

HANDOUT – Lesson 208 – FATE OF ISRAEL

Moses spoke to the Israelites just before he died and they entered the Promised Land. First, he reminded them to follow the Law and never, ever to worship anything but the Lord their God.

Deut 4:1 - Deut 4:31 (NASB)

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ...⁹“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. ...¹³“... He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, *that is*, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴“The LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it. ¹⁵“So watch yourselves carefully, ... ¹⁶so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves... ¹⁹“And *beware* not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, ... ²⁰“But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today.

Then he prophesied what the Lord had shown him would happen in the future:

²⁵“When you ... have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God *so as* to provoke Him to anger, ²⁶I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. ²⁷“The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you. ²⁸“There you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. ²⁹“But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. ³⁰“When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. ³¹“For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.

We saw in our study of Daniel that Israel did sin, did worship idols, was taken into captivity by the Gentiles and was dispersed throughout the Gentile nations.

The 70th week – the seven year period under the power of the AntiChrist – is divided into two halves. The second half is the the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation will be particularly hard on Jerusalem and the nation of Israel.

Isa 3:1 - Isa 3:25 (NASB) (just a few excerpts – it is worthwhile to read the whole prophecy on your own)

¹ For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah Both supply and support, the whole supply of bread And the whole supply of water;² The mighty man and the warrior, The judge and the prophet, The diviner and the elder,³ The captain of fifty and the honorable man, The counselor and the expert artisan, And the skillful enchanter. ⁴ And I will make mere lads their princes, And capricious children will rule over them, ⁵ And the people will be oppressed, Each one by another, and each one by his neighbor; The youth will storm against the elder And the inferior against the honorable...
...⁸ For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, To rebel against His glorious presence. ⁹ The expression of their faces bears witness against them, And they display their sin like Sodom; They do not *even* conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. ¹⁰ Say to the righteous that *it will go well with them*, For they will eat the fruit of their actions. ¹¹ Woe to the wicked! *It will go badly with him*, For what he deserves will be done to him...
²⁴ Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; Instead of a belt, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp; Instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty. ²⁵ Your men will fall by the sword And your mighty ones in battle.

The Day of the Lord will end the Great Tribulation and will mark an end of Gentile domination over Israel. It will also be a day of punishment for Israel – for the Lord has been angered over their sin. But their punishment will be followed by their complete healing.

Jer 30:7 - Jer 30:24 (NASB)

⁷ ‘Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s distress, But he will be saved from it.

⁸‘It shall come about on that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves. ⁹‘But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. *(The reference to David is presumed to be a reference to Christ, who is the heir of David whom God promised will govern Israel forever.)*

¹⁰ ‘Fear not, O Jacob My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘And do not be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar And your offspring from the land of their captivity. And Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease, *(We’ll see more about the regathering of Israel shortly)* And no one will make him afraid.

¹¹ ‘For I am with you,’ declares the LORD, ‘to save you; For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, Only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly And will by no means leave you unpunished.’...Because your iniquity is great *And* your sins are numerous, I have done these things to you...

¹⁷ ‘...[but] I will restore you to health And I will heal you of your wounds,’ declares the LORD, ‘Because they have called you an outcast, saying: “It is Zion; no one cares for her.”’ *(Note that the Lord is doing this to show He is God)*

¹⁸ “Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob And have compassion on his dwelling places; And the city will be rebuilt on its ruin, And the palace will stand on its rightful place...’²¹ ‘Their leader shall be one of them, And their ruler shall come forth from their midst;...’²² ‘You shall be My people, And I will be your God.’”

²³ Behold, the tempest of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, A sweeping tempest; It will burst on the head of the wicked. ²⁴ The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has performed and until He has accomplished The intent of His heart; In the latter days you will understand this.

An important part of the Day of the Lord is the regathering and restoration of the Jews to Mt. Zion (Jerusalem). We’ve read in Isa 66 about the wrath of the Lord on His Day, but interspersed in this same prophecy are references to the blessing of Israel.

Isa 66:10 - Isa 66:13 (NASB)

¹⁰ “Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her;

... ¹² For thus says the LORD, “Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;...

And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.

¹³ “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Isa 66:18 - Isa 66:21 (NASB)

¹⁸“For... the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory. ¹⁹“I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations...to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations. ²⁰“Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the LORD, “just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹“I will also take some of them for priests *and* for Levites,” says the LORD.

After the regathering, Israel will be judged, for the Lord has not forgotten their sin. He knows that some Jews are righteous and some are not – and He intends to purge out the wicked from among His people.

Ezek 20:33 - Ezek 20:44 (NASB)

³³“As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. ³⁴“I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; ³⁵and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶“As I entered into

judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷“I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

³⁹“As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord GOD, “Go, serve everyone his idols; but later you will surely listen to Me, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols. ⁴⁰“For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD, “there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. ⁴¹“As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. ⁴²“And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers. ⁴³“There you will remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done. ⁴⁴“Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name’s sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.”

The Lord warns Israel that the Day of the Lord is a day of punishment and judgment for them.

Amos 5:14 - Amos 5:24 (NASB)

¹⁴ Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, ... Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph...

¹⁸ Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It *will be* darkness and not light;... ²¹ “I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² “Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*;... ²³ “Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. ²⁴ “But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 9:9 - Amos 9:11 (NASB)

⁹ “For behold, I am commanding, And I will shake the house of Israel among all nations As *grain* is shaken in a sieve, But not a kernel will fall to the ground. ¹⁰ “All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, Those who say, ‘The calamity will not overtake or confront us.’

See Obad 1:12-21 for a warning to the Gentile nations not to rejoice over Israel's punishment and judgment, for the punishment and judgment of the Gentile nations occurs immediately thereafter.

After the wicked have been purged from Israel, the righteous of Israel will be restored and will govern the nations.

Amos 9:11 - Amos 9:15 (NASB)

¹¹ “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹² That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who are called by My name,” Declares the LORD who does this... ¹⁴ “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*;... ¹⁵ “I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

We saw in Isa 66:21 that some of the Jews will become priests and Levites, ministering before the Lord. He will also place spiritual shepherds over them to teach and guide them.

Jer 3:14 - Jer 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁴ ‘Return, O faithless sons,’ declares the LORD; ‘For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.’

There will never again be a need for the ark of the covenant which held the Law, for Israel will finally understand that the Law has been fulfilled by Christ.

¹⁵“Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶“It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land,” declares the LORD, “they will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss *it*, nor will it be made again. ¹⁷“At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of the LORD,’ and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. ¹⁸“In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance.

The regathering and restoration of Israel is a huge theme in Scripture and a covenant promise of God. See also Jer 30:2-3, Ezek 39:25-29

In this time of spiritual rebirth, Israel will receive the Holy Spirit.

Ezek 39:27 - Ezek 39:29 (NASB) ²⁷“When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. ²⁸“Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them *again* to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. ²⁹“I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.

Joel 2:25 - Joel 2:29 (NASB)

²⁵ “Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. (*This is a continuation of the prophecy we read about the army of Gog that the Lord will send against Israel.*)

²⁶ “You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. ²⁷ “Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

²⁸ “It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. ²⁹ “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

This is in striking contrast to the false prophets they listened to for their entire history. From this point forward, Israel will be able to discern rightly because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. False prophets will be put to death.

Zech 13:1 - Zech 13:9 (NASB)

¹“In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

²“It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. ³“And if anyone still prophesies (*falsely*), then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies. ⁴“Also it will come about in that day that the (*false*) prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive; ⁵but he will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, ...

Two-thirds of Israel will have perished, but one-third are righteous and will survive. This is “the Remnant” (see Isa 41:8-16, for just one of many examples).

⁸ “It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹ “And I will bring the third part through the fire, 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, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”