

The Reconciler

JERUSALEM UNITED- AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY OR THE PLAN OF GOD?

A Time Of Destiny

The 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem should be an occasion of great celebration and rejoicing for all who love the plans and purposes of God.

Three times the children of Israel have been exiled from their land. 430 years in Egypt; 70 years in Babylon and 1900 years among the nations.

Abraham foretold the first exile and the exact time of the exile was specified as 430 years (Genesis 15). Precisely on time Israel came out of Egypt by the direct intervention of God to fulfill the word He had given to Abraham. (Ex. 12)

Had the children of Israel not left Egypt on the exact year then Abraham would have been a false prophet. Abraham had accurately heard from God - and God, who never lies, against all odds fulfilled His word.

The *second exile* to the land of Babylon was a fulfillment of the prophecies of Moses and Jeremiah. Jeremiah specified the duration of the exile as 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10) and exactly as predicted God intervened again and returned Israel to its land. Again their return was against all odds, including an attempt to annihilate and exterminate them in the days of Haman.

Is the *return* of Jerusalem to Israel after nearly 2000 years (like the first two returns) a fulfillment of God's plan; or is it (as some believe) a random twist of history? A study of the prophetic scriptures shows that the return of Jerusalem to Jewish control in 1967 is no accident of history but a definite fulfillment of God's plan. Furthermore the precise date of 1967 is given clearly (as we shall see) by both Daniel and Jesus.

Daniel & Jesus

Daniel describes a vision of the conquest of the Middle East (including Jerusalem) by a King from Greece (Chapter 8:5 & Daniel 8:21). In the middle of the vision he asks the angel that brought him the message "*For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to BE TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT?*" (i.e. 'How long will Jerusalem be trampled underfoot?') The answer was given: "*Unto evening and morning two thousand three hundred: and the sanctuary shall be cleansed.*" (Literal translation) (Daniel 8:13-14)

Daniel was told that Jerusalem (the place of the sanctuary) was to be under gentile domination for a 2,300 period. Most scholars agree this is a period of 2,300 years. It is commonly known that Alexander the Great of Greece conquered the Middle East in 334 BC. The prophecy indicates that Jerusalem will be *trampled underfoot* by the Gentiles for 2,300 hundred years from Alexander's conquest of the Middle East. This takes us, amazingly, to exactly 1967!! (-334BC +2300 =1967AD exactly; since there is no year 0 we add 1.)

There can be no doubt, therefore, that Jesus understood that Jerusalem would come back under Jewish sovereignty 2,300 years after Alexander's conquest i.e. 1967.

When Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and the third exile of the Jewish people he quoted from the question that Daniel asked the angel "*How long is the vision of the sanctuary and host to be TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT?*" (Daniel 8:14) and he states simply that "*Jerusalem will be TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles are fulfilled.*" (Luke 21:24) (The 'times of the Gentiles' means 'the period of Gentile control of Jerusalem'.)

But how long is this period going to last? Jesus tells us that to answer this we should remember the answer the angel gave Daniel. When Daniel asked "How long?" he was essentially told: "The time of Gentile domination of Jerusalem will end 2,300 years after the King of Greece puts Israel under his rule." Jesus (interpreting Daniel) indicates that the impending diaspora of the Jewish people from Jerusalem should be understood as having duration of 2,300 years from the conquest of Alexander and therefore comes to an end in the year we call 1967.

In the light of this tremendous prophecy of Daniel and its interpretation by Jesus there can be no doubt that June 1967 and the present day restoration of Jerusalem to Jewish control is the fulfillment of the divine plan and not a mere accident of history!

A 40 Year Delay

From the Exodus to the Promised Land there was a 40-year interim period in the wilderness. During this time they were emancipated from Egypt but without sufficient vision to enter the Promised Land. They tasted a sample of the grapes of the Promised Land but never possessed the vineyard.

The last 40 years - the charismatic era- (from 1967 until 2007) has been a similar era for the church. There has been a partial but limited experience of the kingdom the power and the glory of God.

A new era (foreseen by Jesus) begins this year coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. This era may well parallel the days of Joshua. After a 40-year era we may move past the limitations of the charismatic era into a time of fuller possession of our heritage as believers.

Recovering The Call

The benign invasion of earth by heaven to roll back the curse and extend God's mercy to every corner of this broken world is the greatest thing happening on the earth today.

A generation of believers searching for purpose and meaning have the opportunity to respond to God's call on their lives. They shall discover, what followers of Jesus of all generations have discovered, - the pearl of great price. This pearl is the kingdom of God. It is more valuable than any earthly treasure or exalted office. It is the

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awesome inspiring plan of God for all who respond. Those who find this pearl shall be given a purpose for living that no university or corporation can give. They will become part of the revolution of love initiated in heaven to bring God's mercy through Jesus and His atoning sacrifice to the ends of the earth.

In the early church healings, miracles, visitation by holy angels, supernatural transportation, raisings from the dead were normal. Today the body of Christ is hearing afresh the call to inherit its possessions.

- To function in a share of the anointing of Jesus
- to be in the world as He was in the world,
- to pray to the Father as He did and
- do the works that He did,

is the heritage of believers.

Tradition and unbelief have robbed us of much of this heritage. Just as the children of Israel were restrained and detained in the wilderness it seems that the church has been restrained from much of our inheritance.

We believe that Jesus foresaw this new day (2007, 40 years after 1967) as a time when the restraint will be removed and a new generation of believers will move beyond the limitations of past generations to fully possess our inheritance as sons and daughters of God.

This generation can forget the failures and unbelieving traditions of the past (as the Joshua generation did) and lay hold of that which God is setting before us NOW – the opportunity to advance His Kingdom and extend His mercy further. *"I do not count myself to have taken possession, but **forgetting** the things behind and reaching forward to the things before I press on towards the goal."*

The recovery of the Body of Christ to its glorious destiny is intimately intertwined with the restoration of Israel. And so the restoration of Jerusalem to Jewish control is significant not only to Israel but to the Body of Christ. Israel's return and the revival of the church are part of the same restoration movement. One does not exist apart from the other. Each is an indispensable part of the advance of God's Kingdom from heaven to earth. The branches cannot boast over the roots, and the root does not flourish independently from its branches. *"Do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you."* (Rom.11:18)

The High Calling

If God has called you to really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility. He will demand such obedience of you that he will not allow you follow other Christians and in many ways He will seem to let other people do things he will not let you do. Others .. may push themselves pull wires and work schemes to carry to their plans but you cannot do it and if you attempt it you will meet such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag of themselves, on their work on their success .. but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing.

.. Others may be honored and put forward but the Lord will keep you hidden in obscurity because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory - fruit which can only be produced in the shade.

.. When you become so possessed with the living God that, in the secret pace of your heart, you are pleased and delighted over this peculiar private protective guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over you r live, you will have found your vestibule of heaven.

- **Gordon Lindsay**
"Christ For the Nations"



Vision of The Kingdom

" Much of current Christianity is bereft of the Holy Spirit's "signs

and wonders" Jesus promised and in their place has substituted an alluring - but soulish - imitation. The greatest problem in the North American Church is its creation of this "denominationalized" gospel, which has been re-designed to accommodate dozens of public opinions. In many cases, truth that does not fit local preference is carefully disqualified: 1 Corinthians 11 is valid, 12 is not, 13 is valid, 14 is not. 15 is valid ... and so the emasculation of the Word continues. The result is a "church" gospel with which denominational hierarchies are comfortable -- the "Kingdom" gospel has been subtly replaced.

Thankfully, this is not true in other parts of the world-- and explains why their gospel is "turning the world upside-down." Acts 17:6. In the past century, primarily as a result of full-gospel preaching, more than 100,000,000 believers in Latin America have come to Christ. In China the statistics are more amazing. Africa is ablaze".- **Charles Carrin**



www.charlescarrinministries.com

Aligning With God

Pastor Sunday Adelaja pastor of the largest charismatic church in Europe in Kiev, Ukraine takes a week off each month to seek the Lord.

For the first two days, he keeps on repeating: "Lord you are God and I am not."

The next two days, he keeps on repeating, 'Lord show

me what You are doing on the earth today'

The last three days, he keeps on repeating 'Lord show me



part in what You are doing on the earth today' ."

Church Trends

"Unless religious leaders take younger adults more seriously the future of American religion is in doubt "says Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow

The proportion of young adults identifying with mainline churches is about half the size it was a generation ago Evangelical Protestants barely hold their own. Too many youth groups are holding tanks with pizza. There's no life transformation taking pace," Stetzer says. "People are looking for a faith that can change them and to be part of a changing world.' -**Source USA Today August 7th 2007**

Comment: Young believers are dissatisfied with mere nominal faith. They want to experience the power of God. They are not content to be passive church members but want to be involved with advancing the purposes of God.

Churches which ignore the power of the Spirit and fail to mobilize and equip its members for service cannot expect to survive. Christianity without first hand encounter and discipleship is dead.

Dear Friends

Hope all is well with you since we last wrote.

As we write we are at home for a few weeks in Florida - a great place to be in the summer, regrouping and preparing for our next travels. We had a busy ministry visit to Ireland and Northern Ireland in April, May and early June where we took about 70 meetings.

A great miracle has happened in Ireland this year. The extreme elements of the Northern Ireland 'Catholic' population and the extreme elements of the 'Protestant' population came together to form a Unity government. Together they formally and gladly buried the hatchet of sectarian hostility and hatred. Behind the scenes God was at work responding to decades of prayers and reconciliation efforts by Christians who are determined to walk in love.

The two opposite camps came together when the hitherto intransigent leader of the Protestant unionist faction, Rev. Ian Paisley (noted for his extreme anti-Catholicism) made peace with his Catholic enemies. Now in his eighties he became sick with cancer and on his sickbed was visited by the Holy Spirit who convicted him of losing

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many opportunities for peace. After this he began to reach out to his former enemies - the catholic and nationalist community around him and to the government of the Republic (south) of Ireland (which previously he regard as an enemy government. A 400-year destructive cycle of hostility between Catholics and Protestant, English and Irish has come to a decisive end this year.

Christianity itself has been released from being caught in the bitterness and struggle between rival political ideologies. There is a new opportunity to proclaim and discover the love, liberation and blessings of the kingdom of God in the land.

In July we were in Israel (without a group) with our friends Mike & Candy Mann. It was a wonderful experience. While there we attended the Foursquare pastors' conference and also had great times of fellowship and sharing with some the Messianic pastors and their congregations.

The Foursquare conference, which was led by Jack Hayford, was highly prophetic. The 3000 in attendance heard messages of their shared destiny with the people of Israel and their responsibility to bring light comfort and good news to every nation and every people.

Later this month we return to Ireland from where we will travel for ministry in England, France, Switzerland and Czech Republic before we travel to Israel to speak at the Feast of Tabernacles Conference and lead our group of enthusiastic pilgrims around the land. We will be back in Stuart in mid October and are planning ministry in some churches in the U.S. in November and December.

Our ministry stands on the prayers of our intercessors and we need prayer for the Lord to use our meetings greatly and to empower us with the strength to do our work with joy.

With deepest thanks to all of you who help us with your prayers and support - we need you - you share in all we do!

One in His great love and service,
Paul and Nuala O'Higgins

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