

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 30:8-11

(8) " 'In that day,' declares the LORD Almighty,

'I will break the yoke off their necks

and will tear off their bonds;

no longer will foreigners enslave them. (9) Instead, they will serve the LORD their God

and David their king,

whom I will raise up for them. (10) " 'So do not fear, O Jacob my servant;

do not be dismayed, O Israel,'

declares the LORD.

'I will surely save you out of a distant place,

your descendants from the land of their exile.

Jacob will again have peace and security,

and no one will make him afraid. (11) I am with you and will save you,' declares the LORD.

Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.'

In all of God's dealings with Israel and Judah, and especially regarding the Second Exodus, we see His perfect application of justice and mercy. He is just, because He does not allow their sin to go unpunished. We could not trust God if He did not hold to His promises of blessing and cursing (Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28). If He allowed Israel and Judah to sin with impunity, His laws would have no authority, and His words would be of no consequence. However, for the sake of what is best for Jacob, God has to show him that He is serious about what He says. So His justice will be upheld as Israel and Judah are brought to the painful realization that they have forsaken Him and have been living the wrong way.

Yet, we can also see God's mercy in His dealings with His people. Today's Western culture—a product of the nations of Israel—is not so very different from Sodom and Gomorrah. The same sins are committed in the same brazen manner. Our regard for humanity is so low that in America alone during the last three decades, an estimated 40-50 million pre-born children have been killed for the sake of convenience. Further, God has been systematically removed from schools, from government, and from public life. Post-Christian Europe has transgressed even further. Even Jerusalem—the "Holy City"—has an annual "Gay Pride" parade, and is essentially secular.

Despite these atrocious sins, God will not utterly destroy Israel as He did to Sodom and Gomorrah. A number of latter-day prophecies of various peoples—the Edomites, for example—foretell that God will make a complete end of them (Jeremiah 46:28). However, He has chosen not to do this with Israel and Judah, though not because they are righteous in any way.

He will show them mercy because of the promises He made, not because they deserve it. Ezekiel 36 shows this clearly. God repeats several times that He is bringing Israel back for His name's sake, and not for Israel's sake: things, and much more. We invite anyone to show scriptures to the contrary. touch on these subj

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this [restoring Israel and blessing the land; verses 6-15] for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. . . . Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that is not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!" (Ezekiel 36:22-24, 31-32)

God would be unfaithful to His own promises if He annihilated Jacob's descendants—even though, by all accounts, it is exactly what they deserve.— David C. Grabb

Comments by Rhoda Foust

This is a wonderful quote and correct statement, however, it is not explained when this or OTHER prophecy will be fulfilled. It cannot be fulfilled in this age, because they are of the "rest of the dead" who are resurrected after the thousand year (millennium, during which time Satan is bound)) that occurs after the first resurrection (Rev 20: 1-5). This is further explained at www.foust.info. It will go beyond the 1000 year period, when Satan is bound, after the return of Christ. Read the study "The Rest of the Dead" in "www.foust.info".

The last eight chapters of Ezek. can not possible happen before Christ returns with His heavenly army and destroys his enemies

during the battle of Armageddon. It can not happen in this, our time of Grace, before the first resurrection happens. One has to understand there are three more time changing periods after the millennium. A real informed Bible teacher should explain about the key to understanding prophecy. If he is a good teacher he will know and explain about these major seven time periods that does not end until the very last chapter of Revelation.

If there is no more time after the thousand year rule of Christ with his saints, and the imprisonment of Satan, what is told about "the rest of the dead, those that were not accounted worthy to be resurrected at the return of the King?"

Also when does the resurrection of the whole house of Israel happen? What time period does the Gentile nations, Gog and allies, attack Israel? When will the two nations of Israel become one nation again? When do you expect Judah and Israel to "never profane God's name again", during this age or in a future age? The studies in this web page explain all these events, we just have to know what event that fits into what time period, according to the writings of the prophets. I agree with Mr. Grabb in what he has written. It will happen. But he stops at a most interesting part of the future of Israel, including all thirteen tribes. When we leave off so much of future history and just repeat what most have already heard so much, it seems so like the preverbal "beating a dead horse" to those readers who are really hungry to understand prophecies almost no minister discusses.

Preachers, pastors, teachers, we need to tell people truths they have not heard before.

The nations depend on us, let us not let them down. If we are to carry the names we give ourselves, as God's spiritual leaders, let us fast, pray, mediate, and study until we understand the Word of God.