvation of His people, this is at the time of the Second Advent [Hab 3:3-6]. It is at a time of judgement [v9-12].

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

This is the message Habakkuk gave to the Chief Singer about the salvation of the anointed people Israel. It must be a very important message!

THE REGATHERING IN ZEPHANIAH

This prophet speaks about the terrible judgements upon Israel and then he speaks of the remnant of Israel with the Lord in the midst of them.

Zeph 3:17,18,20 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; ... I will gather them that are sorrowful ... At that time I will gather you again ... for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, ...

In this passage the word *gather* is found twice. Although Zephaniah was a prophet to Judah, the last chapter speaks of the remnant of Israel [v13] and of a fulfilment beyond the return of Judah from Babylon.

Israel is still found to be separate among *all the peoples of the earth* [v20]. We do not find reference to such captivity of any other nation but Israel. Israel is the only people exclusively gathered together from among the other nations!

THE REGATHERING IN HAGGAI

Haggai also speaks about the anointed people, the Children of Israel.

Hag 2:5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: ...

This latter phrase definitely is not taught in our churches. Israel are the people of the covenant that are mentioned above. They are children of the ones God brought out of Egypt. This identifies them as Israelites. These are whom God's Spirit remains upon, so the prophet says. Haggai goes on to speak of the heaven and the earth shaking and then of the glory of the new temple. This speaks of the time surrounding the end of this age.

THE REGATHERING IN ZECHARIAH

This prophet tells of the scattering of both Israel and Judah, but he goes on to say:

Zech 2:5 For I, saith the Lord, I will be unto her a wall of fire round about [Jerusalem], and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Israel is *the apple of Mine eye* and the other nations are a spoil. No one can say these are the same things. The Lord will *yet choose Jerusalem again* [Zech 2:12]. This will be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of Israel [Zech 8:6].

*Zech 8:7,8 ... Behold I will save **my people** ... and I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be **My people** ...*

Never do we find any other race than Israel being termed God's People. These alone are brought [gathered] to Jerusalem.

Once again, it is the House of Israel together with the House of Judah that are gathered ... [Zech 8:13 and 9:1], as is also shown in the verse below. The word "Joseph" indicates the leadership of the House of Israel.

*Zech 10:6 And I will strengthen the **house of Judah** and will save the **house of Joseph**, and will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off ...*

The following chapters of this book tell of the continuing separation of all Israel from other races and also the separation within Israel. Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives feature in a geographical way. Once again, the non-Israel nations come up to Jerusalem, from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts. This is optional because there is punishment for those nations who will not come [Zech 14:12-21]. And again, the non-Israel nations cannot reside inside Jerusalem.

The very last verse of this book says, *and there shall be no more the Canaanite in the House of the Lord of Hosts*. This means that the Canaanite must presently be in the House of the Lord. It is the doctrine of those with Canaanite blood that this book is opposing. Jesus says, *beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees*.

THE REGATHERING IN MALACHI

Malachi's burden of the Word of the Lord was to Israel [not to others]. Here we find the expression, *Yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau*. This our universalists cannot accept with their interpretation of *go into all the world*, making this phrase mean the inhabited Earth [*oikoumene*] whereas it is *kosmos* which means the *kosmos* of Israel, in that context.

Racial admixture is expressed as *hath married the daughter of a strange god* and we see that, *The Lord will cut off the man that does this ... both the master and the scholar out of the tabernacles of Jacob*. It seems that most of our masters and scholars will be cut off because of what they are teaching. We have seen how other prophets say the same thing about the false teachers. *Who will*

be able to abide the day of His coming? [Mal 3:2]. The great and dreadful day of the Lord is at hand.

There will be a message before that day that few will accept.

Mal 4:4-6 Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgements. Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And He shall turn the heart of the fathers unto the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

This last book of the Old Testament tells of the gathering and who will be entered in the Book of Remembrance. Again it is a remnant of **the sons of Jacob** [Mal 3:6].

Mal 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Those who are serving the Lord, as sons, shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth not [Mal 3:18]. This day will burn like an oven; and all the proud, yea, all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings – [Mal 4:1,2]

TO CONCLUDE

Let us not be too proud to admit what the Lord of Hosts says about the regathering of the remnant of the exclusive SONS OF JACOB. This subject of the regathering of Israel and the *gospel of the Kingdom* have much in common. The people involved have the same racial identity. It is essential that we believe the right gospel, applying it to the same people that Scripture does. We will now go to the New Testament where we find no change from what we find in the Old Testament.