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AUSCHWITZ why it will happen again!



This year marks the 60th anniversary of the uncovering, to the general public, of the dreadful activities of Nazi Germany in its efforts to exterminate the Jewish race. The horrific scenes of Hitler's death camps are once again to be remembered by the world. This is but right and the crimes should never be forgotten. As Christians, we should especially be grieved for the Jewish people. Our blessed Redeemer was a Jew. We owe the gospel that saved our souls for all eternity to the Jewish people and to Jewish evangelists. Our chief

heroes, the Pauls, the Peters, the Johns, were all Jews. What a debt we owe to that people!

The horrors of the holocaust against the Jewish people are not over, despite the statements of world leaders that the like of this can never happen again. It can and it will! The Bible has much to say about the Jewish people and the future that awaits them.

The prophets reveal that Israel shall abide without a king for a long period.

"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim," Hosea 3:4.

The beginning of this period was AD 70, when the overthrowing of the Jewish nation took place.

In and around AD 60, Israel still had the structure and character of nationhood as Acts 23:1-5 demonstrates. In the exchange between Paul and the Chief Priest we have Paul quoting from the Old Testament. "Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people," verse 5. At that time, Israel still was under a limited form of self-government under its own rulers. That all ended in AD 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the people of Israel by the Roman Empire. Those circumstances into which Israel was brought by its overthrow continued for a long time, nigh on 1900 years.

The first sign that this period of scattering is coming to an end is the regathering of Israel back to her own land again.

"And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land," Ezekiel 37:21. The Lord said that this event will mark the drawing to an end of the period of exile and scattering. This gathering culminated in the rebirth of Israel in 1948. "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I



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have given them, saith the LORD thy God," Amos 9: 14-15. That final phrase, "they shall no more be pulled up out of their land" indicates that the prophecy did not refer to the return to Israel in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah for, subsequent to that return, they were removed out of the land again. This return is to be a final and lasting return. "And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul," Jeremiah 32: 39-41. Again there is an emphasis upon a permanent return. Israel will return in unbelief. They remain estranged from the God of Israel. "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 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. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them," Ezekiel 36:24-27. Please note that the return to the land will take place and then afterwards the converting of Israel.

The finalising of this restoration will be marked by a period of intense persecution against Israel in her own land.

This period of persecution is referred to in a number of areas in the Bible. "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it," Jeremiah 30: 7. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book," Daniel 12: 1. "The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it," Zechariah 12: 1-3. "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God," Zechariah 13: 8-9. "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city," Zechariah 14: 1-2. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto



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them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24: 15-22.

It is to deliver Israel from this great attack that the Lord Jesus shall return in glory and power.

"For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him," Jer 30:8. "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south," Zech 14: 3-4. picture That pictured for us in the Exodus, the three Hebrew children, Daniel in the lion's den — the wonderful deliverance from the very doorstep of destruction — will take place. Israel will be regenerated by the grace and power of the Holy Ghost. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn," Zechariah 12: 9-10. The very first verse we quoted in this article spoke of the long period of wandering and scattering of Israel, but it also referred to the mercy with which they would eventually be visited. "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: **afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days,**" Hosea 3: 4-5. Yes, there is a great time of trouble ahead of that ancient people who foolishly and wickedly rejected their Messiah, but the promise of a glorious future for a remnant is also held out. "And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: and I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them," Jeremiah 32: 36-42.

It is the duty of every child of God to pray for the restoration and peace of Jerusalem. "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day



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nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth, " Isaiah 62:6-7. Great things await this world upon the restoration of the Jewish people to faith in Jehovah. "Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Romans 11:12, 15. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee," Psalm 122:6.