

## Israel and Jerusalem (by Lorraine Waddell)

### Israel

Here lie probably some of the most amazing eternal promises of all, and some of the most awesome prophecies yet to be fulfilled.

God spoke to a man, Abram, in Ur of the Chaldeans, a pagan city, and led him to a land where He established him and made eternal promises to him both for man and for the land. God's eternal plan and purpose was worked through the nation which was born through Abram; a nation which was to reveal the nature and character of Almighty God to the rest of mankind.

**ISRAEL,  
"MY CHOSEN ONE"  
(ISAIAH 45:4)**

Israel, "My chosen one" (Is. 45:4), "*firstborn*" of many nations (Ex. 4:2), would be first to learn the things that God wanted all mankind to know:

- that he is a faithful God who rewards faithfulness and obedience;
- that in Holiness and Righteousness, he is a God of justice;
- that He is ultimately Love itself and even his discipline comes under that love which embodies incredible grace, mercy and compassion.

In short, through Israel He has shown us "His goodness and severity". (Rom. 11:22).

While all the pagan nations around Israel could seemingly do whatever they liked, Israel was held up as an example of God's dealings with man. He chose Israel to be a servant nation. Firstborn among the nations brought privileges but also heavyweight responsibilities. This is why He told her, "you only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities". (Amos 3:2).

God's first, highest, and everlasting purpose was that Israel would not only be "a great nation" but that in her "*all the families of the earth shall be blessed*" (Gen. 12:1-3).

The 'blindness' that Israel has received is **not the end**. The blessings of Abraham (the "believer"), Gen. 3:8-9, are the blessings of those who believe by faith in Christ now. Therefore, "if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, HOW MUCH MORE THEIR FULLNESS!"

God is not finished with His "beloved" Israel (Rom. 11). Through His compassion and grace to His chosen nation, we gain even more confidence in His everlasting promises to us, His adopted children, "they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" (Rom. 11:23-24)

The Lord told Ezekiel to prophecy to the **land** of Israel, "you have borne the shame of the nations ... surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame. But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, FOR THEY ARE ABOUT TO COME." (Ezek. 36:8).

"... the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt (Ezek. 36:10) ... and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes." (Ezek. 36:23).

God is working out His purposes for all nations, and Israel plays a central part as the firstborn of many nations.

Consider the astounding facts of the last 60-70 years:

The desolate land of Israel was dry and barren when it started to be repopulated.

Forests had been mowed down from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, therefore rainfall had greatly diminished.

*The soil that had been left uncultivated was unfruitful.*

All of this confirmed Ezekiel's prophecy "they (the nations) have made you desolate". The people had been scattered into many nations as God had ordained. Something began to change before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after nearly two millennia since God's judgement on Israel.

In the interim period, the land had been renamed Palestine (with regard to the Philistines).

God is undoubtedly calling His people back to the land which He has called "My land" (Ezek. 36:5), and which He had covenanted to them as an "everlasting possession" (Gen. 17:8). Israel's redemption is inextricably linked to her possession of the land (Ezek. 36). Is it any wonder that demonic strategies are being levelled against her? In these days, God is calling His adopted children, the Gentile believers in **Yeshua**, to hear His heart for the loved one that rejected Him.

Jerusalem

*A Personal Journey - A Call*

**"PRAY FOR  
JERUSALEM"**

This is truly my personal experience. God woke me in the middle of one night in 2002 and clearly I 'heard', "PRAY FOR JERUSALEM". How ignorant I was about anything to do with Israel. I'm quite ashamed of that, but God knew me better than I knew myself, and when I realised there was something He wanted me to know, I gave myself to seeking it out. Sometime later, another night, it was "**Comfort my people**". I puzzled, "Lord, how do I, comfort your people?" I didn't fully understand, but something of my destiny was unfolding for me. I looked for the source of that phrase and found a portion in Isaiah that still 'burns' in me.

Is. 40:1-5 " 'Comfort, yes, comfort My people!' says your God. 'Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received double for her sins.' "

" 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.' "

Over the previous period of 3 years, from 1999, God had been showing me the state of the Church and the end-time army He was building. When He opened my eyes to Israel's position in these last days, I just felt like a great treasure-chest was opened and He was showing me one precious gem after another.

These days God has so much to reveal to those who love Him. He's waking us up to prepare for what's ahead, and we're being called to a more committed, intimate, higher level to Prepare the Way for the King of Glory. Jesus is coming for His Bride and the Bride needs to make herself ready. Please see the article "[The King is Coming – the Desire of All Nations](#)" for more information.

'WATCH' Jerusalem. Just as Jesus asked the disciples to "Watch" and "pray" during his darkest hours in the garden, God is calling us to watch and pray over Israel and Jerusalem. Dark 'clouds' of evil are increasing as the enemy attempts to thwart God's plans.

### **Isaiah 62:1**

"For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns."

### **v. 6-7**

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

All eyes will be turned to Jerusalem in these last days – some for great evil, therefore God is increasing His prophetic "wall of fire" around her. (Zech. 2:5).

I have heard a 'call' to Jerusalem, for the nations. While I was there for personal reasons in November 2004, as I sat in the quiet garden of Christchurch, God showed me the call that had to go out to and for the nations – a call as sustained and fervent as the call from the mosque that I was hearing that morning. Two days later, in King of Kings Fellowship, He showed me more; that the call would require at least **one** person, inspired by Himself, from each nation in the world, to come to Jerusalem and call his/her nation to the Kingdom. God always looked for **one** man who would be willing to "stand in the gap". What God can do with **one man!** One man can see a nation saved! (Is. 60:22).

In the year following, the 'vision' He was giving me kept building as He showed me the ancient Silk Route chosen by the Back to Jerusalem Movement from China, and the demonic principalities that were over the different areas.

My focus on Jerusalem became more intent.

I was directed to an amazing verse in 2 Chron. 6:32-33 "... concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for the sake of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray in this temple (in Jerusalem); then hear from Heaven, Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that **all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You...**"

In April 2005, He then showed me that I needed to write down the entire 'vision' concerning the Church and the nations, and the study book "[The King is Coming ... The Desire of All Nations](#)" was the result.

The more God has shown me, the more I realise how little I know; the more I see how great and awesome He is, the 'smaller' I feel! No wonder John said "He must increase and I must decrease". But I know what He has promised, and what He has said we can be in Him.

What a wonderful destiny we have; what an amazing journey we're on in these last days.

The King of Glory, The Lord of Hosts, is leading us on.

**Each one** of us has a part to play – what a privilege!

The angelic host is already on the move on our behalf – we can't fail if we get into 'position' and follow our King's instructions.

Here are **some** verses to inspire you to 'watch' Jerusalem. There are many more!

God put His name there – 2 Kings 21:4  
"forever" – 2 Chron. 6:6, 2 Chron. 7:16

Jerusalem is the city of the Great. King 33:4

Jerusalem will be called The Throne of the Lord. – Jer. 3:17

David's throne was there - AND SHALL REMAIN. – 1 Kings 2:45

It was the place chosen for Jesus to be tried and executed.

It is the focal point for future events – Is. 34:8, Zech. 12:2, Zech. 14:2

God will make Jerusalem "a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem" (Zech. 12:2).

" I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut to pieces, though all the nations of the earth be gathered against it" Zech.12:3).

## **JESUS IS COMING BACK TO JERUSALEM**

He will reign there and all nations will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech. 14:16).