

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



Israel - God's Chosen People of Destiny
Dr. John Barnett

The history of our Salvation is inextricably bound up in the history of God's Chosen People of Destiny - The Jews. That is why many years ago, when a great Bible conference speaker was asked to prove the inspiration of Scripture in one sentence, he replied: I'll do it in one word - **the Jews**.

One nation on Earth was picked by God to be: **His bearers of Truth, His Begetors of the Line of Messiah, and His Blessing to All Nations - ISRAEL.**

The Jewish People are God's People, the Jewish Custom's are God's Shadow of things even yet to come.

ISRAEL and the Miracle of God's work in and through them is the second great key to God's Prophetic Roadmap for the FUTURE.

The Lord has claimed that He ALONE can declare the future. "I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done" (Isaiah 46:9-10). "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed" (2 Peter 1:19).

What happens to ISRAEL has been ordained by God, and we need to be careful to understand from the past dealings of God with the Jews to realize in the future that He is still at work! First we must see that God has Chosen the Jews as His People, and God has Chosen the Land of Canaan (not Palestine) as His Land and God has Chosen the Destiny of the Nation of Israel as His Destined Plan for His Destined

People. The Jews, the Land of Israel, and the Nation Israel are a Chosen People of Destiny.

As we read the newspapers and see how intense the hatred is of Israel by her enemies, even the continued existence of the Jews after centuries of dispersal and persecution unique in human history. Their continued existence is a mute, but eloquent testimony, to fulfilled prophecy. The restoration of Israel as a nation among nations in our own generation is merely the most recent in a long line of fulfilled prophecies dealing with the Jewish people.

Through the Holy Scriptures (almost all written by Jews) and through Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham has indeed become a blessing to all families of the earth. Some from every nation have found salvation and blessing through faith in Him.

One of the strong evidences of divine inspiration of the Bible (not found in other religious books of either past or present) consists of its hundreds of fulfilled prophecies. So, there can be No Ordinary Explanation for the existence in the world today of God's Chosen People of Destiny, the Jews, and the nation of Israel. For just a moment try to feel the impact of these observations. The prophecies about the Jews, their history of suffering, their rebirth as a nation, and the future destiny God has mapped out for His Chosen People of Destiny "have been a matter of public record on the pages of Scripture and available for careful examination for centuries. That they have been fulfilled in specific detail cannot be the result of mere chance but is in fact more than sufficient proof for the existence of the God who inspired the Bible and of that Book's authenticity and inerrancy. In view of

such clear and overwhelming evidence, one can only charitably assume that no agnostic or atheist has bothered to read the biblical prophecies and check them personally against history and current events".

Modern Israel only occupies about one-sixth of 1 percent of the land area which the Arabs possess. The Arab Nations have the oil, the wealth, and the worldwide influence which such seemingly inexhaustible resources command. Israel's postage-stamp piece of land is scarcely discernible on a world map, and it lacks all the essentials to make it the center of worldwide concern. Yet, In defiance of all reason, however, it is the focus of world attention, precisely as prophesied.

Next, within Israel, consider that city the entire world has heard of-Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a small city with neither a commercial nor strategic location. When the Old Testament prophets wrote of the future they did so with precision. Their astonishing accuracy singled out Jerusalem as the world focus. They didn't say Damascus, Cairo, London, or Paris would become the center of action in the last days, but Jerusalem. Yet the eyes of the world are upon it as upon no other city. Jerusalem is indeed a "burdensome stone" (Zech. 12:1-3) around the necks of all nations of the world, the most vexing and volatile problem the United Nations faces today. There is no ordinary explanation for this! What the Hebrew prophets declared thousands of years ago and what seemed utterly fantastic in their time is being fulfilled in our day.

This is only part of the evidence, as we shall see, that the prophesied "last days" are upon us and that our generation will likely see the remainder of Bible prophecy fulfilled. There are so many more specific prophetic passages to be fulfilled in the last days; based on the prophecies, which have already come true, we must conclude that these too will literally unfold in the not-too-distant future. Thus God has declared that the most appalling time of utter destruction both for Jews and for the entire population of the world lies yet ahead. To speak in Biblical terms God says watch out,

"the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7) spells danger and misery for the entire planet.

What specifics has God revealed about His Chosen People of Destiny, the Jews? We will cover an incredible summary of these specifics in tomorrow's devotional

The Fragile Rattlesnake

John 3:14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up...

The rattlesnake is a dangerous creature, but surprisingly vulnerable. Believe it or not, rodents, rather than being easy victims of the rattlesnake, are one of the rattlesnake's greatest enemies. Ground squirrels will sometimes attack rattlers, lunging and biting them. Ground squirrels can inflict wounds that become infected and cause the snake's death. They often get away with this because their reflexes are so much faster than the snake's.

Those who handle rattlesnakes must be careful of their bite. But they must be equally careful about how they pick the snake up, because its neck is easily broken. If a rattler is trapped for only 20 minutes in the noonday sun, it can go into convulsions. And if it is placed on ground with too steep an incline, its heart, unable to pump uphill, may fail. In fact, simply handling a rattler may cause it to starve itself to death.

Scripture refers to the devil as the "serpent" many times. However, just as the rattlesnake is deadly yet vulnerable, so too is the devil - truly deadly, yet vulnerable. All who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior from sin, death, and the devil have that victory through Christ, even though the devil would like us to forget that he is a beaten foe.

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