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**Living Hope EFC**

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God's Plans for Israel's Future. 11:1-36.

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It has been said if you want to know what time it is on [God's calendar](#) - keep an eye on [Israel](#) for it is [God's timepiece](#).

Recently: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with President Obama. Many have expressed that President Obama's treatment of Netanyahu shamed him & treated Palestinian terrorist as freedom fighters

[George Birnbaum](#), former Chief of Staff to Netanyahu on **Fox News 4-8:**

**Stated: "All Israeli public views this US Administration as one of the most unfriendly in our history."**

**Regarding Iran:** "1 bomb gets through & Israel as we know it is gone. Israel is very small."

Q: *Would Israel strike Iran without US backing?* "Yes! As goes Israel, so goes the Jewish people around the world. And Israel understands that a unilateral strike may mean war in the Middle East."

[Coloradoan](#) article. Israeli PM gets support at Home:

SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED? Does this matter to us?

**Does all of this have any connection with the Israel in the Bible?**

And does the Bible have anything to say about Israel's future? Or Iran's, Iraq? Russia? Egypt? Lybia? Syria?

YES, yes & yes! – We should be concerned.

The Israel chosen by God in the Old Testament is the same Israel with which the US is currently an ally, and the nation which God has His eye on with a view toward determining future world events.

[One of the most contentious issues for all parties in the Middle East is the final status of Jerusalem.](#) Zechariah says the following:

**Zechariah 12:2-3:** "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, **when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her**, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves".

Zechariah reveals that Jerusalem, the capital of Israel will one day become a problem for all nations. [Eventually all the nations of the world will gather against her.](#)

**The US** should be concerned about its political relationship with Israel, and **the Church** should have a special affection for Israel – because they are the root from which God has brought about our eternal salvation.

**CONSIDER:**

**In our day** we are witness to the remarkable **rebirth** of Israel as a nation (IN 1948), and to the **reestablishment** of Jerusalem as her capital.

- Israel went into captivity in 586BC – and was under Gentile control until 1948. [After 2,534 years the nation was reborn politically.](#)
- Israel regained control over Jerusalem in 1967 in the **Six Day War** with Egypt, Jordan & Syria. – **Luke 21:24.**
- Israel does not control East Jerusalem yet, where the Dome of the Rock is built. Moslems do. Israel will NOT give up Jerusalem!

In Romans 11:1 – Paul asks a question that is as pertinent today, 1950 years later, as it was when he asked it in 57AD.

- **Did God reject his people, Israel?** Ans: “**BY NO MEANS.**”

Romans 9-11 Paul has been discussing Israel’s plight, in light of their rejection of the Jewish Messiah, and in light of birth of The Church.

[It is important to understand that the term “Israel” has reference to both the political entity & nation, and a spiritual heritage & ancestry.](#)

- Chap. 9 = While **National** Israel rejected Christ, there is a **spiritual** Israel. God continues to preserve a remnant of Israelites in every age.
- Chap. 10 = **God never intended for Israel to exist as a national entity without a spiritual relationship with Him.** He chose them to be HIS people. By faith in Christ they are His people spiritually.
- Chap. 11 = [God has future plans for Israel that have worldwide implications, both on a spiritual plane and a national political plane.](#)

First: 11:1-10. God has not rejected Israel.
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**Vs.1–Question.** Did God reject those to whom He gave the Covenants?

**Vs.1b-6 – Answer.** Absolutely not! Paul gives three proofs:

- (1) V.1. Paul. He is a Jew!
- (2) V.2-4. **Elijah & 7,000.** Even during Israel’s growing unfaithfulness.

This reference to Elijah, by Paul, is interesting & significant. Do you re- member what was going on in Israel during Elijah’s time? **(1 Kings 18,19)**

- He was a prophet during the reign of Ahab, and his wife Jezebel.
- One of the most wicked Kings & Queens of Israel’s history.
- Jezebel had 450 prophets of Baal & 400 prophets of Asherah that ate at her table. Imaging how discouraging it would be to have the President of the US, not only reject our Christian heritage & our Bible, but actually bring 850 false religious teachers to dine with him on at the White House on a regular basis??
- This was what was going on in the palace in Israel, GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE!. It was a time of great unfaithfulness and evil in Israel.

It was in this context that Elijah challenged the people to either follow God or Baal, whoever was the real God. Then he faced all 850 false prophets on Mt. Carmel & ended up having them executed as God revealed Himself to the people.

- Remarkably, after this great spiritual high, when Jezebel threatened to kill him, Elijah ran in fear for his life & ends up exhausted, asking God to take his life. "I am no better than my fathers." He wanted God to end it all; ashamed, discouraged, despondent.
- God gently rebuked him, "What are you doing here Elijah?" –Twice.
- It was here Elijah states, twice: "Israel has rejected your cov't, put your prophets to death, and I am all alone..."
- God: "I have reserved 7,000 who have not bowed knee to Baal."

**POINT:** Even during Israel's darkest days, God preserved a remnant!

- **(3)** V.5-6. The present remnant (Acts –thousands were being saved.)
- **TODAY ALSO:** Jews for Jesus, Slavic Miss. Serv., Chosen People Min.
- BY GRACE, not by Law (9:31-33).

**Vs.7-10** – Jews who attempt to become righteous (have a spiritual relationship with Him) without God's Grace, are not God's people.

- Because of His Cov't of love with them God will not stop inviting them to come to Him. But those who refuse to come on God's terms & who reject His Word & Son, are only hardened & blinded to Him.

**Hardened:** *To cover with a thick skin or a callous.*

- **Hardening takes place by rubbing against the truth & resisting it.**
- It is always a process of persistent resistance: we do not believe God's Word, argue against it, our conscience can become seared!
- Finally, God can leave us in that state, which we've created.

**It can happen to Christians as well as non-Christians:**

- **Mark 3:5; 6:52; 8:17; 16:14. 1 Tim.6:10 "Love of money..."**

**GOOD NEWS: It is never too late to turn around! Heb.3:7-8,12-13.**

**ILLUS:** Hymn Writer lost joy of Salvation. **(1735-1790)**

**Robert Robinson** wrote the hymn, Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.

- Born in England 1735, his dad died when he was 10. Mom –spiritual.
- In 1755, age 20, having heard George Whitfield – he accepted Christ
- For several years he lived in London & grew on Wesley's sermons.
- In 1758 he accepted a call to pastor his first church.
- For the celebration of Pentecost in 1758, three years after his conversion, he penned his spiritual autobiography in the words of this hymn.
- In 1770 he began writing articles and books on biblical issues.
- *In 1777 Dignitaries and clergymen of the Church of England united with Noncomformists in lauding this exceptionally able, scholarly and pungently written book.*
- *In 1781 he was asked by the Baptists of London to prepare a history of their denomination. Which he completed in 1790.*

- *Other theological works are included in the several collective editions of his writings.*

**Sometime after writing the hymn** He left the fellowship He had with Christ and wandered into the avenues of sin.

- As a result he became deeply troubled in spirit. Hoping to find some peace of mind he decided to travel as a diversion.
- In the course of his travels he met a young woman and as they talked she asked him what he thought about a hymn she had been reading.
- To his astonishment he found it was none other than his own hymn! He tried to evade her question but she continued to press him on it.
- Suddenly Robinson began to weep. With tears streaming down his face he said, "I am the man who wrote that hymn many years ago. I'd give anything to experience again the joy I know then.'
- Surprised, she reassured him that the streams of mercy mentioned in his hymn still flowed. Turning his wandering heart to the Lord, he was restored in full fellowship again. – Lee Tan 377

**JESUS INVITES US: "Come to me –all you who are weary...to get rest."**

- As long as we hear His voice, we are never more than one decision away from experiencing the healing power of the GRACE of God!
- It is when we resist Him, His Word, that we only get harder in heart.

**So – what does all this have to do with ISRAEL?** Then & now?

11:11-32. Israel will once again return to her Lord.

**Vs.11: Question.** Has Israel completely fallen beyond recovery?

Answer: No way!

**1 - Vs.11.** Amazingly, they are aiding Gentiles coming to God.

**2 - Vs.12,15.** The degree to which Israel becomes God's people, accepts Christ as Savior, actually determines the degree of world blessing

**3 – Vs.17-21.** *Olive tree illustration.*

- Gentiles are grafted into Israel's benefits, covt's, by grace, not merit.
- Gentile pride or indifference will turn the tide against them: 1 Pet.5:5

**4 – Vs.22-24.** God has not cast Israel off – beyond rebirth, spiritually!

- Israel stopped believing God – after all their history with Him, and God could not overlook their sin. The Gentiles are not invincible!

**5 – Vs.25-29.** God will again bring Israel to political & spiritual rebirth.

- Both Isaiah, Jeremiah – and all the prophets tell of this coming day!
- Isaiah 49:

**God foretold Israel's time of desolation & scattering: Deut.28:64**

Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. - Deut.28:64

- Ancient Jerusalem lies buried between 30 & 100 feet below the level of the current city. It has been besieged 41 times, completely razed to the ground 17 times. –Lee Tan, 2593

### God foretold of Israel's regathering and spiritual renewal: Deut. 30:1-6.

<sup>1</sup> When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, <sup>2</sup> and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, <sup>3</sup> then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and **gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you**. <sup>4</sup> Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your **God will gather you and bring you back**. <sup>5</sup> He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

- WW 1 prepared the land for the people. Control of the land transferred from the Turks (enemies) to Great Britain (sympathizers).
- WW 2 prepared the people for the land. May 14, 1948 Israel again became a nation in its own homeland, first time in 2500 years!

### Before her spiritual renewal – Jerusalem will become the center of world hatred and conflict!

Ezekiel 37-39 describes a time when Israel has been restored to her land but will then face an invasion force from a country in the north and her allies. Those countries are identified by many scholars. Ezek.38:1-6:

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal...<sup>5</sup> Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, <sup>6</sup> also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you...

<sup>7</sup> "Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. <sup>8</sup> After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate.

-MAGOG is believed to be modern-day Russia.

-MESHECH the southern part of Russia by the Black Sea as well as Georgia and Armenia. Some believe Turkey could also be included.

-TUBAL is a part of Russia between the Black and Caspian seas. It also includes the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and possibly Georgia and Azerbaijan.

-PERSIA is modern-day Iran. -ETHIOPIA (or Cush). - LIBYA (or Phut).

-GOMER may include the Ukraine, Georgia, perhaps Germany.

-THE HOUSE OF TOGARMAH OF THE (far or remote parts of the north). -MANY PEOPLE (or nations) WITH you. Other nations allied with Russia that are unlisted.

The closing scene: Zech.12-14,  
Zechariah 14:2-4

<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

## SUMMARY

Does what is happening with ISRAEL – have any relevance to you & me?

Does God have a plan for Israel's future?

Absolutely!

**The US** should be concerned about its political relationship with Israel, and **the Church** should have a special affection for Israel – because they are the root from which God has brought about our eternal salvation.

- Keep an eye on **Israel** for it is *God's timepiece*.

How long until these things happen? We do not know.

- What we do know is that we are closer than ever before.
- And we need to focus on what will last forever, more than on what is only temporary.
- It is no wonder Paul's next words are: 11:33-36 & 12:1-2!

The great lesson of history, is that you & I should never doubt God's Word. No matter how many centuries pass, God does not change, nor does His Word. Every promise made will be fulfilled!