

What The Christian Owes the Jew

E.F. Webber, D.D.

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Chapter Five - WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY?

When GOD made a covenant with Abram (Genesis 15:18) He meant what He said. It was made to Abram and his seed forever. It was given unconditionally. Since it has never been fulfilled it is certain to be fulfilled in the future. Let us read the passage just referred to.

"In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates."

GOD wanted to give this land to His people, Israel. It was postponed because of sin. But GOD did not tell Abraham when this promise would be fulfilled. However, He did make conditions by which Israel was to possess the land. The condition was that they were to obey GOD in all things. But, if they failed to recognize their separateness from other nations, (That is, being chosen to be a peculiar people for the LORD, Himself), then they would be scattered among the nations of the earth.

The result was obvious, for if they did not remain separate from the other nations in their worship of the LORD, then they might as well be mixed up with the nations. If there were no moral separation, then there could be no religious separation. It was only as the nation was separated unto GOD morally that made it possible for national separation.

JEHOVAH is the GOD of the Bible, Israelites are the people of the Bible. The Promised Land is the land of the Bible. This trinity cannot be broken. Therefore, if the people of the Book ignore and turn away from the GOD of the Book, the land of the Book would be taken away from them. That is exactly what Moses told them in Deuteronomy 11:13-17.

"And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORDS wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the Heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."

Also, let us see what Ezekiel 36:16-19 says:

"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them."

The Word of GOD clearly records the history of Israel. The sorrows experienced were the result of Israel's sin. The Jews failed to recognize their peculiar position as GOD's people, and the responsibility attached thereto. They forsook the GOD of their fathers and fell from the path marked out for them. GOD then carried out His promise -- His punishment -- and scattered them among the nations.

That was all GOD could do, for He had to keep His promise. GOD gave them their land but that did not mean they could sin. That chosen land was given to a separated people. So, when they turned their backs upon GOD they lost their land. They had been warned of the possibility on many occasions, but the warnings only hardened their hearts. This led to their crowning sin -- the crucifixion of their SAVIOUR! Although they had looked for Him for centuries, when He came they were so steeped in sin, so determined to have their own way, they nailed their own MESSIAH to the Cross.

Let us see what happened as the result of this sin. Luke 21:24 says:

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

Now this all happened. They were dispersed among the nations. But GOD has not forgotten the covenant made with Abraham. GOD's promises were not nullified because Israel failed. GOD has not forgotten His promises to Abraham.

What about their fulfillment? GOD could not possibly be a covenant-keeping GOD if He were not true to His Word. Therefore, the Children of Israel must return to the land of their fathers. This is true for two reasons. First, the promise given to their fathers. Second, the prophecies which must be fulfilled.

The Bible teaches they were dispersed because of their sin. It also teaches that they will be regathered from all nations. In Isaiah 11:11-12 we read:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and

shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

Is this prophecy being fulfilled? One must be blind, indeed, not to see this regathering from all nations. GOD permitted the great World War I to take place, and through it He delivered the land from the Turk. since that time, the number returning to Palestine has increased year by year. This has astonished the world. Some unconverted men say it is the most phenomenal movement in centuries. The Christian knows it is not a phenomena but a miracle -- not a mystifying act of nature but a divine decree being carried out. GOD's clock had struck the hour. There was nothing for the Jew to do but to return to his land.

There is another important thing we must understand. GOD promised to richly bless the land when they returned. No such blessing was in evidence when the former owners lived there. During the dispersion of the Jews the land was utterly desolate. With the rightful owners returning it is blossoming like a rose. And the glorious prophesies GOD made in regard to this land are being fulfilled today. It has become the wonder land of the world and things are shaping up for the final return of all Israel.

Next, let us consider what the LORD said would happen when they regathered. Zechariah 14:4 reads:

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

In Zechariah 12:10 we read:

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Still there is another most important point. Before the Jews have this great revelation of their MESSIAH, the nations will gather in Jerusalem to wipe them out! Zechariah 14:1-3 says:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle."

Here we see the Federation of the Nations for that day. Remember that this is just before the LORD comes, when all nations are against GOD under Antichrist.

We come now to a most important part of our study. What does this mean to the true Christian? (Remember we are seeing the things happen for the end of the time of Jacob's trouble). If these

things are happening that will lead up to that climax, then the return of CHRIST for His Church is near at hand, is "at the doors." Let us read two Scriptures on this point -- Matthew 24:32-33 and Luke 21:29-30:

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors . . . and he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now high at hand."

But in Luke 21:28, JESUS said:

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

It most certainly is not conjecture with me when I preach that the return of CHRIST is near, even at the doors. This is the day of grace, and the LORD has tarried. He is not willing that any should perish. However, the day of grace must end. Therefore, it is imperative that the lost should seek the LORD while there is yet time.

I would warn anew that it is doubly dangerous to put off settling one's salvation a single moment. First, He may come at any moment. Secondly, only in this life can you serve Him. Therefore, my earnest plea is -- give CHRIST what is left of your life and become a Christian.

~ end of chapter 5 ~
