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ISRAEL IN THE LAND—DEUTERONOMY 28

Printed by permission of Dennis Waltemeyer. This lesson was presented on September 16, 2012 and will be used in the Messenger for the next few months.

In this chapter, God has Moses pronounce blessings on the Israelite people for obedience and curses on them for disobedience. It is interesting to note that there are fourteen verses concerning obedience and 54 verses concerning disobedience. Verses 64-68 are the important verses for this study because they proclaim the curse of worldwide dispersion from the land. This curse is still operative as millions of Jews are not in the land, however, we will see that a regathering in unbelief is well underway at this time.

The current worldwide dispersion resulted from the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and was completed in 136 A.D. when the Bar Kochba revolt was put down by the Romans. This is not to say there have not always been Jews in the land because they have always had some people living there, but Israel had been under foreign control until the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. During this dispersion, the Jewish people would suffer intense persecution.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 God promised blessings for Israel for obedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 God promised curses for disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:64–68 ⁶⁴“Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, **from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth**; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. ⁶⁵“Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. ⁶⁶“So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. ⁶⁷“In the morning you shall say, ‘Would that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Would that it were morning!’ because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see. ⁶⁸“The LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you, ‘You will never see it again!’ And there you

will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”

GOD’S PROMISE THAT ISRAEL WILL END

There are numerous Scriptures that proclaim Israel’s continued existence. Following are four powerful, representative examples.

Jeremiah 31:35–37 ³⁵Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: ³⁶“If this fixed order departs From before Me,” declares the LORD, “Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.” ³⁷Thus says the LORD, “If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 33:19–26 ¹⁹The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰“Thus says the LORD, ‘If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, ²¹then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. ²²‘As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.’ ” ²³And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁴“Have you not observed what this people have spoken, saying, ‘The two families which the LORD chose, He has rejected them’? Thus they despise My people, no longer are they as a nation in their sight. ²⁵“Thus says the LORD, ‘If My covenant for day and night stand not, and the fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established, ²⁶then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.’ ”

Isaiah 66:22 ²²“For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me,” declares the LORD, “So your offspring and your name will endure.

Joel 3:20 ²⁰But Judah will be inhabited forever And Jerusalem for all generations.

THE THEOLOGY OF DR. CHAFER CONCERNING ISRAEL IN THE LAND

The following information may be found in Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, volume 7, pages 123-127. Dr. Chafer and the other early dispensational theologians did not understand the doctrine of two worldwide dispersions from the land and two subsequent worldwide regatherings into

the land. Chafer's understanding was that the current gathering of people into Israel would culminate in the reestablishment of the people in the land in belief at the Second Coming of Christ.

Dr. Chafer identified three periods of dispersion and three regatherings into the land. The first was the sojourn into Egypt and the Exodus that followed culminating in the Israelite's entrance into the Promised Land. The second cycle resulted from the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests and the return from Babylon seventy years after Judah was conquered. The third dispersion began in 70 A.D. and continues to this day throughout the world, even in the midst of repopulating the land via the modern state of Israel, and the final regathering will be in belief at the Second Coming.

There are a number of problems with Dr. Chafer's analysis:

He failed to recognize there will be only two dispersions and two regatherings and both would be from the four corners of the earth. The dispersions into Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon were not worldwide and the people were not returned to the land from all over the world. They were dispersed into specific geographic areas or countries and they were recovered from those specific locations back into Israel.

Isaiah's prophecy of the regathering in belief is called the "second" one meaning there logically was only one prior to it. Since the regathering in belief is final and Israel will never again rebel against the Lord there are only two possible worldwide dispersion and recovery cycles.

Isaiah 11:11-12 ¹¹Then it will happen on that day that **the Lord Will again recover the second time** with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. ¹²And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah **From the four corners of the earth.**

Dr. Chafer also failed to recognize the regathering in unbelief and the subsequent dispersion during the Tribulation. As noted above, he simply viewed the current establishment of the nation as a prelude to the Second Coming. He failed to understand the dispersion that occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation. It is only at the end of the Tribulation when the second worldwide recovery from the Tribulation dispersion occurs immediately prior to the Second Coming.

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