

## Understanding Biblical Prophecy In Terms of COVENANT

by  
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To correctly interpret biblical prophecy related to national, ethnic Israel as a separate entity from “the Israel of God” in Christ, it is important to first note that God will not, at any time in the future, “save” national, ethnic Israel apart from the faith of individual ethnic Jews being grafted into the Olive Tree, “the Israel of God,” by grace through faith in Christ.

There will be some Jews and some Gentiles who survive the tribulation and the 7<sup>th</sup> seal “great tribulation” without taking the mark of the beast and without persecuting the church, and these, according to Zechariah 12, will receive Him on the great and terrible day of the Lord.

But all those Jews who do not survive the tribulation and “great tribulation,” who have taken the mark of the beast, or who have persecuted the church, will be judged as unbelievers.

The promise of redemption, given first to Adam, then Abraham, was always a promise intended ONLY for Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Man, the only begotten Son of God, and those who are spiritually incorporated “in” Christ, those whose names have been written in the Lamb’s book of life. It was NEVER, at any time, past, present, or future, a promise intended for national, ethnic Israel.

National, ethnic Israel did hold the title-deed to that promise for awhile, but the promise itself was intended, from before the foundations of the world, for the seed of Abraham, the son of David, born without original sin, and the only national, ethnic Jew to fulfill the Law and qualify as the inheritor of the promise.

This aspect was covered thoroughly in “**The Blood Covenant**”.

There are, however, unfulfilled covenant promises made on behalf of national, ethnic Israel and unfulfilled promised curses on those who have persecuted and mistreated historic national Israel at the time that they did hold the title-deed to the promise.

***“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*** Genesis 12:3 NIV

The promises of Genesis 12:3 no longer belongs to national, ethnic Israel, because Jesus Christ, the “seed” of Abraham, for whom those promises were ultimately intended, now holds the title-deed to all the covenant promises of God.

*For as many as are the...(covenant)... promises of God, in Him...(Christ)... they are yes; therefore also through Him...(Christ)... is our Amen...(to the promise)... to the glory of God through us. 1 Corinthians 1:20 NASB* (emphasis and inserts are the author’s)

It is now the body of Christ to whom the promises of Genesis 12:3 belong, and the covenant curse is now on those who persecute the church, which potentially includes national, ethnic Israel.

It does not include those who persecute national, ethnic Israel today.

But there is an important principle we need to examine in order to correctly understand and assign scriptural truth as it relates to the unfulfilled prophecies as they were given to national, ethnic Israel or to the peoples who have persecuted them in the past when national, ethnic Israel did have the title-deed to the covenant promises of God.

First, we must remember that national Israel did hold the title-deed to the promises of Genesis 12:3, as well as all the other promises given to Abraham, up to the moment of the Lord’s resurrection. But at that singular moment the title-deed was transferred permanently to the only ethnic Jew in the lineage of David to perfectly fulfill the Law.

This transfer of the title-deed to the covenant promises of God to Jesus of Nazareth alone, though, did not cancel the, as yet, unfulfilled judgments against those who had cursed national Israel prior to the transfer of the title-deed.

As a natural example, If a person holds the title-deed to a piece of real property, with or without a mortgage lien, and the property rights of that person are violated in some manner, the appropriate court may issue a judgment against the violator and award compensation to the holder of the title-deed.

If, however, the title-deed is transferred to another owner prior to the completion of the award, the judgment penalty against the violator and the award of compensation from that judgment still belong to the original title-deed holder at the time that the judgment was made, even though ownership may have been transferred before the penalty and ensuing compensation have been executed.

Thus we need to apply this principle as we carefully examine the abstract of scripture with the help of the Spirit of truth who wrote it in order to correctly understand what is happening, or will happen, in relation to these future prophetic promises and curses.

An interesting example is the Gog-Magog war as recorded in Ezekiel 38 and 39. This is a pivotal end time one day war in which the southern country-states of Russia, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Libya and other Muslim states invade Israel.

I described this war in **The Four Horsemen** as being the culmination of the Third Jihad in which God miraculously intervenes on behalf of national, ethnic Israel, destroying 85% of the invading forces and sending fire (by command rather than supernatural fire) on the homelands of the invaders.

This single, one day event, ends the Third Jihad, elevates political Israel to a world power, causes the nations to desire a world government to restore political order and financial prosperity, and turns the heart of national, ethnic Jews back to God (though many deceived Jews respond through the restoration of temple worship and sacrifices rather than faith in Jesus Christ as the long-awaited “Messiah”).

Ezekiel’s quote of God’s promise is, ***I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the Lord am the Holy One in Israel.*** Ezekiel 39:7  
NIV

The beneficial aspects of this prophetic event are that national, ethnic Israel and the other nations will KNOW that it is God who has intervened, but God’s revealed covenant motivation for this future event is an act of judgment against the nations that persecuted the nation of Israel when national, ethnic Israel still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God. It is not, therefore, a direct or immediate response to the promise of Genesis 12:3 which now belongs to the “Israel of God.”

The prophet Ezekiel prophesied the destruction of the temple because of the unfaithfulness of national, ethnic Israel, and afterwards he witnessed the conquest of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple by the Babylonian empire under Nebuchadnezzar II.

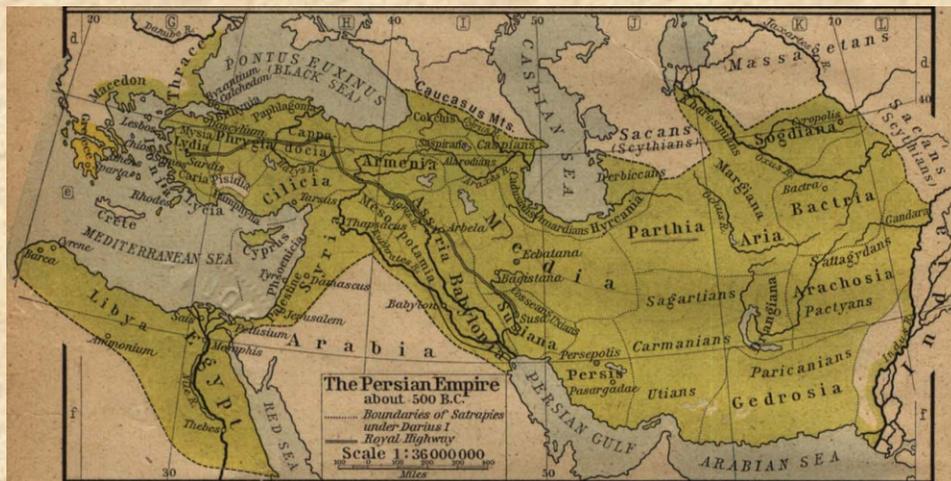
Ezekiel was taken into captivity along with many fellow Israelites, and he continued to prophesy in Babylon.

Ezekiel 35 contains a prophecy against Edom, descendants of Esau living in what corresponds with the Palestinian occupation, and in Ezekiel 36:1-7 he prophesied to the mountains of Israel, as being specifically distinct from national, ethnic Israel. The prophecy to the “mountains of Israel” was a prophecy against all those nations who had come against Israel.

This is further specified in Ezekiel 38 and 39 as he prophesies against Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and all those with him.

***I am against you, O Gog...I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel...On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and all the nations with you.*** (Excerpts from Ezekiel 39:1,2)

The geographical locations identified in the prophecy against Gog and Magog correspond very closely with the persecutory Babylonian Empire and with the succeeding Medo-Persian Empire occupying all of Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Assyria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the southern Russian country-states of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.



The Persian Empire 500 B.C.

Therefore, the judgment against those nations, as prophesied by Ezekiel, is for their historic treatment of Israel, not for some future treatment of Israel.

But why doesn't God, through the prophet Ezekiel, just say "Israel" or "my people, Israel"? Why "the mountains of Israel"? Is it possible that in His omniscience He knew that His judgment against the nations who had persecuted His people, Israel, at a time when they still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God (i.e. Genesis 12:3) would be carried out at a time when national, ethnic Israel no longer held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God?

***This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Are you...(Gog)... not the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel? At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. This is what will happen in that...(future)...day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused...(in memory of what you have done in the past and what I have promised to do to you)...***

His anger is not aroused by the attack itself, because it is God Himself who has put His hook in the mouth of Gog to make him attack the nation of Israel for the distinct purpose of carrying out a complex array of his judgments against those nations for their persecution of national Israel at a time when national Israel still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God.

This future Israel at the time of the Gog-Magog war, will not be hurt at all by this attack. It is neither a judgment against this future national Israel or the fulfillment of a covenant promise to this future national Israel. It will be the future fulfillment of a promise made to national, ethnic Israel when they were still “my people Israel” and a historic judgment against the nations that persecuted Israel when they were still “my people Israel.”

***I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign Lord. Ezekiel 38:21 NIV***

The land we recognize as the political Israel of today is only a small part of the land of future Israel during the millennial reign of the Lord, the covenant land first promised to Abraham (as a restoration of the “Eden” lost by Adam). Thus “my mountains” includes all the land originally promised to Abraham all the way to the Euphrates River. This is the covenant land to which Jesus of Nazareth and those who are in Him by faith now hold the title-deed, which will be fulfilled to the “Israel of God” during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

Dispensationalists and Christian Zionists argue that the use of the phrase “when my people Israel are living in safety” is proof of a future covenant or a continuing covenant with national, ethnic Israel at the time this prophecy is fulfilled.

However, we must take note of two things. First, God is speaking this future prophecy at a time when national, ethnic Israel still held the title-deed to the future redemptive covenant in Christ, and, at that time they still were “my people Israel.” Therefore, God spoke this prophecy in view of their status at the time of the prophecy, not in view of their status at the time of its fulfillment.

We also notice that the city of Damascus is utterly destroyed in this future event, and the implication would be that it will be destroyed by “fire” (nuclear or otherwise).

This destruction of Damascus and the defeat of the Gog and Magog, which is a Muslim alliance identified as the “Third Jihad” along with the political fall of the sons of Esau and Ishmael is NOT based on their future attack on national Israel, because Israel itself will NOT be in a covenant relationship with God at that time.

The promise of intervention on behalf of national Israel and the utter defeat of Gog and Magog, issued through Ezekiel, was a promise to national, ethnic Israel as the then owner of the title-deed to the promised redemptive covenant in Jesus Christ. And though the execution of God's covenant promise of intervention and promised judgment against those who will come against Israel has been put off, it will happen, just as it has been recorded in the scriptural abstract of His covenant.

Thus we have a covenant promise of intervention in the future made to a nation who were "my people Israel" at that time, which will be carried out at a time in which they are not "my people Israel." And we have a judgment against the people and nations who persecuted Israel at the time that national, ethnic Israel was identified by God as "my people Israel," a judgment that will be carried out at a time in which political Israel is no longer "my people Israel."

The promise, made at a time when national Israel still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God, also included God making Himself known to national Israel at some future time during which most will not know him and a similar promise to all the nations (who will be blessed through Abraham's "seed," Jesus Christ.)

***I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the Lord am the Holy One in Israel. Ezekiel 39:7 NIV***

Three promises need to be examined here. First is the promise that God will make His holy name known among "my people Israel."

Using the same logic initially used that the prophecy was issued at a time when national, ethnic Israel still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God, "my people Israel" identifies to whom the promise was initially made, which will be fulfilled to the same people, the other seed of Abraham, at a time during which they are no longer "my people Israel."

Why would He have to make His holy name known to national, ethnic Israel if they are still His covenant people?

What we can expect is that national, ethnic Israel who are no longer "my people Israel," but are the descendants of those who were "my people Israel," will experience an instantaneous awareness that God has intervened on their behalf. But the promise does not indicate that all will be "saved" and regenerated through faith in Jesus Christ as Messiah.

Many in Israel will receive Christ at that time, but just as many will cry out for the restoration of Solomon's temple, the restoration of the Levitical priesthood and the temple worship and sacrifice system, just as the Israel Faithful and Temple Mount Movement is now planning to do.

This event will also alert people all over the world that God has supernaturally intervened on behalf of political Israel, but Satan will corrupt the response to this event with false prophets and signs and wonders so convincing that even some of the “elect” will be fooled.

***For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 ESV***

The theological doctrines of Dispensationalism, Christian Zionism, and Historicism, among many others, have perverted the truth by failing to correctly examine the source of prophetic events to come, events which are the result of God’s promises and judgments given at a time in which Israel still held the title-deed to the covenant promises of God, but delivered at a time in which political Israel no longer holds the title-deed.

It is Jesus Christ, the mediator and High Priest of the New Covenant written in His blood, and those who are in Him by grace through faith, from Adam all the way forward to the last millennial saint, the “Israel of God,” who now hold the title-deed to all the covenant promises of God.

Therefore, any variation from that truth is both false and heretical.

May God, therefore, grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you examine, meditate, and pray about what has been written here.

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