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“Israel and the End Times - Part One of Three”

Ezekiel 36 - 37

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For 2,500 years (from 586BC until 1948AD) the Jewish people had no homeland, no government, or a common language (Hebrew had been replaced by Aramaic and later, Yiddish). How could a dispersed, oppressed, and nearly massacred people ever be re-established as a nation? Answer - by the providential hand of God. Around the turn of the 20th century, God began moving in the hearts of the Jews who were dispersed around the world to Israel (to make “Aliyah”). The Zionist movement began, and there was a revival of the Hebrew language, and the British Parliament had partitioned the Middle East to allow a homeland for the Jewish people. On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion declared Israel’s independence, and in response, every neighboring Arab nation attacked Israel. When the dust had settled, the State of Israel emerged by the powerful hand of God. It was the fulfillment of Ezekiel 36-37.

Historical Background

1. The book of Ezekiel was written about 2,500 years ago (circa mid-6th century), and some of his prophecies have been fulfilled, including the re-establishment of the nation of Israel, which occurred on May 14, 1948.
2. Pastor Gary said; “[In] order to understand the prophetic end-times that Ezekiel [wrote] about, one must first understand the unique role that the nation of Israel has played in history and will play in prophesy. Helpful to us is the fact that... Ezekiel wrote in chronological order.”
3. Ezekiel’s End-Times Prophecies
 - a. Ezekiel 36-37 - The re-establishment of the State of Israel (1948)
 - b. Ezekiel 38-39 - The Battle of Armageddon
 - c. Ezekiel 40-48 - The Kingdom Age (aka, the Millennial Kingdom)

4. Israel was dominated by different foreign powers since the destruction of Jerusalem in 586BC, and until May 1948, the Jews had no homeland, no government, nor did they even have a common language!
 - a. When the Babylonians exiled the Jews to Babylon, they had to learn to speak Aramaic, which means that Jesus didn't speak Hebrew; he too spoke Aramaic.
 - b. The Jewish people were dispersed, oppressed, and massacred all over the world in the succeeding centuries.
 - c. The Jews were under the rule and reign of the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Islamic-Arabic Empire, the Catholic crusaders, the Mamelukes, the Ottoman Empire, and finally, the British Empire.

God Denounced The Nations That Overtook The Land Of Israel – Ezekiel 36:1-7

5. Pastor Gary said; “The Jewish people are the only people on earth who have been given title deed by God to certain real estate on the earth, and when other people try to confiscate that land, God will rise up in anger against those nations.”
 - a. God's Land
 - i. **Ezekiel 36:5** – “... *‘Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave **My land** to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.*” (Emphasis added)
 - b. God brought about the creation of the Jewish people – for his glory! – through the promise he gave to Abraham, who was living among the pagans in the land of the Chaldeans.
 - c. God birthed the nation of Israel, and he set apart the land around the Mediterranean Sea as their homeland.
 - d. **Genesis 15:18** – “*On that same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt [the Nile River] to the great river, the River Euphrates [modern-day Iraq]...*”
 - i. This is a vast area of land, which included Sinai Peninsula, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and part of Iraq and part of Saudi Arabia.
 - ii. The size of the land given to the Jews was approximately 300,000 sq. miles! ¹
 - iii. During the reign of King David, the Jews occupied far fewer square miles. ²
 - iv. In 1917, Britain defeated the Ottoman Empire [The Turks were allied

¹ Use this link to access the video of Pastor Gary's explanation and forward to 12:19.

https://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=418&i=1429

² Use the same link to access the video of Pastor Gary's continuing remarks about the size of the territory the Jews inhabited during King David's reign.

with Nazi Germany]. The Balfour Declaration ³ of that same year established a homeland for the Jews, and size of the territory allotted to the Jews was drastically reduced from the time of King David. ⁴

- v. In 1922, the Hussein family and the Arab people objected, and the British Parliament, under the leadership of Sir Winston Churchill, reneged on the Balfour Declaration. He separated the land even further, using the Jordan River to be the boundary for the Jews (west of the Jordan River) and the Arab people (east of the Jordan River), which he called the Trans-Jordan.
- vi. In 1946, the Trans-Jordan was renamed Jordan.
- vii. The State of Israel today is smaller than the state of New Jersey.
- viii. The territory God allotted was a minimum of 300,000 sq. miles, and today, it's only 8,130 sq. miles!

6. Pastor Gary said; "It's important to get perspective on all of this. Any time we have a peace plan that involves land for peace... I'm skeptical for two reasons: 1) Land for peace has never worked. 2) Giving up any more land than Israel already has is frankly, unbiblical, because they don't have 1/10 of what God had originally intended for them to have. ... In other words, God says, 'It's my land on loan to the Jewish people, and anyone else can live there, [work there, play there, including Palestinians and Arabs], but those who try to take possession of it... will incur [God's] jealousy and fury."

- a. **Ezekiel 36:6** - *"Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel... 'Thus says the Lord God': 'Behold, I have spoken in MY jealousy and My fury...' "* (Emphasis added)

God Defended Israel For His Own Name's Sake - Ezekiel 36:22-28

7. Pastor Gary said; "God was saying, 'You've profaned me before them. You have exchanged the worship of the true and living God for the worship of idols just like your foreign neighbors.' Despite that, God said, 'I love you, [and] I'm going to bring you back into the land, [and] I'm going to forgive you, and I'm going to restore you.' ... In a micro-sense, God does the same thing for us. We sin against him, we rebel against him, and what does God do? He is patient with us, he is longsuffering, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. [He] is waiting for us patiently and with open arms he receives us, and forgives us, and restores us. That's the story of God. That's the story of redemption. God does it for us on a personal level, and God [did] it for the nation of Israel on a national scale. ... This is a testimony of God before the nations, that he is a forgiving God and that he is a restoring God."

- a. **2 Peter 3:9** - *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count*

³ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/balfour-declaration>

⁴ Use the same link to access the video of Pastor Gary's continuing remarks about the size of the territory the Jews were given as outlined in the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

God Declared Himself To All The Nations
Through The Re-establishment Of Israel - Ezekiel 36:34-36

8. Over a period of 2,500 years, the land became uninhabitable and desolate.
 - a. “A desolate country, whose soil is rich enough, but given over wholly to weeds - a silent mournful expanse. A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action. We never saw a human being on the whole route. There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of the worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.” - Mark Twain ⁵

9. **Isaiah 27:6** - *“... Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.”*
 - a. Today, the nation of Israel, which would fit within Orange County, California, is the number one exporter of fruit to Europe!
 - b. Israel’s number one export are citrus fruits.
 - c. Israel is one of the world’s leading greenhouse food exporting countries.
 - d. Israel exports more than 1.3 billion dollars’ worth of agricultural products every year.
 - e. The Jews developed drip irrigation, which has turned deserts into fertile fields.
 - f. Among the remarkable contributions the Jews have made to the world, between 1901 and 2018, there have been more than 900 Nobel Prizes awarded, and Jews have been awarded an amazing total of 203!
 - g. The Jewish population in the world today is about 14.5 million, which is only 0.19% of the global population, but they’ve been awarded approximately 23% of all Nobel Prizes!
 - h. For perspective, Muslims account for approximately 23% of the world’s population, yet, in the same 1901 to 2018 time period, Muslims have only been awarded 12 Nobel Prizes.
 - i. Pastor Gary said; “When you look at Jewish history, there is no other explanation for [the] preservation [and] restoration of the Jewish people and the State of Israel as a nation, except [that it’s all because of] the divine work of the hand of God.”

God Demonstrated His Power And Faithfulness
Through the Re-Establishment Of Israel - Ezekiel 37:1-14

10. This chapter is the heart and soul of the book of Ezekiel because this chapter tells

⁵ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/mark-twain-quotations-on-judaism-and-israel>

the account of the dry bones, which refers to the fact that the nation of Israel was as good as dead.

11. Pastor Gary said: “God showed Ezekiel something in the future that would be fulfilled in 1948, when God would once again, regather the Jewish people from around the world. ... [The Jews made pilgrimage back to their homeland. There was a stirring that happened by the Spirit of God.] ... [God did this] despite the fact that country after country and empire after empire tried to massacre the Jewish people. ... Toward the end of the 19th century, as God began to move on the hearts of Jewish people around the world, [and something began to emerge called the Zionist movement, and the pioneer of the movement was a man named Theodor Hertzl],⁶ ... [Hertzl read passages from Jeremiah and Ezekiel], and his heart began to stir for his homeland, and the Zionist Movement was birthed with the idea that [the Jews need to be gathered and return to their God-given land].”
12. Pastor Gary said; “At the same time that God was moving in the heart of Theodor Hertzl... God was moving in the heart of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda.⁷ Ben-Yehuda became convinced that they once again needed to speak Hebrew because up to this point, they were either speaking Aramaic or Yiddish, [so, he started to teach his son ancient Hebrew, and other families joined them]. ... God rebirthed the language in the Jewish people, which was the fulfillment of [Scripture]!
 - a. **Zephaniah 3:9** – *“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD...”*
13. Britain became supportive of the Zionist movement, and in 1947 the United Nations, much to the chagrin of the Arab nations put forth a resolution to allow the Jews to have a permanent homeland. A Zionist Jew from Poland named David Ben-Gurion declared Israel’s independence on May 14, 1948.
 - a. At one time every neighboring Arab nation attacked Israel, including Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Yemen.
 - b. “This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacre and the Crusades.” – Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League⁸
 - c. The Jews were outnumbered, out-skilled, and out-armed, and they were not supported by the United States with military armament, despite the fact that President Truman supported the declaration verbally.
 - d. The Israeli Army did not have a single cannon or tank, its Air Force was made up of nine obsolete planes, and there were only 19,000 soldiers ready for war!
 - e. Against all odds, and only by the mighty hand of God, this small group of

⁶ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/theodor-binyamin-ze-rsquo-ev-herzl>

⁷ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/eliezer-ben-yehuda-and-the-revival-of-hebrew>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azzam_Pasha_quotation

people, who had a dream inspired by God, became the State of Israel.⁹

- f. God does what he says he will do, and he is faithful to all his promises!
 - i. **2 Corinthians 1:20** - *“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...”*

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/israels-war-of-independence/>