



# Chazon Yerushalayim

## Jerusalem Vision



### Prayer/Newsletter February 2012

*“But you, O Lord, will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come...For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. Let this be written for a future (latter day) generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord”. (Ps. 102:12-18).*

### Praying for the Miraculous Restoration of Israel

Dearest family, friends and partners of Chazon Yerushalayim, Shalom from Jerusalem and the Lord bless you abundantly! As we are entering a tumultuous and uncertain Year 2012, the Church, spiritually speaking, is in much the same condition as were the apostles of Jesus immediately following His resurrection. I have wondered how it was possible for them not to have anticipated His resurrection for He had told them many times that this was going to happen. The problem was they heard the words He spoke but lacked divine revelation even as Luke records, “The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about” (Luke 18:34). However, during the forty days prior to His ascension, Jesus opened unto them all of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Himself and suddenly it all made sense. Like the Emmaus disciples, their hearts no doubt burned within them as they saw God's master plan through the eyes of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:25-32).

This spiritual phenomenon has been called a “prophetic paradigm shift.” Defined more succinctly, it is a radical change in our doctrine and practice as the Holy Spirit corrects and/or expands our faulty understanding of Scripture prophecies as they are being fulfilled in our day and time. I dare say, this took place in the first century with the Apostles understanding of Jesus' first coming and is occurring today regarding the Church's perception of the Restoration of Israel as a prophetic sign on the nearness of His second coming. He who has ears, let him hear! May the Holy Spirit enable all believers everywhere to embrace this “prophetic paradigm shift” principle to the end so that we may not only see what God is doing in the earth today but also agree with it and get in step with it. Many Evangelicals hold “the doctrine of imminence,” that is, that Jesus could return at any moment. I do not believe the Bible teaches this except as it applies to the fact that the day of our death may be imminent. Before the Lord returns at least three significant events must first occur: 1. The Restoration of the nation of Israel back into the land of promise (Luke 21:24-28) 2. The Return of Jewish sovereignty and control of Jerusalem 3. The building of the Third Temple, the appearance of the Antichrist (II Thess. 2:1-4), and the Times of Jacobs Troubles culminating in the Return of the King! Israel has been back in its homeland since 1948 and has been in control of Jerusalem since 1967. But the third Temple has yet to be built, the Antichrist is yet to appear, and the Time of Jacobs Troubles has not yet begun and our Beloved King Jesus has not yet returned.

**I. Why the Church needs a prophetic paradigm shift regarding the end time restoration of Israel?**

**~The misunderstanding that God's purposes for the nation of Israel ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.** Approximately a generation after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Romans under Titus defeated a Jewish rebellion and the Jewish people began a 1900 year exile from her land. Just as Jesus had predicted in Luke 21:20-24, the Temple with its sacrificial service was destroyed, tens of thousands of people were put to the sword and the rest sold as slaves and carried off to the various nations of the world. Since Jesus had come in the flesh and had fulfilled His redemptive mission as Messiah, the Church from Constantine onward believed that God had rejected Israel as a nation. If Jews were to be saved through the gospel message, they could be reached in whatever countries to which they had been exiled. However, Scripture says, "He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night..." Only if these decrees vanish from my sight, declares the Lord, will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me" (Jer. 31:35-36).

Consider also this promise, "So, then, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when people will no longer say, "As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt," but they will say, "As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them." Then they will live in their own land" (Jer. 23:7-8). And remember Jesus Himself prophesied that the Jews would once again rule Jerusalem when the times of the Gentiles would come to an end. This began to be fulfilled in 1967 when Jerusalem was reunited under Israeli control during the Six Day War the first time in almost 2,000 years! This event was not mere happenstance but divine providence!

**~The propagation of anti-Semitism within the church both Roman Catholic and Protestant.** It was bad enough that the national identity of the Jews was denied but, even worse, the Gentile church began to persecute them as "Christ killers." Many notable post-apostolic church fathers were anti-Semitic, men such as Justin Martyr, Ignatius, Tertullian, Origen and John Chrysostom. Jerome, who translated the Scriptures into Latin, claimed that the Jews were incapable of understanding the Bible and should be severely persecuted until they confessed the "true faith." What is not common knowledge to most lay persons is that Martin Luther also had strong anti-Semitic biases and wrote against the Jews. Unfortunately, the Nazi's used Luther's anti-Semitic teachings to justify the Holocaust while most German Lutherans watched passively in silence.

**~The development of Replacement Theology.** A logical consequence of teaching anti-Semitism and the end of the Jewish nation is the belief, firmly still held in most Gentile churches, that the Church has replaced Israel in the mind and plan of God. This conviction requires an allegorical method, i.e., a symbolic representation, of interpreting and applying Old Testament Scriptures that speak of Israel. Any end time prophecy referring to Israel must automatically mean the church. Again, this is what is being taught in seminaries. However, with a knowledge not based on denominational biases of the Scriptures, we should see that the latter day regathering of the Jews to the Promised Land is predicted in the Bible and that God is not finished with Israel as a nation. We should now be convinced that we have a responsibility as Gentile believers to love the Jews and help them return to the land and to find Jesus the promised Jewish Messiah (Rom. 11:25-31).

**II. What the Church needs to understand from the prophetic scriptures to get in touch with God's end time restoration of Israel?** God has a sovereign plan for the world and all of its inhabitants which will be fulfilled (Is. 46:9-10). Just as all the prophecies concerning Jesus' first coming were fulfilled to the letter, so all the prophecies pertaining to His second coming will also come to pass including the restoration of the nation of Israel. Thus, it is incumbent upon the church to diligently pray for divine revelation so that we might accurately discern the outworking of God's sovereign will especially in these last days (Eph. 1:17-19, John 16:12-16, Rev. 1:1-3).

**~The times of the Gentiles are soon coming to an end. Jesus said that Jerusalem would be restored to the Jews when the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled (Luke 21-24).** This means that since 1967 God has shifted prophetic gears. It implies that the ingathering of souls from among Gentile nations is coming to a close even as Paul states in Romans 11:25, 26, “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers. Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved.” For nearly 2,000 years, the Jews have experienced a hardening against the gospel (by divine purpose) so that the Gentile nations would hear and believe the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. But at the close of this grace period for the Gentile nations, the Lord will lift the veil from the eyes of the Jews (II Cor. 3:15, 16) and bring in the elect of Israel, chiefly in the land of Israel. This is what Paul means when he says, “And so all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:26). The Holy Spirit is telling the Gentile Church today that the full number of the elect Gentiles has nearly been harvested from among all the nations of the earth (Matt. 24:14). In short, God's mission focus has been steadily changing from the Gentiles to the Jews since 1967 when the Jewish people gained control of the city of Jerusalem after the miraculous 6 Day War if we have ears to hear.

**~God has a specific plan to gather in the elect of Israel. According to the prophetic word recorded in Psalm 102:12-18, there will come a latter day generation of Jews when “the Lord will arise and favor Zion, an appointed time when He will rebuild Israel and appear in his glory.”** This special season of divine grace began in the late nineteenth century with the birth of the Zionist movement in Europe, which gave rise to the establishment of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, by a mandate of the United Nations. Sadly, many Gentile believers and unbelievers 63 years later still regard this unusual event as a quirk of secular history which has no biblical or spiritual significance. According to prophecy experts, there are at least two phases to God's plan to rebuild Zion. The Regathering stage. Over the past sixty plus years, roughly 5 million Jews have immigrated to the land God promised Abraham and his seed. Ten million Jews yet remain in Gentile nations 6 million in America alone. Still, the Lord is calling Jews to make “Aliyah” (return to Israel). Even now the Interior Ministry in Israel is preparing for a population of 12 million Jews. This suggests that God in His providence will soon be motivating the American Jews to return to their ancestral homeland. Here are some Old Testament prophecies that speak of this great end time ingathering: “The Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you” (Deut. 30:3,4). “Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back!' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth” (Is. 43:5, 6). The Redemption stage. Most of us think that before the Lord would regather the Jews, they would first be required to repent and accept Jesus as Messiah (I Kings 8:46-53). However, many Scriptures teach otherwise, that after the Jews return to the land, the Lord will then redeem them by calling them back to Himself. Consider the following texts: “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ez. 36:24-28). “And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look upon Me whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” (Zech. 12:10)

**III. How the Lord is going to reveal Himself as the Messianic King to Israel? By His Spirit of “grace and supplications” (Zech. 12:10) and the love and support of Christians from around the world.** In Romans 11:30-31, Paul prophesies how the Gentile Church will be called on by God to befriend the Jews at the close of the age when all nations will have turned against them: “Just as you (Gentile believers) who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their (the Jews') disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you (Gentile believers).”

~The effective witness of Messianic Jews in Israel to their not yet believing brethren. In Israel today there are more than 120 Messianic congregations, home groups, and ministries all of which are experiencing maturity and growth. This is powerful evidence that the Spirit of the Lord is preparing an end time witness before lifting the veil of blindness from the Jewish people.

~For years the Lord has instructed intercessors for Israel to pray for two things: (1. the return of the Jews to their land) (2. for a mighty revival throughout Israel.) Old Testament prophecy clearly teaches that this will occur. Hear these words of Ezekiel 39:7-8, 28- 29: “I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will not longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I am the Holy One of Israel. It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign Lord. This is the day I have spoken of... I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

IV. What the Church can do to serve the Lord as He gathers in the elect of the Jews to Israel? Every Gentile believer needs to develop an relational witnessing mindset for loving the Jews that is in keeping with Paul's words in I Corinthians 9:19-20: “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became as a Jew, to win the Jews.” The Holy Spirit will have to reveal to each of us what this means in practical terms.

V. Conclusion. It is not my intention to be a date-setter as concerns the second coming of Jesus. Nevertheless, the Bible says we will know the season but not the day or the hour. The Lord said that a generation would come that would witness His return. They would know this by certain signs that would appear, an unmistakable one being the restoration of Israel and the control of Jerusalem by the Jews (Luke 21:24 -33). This has occurred in our generation. Depending on what length we give to a generation (40 or 50 years), Jesus' return could be less than 10- 20 years away! Are you and your family ready? Are you praying to God for and standing with Israel in the end of the age?

The nation of Israel had to be back in her land, having her national life built around God's altar and temple, in order to prepare for the first coming of the Savior. In the same way, Israel today is being called back to her land, and the House of the Lord is being built (with living stones this time)...By God's own wisdom and mercy He determined that Israel be brought toward her inevitable encounter with her Messiah leaning on Gentile hands, so that the ancient debt of love will be paid back at the close of this age. As I have said before, Israel gave birth to the Church in the first century, and the Church will now give birth to Israel in the last. Let God be glorified. Even so, come Lord Jesus! Chazon Yerushalayim deeply appreciates your continued prayers and support for this ministry in Jerusalem, Israel. May our Lord bless each of you from Jerusalem with our love and shalom!

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