

BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES

King Jesus gathering Israel

***Act 1:6** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

This was the wrong question to ask the Lord Jesus? There is no kingdom to restore again to Israel because the kingdom belongs to Jesus. The correct question should have been: “Lord, will thou at this time restore the kingdom to yourself?” All prophecies declared that the Lord Jesus would gather Israel from the four corners of the earth, bring them back to the Holy Land and reign as King over them. “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7). Please keep in mind that the current government of Israel is not a kingdom, but a parliamentary democracy. In other words, we need to look for a son, who is the everlasting Father, who will return and establish an eternal kingdom in Israel today. This can only be the Lord Jesus Christ. Be assured of one thing, saints of God, God is not a man that he should lie – he will not rest until he is crowned King of Israel. Even in his battered and reduced state, the Lord answered Pontius Pilate with the utmost confidence:

***John 18:37** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

In 2015, I travelled for the first time in my life to Israel. The flight went through Moscow, Russia. On board the plane, I suddenly noticed that many of the new passengers who boarded the flight to Israel wore Jewish attire but spoke and looked Russian. My mind went back to the TV images I saw from the early 1990s when long queues of Jews formed outside the Israeli Embassy in Moscow with a desperate hope of finally returning to the land of their ancestors (Operation Exodus II). The prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled right before my eyes. “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers” (Jeremiah 16:14&15). Today, there are close to 1 million Russian Jews in

Israel. The time has come, saints of God, for the kingdom to be restored to the Lord Jesus Christ. What a momentous time in the history of the world we are living in? Thank God for this enormous privilege which many faithful Christians were unable to experience! Jesus is indeed gathering Israel so he can reign over them and the world. Let us say with joy, “Thy kingdom come, Jesus!”

Why must the Lord Jesus Christ reign as a King, one may ask! It is not as if this is a new role assigned to him. Rather, the Lord was king in Jerusalem before Abraham arrived there from Ur of the Chaldees. “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God” (Gen 14:18). Now, it is highly significant that Melchizedek met Abraham after he returned from defeating five kings. “For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him” (Hebrews 7:1). In 1967, Israel also defeated five Arab armies (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq) after which they returned to Jerusalem after 1897 years. The Lord Jesus is Melchizedek: he has always been the King of Jerusalem, Israel and the world. It is he who enabled Abraham to defeat the five armies of the plan, and it is he who enabled Israel to defeat five Arab armies and retake their ancient capital.

Psalm 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Mat 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Mat 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Isn't it interesting that Melchizedek welcomed Abraham to Jerusalem after Abraham conquered the five armies of the plain? Similarly, the Lord Jesus will empower us to conquer our enemies that may appear as kings and welcome us to Jerusalem with his own flesh and blood. We see the same pattern in salvation also: we first repent and then are baptized in Jesus' name (Acts 2:38) before we receive the Lord's Supper. As long as we are willing to fight the five kings of the plain who spiritually represent sin, the flesh and the Devil, King Jesus is waiting to welcome us to Jerusalem with his flesh and blood. Years later, when God commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac on Mount Moriah, we can certain that Abraham was aware that Mount Moriah was in Jerusalem, the city of the great King. We can be certain that Abraham knew this sacrifice had something to do with Melchizedek's flesh and blood represented by the bread and wine for the Apostle Paul states, “And the scripture, foreseeing

that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed” (Galatians 3:8). Abraham was assured that nothing bad can happen to him and the child of the promise in Jerusalem, the city of the great King.

There is always a final war preceding the entrance into Jerusalem. “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev 16:14). Even when the Lord returns with the church, he must first destroy the armies of the world gathered together at Armageddon before he enters triumphantly into Jerusalem. In this sense, Jerusalem represents heaven. None can enter this city of the great King, Jesus, without fighting many armies and defeating them. Eight times in the Book of Revelation the Lord Jesus says, “To him that overcometh ...”. How do we overcome? The Apostle John tells us, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4).

In conclusion, we are the blessed generation that is seeing the fulfilment of ancient prophecy before our eyes. Jesus is gathering Israel back from the nations. “For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land” (Ezek 36:24). Five times I travelled to Jerusalem and can confirm the following scripture, “And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen” (Ezek 36:30). In the next stage of prophecy fulfilment, the Lord will give Israel a new spirit and heart. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezek 36:26). It should fill our hearts with great comfort and joy to know that such mighty prophecies that are impossible for humans to fulfill, have been made possible through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come, let us like Abraham, David and other holy people of God, fight the armies of sin that accost us in the name of Jesus and overcome, for then shall the Lord welcome us to Jerusalem.

Zech 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD

Zech 2:11 And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

Zech 2:12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

Let us close by wishing each other, “Next year in Jerusalem!”