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ISRAEL IN THE LAND—DEUTERONOMY 28

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THE REGATHERING IN UNBELIEF

Isaiah 11:11-12 is a prophecy concerning the Second Coming but because of the way it is worded, it proves there are only two worldwide dispersions and recoveries.

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.**

This regathering of Israel into the land in unbelief is a recovery from all over the world. This is a regathering out of wrath and a gathering for wrath. They were gathered out of the wrath of the holocaust. World War I prepared the land for Israel when Great Britain issued the Balfour Declaration declaring their intent to establish a land for the Jewish people. This was possible because Turkey, which occupied Israel during the Ottoman Empire, was an ally of Germany and lost their empire when they were defeated and England was granted control of the Israel/Jordan area. Incidentally, what is now Jordan was supposed to be part of Israel but Arab Muslim opposition caused the land area awarded to Israel to be drastically reduced. World War II prepared the people for Israel because they realized their only hope for freedom from persecution was their own country. The horror of the holocaust also created the conditions for the world to allow Israel to become a recognized state. This was accomplished in 1948 when the United Nations granted Israel statehood. The current regathering is accomplished with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out indicating a condition of unbelief. God's goal is Messianic Kingship, but it will be accomplished through wrath and judgment. All the persecution Israel

experiences today is not a part of this wrath. Instead, it is a continuation of the curses promised in Deuteronomy 28. After the final period of wrath and judgment, the Tribulation, those Jews who believe will be brought into the land subject to the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34); this is the second and final regathering in belief and those believers will be placed in the land to enjoy the fulfillment of all of God's covenant promises to them. [For further study see Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, pages 97-104.]

Ezekiel 20:33–38 ³³“As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely **with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out**, I shall be king over you. ³⁴“I will **bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands** where you are scattered, **with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out**; ³⁵and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and **there I will enter into judgment with you face to face**. ³⁶“As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷“**I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant**; ³⁸and **I will purge** from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 22:17–22 ¹⁷And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹⁸“Son of man, **the house of Israel has become dross to Me**; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead **in the furnace**; they are the dross of silver. ¹⁹“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because all of you have become dross, therefore, behold, I am going to **gather you into the midst of Jerusalem**. ²⁰“As they gather silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into the furnace to blow fire on it in order to melt it, so **I will gather you in My anger and in My wrath and I will lay you there and melt you**. ²¹“**I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you will be melted in the midst of it**. ²²“As silver is melted in the furnace, so **you will be melted in the midst of it**; and you will know that **I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath on you.**’”

Ezekiel 36:22–24 ²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. ²³“I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. ²⁴“**For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land**.

Zephaniah 2:1–2 ¹Gather yourselves together, yes, **gather, O nation** without shame, ²**Before the decree takes effect— The day passes like the chaff— Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD’S anger comes upon you.**

Ezekiel 38-39 reveals the Gog of Magog attack against Israel. For purposes of this lesson, the important thing to note is that an attack against Israel necessarily requires Israel’s existence in the land. This attack will occur during the time of regathering in unbelief.

Ezekiel 38:8 ⁸“After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been **gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel** which had been a continual waste; but **its people were brought out from the nations**, and they are living securely, all of them.

Many people believe “living securely” in the land means the time after the seven year covenant is signed between antichrist and Israel when there will be some period of what is believed to be “peace” in the initial stages of the Tribulation. This is not so; “living securely” simply means living in the land in relative safety with the ability to defend one’s self and that is the case now despite all the rocket attacks and terrorism directed against the state of Israel.

Ezekiel 38:16 ¹⁶and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog.”

The timing of this Gog of Magog invasion is disputed. Dr. LaHaye believes it occurs immediately prior to the Tribulation. Others believe it occurs at the midpoint of the Trib. Dr. Fruchtenbaum teaches that this battle must be at least 3 ½ years before the Tribulation because the Jews will burn the fuel as spoil for seven years after God wins the battle on their behalf (Ezek. 39:9). Since they are dispersed from Jerusalem at the midpoint of the Tribulation, they must begin burning the fuel prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord the time of Jacob’s trouble in order to fulfill a seven year prophecy (3 ½ years prior to the Tribulation and through the first half which is another 3 ½ years for seven years total). Still others teach that this battle is the battle of Armageddon. However, this cannot be correct since the methods the Lord uses to win those wars greatly differs between the two. Both battles are supernaturally won by God, but the method He uses differs between the two so they cannot be the same. Comparing Ezekiel’s Gog of Magog battle with the battle of Armageddon in Revelation reveals the differences.

Ezekiel 38:21–22 ²¹“I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord GOD. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. ²²“With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone.

Revelation 19:21 ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

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