

Bringing the Jewish People Home

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A Christian ministry helping the Jewish people return to Israel

There is a great need in churches and among individual Christians for understanding from the Scriptures of God's purposes for Israel, the Church and the nations. From time to time we will be publishing with the Bulletin articles aimed at helping in this understanding. In the first of these, Willem Glashouwer explains how the return of the Jewish people to Israel from all over the world and the Second Coming of Christ are parallel events happening at the end of the age — and we are living in these end times.

BRINGING THE JEWISH PEOPLE HOME

Who is bringing the Jews home? Zionism? Ebenezer Operation Exodus? Christians for Israel International? The Jewish Agency? Keren Heyesod (United Israel Appeal)? Is it happening because of decisions by the United Nations? Was it prompted by the Holocaust? Is growing anti-Semitism in the Muslim world causing the return to the Promised Land? Yes and no.

First and foremost, it is **the Lord** who is bringing the Jewish people home. *'Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bring your children from the east, and gather them from the west. I will say to the north, "Give them up!" and to the south, "Do not hold them back." Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf'* (Isaiah 43:5–8).

God's hand is behind all these human political, charitable and ideological acts, so that it is really by His power that the Jewish people are returning to Israel. The Lord declares today that the time has come to do so. He does it through His Word — the eternal Torah, as Jewish people say — that He spoke to bring creation into being. All that the Lord does is mediated by the Word and by the *Ruach JHWH* — the Spirit of God — from the beginning of time to the end of the age (John 1:1–5)

'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us' (John 1:14). After His crucifixion and resurrection, when He was about to go and sit at the right hand of God, Jesus said, *'...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me ...'* (Matthew 28:18). He is the Lamb, who is allowed to take the scroll from the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne, to bring world history to a final close (Revelation 5:1–10), and to bring in the kingdom of God, after final ordeals, plagues, judgments and disasters, as the last book in the Bible explains.

The Lord God is bringing the Jewish people home through the Lord Jesus Christ, even though Israel is not aware of it — yet. Isaiah prophesied this when he spoke about the Servant of the Lord being a covenant for the people (Israel) to restore the land and rebuild its ruined cities. He will free His captive people wherever they are and give them life back in the Promised Land (Isaiah 49:8–9). This Servant of the Lord is described earlier in that chapter as being formed from His mother's womb (conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother Mary), *'to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself.'* He adds, *'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob [the Servant is therefore not Israel itself], and bring back those [the rest] of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth'* (Isaiah 49:5–6).

These were the words that Simeon recalled in the Temple when he held baby Jesus in his arms. But remarkably, Simeon reversed the order of events mentioned by Isaiah, putting them in the right order: *'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'* (Luke 2:29–32). First the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world (Matthew 24:14), a light to the Gentiles, and then the gathering of Israel to the Promised Land, leading up to their glory!

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

So the signs of the coming of Yeshua, Jesus, the Messiah are, first, salvation for the Gentiles, followed by glory for the people of Israel. We are nearly there! The gospel is going out into all the nations and Israel is beginning to return home. In His last great discourse on the Mount of Olives, the Lord Jesus named signs that would point to the time of His return (Matthew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13 and Luke chapter 21). Many of these signs — earthquakes, wars, plagues and famine — have been happening for centuries, but in recent times there has been a spectacular increase in them, especially the earthquakes this year. Wars: They have claimed more lives in the 20th century than in all the previous centuries put together. False prophets, notably Hitler, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung, have caused more casualties than ever before. Extremist Islam has continued to claim many lives. An increasing number of people die of AIDS, cancer and other illnesses.

One of the two most exciting signs of the nearness of the coming of Messiah is the preaching of the gospel of salvation to all nations. It really has only been happening in our day, helped by such modern means of communication as radio, television and the Internet. Jesus did not say that every individual would have heard the gospel, but that every nation would do so, '... and then the end will come ...'

The second very exciting sign is the blossoming of the fig tree, symbol of Israel (Matthew 24:32–33; Luke 21:31). We are the generation seeing both these signs happening as Jesus foretold!

Jesus is bringing the Jewish people home. He is doing so because He wants to meet them there when He comes in glory. That is why the Lord God has given His Son the power to direct history. Soon He will reveal Himself to His brothers by the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 12:10–14; 14:4), just as Joseph revealed himself to his brothers in Egypt (Genesis 45:1–3a).

So Jesus is coming soon — to reveal himself to Israel and coming for us as well!

In bringing the Jewish people home our Lord uses people — and organizations such as Ebenezer Operation Exodus and Christians for Israel. He uses political acts in history; He uses Zionism; He even uses virulent anti-Semites like Hitler; He directs decisions made by the United Nations.

Something remarkable is happening: Gentiles and non-Jewish nations are bringing the Jewish people home. Isaiah prophesied: *'This is what the sovereign Lord says, "See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders. Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground ..."'* (Isaiah 49:22).

Israel is on the way to her glory back in the Promised Land, so put an arm around a Jewish man, woman and child and help them go home! By doing so you are participating in the Lord's last phase of this age. Bring the Jews home, because Jesus is coming!

**Operation Exodus is an instrument of the Lord to encourage and help
the Jewish people to return to the Land of Israel from the land of the north and all the nations and to proclaim
God's Kingdom purposes for their return.**