

The Future of the Jews

By David DeWitt

- Four thousand years ago, God promised Abraham some amazing things *and He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be"* (Genesis 15:5). Later God told him: *"I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojourning's, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God"* (Genesis 17:7-8; 22:17-18).
- **Notice four significant aspects of this promise:** (1) The promise was multiplying Abraham's physical descendants. (2) The promise was an everlasting covenant. (3) The promise included them having all the land of Canaan. (4) The reason for the promise was *I will be their God*. God repeated that promise for Abraham's son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob. For example, God told Jacob: *"Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 28:14).
- Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and he had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. About 500 years later (around 1500 BC), Moses said of those 12 tribes of Israel: *The LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers* (Deuteronomy 30:1-5, emphasis mine). **Moses saw the history of Israel as:** (1) Entering the land with Joshua; (2) Being disobedient; (3) Being scattered into various parts of the world; and (4) Repenting and returning to this same land which their forefathers possessed.
- Through the prophet Jeremiah (around 600 BC), God said: *Behold, I am bringing them [Judah and Israel] from the north country, And I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth* (Jeremiah 31:8) ... *In those days [the last days before the Second Coming of Christ] the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance* (Jeremiah 3:18, emphasis mine). **Notice here:** It is not just the southern kingdom Jews but *the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel*. This prediction of Jeremiah is not the return from the Babylonian Captivity (444 BC) because only the southern kingdom of Judah returned from Babylon. Jeremiah predicted the return of both the northern and southern kingdoms. That did not happen with any frequency until after World War I. So Jeremiah predicted that a scattered Hebrew people will one day, in the distant future, be reunited and return to *the land that I gave your fathers*, from places described as *remote parts of the earth*. (Ezekiel repeated this prophecy in Ezekiel 37:15-19.)
- Daniel 9:27 refers to the time preceding Jesus' Second Coming and says: There will be a Temple in Jerusalem. There will be sacrifices going on at the Temple (*sacrifice and grain offering*). Jews will be living in Jerusalem under a treaty established by the antichrist (*the prince ... will make a covenant with the many for one week*). There will be Hebrew people living *in Judea keeping the Sabbath*.
- In Matthew 24:15-20, Jesus also taught a preservation of, and a future for, the Jews. The Apostle Paul wrote: *I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew* (Romans 11:1-2). Paul confirms to the Romans that, even though God was currently working with the church (believers of many races all over the world), He was not finished with His racially chosen people, the Jews. One of those was the Apostle Paul himself, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- In the Apocalypse, John wrote: *And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel* (Revelation 7:4). It would seem that, at the time of the future Tribulation, there will be 12 identifiable tribes of Israel. And all of those tribes, not just the southern kingdom Jews, are part of the 144,000.

CONCLUSION: We must conclude that the Old Testament, the New Testament, Moses, the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles taught that the Jewish people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will: • **Be preserved**
• **Return to their land** • **Be re-established in a kingdom of God on earth.**