

Matthew 24: 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land I will show you. 2 and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all of the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 35:10 and God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. 11 and God said to him, “I am God almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.”

Exodus 3:17 ..and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of the land of Egypt to the land of the canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 26:1 When you come to the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first fruit of all the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

Johnathan Cahn writes, “Israel was unique among the nations of the ancient world. No nation had ever been brought into existence so directly connected to the purposes and promises of God. No nation had ever been given a divine revelation as that which was given to Israel on Mount Sinai. No nation had ever seen the hand of God so directly affecting its course as had Israel. And no nation had ever been joined to God in a national covenant.

But at the peak of its blessings a metamorphosis began. The nation began turning away from the God of their foundation. The change was subtle at first but, in time, grew more and more blatant and brazen. Whether by conscious intent or unconscious abandonment, the people began driving God out of their lives, out of their culture, out of their government, and out of the instruction of their children. In His place they brought in idols and foreign gods, and in place of His ways they now followed the ways of the pagan nations that surrounded them. They redefined what was right and wrong. They created a new morality to replace the old. They called evil “good,” and good “evil.” What they had once celebrated, they now condemned, and what they once worshipped, they now reviled. On the other hand, what they had once condemned, they now celebrated, and what they had once reviled, they now worshipped. They grew increasingly carnal, materialistic, sexually immoral, and self-indulgent, and their culture, likewise, grew increasingly coarse and vulgar. And then, as did the nations surrounding them, they began to lift up their children as sacrifices on the altars of their new gods. As for those in their midst who refused to go along with their moral and spiritual apostasy, those who remained faithful to God and His ways, they were now marginalized, mocked, vilified, and, finally, persecuted. The nation that had been brought into existence to be a vessel of God’s purposes had now transformed into its very opposite—a civilization turned in upon itself, at war against its own foundations, and at war with God. This is the setting and the stage, the nation to which the warnings, the signs, the harbingers, and manifestations of national judgment are sent—one of which is the sign of the Shemitah.

Isaiah 9:10 The Bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place.”

Deuteronomy 28:64 and the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.’

Mark 13:2 and Jesus said to them, ”DO you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Isaiah 10:10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for all the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will extend this hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people... 12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth..

In the nineteenth century, revival swept through England. One of the fruits of that revival was a love for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Exemplifying that love was the prayer one English boy had been taught by his mother to include in his devotions: O Lord, we would not forget Thine ancient people, Israel; hasten the day when Israel shall again be Thy people and shall be restored to Thy favor and to their land.

It so happened that in the early twentieth century the British Empire was drawn into a war that would involve the Ottoman Turkish Empire, the power that, at the time, ruled over the land of Israel. During the war the Ottoman Empire crumbled, and British forces led by General Edmund Allenby entered the Holy Land. The British would take the city of Jerusalem without a fight. Allenby was the boy who had prayed every night for God to restore the Jewish people to their ancient homeland. Now it was he who, as a British general, was the key instrument in bringing it about. For the first time in two thousand years the land was in the hands of a power sympathetic to the Jewish people.

The Restoration of the Land One month before Allenby’s victory in Jerusalem the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, which stated: His Majesty’s government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object. . . . 2 The Balfour Declaration marked a turning point in the restoration of the Jewish people to the land of Israel—the first such turning point in two thousand years. For the first time since the Roman Empire drove the Jewish people into exile, a major power had opened up the land of Israel for the establishment of a Jewish homeland and the return of the Jewish people.

Ezekiel 37:12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people I will bring you to the land of Israel.

Zechariah 12:3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

Zechariah 14:2 I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.