

## ISRAEL IN THE PAST, IN THE PRESENT, AND IN THE FUTURE

The nation of Israel had a very unique history, unlikely that of all the other nations. Created by God, privileged with all the super natural events while taken to the Promised Land, promised to the patriarch Abraham, whom God chose to be their father. He was a man after the heart of God for his zeal for God. Born in the days of Noah, he lived in Noah's house for a period of time, where he learned the ways of the Lord and served the Lord all the days of his life. He destroyed all his father's gods out of zeal for God and was put in prison for a time. (The Book of Jasher) No, Abraham was not a worshipper of gods, contrary to what Christians think. He was influenced by Noah and his son to follow the true God. He took a strong stand against his father's gods and made sure that they were destroyed. While in Haran, *the Lord called Abraham to leave his country, his relatives and his father's house, to the land that He was going to show him and the Lord said to him, And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed. And, Abraham departed, as the Lord had directed him... He was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. (Gen.12).* From this man of faith and obedience, came the nation of Israel established by God Himself.

Four hundred years the descendants of Abraham lived in Egypt, as God told him. Subjected to the Egyptians' demands and hard work, Israel suffered much until God called the man Moses to deliver them. It was a time of great deliverance, after God brought judgments upon the Egyptians for not let the people go. They were seventy people in all when they arrived in Egypt; four hundred years later they had multiplied to over a million people. Moses, who was adopted by the daughter of the king, was considered their son, but he chose to leave their life style to save his people. Starting, he killed an Egyptian for mistreating one of his brothers, and then fled to the land of Median, where God called him to save his people from slavery. That was forty years later after he had left Egypt. Afraid, he hesitated to answer to the call for his past hanged over his head. With the help of his brother Aaron, he went and miraculously he delivered the people. This was a new chapter in the lives of the people.

That was the beginning of their journey through the wilderness for forty years. It was there that God manifested His presence by miracles and wonders. To start with, He parted the Red Sea for them to cross it on dry land. It took all night for those people to arrive to the other side. He brought them out, on eagles' wings safe and sound as He told them in Exodus 19:4: *You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.* All through the forty years they wandered through the desert, God provided a cloud in the day time to protect them from the heat of the sun and a pillar of fire in the night to provided them light. These were years of teaching them to be a nation different of all the rest. They were to be priests unto the Lord and light to the world around them as a testimony of their true God. On the third month of their journey, God descended to Mount Sinai to covenant with them. *The mount was wrapped in smoke, for the Lord descended upon it in fire; its smoke ascended like that of a furnace and the whole mountain quaked greatly (Ex. 19:18).* The

seriousness of that event took the people by surprise and fear. They were facing the holiness of their God which was to compel them to keep His covenant with Him, so not to be judged.

But after this experience, the people went back worshipping their Egyptian gods. That stubbornness was their way of life. They would not relinquish Egypt and its life style of idolatry out of their minds. All through their journey, God provided water from rocks, food from heaven; their clothes and shoes did not wear out. However, many fell dead in the desert for their rebellious ways of disobedience. The old generation was taken away and their children continued with the journey to the Promised Land. At the end of their journey, God parted the Jordan River for them to cross it on dry land. The history of Israel continues all through the Old Testament, where we read about their continuous idolatrous attitude against God and His commandments. Even that of sacrificing their sons to the false god Molech. The majority of their kings followed strange gods, misleading the nation. They killed all their prophets and rejected their messages. As a result, they were conquered by the Assyrians and taken captive; They were conquered by the Babylonians and later controlled by the Romans in the time of YAHSHUA. There is much to write about Israel, but this is just a summary of their past.

Today, Israel enjoys success and power. They control the world in many aspects of it. They are the politicians, lawyers, doctors; they control the world's finances; they control the media, including the movie world, which has influenced the entire world with their message of sexual perversions and more. They follow the teachings of Kabbalah, which is a Jewish mystical tradition religion concentrating on the mysticism of the nature of God, the universe and the human soul. Freemasonry is attributed to them. As a matter of fact, entering Israel from Egypt, there is a monument with a Masonic image on top, identifying the god they serve. Dressed in black, wearing black hats, the orthodox Jew identifies himself well. Others, not so religious, are well known for their roles in the world. The letter to the church of Philadelphia in the book of Revelation warns us concerning these people: *Take note! I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but lie. Behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and learn and acknowledge that I have loved you* (Rev. 3:9). In Israel, one is not considered a Jew, unless they convert to Judaism. What is Judaism? It is mainly a collection of spiritual, cultural and legal traditions of the Jewish people; it is their means of observing the Mosaic covenant. Who then is the true Jew? The Apostle Paul answers this question this way: (Gal. 3: 7-9). *Know and understand that it is the people [who live]by faith who are [the true] sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles in consequence of Faith, proclaimed the Gospel to Abraham in the promise, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are people of faith are blessed and made happy and favored by God with the believing and trusting Abraham* (Gal.3:7-9). So, with Abraham the Gentiles people of faith are blessed and favored by God. The Paul quotes a passage from the prophet Hosea: *Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, only the remnant will be saved* (Rom. 9:27). *The Prophet Zechariah prophesized about this saying, And in all the land, says the Lord, two-thirds shall be cut off and perish, but one-third shall be alive. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined and will test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will hear and answer them, I will say, It is My people; and they say, The Lord is my God* (Zech. 13:8-9).

The nation of Israel awaits the time when God will turn to her for judgment and restoration. Daniel so prophesized, *Seventy weeks [of years or 490 years] was decreed upon Israel, and upon your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish and put an end to transgression, to seal up and make full the measure of sin, to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet and to anoint a Holy of Holies. Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until [the coming of] the anointed One a Prince (YAHSHUA) shall be seven weeks [of years] and sixty-two weeks [of years] ...And after the sixty of weeks [of years] shall the Anointed One be cut off or killed and shall have nothing... (The crucifixion of the Lord)* (Dan. 9:24-27). There is still another week of years left for the Jewish nation, when the antichrist will enter into covenant with the many for one week (seven years) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one - half years] ... when the antichrist will break the covenant with them. *That will be a time of trouble straightness and distress such as never was since there was a nation till that time* (Dan. 12 1b). At that time, twelve thousand of each tribe of Israel will be sealed for protection against the plagues of the tribulation. The angel said, *Harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads* (Rev. 7:1-8). These are the remnant set apart to evangelize the world during the great tribulation time. One-third of the Jews will come to realize YAHSHUA as their Messiah and will be saved, after a time of refining as silver and gold are refined (Zech. 13). At that time Israel will be what God intended for them to be: a Kingdom of priests, a holy nation set apart to serve God. (Ex. 19: 5,6; Is. 61:6).

My friend, Israel needs our prayers specifically that they return to the true God in repentance and brokenness of spirit, in order not to face the great tribulation ahead of them.

Reference: The Book of Jasher