

# Will Israel Be Restored To Its Land?

*Joshua 23:14*

**Introduction:** Since May 14, 1948, when David Ben-Gurion read the Declaration of Independence announcing the establishment of a Jewish nation to be known as the State of Israel, premillennialists have been excited. They look to that point in history as the beginning of the end time. Their belief that the Bible promises the restoration of the Jews to the land of Palestine was further encouraged during the Six Day War in June, 1967, in which Israel tripled its land area. Tremendous interest in the Bible has been stirred by these current world events. But does the Bible actually promise a return of the Jews that is yet unfulfilled? Does it say the Jews will repossess the sacred sites, rebuild the temple, and restore animal sacrifices and the ancient worship which was abolished by the death of Christ?

## I. **History Of Nation Of Israel.**

- A. Israel divided after death of Solomon (922 BC).
  - 1. Northern kingdom (10 tribes)—Israel.
  - 2. Southern kingdom (2 tribes)—Judah.
- B. Israel conquered & carried off (722 BC).
- C. Judah conquered & carried off (586 BC).
  - 1. Allowed to return & rebuild (446-445 BC).
- D. Destroyed by Romans in 70 AD.
- E. Modern state of Israel (1947-48).

## II. **If God Fulfilled His Covenant To Abraham, No Promise Remains For Israel To Return.**

- A. God's covenant with Abraham included three promises.
  - 1. Nation (*Gen. 12:2; 15:5, 22:17; Gen. 22:18*).
  - 2. Seed (*Gen. 12:3; Gen. 22:18*).
  - 3. Land (*Gen. 13:15; Gen. 15:18; Gen. 17:7-8*).
- B. Has the land promise been fulfilled?
  - 1. Premillennialists say "no," but look at the competent witness who say "yes!"
    - a. Moses (*Deut. 19:7-9*). Built (*Josh. 20:7-9*).
    - b. Joshua (*Josh. 21:43-45*).
    - c. Solomon (*1 Kgs. 4:21*).
    - d. Priests (*Neh. 9:7-9*).
  - 2. The land was an "everlasting possession" which needs to be understood to be as "everlasting" as the age lasted (Old Testament period). If it means "everlasting" in the sense of "eternal," then the land of Israel will exist even in heaven! As a comparison, circumcision was an "everlasting covenant during Old Testament period, but not New Testament (*Gen. 17:13*).

- C. Has the nation promise been fulfilled?
  - 1. Isaac was the promised son through whom it was fulfilled (*Gen. 21:3, 12; 26:2-5*).
  - 2. Compare *Gen. 15:5, 22:17* with *1 Kgs. 4:21*.

## **II. Christ Is The Ultimate Fulfillment Of This Covenant.**

- A. The Jews were favored in order that Christ might come.
  - 1. The seed (not seeds) is Christ (*Gal. 3:8, 16*).
    - a. God is not respecter of persons, thus His blessing upon Israel was not for their sake only, but in order that “*all nations would be blessed.*”
    - b. All who obey Christ are “*Abraham’s seed*” (*Gal. 3:26-29*).
  - 2. Christians are now spiritually the “*Israel of God*” (*Gal. 6:16; Rom. 9:7-8*).
- B. In Christ, distinctions have ceased.
  - 1. Jew or Gentile is of no importance (*Gal. 3:26-29*).
  - 2. God has created one new nation for one people with one law and one Savior (*Eph. 2:14-22; 1 Peter 2:9-10*).
  - 3. A new covenant now guides the family of God because that old covenant has been taken away (*Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13; 9:10:16-18; Co. 2:14-17*).

## **III. What Is Left To Be Fulfilled Concerning National Israel?**

- A. The nation shall never be made whole again (*Jer. 19:1, 10-11*).
- B. Israel can be returned to God by faith (*Rom. 11:23*).
  - 1. As a nation Israel rejected the gospel and thus are lost (*Acts 13:46-48*).
  - 2. Like anyone else, they can be saved when they obey the gospel (*Rom. 1:16*).

**Conclusion:** Today many false prophets are misusing the Bible to claim the end is very near. It might be near, but the political upheaval between national Israel and the Arab world is not a fulfillment of Scripture. The claim that the Jews will return to the land of Palestine is not supported by the Bible. When Christ comes there will be a general resurrection of both the righteous and wicked, and judgment will be according to our deeds done in the body (*Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10*).