

ISRAEL RESTORED

EXEKIEL 36 - PART 1

Ezekiel is writing in the mid 6th century BC but God is showing him distant things.

Some of these distant things have been fulfilled in some of your lifetimes and some have not.

This is written 2500 years ago.

Some of these events went unfulfilled until relatively recently.

To understand END TIME EVENTS one must understand the unique role Israel has played and will play in this moving forward in prophecy.

One thing that helps is that when Ezekiel is writing this, it's in chronological order.

Ch 40 - 48 - the Kingdom Age (the Millennial Kingdom) - it's the 1000 years of Christ from Jerusalem after He returns to the earth.

Ezekiel details the millennial temple that will be built and describes what life will be like during the millennial reign.

But before that happens

Ch 38 - 39 - Battle Armageddon

Before that, we need to see the restoration of the nation of Israel.

Ever since 586 BC when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and that is the time Ezekiel was writing.

Ever since then, for approximately 2500 years, Israel existing as a nation, did not really exist.

So from 586 BC to 1948 AD, Jewish people had no real homeland, no government, and not even really a common language.

When the Jews were taken captive into Babylon, they would adopt the Aramaic language of their captors.

So when they came back from captivity they were speaking Aramaic not Hebrew. Jesus spoke Aramaic, not Hebrew.

Ezekiel starts a clock of 2500 where the Jewish people were dispersed, martyred and massacred all over the world.

Babylonian Empire = Persian = Greek = Roman

Byzantine = Arab Islamic = Catholic Crusaders
Mamluks = Ottoman Empire = British Empire

All of that changed in the 20th century when something miraculous happened in 1948 that is the fulfillment of Ezekiel 36 & 37.

That's what we are going to look at today, which is the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

This is what Ezekiel predicted in the 6th century and it has come to pass in some of your lifetimes.

Sometimes it will be informational and some will be inspirational.

Today is going to be informational.

Ezekiel 36:1-7

- (1) God denounces the nations that overtake the nations of Israel.

The Jewish people are the only people on earth to be given the title deed by God to certain real estate on earth.

When other nations rise up to confiscate that land, God will rise up in anger against those nations.

That is what He calls it “my land” in vs 5 and He says those that take it will incur “MY JEALOUSY” and “MY FURY” (vs 6).

God brought the Jewish people and race out of nothing.

There were no Jews until God providentially decided that by one man, a Gentile named Abraham.

He would be the source, beginning in Genesis.

God chose Abraham or Abram who was a gentile pagan worshipper to do it.

God appears to him and speaks to him and promises him and makes a covenant with him.

God selected someone who seems like a very unlikely candidate.

He is way past his prime and his wife was way past her prime.

When they did have a child, everyone would know it had to be God and a miracle.

God birthed a nation through Isaac, Jacob and then God determined that they should have their own land.

He gave title deed to the land right around Mediterranean to Abraham.

So God established a people and gave them a geographical region.

Gen 15:18

Nile to Euphrates

Some scholars think it included all of Saudi Arabia.

So it's Sinai Peninsula, all of Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, part of Iraq, part of Saudi Arabia.

Initially about 300,000 square miles.

Under King David, most of Sinai, Lebanon, little of Iraq and that was all they ever took under King David.

So then, what we're reading in 586, the Babylonians come and Jews are dispersed and their territory no longer exists.

What they did live in is governed by other foreign empires.

Until 1917 after WWI, Britain defeated the Ottoman Empire. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 to establish a homeland for the Jewish people. A homeland they had not had for 2400 years.

So in 1917, territory was drawn, giving the Jews a homeland.

In 1922 the Hussein family objected, they wanted the land for themselves and were upset it was being given to the Jews. In order to appease the Hussein family, Churchill and British Parliament in deference to the Hussein family, Churchill took a crayon and drew a line down the Jordan River and separated west from east. He gave the west area to the Jews and the east

to the Arabs called Trans Jordan and in 1946 the eastern side was called Jordan and the Hussein family still controls it.

After all this was said and done they ended up with 8130 square miles rather than the 300,000 God had intended.

It's important to get some perspective cause anytime we have a peace plan it usually ends up a land for peace deal and to end up with less.

I'm skeptical for 2 reasons.

1. Land for peace has never worked.
2. Frankly it's unbiblical cause they already have less than a tenth of what they are supposed to have possessed.

In other words this was God's land and He gave it to the Jewish people, and anyone else can live there, play there, but anyone that tries to possess and take it will incur His jealousy and fury!

(2) God defends Israel for His own name's sake.

It's a reference to the gathering of all the exiles.

He is not doing something, not for their name BUT for HIS name.

(Vs 22) God said "His Name" - "had been profaned".

Why? Because the Israelites started worshipping the pagan gods of the nations around them.

Now despite all of that, God says I LOVE YOU, I'm gonna bring you back, restore you and give you back this land.

It's what God does for us on a personal scale.

We sin against him, rebel against him but what does God do . . .
He is patient with us and long suffering with us and He waits for us and receives us and embraces us.

So what He does for us on a personal level, He does for Israel on a national scale.

It's a testimony for God to the nations that He is a forgiving God, loving God, merciful God and a restoring God.

(3) God declares Himself to all the nations through the reestablishment of Israel.

Ez 36:34-36

For 2500 years from the time that Israel was decimated in 586 BC and temple destroyed, for 2500 years Israel became desolate and barren.

When the 2500 years went by the land became desolate.

When God brought them back and since 1948, Israel has become one of the most prosperous and prolific nations on the planet.

Is 27:6 - "In the days to come, Israel will blossom and bud, and fill all the world with fruit".

They export 1.3 billion dollars worth of agricultural products per year.

Jews developed Drip Irrigation.

When you look at history, the emergence of this nation out of a wasteland and realize the people were scattered and massacred. When you look at Jewish history there is no other explanation for their preservation and restoration but the HAND OF GOD.

Consider some contributions Jews have made to the world.

Since 1901 - 2018, little over 900 Nobel Prizes awarded science, medicine, peace & literature.

The Jews have taken 203.

They have won 23% of all the Nobel Prizes.

Now for some perspective.

(4) God demonstrates His power and faithfulness through the re-establishment of Israel.

Ex 37:1-14 - this passage is really the heart and soul of the book of Ezekiel cause it's the story of the Valley of Dry Bones.

In fact, the dry bones refer to the fact that the nation was dry, dead and lifeless and scattered.

Listen - Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel sees the DRY BONES in the valley and it's a picture of the Nation of Israel and the Jewish people.

But God showed Ezekiel something about the future that I believe happened in 1948.

God once again gathered the Jewish people from around the world and made pilgrimage back to their homeland. The Exiles returned and God moved in their hearts and He brought them back to their homeland there was a stirring by the Spirit of God.

But in the end of 19th century, something began to move in the hearts of the Jewish people called the "Zionist Movement".

A man in 1800's, Theodore Hertsell, began to be the pioneer of the Zionist Movement. He was reading passages from Jeremiah & Ezekiel.

His heart began to burn for his homeland and he began to have this idea of gathering the Jews and go back to our homeland to where used to live.

To raise a people and they began to return.

Problems: No longer had a common language. In order to have a common unity they needed a common language.

Eleazar Benyahuda - began to be convicted that they needed to speak Hebrew.

He said in my house we're going to start speaking Hebrew.

Other families joined in and one by one they started teaching Hebrew in the home.

Do you know what that is? A fulfillment of Zeph 3:9.

The United Nations announced a Partition Resolution allowing the Jews a permanent homeland.

David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence on May 14th 1948.

When he did that, every neighboring Nation launched an offensive attack against Israel.

Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Lebanon, all attacked Israel.

The Jews were outnumbered, outskilled, out armed, they were not supported by the US.

Truman supported them verbally 11 minutes after David Ben-Gurion announced but not with armament.

They stood alone with no support and mainly smuggled weapons in from Czechoslovakia.

They declared their independence in 1948. They did not have a single cannon or tank.

Its Air Force had 9 obsolete planes, only 19,000 Soldiers.

But yet, against all odds, after all the dust settled . . .

GOD DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!

1) God does what HE says

2) He is faithful to all His promises.

3) He does what seems impossible to us.

II Cor 1:20 - All the promise in Him are YES and AMEN

Gen 12:3 - I will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you.

