

Lesson 7
"RESTORED ISRAEL . . . THE SECOND COMING"
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Did you notice when the stores put out their Christmas decorations? It seems to get earlier and earlier every year. When we see those displays, we know Christmas is coming, right? And those decorations also tell us that Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

If you are a believer in Yeshua, aren't you excited to know that many of the signs Scripture tell us will happen before He returns, *have* already happened, which means, His return is just around the corner.

I've been very excited studying for this lecture about the restoration of Israel and about the Second Coming when Jesus, the Warrior King will ride on a supernatural white horse to defeat evil! Ok, I'll calm down and continue.

Israel is the focus of most of God's prophetic time clock and since the later part of the 19th Century, the world has been witnessing God fulfilling His promises regarding Israel.

BACK TO THE FUTURE OF GOD'S CHOSEN

To know why Israel is the focus of most prophesy, we must go back to the future of Israel. It is through Israel, that God's plan of redemption was to be carried out through the Jews.

In His covenant with the Israelites, God told them He was giving them an everlasting title to the land of Israel and they could remain there and be blessed if they kept their covenant with Him. With His promise to give them this land, God also promised discipline if they worshipped idols and broke the covenant.

DISOBEYED and DISCIPLINED

Unfortunately, they *did* break the covenant with God; however, God kept His promised discipline and allowed the Jews to be sent into exile all over the world. Over the centuries the Jews have been ostracized, hated and persecuted, and the land of Israel laid dormant and neglected. Israel, once rich in natural resources – a land God called "flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8), "the Promised Land" – withered and became a wasteland.

So why are the Jewish people and Israel still around? Because God could *not* forget them. He told the Israelites, He, "Set His love on them and chose them above all

nations." (Deuteronomy 10:15) Scriptures throughout the Old Testament testify to His love for the Jewish people. They are the "apple of God's eye" (Zechariah 2:8). God also said about Israel:

- I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)
- You are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you. (Isaiah 43:3-4)
- You are My very own people forever. (2 Samuel 7:24)
- I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands. (Is 49:15-16)
- If the sun, moon, stars and seas ceased to exist, then Israel would also cease to exist. (Jer. 31:35-36)

The last time I looked, the sun, moon, stars and seas were still around!

Because of His unfailing love for them, God promised He would bring the Jewish people out of other nations and return them to Israel, the land He had promised to them. (Ezekiel 36:24; Deut. 30:3,4; Isaiah 11:11-12; Amos 9:14-15)

In the last 100 years or so, the world has witnessed the fulfillment of God's prophetic promises for His chosen people, the Jews. So that they could return to their ancestral homeland and be prosperous and protected there, the Lord fulfilled His promises to:

- RESTORE THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE
- RENEW THEIR LAND
- REGATHER THE PEOPLE
- REESTABLISH THE NATION OF ISRAEL
- REVIVE ISRAEL'S MILITARY
- RETURN FAVOR ON ISRAEL

GOD RESTORED THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE

When the Jews were scattered worldwide, they stopped speaking Hebrew - their language for thousands of years. In my previous lecture, I spoke about the fulfilled prophesy to restore the Hebrew Language. (Zephaniah 3:9) God gave Eliezer Ben-Yehuda a vision to restore it to the Jewish people and in 1922, Hebrew became one of the three official languages of Palestine.

GOD RENEWED THE LAND

When the Jewish people began returning to the land, it was a barren wilderness with malaria-infested swamps and stripped of all its forests. Yet God's promise was to renew the land, because, "they [His people] will be coming home again soon!" (Ezekiel 36:8) God promised Israel would:

- Become a land of agricultural abundance (Ezekiel 36:35)
- Bloom again (Is 35:1-7; Joel 2:21-26)
- Produce vegetation (Ezekiel 36:8)
- Be flowing with milk and honey once again (Ezekiel 20:15)
- Return from exile to rebuild cities, plant vineyards and gardens. (Amos 9:14)

God kept His promises to “watch over them to build and to plant.” (Jeremiah 31:28) One can’t deny Israel is the apple of God’s eye. A Messianic Jew and pastor of prophesy, jokes that if you pray to God while in Israel, it’s a local call!

In the 20th century, His people planted 200 million trees and God increased rainfall 450 percent. Former swamps were converted into cultivated land and the Sea of Galilee was channeled to the deserts, causing them to bloom. Today, Israel is the breadbasket of the Middle East. God has blessed the land of Israel, making it fruitful and prosperous.

When I visited Israel, I remember looking out the tour bus window as our guide pointed to crops and groves of palm and olives trees thriving in the middle of desert land! And I have never tasted better fruit and vegetables than in Israel. Oh, their coffee was amazing too, which they said is because it’s made by He-brews!

God promised, “When I bring you back, people will say, ‘This former wasteland is now like the Garden of Eden!’” (Ezekiel 36:35) God kept His promise.

This Scripture sums up God’s renewal of the land: “I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19)

GOD REGATHERED HIS PEOPLE

God said that before Christ returned, He would regather the Jews, and restore the land to them. (Jeremiah 16:15; Isaiah 11: 12; Ezekiel 36:24; Ezekiel 11:17, 37:21) Jeremiah prophesied God would bring the people of Israel, “back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which [God] had exiled them...to restore them to the land [God] gave their ancestors” (Jeremiah 16:15) to “never again be uprooted.” (Amos 9:15)

Large-scale immigration of Jews began in 1882, and since then there has been “Aliyah”, a mass Jewish immigration to Israel.

The hand of God used horrific, man-made events: WWI, WWII, the 1956 Suez War, the 1967 Six Day War, the crumbling of Soviet Russia, all as an impetus for the Jews to return to their homeland.

God said, "I will greatly increase the population of Israel." (Ezekiel 36:10; 37:26) In 1900, there were 40,000 Jews there. A little over a century later, there were almost 7 million. In 2021, Jewish immigration has seen a 31% increase over the prior year. According to Dr. David Reagan, the regathering of the Jewish people back to their homeland is one of the greatest examples of God's continuing love for the Jewish people.

GOD REESTABLISHED THE NATION OF ISRAEL

For 1800 years, the Jews were assimilated into other lands and nations. God promised when He gathered His people, Israel would become a nation once again. (Isaiah 66:8) For centuries the world scoffed at the impossibility of that prophesy. But God fulfilled His promise. In 1948, Israel became a nation and God's chosen people had a national homeland once again.

The Lord God said, "I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you . . . and the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by." (Ezekiel 36:24-26,34).

Scholars of Bible prophesy believe the reestablishment of Israel as a nation is the most important prophetic fulfilment signaling it is time for the Church to go to our forever home.

GOD REVIVED ISRAEL'S MILITARY

Ezekiel said that in the last days, there would be a revival of Israel's military, to become "an exceedingly great army" (Ezekiel 37:10). Zechariah prophesied Israel's army would be like a "flame that sets a woodpile ablaze or like a burning torch among sheaves of grain." (Zechariah 12:6) Israel has been that "flame among grain" in war after war. Even though Israel is one of the smallest nations in the world, its military is considered to be among the top 10-15 most powerful.

Many believe God has miraculously and providentially intervened and delivered victories to Israel, even against the greatest odds recorded in history. Ironically, Iraq complained that Israel's God had diverted their Iraqi rockets!

Examples of their victories against unbelievable situations convince me God has His hand on Israel, protecting them and enabling them to achieve miraculous victories in fulfillment of end-time prophecies.

GOD RETURNED FAVOR TO ISRAEL

God said He would make Israel even more prosperous than they once were. (Ezekiel 36:11) Israel is king in technology and innovation. They have more hi-tech start-ups per capita than anywhere in the world (eat your heart out Silicone Valley!). Israel is only 73 years old yet is second only to the U.S. in venture capital funds. Israel leads in cyber security, agriculture technology, banking, health, mining, computer science, medicine, just to name a few!

FIG TREE

So, why should all this be important to us? Because Jesus taught the fig tree symbolized Israel and that the generation in which the fig tree (Israel) began to blossom, meaning, be restored, that would be the generation to see His return. (Matthew 24:33-34)

Consider this: Wouldn't those born on the day Israel became a nation again, May 14, 1948, and those born thereafter, be "of the generation" in which Israel received their statehood? If so, could this mean that Jesus will return before the end of those people's lifetime?

No people in the history of the world, except Israel, has been scattered all over the planet, returned to their original homeland, with their original language and original heritage intact, and bearing the same name it had 3,000 years ago. The Jewish people survive because of a loving, merciful God who said, "I am with you to save you." (Jeremiah 30:11).

In the early 1900's there was not one definite sign we were living in the generation of the Lord's return. Today there are so many fulfilled prophesies, it's like a neon sign flashing in the sky proclaiming "Jesus is coming soon". But I'm not looking for signs. I'm listening for sounds – the shout of an archangel and the blowing of a trumpet.

We are witnessing events that can be summed up in these words of the Lord, "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days you would not believe if you were told." (Habakkuk 1:5)

JESUS' SECOND COMING

The signs we read about in Scripture tell us the first phase of Jesus' returning will be the Rapture and it is "imminent." In the twinkling of an eye, we'll find ourselves in His presence! Since the Rapture is imminent, the world is on the threshold of the Tribulation. The second phase of His returning, His Second Coming, will occur seven years after the Tribulation. It will be the ultimate fulfillment of our Lord's promises to return, and it is the culmination of all biblical prophecy.

Later in this study, an entire lesson will be dedicated to the Second Coming so I won't address all the glorious details in this lecture. However, I gathered various Scriptures from the prophets and New Testament writers who provide additional insight to God's magnificent and much anticipated yet-to-be-fulfilled promise.

Revelation provides one of the most dramatic passages in the Bible about the Second Coming, so we'll start there which is when we're in heaven. That's a good place, right? After the Church has been raptured, there will be seven years before Jesus returns to Earth.

Revelation 19 tells us that in heaven, the time for the Marriage of the Lamb to His Bride, the Church, has come. We're not told all that we'll be doing in heaven those seven years, but I think we'll have moved into the one of the places Christ is preparing for us in His Father's mansions. I intend to do some decorating projects.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is ready and Bible scholars believe this Feast, the greatest banquet the cosmos will ever experience, will continue into the Millennium. How great a party will that be!?

While all hell is breaking loose on Earth during the Tribulation, multitudes in heaven will be praising God for destroying Babylon, the worldwide kingdom of the Antichrist. Heaven's inhabitants are singing, "Hallelujah! The Lord, our God the Almighty, reigns."

Here's something to think about. The Apostle John was shown heaven as it will be in the future. Could the voices he heard singing be yours and mine? Ok, so it's not Scriptural, but it amused me to think about!

While God continues to reign on His throne, He permitted evil men and evil angels to do their worst, but the time has come when His Son will return to conquer the thrones of Earth.

SIGNS IN THE SKY

Scripture tells us that immediately following the Tribulation, there will be signs in the sky signaling Jesus' return:

- "Immediately after the distress of those days [the Tribulation], the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." (Mark 13:24-25)
- "All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall." (Isaiah 34:4)

- “The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light.” (Isaiah 13:10)

The Apostle Peter adds more grim detail about what he called “The Day of the Lord.” “Heavens will pass away with a roar; heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved.” (2 Peter 3:10)

The whole world will be in turmoil, confused and terrified at what they see happening on the Earth, in the seas and in the skies above them. (Luke 21:25) Christ’s return to Earth will not be subtle. The signs will be so spectacular, no one will possibly miss His return.

THEN HEAVEN OPENS

The Apostle John wrote, “Then I saw heaven open.” Imagine! The world’s fear and hatred of God will be at unprecedented heights then suddenly, like lightning blasting across the sky, Jesus will appear, and everyone will see, “The Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory.” (Luke 21:27) Consider what that will look like and what that will sound like!

Majestically, Christ will be riding a great white stallion, surrounded by the rolling clouds of His Shekinah glory. Jesus the Messiah will ride forth as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Faithful and True, Creator of the universe. The Lord of Glory will appear in the skies above the evil world and above Antichrist’s wicked and blasphemous armies.

THOSE RIDING WITH JESUS

Jesus won’t be alone when He leaves heaven. There will be the “Armies of heaven following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.” (Revelation 19:14) Who are these armies of heaven? There are differing opinions. They could be the angelic host, or the raptured Church, or both. Depending upon the translation of 1 Thessalonians 3:13 and Jude 1:1, they are described as either “holy ones” or “saints.” Bible scholar Warren Wiersbe provides some clarification. The word “saints” means “holy ones” and can refer to believers or angels.

Either angels, or the Church or both, I’m good. Yes, I would love to follow Jesus on a white horse to view His destruction of evil, but I’ll be just as happy waiting in heaven until it’s all over, and very likely will still be participating in that Marriage Feast.

CHRIST’S TITLES

Jesus will have a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. This mysterious name speaks of His deity. He is “very God of very God”, embodying all the mystery and all that is incomprehensible to us.

On His robe and on His thigh will be written King of kings and Lord of lords, (Revelation 19:16; 1 Timothy 6:15) which is Christ's most important name. He is supreme and sovereign over all Earthly rulers and angelic powers. His titles speak of His sovereignty because all kings and lords must submit to Him.

Christ's greatness is also seen in the descriptions of His appearance.

HIS APPEARANCE

His eyes will be like a flame of fire because He is the Omniscient and Holy One of God whose judgment sees everything.

He will be wearing a robe dipped in blood. It's not the Lord's blood but that of His enemies. In speaking of His conquest of the nations, the Lord had said, "Their blood spattered My garments, and all My clothes were stained." (Isaiah 63:3)

On His head will be many crowns, representing omnipotent authority overall.

The sharp sword coming from Christ's mouth is a symbol for God's Word and Isaiah wrote, "With the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked." (Isaiah 11:4) The Apostle Paul confirmed the same about the Antichrist, "The Lord Jesus will overthrow [him] with the breath of His mouth and destroy [him] by the splendor of His coming." (2 Thess. 2:8)

Scripture tells us what the world's inhabitants will experience.

THE WORLD WILL SEE AND MOURN

"Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him." (Revelation 1:7) Have you ever wondered how God will have everyone see Him at the same time?

His return will be the greatest display of power the world has ever witnessed. "All the peoples of the Earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7) The inhabitants of this evil world will mourn and have great regret.

The Apostle Luke tells us, "People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken." (Luke 21:26) Scholars believe "faint from terror" mean some will suffer heart attacks by what they witness and the shock they will feel.

THE JEWISH REMNANT AND THEIR MESSIAH

Much of the Old Testament focused on God bringing the Jewish people to a time of great distress because they rejected Him. Yet, because of His great love for them, He wants to redeem them. While the Tribulation will be of unprecedented evil, death and destruction, God's purpose is to prepare Israel for her Messiah.

Israel will be granted a spiritual rebirth. God will, "Pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for Him as for a firstborn son who has died." (Zachariah 12:10) Most scholars of Bible prophesy believe God will fulfill that promise at Christ's return. The Jewish remnant will finally see Jesus as their Messiah and repent.

As the Antichrist's forces gather to destroy them, the Jewish remnant will plead for their newly found Messiah to deliver them. Isaiah wrote, "On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer depend on him who struck them [the Antichrist], but they will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 10:20)

Zechariah describes how the Lord will rescue Israel: "The Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle." (Zechariah 14:3)

HIS PURPOSE TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT

John MacArthur said, "By the end of the Tribulation, the spiritual decay of this world will make it a lifeless carcass. Then Christ will appear to dispose of the evil world in a final judgment."

Christ's initial purpose is to come with righteousness against the enemies of God to "judge and wage war". His ultimate purpose will be to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The prophet Isaiah prayed for the Messiah to return to dispense justice: "Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence! Your coming would make the nations tremble. Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame!" (Isaiah 1:2)

Enemy armies will assemble to fight against the Lord and His anointed (Psalm 2:1-3) but their weapons will be futile. Yeshua HaMashiach - Jesus the Messiah - will overthrow the forces of the Antichrist with the words from His mouth and the sheer splendor and brightness of His appearance.

Christ will strike down His enemies: Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet and all their minions. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be the first persons to be cast into hell - a lake of "burning sulphur." (Revelation 20:10)

Dan Leppo told us last week that Zechariah foretold a graphic slaughter awaits the millions of followers the Antichrist and False Prophet deceived. They will rot while standing on their feet (Zechariah 14:12) and their demise will provide supper for scavenger birds.

Jesus the Messiah will signal an angel to bind Satan with a great chain and throw him into the Abyss, a bottomless pit which will be sealed shut for one thousand years. Then Satan will ultimately be thrown into the same lake of fire as was the Antichrist and the False Prophet. (Revelation 20:10)

ANGELS WILL COLLECT HIS ELECT

And with a loud trumpet call, Messiah's angels will gather the elect from all over the Earth. (Mark 13:27; Matthew 24:31) The elect are believers who will be still alive at the end of the Tribulation and who did not receive the mark of the Beast.

Christ's Second Coming will usher in the Millennium and He will establish His righteous kingdom on the Earth.

At His first coming on Earth, Jesus was the suffering Lamb bringing salvation. (Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29) At His Second Coming, he will be the Lion of Judah bringing wrath and judgment. (Isaiah 31:4) He will be the Commander in Chief of the armies of heaven, an invincible, omnipotent, mighty warrior.

I believe Jesus, the Bridegroom, is right now, at the very gates of Heaven, waiting His Father's command to appear for His Bride, the Church.

Are you ready to be in that Wedding? If Jesus is your Savior, you are under God's grace, your sins are forgiven, and you can look forward to it and to when this prophesy is fulfilled: "The Lord will be King over the whole Earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His name the only name." (Zechariah 14:9)

Soon and very soon, we're going to see the King.
"Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus"