

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 36

Isaiah 11

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Kingdom we started to look at Israel after the rapture. At this current time Israel is in the diaspora which means they are scattered. This scattering happened in AD 70 when the Romans attacked Jerusalem. They had been warned by the Word of God what would happen if they turned away from the Lord in disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:47-50, 62-67

⁴⁷ Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

⁴⁹ The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

⁶² And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

In verse 64 we see that this warning was concerning a worldwide dispersion. The Assyrian and the Babylonian captivities were local. This warning was different and that is exactly what happened as a result of the 1st century Jews rejecting their King and His Kingdom. The Jews are still scattered today but it will not remain this way.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

² And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

³ That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

God has promised that there will be a day when He will gather Israel from the diaspora. The Bible speaks of two regathering's of the Jews and these two regathering's are what we are going to consider this evening. Notice the chart by Price that explains the two regathering's.

Israel's Two Regathering's

The Present (First Regathering). The Permanent (Second Regathering).

Return to part of the land. Return to all the land.

Return in unbelief. Return in faith.

Restored to the land only. Restored to the land and the Lord.

Sets the stage for Tribulation (discipline). Sets stage for Millennium (blessing).

The first regathering is happening today and it is the regathering in unbelief. Now there are many who do not believe that the Jews today are of any importance because they are

living in unbelief. But the present/first regathering will happen in unbelief. They are being gathered back into their homeland by the Lord where He will discipline them in the Tribulation and then they will be gathered again in belief. So, the people who do not see the unbelieving Jews as significant in God's plan claim that since the Jews are in unbelief there is nothing God can do with them. But let us think about something for a moment. Was God not at work in our lives before we were saved? Let us notice what Jesus said in John.

John 16:7-11

⁷ *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

⁸ *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

⁹ *Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

¹⁰ *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;*

¹¹ *Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

Before we were saved the Holy Spirit worked in our lives to eventually bring us to Jesus. When this was happening there were many times, we did not even know what God was doing. He directed our steps to bring us into situations that could be used to bring us to Jesus. This is exactly what is happening with the Jews today. They are returning to their homeland and they do not even know that it is God who is gathering them for a time of discipline. It will be through the discipline that the Jews will get saved. Ezekiel writes concerning this first regathering.

Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:*

³⁴ *And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*

³⁵ *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

³⁶ Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

³⁷ And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

³⁸ And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Now we need to see what Isaiah says because his statement is very important. The regathering that is happening today is extremely important.

Isaiah 11:11-12

¹¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time to recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

¹² And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Here in these verses Isaiah tells us that the regathering in faith is the SECOND regathering. That means there can only be ONE regathering before the final/second regathering. Now some people believe that there can be several regatherings but that is not possible according to the words of Isaiah. He says the second is the last and therefore there can be only one before the last. Others ask, "What about the regathering from Babylon?" That was not a worldwide regathering. Isaiah is talking about two worldwide regatherings. There has never been a worldwide regathering until now.

Application:

Do you understand what this means? It means we are closer to the rapture than most believers know! It brings to my mind what Paul wrote.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

² For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

³ *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

⁴ *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

⁵ *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

⁶ *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

Paul tells us that the Day of the Lord/Tribulation will come as a thief in the night. The Tribulation will start after the rapture. This tells us that many people will be caught completely off guard. A thief in the night would come:

1. Unexpectedly

I am convinced that many believers are not ready for the Lord's return. They are living for the world and are doing very little with the spiritual gifts that God has given them. Let us be reminded that we will be held accountable for what we do with what the Lord has entrusted to us.

Matthew 25:14-19

¹⁴ *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

¹⁵ *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

¹⁶ *Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

¹⁷ *And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

¹⁸ *But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

¹⁹ *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;** *that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

2. Undetected

The Day of the Lord will begin and many will never know it has started. The rapture will also be undetected by the world. How can this be? Because there will not be millions upon millions of people missing when it happens.

Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23

¹³ *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

¹⁴ *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Conclusion:

Do you understand where we are on the prophetic clock? We are so close to the rapture because Israel is being gathered in unbelief today and it will take the Tribulation to turn them to the Lord for the gathering in faith. Notice the words of Walvoord.

"Of the many peculiar phenomena which characterize the present generation, few events can claim equal significance as far as Biblical prophecy is concerned with that of the return of Israel to their land. It constitutes a preparation for the end of the age, the setting for the coming of the Lord for His church, and the fulfillment of Israel's prophetic destiny."

He goes on and I want you to pay close attention to what he says:

"The third and final dispersion began in A.D. 70, with the destruction of Jerusalem and the desecration of the entire land which followed the next century. From this dispersion, Israel has begun to return in the twentieth-century as witnessed in the establishment of the nation Israel. Two million of these people are now established in their ancient land. The present regathering being witnessed by our generation is the largest movement of the people of Israel since the days of Moses, and may be understood to be the beginning of that

which will be completed subsequent to the second coming of Christ and the establishment of His earthly Kingdom on this earth."

Romans 13:11-12

¹¹ *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

¹² *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*