# Chapter 14 - BACK TO THE PAST TO UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE

## Jewish People Scattered to Other Countries

God judged and dispersed His chosen people, the Jews, because of their rebelliousness and refusal to listen or obey. This happened three times in Jewish history. The first time was when the Assyrians invaded the northern country of Israel. *p. 225*

**Babylonian captivity**: the southern region of Israel was called Judah. Because of their sins God allowed the Babylonians to invade Judah taking the people into **captivity** for 70 years. They moved their captives to the land of Babylon. This was the second dispersion. *p. 226*

After conquering the Babylonians, the Persians allowed the Jewish people to return to their homeland. Later, the Greeks conquered the Persians; and then the Roman Empire defeated the Greek Empire. *p. 226*

We saw previously that the Jews were driven out of Israel by the Romans toward the end of the first century. They were without their own nation for almost 2,000 years. On ***May 14, 1948***- Israel was declared a Jewish homeland by the United Nations. It was a small portion of land with a strip of land leading up to but not including Jerusalem. 60% was in the Negev desert. Over 3 million Jewish people have returned to Israel as of 2019. *p. 227*

Tel Aviv was bombed by Egyptian planes the night of May 14. The next day armies of Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq and Egypt (with volunteers from Saudi Arabia and the Sudan) crossed the borders. Israel described it as the *War of Independence* while Arabs called it, *Al Nakhba*, "*the Disaster*". **The war lasted until July 1949.** Instead of being destroyed, Israel actually gained land! *p. 228*

## God Promised to Bring Back His People to Israel

> *Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;* 6 *I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— (Is. 43:5-6).* *p. 228*

Before airplanes, Isaiah spoke of the Jews returning like birds or clouds in the skies.

> *Who are these who **fly like a cloud**, and like doves to their roosts?* 9 *Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar*, … (Is. 60:8-9a) *p. 228*

## WHAT THE OT SAYS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Hatred, and violence continues against the presence of Jews in Israel. As of 2024 there are still **31 countries** that do not recognize the existence of the Jewish state. *p. 229*

"*From the river to the Sea*" (a call for the removal of all Jews from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean Sea) is a popular chant of the Palestinian movement. *p. 229*

Neither the U.S.A. nor any other country will bring peace to the mid-east. The one we call "Antichrist" will appear to make a peace covenant but will betray Israel. *p. 229*

## The Nations of the World Will Unite Against Israel in the Last Days

*For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 **I will also gather all nations**, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land (Joel 3:1-2).* *p. 229-230*

## The Lord will Fight Against Those Nations

***Assemble and come, all you nations,** and gather together all around. Cause your mighty ones to go down there, O' Lord. 12 **Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.** 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great. 14 **Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision** (Joel 3:11-14).* *p. 230*

*It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:9).* *p. 230*

## The Sky Will Roll Up Like a Scroll on that Day

*For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations, an His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter (Is. 34:2). … All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be **rolled up like a scroll**; all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling for a fig tree (Is. 34:4).* *p. 230*

*[New Testament confirmation: Revelation 6:13-14.}*

## God Will Bring Spiritual Renewal to the Jews

And ***I will pour on the house** of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem **the Spirit of grace and supplication**; then **they will look on Me whom they pierced**. Yes, **they will mourn for Him as one mourns for His only son,** and grieve as one grieves for a firstborn* (Zech. 12:10). *p. 231*

*In that day* ***a fountain shall be opened*** *for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness* (Zech. 13:1). *p. 231*

## The Lord Will Return to the Mount of Olives

*For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, ... 3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle, 4* ***And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,*** *which faces Jerusalem on the east. (Zech. 14:2a-3-4a)* *p. 232*

## The Thousand Year Reign of Christ on Earth

Most Christians know about *the thousand-year period* (known as the **Millennial reign**) from Rev. 20:1-6. It is before the final judgment and the new heaven and earth. There are many descriptions of this time in the Old Testament. *p. 232-233*

## OT Revelations Regarding the Messianic Kingdom

*"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:5-6).* *p. 2333*

## God Will Create a New Heaven and a New Earth.

*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. (Is. 65:17).* *p. 233*

## God Will be the Light

*The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an* ***everlasting light****, and God your glory* (Is. 60:19). *p. 234* [Compare this to Revelation 21:23; 22:5]