

Jeremiah 30 (New King James Version)

30 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ²“Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³For behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”

⁴Now these *are* the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah.

⁵“For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, Of fear, and not of peace.

⁶Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labour with child? So why do I see every man *with* his hands on his loins

Like a woman in labour, And all faces turned pale?

⁷Alas! For that day *is* great, So that none *is* like it;

And it *is* the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

⁸‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them.

⁹But they shall serve the Lord their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them.

¹⁰‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the Lord, ‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make *him* afraid.

¹¹For I *am* with you,’ says the Lord, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you.

But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.’

¹²“For thus says the Lord: ‘Your affliction *is* incurable, Your wound *is* severe.

¹³*There is* no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines.

¹⁴All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you;

For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy,

With the chastisement of a cruel one, For the multitude of your iniquities, *Because* your sins have increased.

¹⁵Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow *is* incurable.

Because of the multitude of your iniquities, *Because* your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.

¹⁶‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity;

Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

¹⁷For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘Because they called you an outcast *saying*: “This *is* Zion; No one seeks her.”’

¹⁸“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according to its own plan.

¹⁹Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

²⁰Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress them.

²¹Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; Then I will cause him to draw near, And he shall approach Me; For who *is* this who pledged his heart to approach Me?’ says the Lord.

²²‘You shall be My people, And I will be your God.’ ”

²³Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.

²⁴The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.

Jan 27 Holocaust Day

Remember terrible events of Holocaust, murder of 6 million Jews. Event without precedent in history. Demon inspired leader Hitler carried out his plan aimed at the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe. Did not succeed. Terezin. **Am Israel Chai**. But he got pretty close. Led some to ask where was God? Out of Night quote. The most eloquent statement of this despair is to be found in 'Night' when the author as a child views Birkenau, the reception centre for Auschwitz, for the first time:

'Flames were leaping from a ditch, gigantic flames. They were burning something. A lorry drew up at the pit and delivered its load – little children. Babies! Yes, I saw it – saw it with my own eyes...those little children in the flames. (Is it surprising that I could not sleep after that? Sleep had fled from my eyes).

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget those things even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.' (1)

So where was God? When such appalling evils take place, is it still possible to believe in the concept of a just God, of a God who loves and cares about humanity? Facing this question is more than just an academic exercise. Cruel dictatorships, concentration camps, torture and utter wickedness still hold sway in many parts of the earth and the Bible warns that in the last days evil men will grow worse and worse and that the whole world will ultimately come under the power of the Antichrist of whom Hitler was a major forerunner.

Who was responsible?

The first question which must be asked is 'Who was responsible for creating the death camps and the Nazi terror – God or man?' In 'Night' Elie Wiesel describes the pious Jews in the camp holding services to worship God on Jewish holy days. This causes him to rage against God for allowing these death camps to exist. (As a point of information Elie Wiesel is a practising Orthodox Jew today, so the view expressed here represents his reaction as a child to the horrors he was witnessing, not the one which he holds now).

'Thousands of voices repeated the benediction; thousands of men prostrated themselves like trees before a tempest. Blessed be the name of the Eternal!'

Why, but why should I bless Him? In every fibre I rebelled. Because He had thousands of children burned in His pits? Because He kept the crematoria working night and day, on Sundays and feast days? Because He in His great might had created Auschwitz, Birkenau, Buna and so many factories of death?' (2)

Man, not God, created it

Hitler as a type of antichrist. Eckhart quote:

The membership of the Thule Society also became the foundation of the Nazi Party: "... the Committee and the forty original members of the New German Workers' Party were all drawn from the most powerful occult society in Germany—the Thule Society."⁴

One of the founders of both groups, the Nazi Party and the Thule Society, was Dietrich Eckart: "a dedicated Satanist, the supreme adept of the arts and rituals of Black Magic and the central figure in a powerful and wide-spread circle of occultists—the Thule Group. (He was] one of the seven founder members of the Nazi Party...."

Eckart claimed to be the initiator of Hitler into the secrets of Satan worship. He is quoted as saying on his deathbed: "Follow Hitler. He will dance, but it is I who have called the tune! I have initiated him into the 'Secret Doctrine;' opened his centres in vision and given him the means to communicate with the Powers. Do not mourn for me: I shall have influenced history more than any German."

The Thule Society regularly held occultic seances, during which time they communicated with demons who were either masquerading as a dead person or who were just appearing as their guiding spirits. Dietrich Eckart, Alfred Rosenberg, and Adolf Hitler invoked the Anti-Christ into manifestation at the mediumistic seances of the Thule Group in Munich." (Ravenscroft, Spear of Destiny, p. 168) Eckert believed he had been told by his guiding spirit he would have the privilege of training the coming Great One, the Anti-Christ. From the beginning of their association, Eckert believed Hitler was Anti-Christ. Therefore, Eckert spared no occultic knowledge, ritual, or perversion in his attempt to fully equip Hitler for the role. Once the training was completed, Hitler believed he was "*born anew with that super-personal strength and resolution he would need to fulfil the mandate ... ordained for him.*" (p. Ravenscroft, p. 93-4)

Given power by the devil. Rev 13. Occult connection. Frau Stange. Hatred of the Jews – irrational, Satanic, but always there. Comes in every culture. Fascism, communism, far left, far right, Islamic. Even in the professing Christian church. Worst example. Jews killed Jesus mentality, when the Jews gave us the Bible, God's good commandments, the Saviour, who said salvation is of the Jews, the message preached by Paul who described the Jews as 'beloved for the fathers' sakes'. Because of what the Jews have given us in the Bible and the Messiah, Satan's hatred of the Jews which reached its climax in the dreadful events of the holocaust.

Yet centuries of anti-Semitism in so called church that no doubt contributed to Nazi hatred of Jews. The roots of this hatred go back a long way. John Chryostom, considered a saint and church father who lived in the fourth century, wrote: *'The Jews are the most worthless of all men. They are lecherous, greedy and rapacious. They are perfidious murderers of Christ. The Jews are the odious assassins of Christ and for killing God there is no expiation possible, no indulgence or pardon. Christians may never cease vengeance and the Jews must live in servitude forever. God always hated the Jews. It is incumbent upon Christians to hate Jews.'* (1).

In 1215 Pope Innocent III condemned the Jews to eternal slavery by decreeing, *'The Jews against whom the blood of Jesus Christ calls out, although they ought not to be killed, lest the Christian people forget the Divine Law, yet as wanderers ought they remain upon the earth until their countenance be filled with shame.'*

A wicked distortion of the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament. Jesus said, Salvation is of the Jews. Paul said the Jews are beloved for fathers' sakes. In 'The Last of the Just' Ernie Levy, the lead character, marries Golda the night before they are to be taken away to a concentration camp. Their conversation turns to Jesus:

'Oh Ernie,' Golda said, 'you know them. Tell me why do the Christians hate us the way they do? They seem so nice when I can look at them without my star.'

Ernie put his arm round her shoulder solemnly. 'It's very mysterious,' he murmured in Yiddish. 'They don't exactly know why themselves. I've been in their churches and I've read their gospel. Do you know who the Christ was? A simple Jew like your father. A kind of Hassid.'

Golda smiled gently. 'You're kidding me.'

'No, no believe me, and I'll bet they'd have got along fine, the two of them, because he was really a good Jew, you know sort of like the Baal Shem Tov – a merciful man and gentle. The Christians say they love him, but I think they hate him without knowing it. So they take the cross by one end and make a sword out of it and strike us with it! You understand Golda,' he cried out suddenly strangely excited, 'they take the cross and they turn it around, they turn it around, my God...' 'Poor Jesus, if he came back to the earth and saw that the pagans had made a sword out of him and used it against his sisters and brothers, he'd be sad, he'd grieve forever. And maybe he does see it.' (13)

Jesus was more than a simple Jew, He was the Jewish Messiah, Son of God. But He was a Jew. Preached in Synagogues, attended Jewish festivals, supreme act of sacrifice took place at and in the context of the Jewish Passover. All His disciples Jewish. NT written about Him written by Jews. Luke? Although false Christianity contributed to the horror of the Holocaust, true message of Jesus actually has the answer to it. **Romans 1.16** **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Messiah / Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."**

Out of Hitler came the onslaught from the demonic realm on the human race, the Jew first and also the Gentile. Out of Jesus, the Messiah who suffered the agony of the cross, His own personal holocaust exposed to all the wickedness and fury of the devil, came deliverance and salvation to all who call on His name, the Jew first and also the Gentile. Tragedy is that because of the false church and its distortion of this message, the good news of salvation through Yeshua has been hidden from Jewish people.

Out of holocaust came rebirth of Israel as a Jewish state. Never again. A factor in the events of last days.

If we look carefully, we find that in the Hebrew prophets there is a message given to the Jewish people (and Gentile church) in the last days which points them to both the time of trouble and the Messiah who is able to save Jews and Gentiles out of this trouble. Know where to look and you will find it.

One such passage is **Jeremiah 30-31**, one of many passages in both the Old and New Testament which speaks of a unique time of trouble and deliverance from it. It is specifically directed to the period known as the last days, which means the final period of this age. In the Hebrew prophets one of the phrases used to describe this time is '**acharit ha yamim**', the last days – see **Jeremiah 30.24**.

In the previous chapter the prophet has been talking about the coming captivity of the Jewish people in Babylon, and their return to the land of Israel after a period of 70 years: '**After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.**' **Jeremiah 29.10**

As far as the prophet was concerned these events would be fulfilled in the near future. **Daniel**, one of the Jews taken into captivity in Babylon, records how he was praying for the restoration of Jerusalem, when he understood that the 70-year time frame of **Jeremiah 29** was fulfilled. In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— **in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.**' **Daniel 9.1-3.**

Daniel's prayer was effective and led to the decision of the Persian Emperor Cyrus to give the edict for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple there (**Ezra 1.1-4**), after the Medes and the Persians overthrew the Babylonian Empire. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Cyrus was presented (possibly by **Daniel** himself) with the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, who had written years earlier that the one who would cause the restoration of Jerusalem was named Cyrus (**Isaiah 44.24-45.7**). 'This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which **Isaiah** left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision: "**My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple.**" This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the Divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfil what was so written; so, he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem.' Josephus 'Antiquities of the Jews Book 11.'

So accurate was biblical prophecy that unbelieving liberal theologians conclude that these words must have been written after the event, but Bible believers recognise that God knows the end from the beginning and is well able to communicate this to His prophets. If those prophecies were accurately fulfilled so will be future prophecies of the last days.

30 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ²“Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³For behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”

In **Jeremiah 30-31** God changes the subject from the captivity in Babylon, telling Jeremiah to write 'these words' in a book, which has special relevance to '**acharit ha yamim**' the last days. Midway through this section the text says, '**be acharit ha yamim titbonenu bah**' in the last days you will understand it. The context of these words goes beyond the soon coming captivity in Babylon and the Jews return from Babylon. It points to events which will

happen in the last days, in other words the days before the Day of the Lord, which in New Testament terms is the Second Coming of Messiah Jesus.

God wants us to understand something important from these verses, especially the Jewish people to whom these scriptures were given. Regrettably very few people, Jewish or Gentile, either understand them or pay any attention to them but for those who take the trouble to find out what they mean will find a message of warning but also of hope and guidance which is vital for our survival in the perilous times which are coming on the earth.

This passage along with many others in Tenach and NT expresses God's desire that his people should understand what will happen in the last days and act upon it in turning to Him. Messianic believer in Yeshua believes this involves turning to Him in repentance and faith in the Messiah who has come and is coming again, Yeshua ha mashiach.

The first thing it tells us is that God will cause a return of the Jews to Israel:

'For behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the Lord. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.'

Jeremiah 30.3

Reference to the fathers relates to the covenant God made with the patriarchs of Israel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in connection to the land of Israel and the multitude of descendants that would follow them (**Genesis 15, 17**). On the basis of this covenant God says that He would give the title deeds of ownership of the land of Israel to the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. Even if they are scattered from the land as a result of disobedience, He would bring them back again to Israel (**Deuteronomy 28, 30**).

Holocaust was a factor in preparing the way for the rebirth of Israel. Showed the world the Jews need a homeland. And the Jews that they need a land of their own.

In **chapter 31 verse 10** God says that the nations of the world should take notice of this.

"Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.' Jeremiah 31.10

The 'isles afar off' are the nations far away from the Middle East whose names the prophets did not know. The implication of this is that the nations of the world should pay attention to this event and support the scattered Jewish people as they are gathered back to their land. There are two fundamental reasons for this.

Firstly, the restoration of the Jewish people to Israel is a sign of God's faithfulness to His covenant and to His word. In Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 35-6 God says that He will preserve the Jewish people as a nation as long as the earth endures.

Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name):³⁶ "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Jeremiah 31.35-36

One reason why Hitler's demonic plan for the annihilation of the Jewish race would not be fulfilled. Jews to remain an identifiable people till end of time.

God promises to preserve Israel as a nation, even in their dispersion and bring them back to the land He promised to their fathers. The New Testament confirms this when it says of the Jewish people that they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. **For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11.28**

Secondly the last days' return of the Jews to Israel is a sign of something greater to come. In **Psalm 102** we read: **But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations.¹³ You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.¹⁴ For Your servants take**

pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. ¹⁵ So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. ¹⁶ For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. ¹⁷ He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer. ¹⁸ This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the Lord. **Psalm 102.12-18**

There is a connection in this Psalm between the Lord building up Zion and the Lord appearing in His glory. The Lord appearing is a theme of the Hebrew prophets, especially in Zechariah 14 where it says that the Lord will come and stand on the Mount of Olives at the time of a great battle over Jerusalem and set up His Messianic kingdom on earth. Interestingly the Psalm speaks about the servants taking 'pleasure in her stones' and 'showing favour to her dust.' One of modern Israel's passions is archaeology and finding the connection between the modern people of Israel and their Hebrew ancestors who dwelt in Jerusalem and the Holy Land 3000 years ago. The Psalm says this shall be written for the generation to come. The Hebrew for this is 'le dor ha acharon' which could also be translated 'for the last generation'.

The New Testament prophecies concerning the second coming of Jesus indicate that there will be a return of the Jewish people to Israel in the last days before the return of the Lord Jesus.

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Luke 21.24

From this we see that the dispersion of the Jews will not be a permanent condition.

The day will come when Jerusalem will no longer be 'trampled' or ruled by the Gentiles and 'the fig tree' of Israel's national life will blossom again:

'Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."' Luke 21:29-33

The fig tree is used as a symbol of Israel's national life in **Hosea 9.10** and **Jeremiah 24**. The budding of the fig tree was to be a visual aid to people around the world of a greater event which is to follow – the return of the Messiah. Jesus makes this clear in **Matthew 24.32-33**: **'Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!'** The budding of the fig tree – the rebirth of Israel as a nation along with all the other signs of the second coming which are taking place in our time – is a wakeup call to the world that Jesus is coming back.

Before establishment of State of Israel, Nazi holocaust. Satan's attempt to wipe out Jews so this would not take place. Also, to show world need for Jews to have a homeland of their own. Lead to UN vote in favour of Israel.

In **Jeremiah 30.4-7** the prophet speaks about a unique time of trouble that will take place at this time. The holocaust or something yet to come? In part the holocaust. But in fulfilment something yet to come.

'For thus says the Lord: "We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now and see whether a man is ever in labour with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labour and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."' Jeremiah 30.4-7

(See also **Ezekiel 38-9**, **Daniel 12**, **Joel 2-3**, **Zechariah 12-14**, **Matthew 24**, **Luke 21** and **Revelation 6-19**).

Trembling and fear at time of the holocaust. Also to come in last days conflict.

In this time of trouble Israel is looking for peace but does not find it. Throughout its time as a nation, modern Israel has fought wars with its neighbours. Miraculously it has won all of those wars, and has even managed to sign a peace treaty with Egypt and with Jordan. But it has not found a lasting peace with its neighbours. At the present time Israel faces a threat from the south, the north and the centre. Present danger mainly from Iran. In the south

Gaza is ruled by Hamas which seeks the destruction of the Jewish state, launching missiles and burning projectiles into Israel. In the north Israel faces a much greater threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon, armed with 150,000 missiles aimed at Israel and supplied by Iran. Iran is digging in its influence in Syria and making open threats to destroy Israel. Israel has made attacks on Iranian sites in Syria, but is now being threatened in its ability to do so by Russia whose army is encamped in Syria and who has supplied the Syrians with advanced anti-aircraft missiles, its S-300 missiles. Now the changes in the US government put Israel in danger if Biden admin seeks to restore Obama treaty with Iran.

The threat from the north, with Russia, Iran and Turkey establishing bases in Syria which could be the launching pad for the war of **Gog and Magog**, prophesied in **Ezekiel 38-39**, when a great power from the north comes against Israel in the last days and is defeated by God on 'the mountains of Israel.'

In the centre the Palestinian Authority is supposed to be Israel's peace partner under the Oslo Accords but also makes no secret of its long-term desire to eliminate Israel and set up a Palestinian State 'from the River to the sea'. The Palestinian Authority demands Israel's complete withdrawal from territories taken by Israel in the war of 1967, including the eastern part of its capital city Jerusalem and areas of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) now home to some 500,000 Israelis. No Israeli government could contemplate making such a surrender of territory. In the past the PLO have said their intention is to take any territory Israel chooses to withdraw from and then use this as a base from which to attack and dismantle the Jewish State (10 Points Phased Plan of 1974). Statements by Palestinian leaders indicate that this is still their intention. Change in US administration means they will now be looking for a solution to conflict which will look for withdrawal of Israel from territories including Jerusalem (unlike Trump). The UN and other powerful bodies (including the UK and the EU) continue to insist that Israel withdraws from the Old City and all of east Jerusalem and the whole territory of Judea and Samaria in return for peace.

This issue fits in with the prophecy of **Zechariah 12** which describes the end time conflict over Jerusalem and describes Jerusalem as '**a burdensome stone burdening all nations**'. In other words, the issue of who rules Jerusalem is going to involve all nations (the UN) in the last days. The prophecy of **Daniel 9.27** also indicates that in the final 7-year period of this age there will be a covenant which Israel makes with 'the prince to come' (the coming Antichrist) which breaks down half way through (after 3 ½ years). **Isaiah 28** indicates that this will be a 'covenant with death' which will lead to the time of trouble described in **Jeremiah 30**.

This time of trouble is connected to the end times by a passage in **Jeremiah** which speak of a time of trouble unlike any other. **Daniel 12.1** and **Matthew 24.21-22** also speak of a unique time of trouble '**such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**' **Jeremiah** compares this to the travail of a woman in labour, an image also used elsewhere as a symbol of the last days' troubles on earth. *For when they say 'Peace and Safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them as labour pains on a pregnant woman.* **1 Thessalonians 5.3**. When a woman goes into labour a series of shocks (contractions) take place which become more intense the nearer it gets to the birth of the child. So, with the end time events, as a series of crises unfold with increasing intensity until the Second Coming of the Messiah. Also, once the process has begun it cannot be reversed until the child is born. This means that once the end time events regarding Israel have been set in motion, they will inevitably lead to the final event which will be the return of the Messiah.

The good news, out of this time of trouble is that 'he shall be saved out of it' (Jeremiah 30.7).

The following verses (8-9) show that God will intervene to save the Jewish people from their foreign oppressors and '**cause them to serve the Lord their God and David their king.**' David their king is the Messiah son of David who will turn out to be Jesus the Messiah, coming this time with all the power of God to put down His enemies and set up His Messianic kingdom. **Ezekiel 37.24-25** also describes this time:

'David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.' **Ezekiel 37.24-5**

¹⁰ 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the Lord, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make *him* afraid. ¹¹ For I *am* with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

Verses 10-11 show that God will give His people safety and cause them to return to the land of Israel from lands where they have been scattered to. In the process He will correct something which they have got wrong and not leave them unpunished. This has something to do with cleansing them from sin. **Verses 12-15** show that Israel is subject to punishment because of an 'incurable wound' with no remedy. This wound is caused by sin, which is the reason why Israel is subject to punishment and trouble. The reason the wound is incurable is because Israel is looking in the wrong place for the answer. According to the Bible because God is holy and humans are sinful there needs to be a means of atoning for sin in order for humans to come to God. Under the covenant with Moses in the Torah that involved the shedding of the blood of sacrifices, particularly the sacrifice offered on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The high priest took the goat to be sacrificed to the Lord and shed its blood as a sin offering in the Holy of Holies. He then confessed the sin of the people of Israel over the scapegoat and sent it away into the wilderness to carry away the sin of the people. (**Leviticus 16.15-22**). When this was done God was pleased to dwell with His people and their sins were covered. According to **Leviticus 17.11** '**The life of the flesh is in the blood, it is the blood that makes atonement for your soul.**'

According to the New Covenant, Jesus came as the Suffering Servant Messiah and shed His blood to cover our sins, as the final sacrifice for the sin of the world. This sacrifice replaced the Levitical sacrifices and made the redundant. Forty years after Jesus died and rose again from the dead, the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans after the failed Jewish revolt of 70AD. Following that there was no place to offer the sacrifices and no serving Levitical priesthood. Therefore, no atoning sacrifice available to Israel (apart from through Yeshua).

The story is told that Rabban Yohanan Ben Zakkai and Rabbi Joshua were walking by the ruins of the Temple. Rabbi Joshua said, "*Woe to us that the place where the atonement for the sins of Israel was made has been destroyed!*" But Rabban Yohanan Ben Zakkai replied, "*Do not be grieved, my son. Do you not know that we have a means of making atonement that is as good as this? And what is it? Gemilut hassadim - acts of loving-kindness, as it is said, 'For I desire hesed - loving-kindness - and not sacrifice!'*" (**Hosea 6:6**). **Avot d'Rabbi Natan 4:2**

According to the Bible this is not the case. Good deeds, acts of loving kindness do not cover our sins. We need the blood of atonement which has been provided now by Jesus the Messiah who died as a sacrifice for our sins and rose again from the dead to give forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who receive Him. Modern Judaism provides no remedy for sin, no atonement and so sacrifice. Nor do any of the alternatives Israelis and Jewish people may choose today, a secular life style, New Age mysticism, yoga or anything other than the Messiah.

However, there is a remedy in the new covenant which **Jeremiah** goes on to write about in **chapter 31.31-34**. "**Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."** **Jeremiah 31.31-34**

Jesus came to bring in the new covenant, and those who truly repent and believe in Him can know the forgiveness of sins, have God's law written on their hearts by the Holy Spirit and know God personally. When He celebrated the Passover Meal with His disciples in the last Supper before His death and resurrection He said:

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26.28

This is the remedy which is there for Israel in its need and will be revealed to the Jewish people in the last days of this age. God has promised to restore Israel, because of the covenant He made with their fathers, and even in their unbelief He will keep them as a people. At the end of days He will bring the saved remnant of Israel into the new covenant through Yeshua as

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.” Romans 11.26-7 quoting Isaiah 59.20-1.

Salvation will come through Israel looking to the one who has been despised and rejected and taken our sins upon Himself (**Isaiah 53**), Yeshua.

¹⁶ ‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

¹⁷ For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘Because they called you an outcast saying: “This is Zion; No one seeks her.”’ ¹⁸ “Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according to its own plan. ¹⁹ Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

²⁰ Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress them.

In saving Israel He will also bring judgement on the anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist nations that have despised and rejected her, calling Israel an outcast and saying ‘**this is Zion no one seeks after her**’. **Jeremiah 30.16-17**. He will then restore the Messianic kingdom / Millennium and have mercy on his dwelling places (**30.18-19**). The word for dwelling place is mishkan, meaning the tabernacle, the place where God dwells. At the time of restoration the Lord Himself will dwell with His people in Zion bringing peace and justice to the world.

²³ Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁴ The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.

At the same time His fury will fall as a ‘violent whirlwind falls on the head of the wicked.’ This speaks of all the wicked gathering for the final battle over Jerusalem at which point the Lord will appear as **Zechariah** describes:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12.10

Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be— “The Lord is one,” And His name one. Zechariah 14.3-4

Jeremiah tells us that in the latter days you will understand / consider this. **Be acharit ha yamim titbonenu bah**. These are the latter days. It is time that all people Jewish and Gentile consider this and other passages of scripture which tell us what is to come in the days before the return of the Messiah, and take the right steps so that we are ready to meet Him and be part of His coming kingdom. To do this we must repent of our sins and believe that Jesus is the Messiah who died for our sins and rose again from the dead and who is coming again soon to judge the world in righteousness according to how we have responded to His message. The Nazi holocaust a terrible event. Never again a good ideal. But scripture warns us there is a time of unique trouble coming for Jew and Gentile. One way to be saved from this – repentance and faith in Yeshua the Messiah. His love is there for all people, but particularly for Jewish people from whom and for whom He came. He is coming again soon to gather into one all His people Jewish and Gentile and set up His kingdom, reigning from Jerusalem for 1000 years before the end of the world and the new heavens and new earth. In the Messianic kingdom Jerusalem will be the centre of the earth, the seat of the

rule of the Messiah bringing peace and justice to the world. As we see the present gloom and trouble, He tells us when we see the present things beginning to happen look up and lift up your heads your redemption draws near. He also wants His people in the church to stand by Israel at this time and to seek their welfare, protection and ultimate salvation. He wants the Jewish people to search their scriptures and see if these things are really true and to come to Him as the Messiah who has come to suffer and die for the sins of the world and who is coming again to judge the world in righteousness according to the scriptures.

Zechariah

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