

Session 12

# The Restoration of Israel

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## A. Introduction

1. The formation of the modern state of Israel is a miracle after the Jewish people have not had a nation of their own for almost 2000 years.
2. Throughout Scripture, God promises that He will bring the Jewish people back from where they have been scattered across nations to the land that He has promised to them. In Jeremiah 16:14–15, He says:

*“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.”*

3. Even though the Old Testament has documented the restoration of ancient Israel in ancient times after her exiles, her current return to her land in modern times holds even more prophetic importance and is certainly miraculous.
4. It was William W. Orr (pastor and Christian minister) who said in 1948 that: *“There isn’t the slightest doubt that the emergence of the nation Israel among the family of nations is the greatest piece of prophetic news that we have had in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.”*
5. Scripture has much to say about the restoration of Israel, and the events and circumstances surrounding her most recent return bear witness of the hand of God and His faithfulness to His Word and covenants.

## B. The Restoration of Israel in Scripture

1. Over the course of her history, Israel has been exiled by God from her land due to her sin and rebellion towards God:
  - a. She was first exiled in 606 B.C. to Babylon and then again in 586 B.C.;
  - b. In A.D. 70, due to her rejection of Yeshua as her Messiah, Israel’s temple was destroyed a second time and the Jewish people were scattered across nations, this time for a period of almost 2000 years.
2. However, in spite of this, the Old Testament prophets have predicted restoration and future glory for Israel. Many of these prophecies have been partially fulfilled or are in the midst of coming to pass before our eyes today.
  - a. The promises of restoration were fulfilled in part when God brought the Israelites back to the land in waves from 536 B.C. onwards after their Babylonian exile.

- b. This was during the time of Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel, where the temple in Jerusalem was also rebuilt.
3. Scripture prophesies the following regarding Israel's restoration:
  - a. Isaiah 11:11–12 and Jeremiah 30:10–11 predict the fulfilment of the restoration of Israel.
  - b. God has a future plan for physical Israel. Her restoration in modern times is not a political accident but a divine accomplishment of God (Jer. 31:38–40).
  - c. In the New Testament, Jesus and the Apostle Paul prophesied that the dispersion and unbelief of Israel will transpire until certain key historical events take place (Lk. 21:24 and Rom. 11:25–26)
    - i. The end of Gentile domination;
    - ii. The fullness of the Gentiles.
  - d. Amos 9:15 talks about the final restoration of Israel. Jeremiah 32:37–39 and Ezekiel 36:23–25 give details about this restoration — Israel will be restored politically before she is restored spiritually to her God and Messiah.
    - i. The prophecy in Amos 9:15 was fulfilled on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948. The modern state of Israel was formed and her political restoration accomplished.
    - ii. With her political restoration accomplished, we can therefore expect the Holy Spirit to intensify His work of banishing unbelief from Israel in the days ahead (Zech. 12:10)
    - iii. As Gentile believers, we should partner with the Holy Spirit in praying for spiritual revival for Israel (Rom. 10:1).

### **C. Israel's Restoration: Important Historical Events in Modern History**

The restoration of the modern state of Israel is characterised by some startling events. If we are honest and objective, we can clearly detect the hand of God in all of this:

1. 1897 — THE FIRST WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS  
The event was organised and chaired by Theodor Herzl. By faith, he proclaimed the restoration of the Jewish state in the near future.
2. NOVEMBER 1917 — THE BALFOUR DECLARATION  
The British issued the Balfour Declaration, paving the way for a Jewish homeland to be re-established in Palestine.
3. 9 DECEMBER 1917 — THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM  
General Allenby liberated the city of Jerusalem from Turkish domination by the Ottoman Empire just in time for Hanukkah. Jewish people lit their candles to celebrate the Feast of Hanukkah in Jerusalem.

4. 14 MAY 1948 — THE BIRTH OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the formation of the state of Israel from Tel Aviv.

Note: *The state of Israel was birthed 50 years after Herzl's prophetic declaration! In the Bible, the 50<sup>th</sup> year is always the year of Jubilee where all properties have to be returned to the original owner.*

5. 1948 — THE RESTORATION OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew, a language that had been dead for almost 2000 years was resurrected and proclaimed as the official language of Israel. Eliezer Ben Yehuda persevered through much difficulty to revive the language.

6. 1967 — THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM BY ISRAEL

Jerusalem returned to Israeli jurisdiction after Israel fends off attacks during the Six Day War.

7. 2017 — THE RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL

The United States (and a handful of nations) officially recognised Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel and relocated its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Note: *It was exactly 50 years after the Balfour Declaration (1917) that Jerusalem returned to Israeli jurisdiction (1967), and then 50 years later that Jerusalem was recognised as Israel's capital city (2017)!*

#### **D. The Implications of Israel's Restoration**

1. Romans 11:12–15 indicates that we should long and pray for Israel's complete restoration — restoration to the land and restoration to the Lord. This will mean great blessing for Israel and the world.
2. The fullness of Israel's restoration will mean great blessing for the Church and for the earth as her fullness will have global repercussions:
  - a. Her fullness will coincide with Jesus' Second Coming (Ps. 102:16; Matt. 23:29);
  - b. There will be a new demonstration of God's divine power (Rom. 11:12, 15);
  - c. It will be a day of exaltation and glory for Israel (Zech.8:3, 22–23; 14:16);
  - d. It will usher in God's Kingdom and universal peace (Ps. 122:6–7; Lk. 19:42).

#### **E. Conclusion**

1. Scripture promises the fullness of restoration of the nation of Israel, which has started coming to pass since the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
2. As Gentile believers living in this prophetic moment of history, may we understand, grasp and stand with all of God's purposes for Israel and her destiny!