

Parson to Person

Biblical Timeline and the Eschaton (Part 4)

(Repeated from 5-8-22)

The reality of a literal future restoration of Israel is debated by Covenantalists and Dispensationalists. I contend that there will be a future restoration of Israel. Moreover, I assert that we do know exactly when that will occur.

Several passages of Scripture document the restoration of Israel. Some provide specific details. Future events may be a little unclear, but I suggest, as a Dispensationalist, that most are clear and easy to understand—if one is to take the Bible literally, and hold to a consistent hermeneutic.

In the book of Romans Paul shows that Israel will be saved—and that the timing will be after the “fullness of the Gentiles” has come to its fruition. Paul wrote, *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’”* (Romans 11:25–27 NKJV). This is yet to come.

According to Ezekiel this will occur for God’s glory and that His reputation rests on it!

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I do not do this 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... I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses... Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord GOD... “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden... Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it” (Ezekiel 36:22–36 Abridged NKJV).

Moreover, Jeremiah wrote that God has and will keep Israel: *“Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): ‘If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.’ Thus says the LORD: ‘If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD’ ”*

(Jeremiah 31:35–37 NKJV). Therefore, we see that the Lord has kept and will restore Israel—for His glory!

Arguments do arise about the exact timing of the full and complete restoration. However, from the 4 passages below, we can determine a specific time. (This is a sampling.)

In Zechariah we read, “ *‘And it shall come to pass in all the land,’ says the LORD, ‘That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”; and each one will say, “The LORD is my God” ’* ” (Zechariah 13:8–9 NKJV).

Furthermore, we know that they will call upon Him following the Great Tribulation: the final disciplinary action which will soon be accomplished. In Daniel we read, “*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy*” (Daniel 9:24 NKJV). The “finishing of the transgression,” “the bringing in of everlasting righteousness,” and “the anointing of the Most Holy” won’t occur until after the “seventieth week” mentioned here—and that “week” is still in the future.

Finally, I need to mention that Ezekiel 38–39 addresses the Gog, Magog invasion—when nations will join together to decimate Israel. Many argue the timing of this event, but a careful

examination will reveal that this event must occur during (and then climaxing at the end of the “seventieth week” of Daniel 9 also known as) the Tribulation. We know this because in the prophecy God said, *“So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel”* (Ezekiel 39:7 NKJV). Therefore, this has to be future, for Israel is presently profaning the name of the Lord. Moreover, after this invasion, Israel will cleanse the land during which time the Lord will be glorified (Ezekiel 39:11–13) and when Jesus will be glorified among all nations (vs. 21). This will not occur until the Kingdom Age/Millennial Reign of Jesus the Messiah (Revelation 20). *“From that day forward,”* all of Israel will know the Lord (Ezekiel 39:22) and *“then they [Israel] shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,”* says the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 39:28–29 NKJV).

Therefore, we can easily conclude that Jesus will return at the Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation, rescue and restore Israel, place them in the Promised Land, and establish His Theocratic Kingdom. The timing is clear!

I love you all,
Pastor Paul

