

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.**
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

#04-1094

Why Modern Israel?

August 16, 2010

This quasi-series on the apparent Jew is not meant in any way to express animosity toward anyone or any people group. **God is love.** His love is calling all mankind unto His Son, who is mankind's only true hope for life. He alone is the Way, the Truth, the Life, and the Resurrection. There is no immortality apart from Jesus Christ. All are beckoned to believe on Jesus.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

I am simply trying to do my part to give forth the report (word) of Christ so that those who have ears to hear will hear and, by the Spirit of God, either will be given the faith of the Son (1 Timothy 1:14) to believe or will be given vision of God's plan and purpose to encourage and invigorate them to press on toward the goal for the prize. Ultimately, God will save all mankind; it is a question of when an individual will come into this living relationship with the God who created all things.

Well, this issue poses the question: Why modern Israel? Another way to ask it: If modern Israel is to be judged by God, why did He allow it to come back to life on the land of Israel? What is the purpose? The simple answer is to fulfill prophecy. But this alone is not an adequate answer, for it does not answer the question: Why did the Lord speak forth prophecy in the first place? In other words, what is the purpose behind prophecy? Is God just flexing His muscles, so to speak, to show who is in charge? Hardly! It has to do with the righteous and just character of God. In the end, no one will be able to accuse God.

Let us consider the three main figures that play into end-time prophecy.

First, there is **Ishmael** who lost out on the inheritance of the land through no fault of his own. This was the will of God. He was a firstborn son in the house of Abraham, but it was not God's intent to give him the inheritance of the land. The land was not for him but for Isaac and his descendants. To be fair, God did bless Ishmael. Today, Ishmael is identified with the Arabs. God has given some of them vast resources, namely, oil that has produced great wealth for their nations. The conflict in the Middle East today is over the rightful heir of the land of Canaan, that is, the land promised to Abraham and his descendants. The Ishmaelites believe it is their land, so they fight for it and over it. Thus, Ishmael wants to be vindicated. Is there no justice?

Second, there is **Esau-Edom** who, by his own doing, lost out on the inheritance of the land. Yet, he lost the dominion blessing through no fault of his own. His father was deceived by Jacob. This too was the will of God, for God's plan called for the King and the Kingdom to come through Judah (scepter) and Joseph (birthright). But who can reason with Edom, for he will not listen? In his mind, he was wronged by Jacob-Israel, so much so that when he became part of modern Jewry, he was complicit in taking the name of *Israel* as the name for the Jewish state. He couldn't insist on the name *Edom* because he had become an apparent Jew. He could have insisted on the name *Judah*, even though he was not a descendant of Judah. However, taking the name *Israel* would be the height of effrontery. Why not? After all, Jacob deceived their father by disguising himself as Esau. An eye for an eye! Why not take the birthright name that God gave Jacob? Again, after all, didn't he sell his birthright in a weak moment of fear? How was he to know what he had sold away when he was a mere lad of 15? He believes he would have done a much better job of fulfilling God's will than his supplanter brother. In his mind, he thinks he deserves a second chance. Thus, Edom wants to be vindicated. Is there no justice?

Third, there is **Judah** or, more specifically, the bad figs of Judah that not only rejected Christ but demanded His crucifixion. The bad figs of Judah continue to this very day to reject Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God and the rightful King of Judah. They are **modern Zionists** who seek to take the kingdom by force and without Christ. They have seated themselves on the throne over the land and have usurped the throne and the name *Israel*, which they know they have no right to own. The house of

Israel remains lost in the world, waiting for Jesus, the antitype of Joseph, to come and reunite Judah and Israel. Shiloh must come! They are not looking for vindication. They think they are in the right and can win through the arm of the flesh. Besides, they think they are the chosen of God and doing God's will. They are living a lie, calling themselves *Jews* when they are not (Revelation 2:9). Their circumcision is a religious one of the flesh and not of the heart. They are blind and dull of hearing. **Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see** (Isaiah 42:18 NASB). And, Christians support them and Edom in their deception, instead of provoking them to jealousy (Romans 11:11). Instead, they too look around at the world that stands against them and ask: Is there no justice?

Yes, there is! It is not found in the court of man in Man's Day. It is in the foundation of God's throne.

(1) The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. (2) Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. (3) Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries round about. (Psalm 97:1-3 NASB)

God is giving Edom and evil Judah the desire of their hearts to prove to them that they are not any better than their brethren when it comes to the birthright and dominion, for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God** (Romans 3:23). Besides, **God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all** (Romans 11:32).

God is being just by allowing them to prove their unworthiness to rule in His kingdom so that, in the judgment, they cannot accuse Him of being unfair to them. God shows no partiality, so He is giving Edom and evil Judah a chance to fail, just as their forefathers failed. If they could see themselves in prophecy, they would fall on their knees and repent.

The good news is that a day will come when they will bow their knee with the rest of mankind (Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:11) and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11), just as their brethren, the good figs of Judah, have already done and are now the ecclesia of God, the true Jews, and the spiritual Israel of God that is being built into New Jerusalem, the dwelling of God *in spirit*.

The solution is to believe on God's Son and to be grafted into the good fig tree of Judah and, ultimately, into the cultivated olive tree that leads to the Tree of Life, New Jerusalem. All the tree nations of today's world are but bramble. They will be cut down and burned to make way for **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15). By the way, the Lord is not after the destruction of man. He is after the destruction of the carnal flesh of man, and He will burn it away with His righteous law.

So, in closing, what we see happening in the land of Israel and the Middle East today is an age-old struggle being played out that soon will come to God's rightful conclusion. However, when we look at modern Israel, its city (Jerusalem), and its people, we need to be mindful of a few things.

The modern state of Israel has usurped the birthright name *Israel* that was given to Joseph, who is a type of Christ in His second coming. Even if those of modern Israel were all purebred Judahites, they still would not be qualified to take the name *Israel* that is reserved for the house of Israel, not the house of Judah, as long as the two houses are separated. The two houses must be reunited. The King and Shepherd must come for this to happen (Ezekiel 37:15-24).

The present Jerusalem is not God's city; the holy city, New Jerusalem is. The present Jerusalem is scheduled for destruction to make way for New Jerusalem.

The Jew is not a purebred race of people with a genealogy traced to Judah-Jacob. They are far from it. To be sure, there are *some* who have *some* DNA traceable to Jacob-Israel and any one of his sons, not just Judah. However, the modern Jew is also made up of Edomites, Ishmaelites, and the Ashkenazis from the line of Japheth, who was Shem's brother (see issue #04-1083, August 5, 2010). Apart from Christ, all are **apparent Jews**, not true Jews as God defines a Jew. Apparent Jews lie; they are the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:9). This is God's word on the matter, not mine.

What is God after in all this? Simply, He is after the flesh of man that sees no need for His Son.