

**Pamphlet No, 29**

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“In his humiliation justice was denied him”

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**A GUIDE TO BIBLE PROPHECY**

**FUNDAMENTAL FACTS:** **There** is a close relationship between Bible prophecy and the nation of Israel. It is essential to recognise this relationship. There are 5 main elements -

The book of Israel (i.e. the Bible),

The prophets of Israel,

The message of Israel,

The people of Israel,

The land of Israel.

**The term ‘Israel’** needs explanation. Israel was the name given to the nation of 12 tribes that descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These 12 tribes eventually divided into two kingdoms. One of the kingdoms, comprising two of the tribes, was known as Judah; the people of this kingdom came to be known as Jews. The bond of brotherhood between the people of Judah and the Israelites of the other 10 tribes was broken at the time of the prophet Zechariah. Modern Jews of the State of Israel are a remnant of the Kingdom of Judah; they do not represent all the 12 tribes.

**THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF PROPHECY:**

There are 4 major issues -

The “curse” of Israel

The "restoration" of Israel

The appearing of the “messiah” or anointed ruler

“The day of the Lord.”

**The “curse” of Israel: Refer** to Deuteronomy 30:19. Moses, servant of God and leader of Israel, placed the nation’s responsibility squarely before the twelve tribes – “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse...” Even as he spoke he was aware what choice the nation would make and what consequences would follow. (Deuteronomy 31:29). Israel was to be scattered among the nations. The Ten Tribes were removed from the land by Assyria in 721 BC and did not return. Judah was overrun and taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (604 BC onwards). A number of these “Jews” (as they were coming to be called) returned to the land at the end of their captivity. For Judah the curse commenced at the time of this Babylonian conquest (Daniel 9:11). The scattering among the nations is usually referred to as “the Diaspora” or dispersion. The period covered by the “curse” can be calculated from individual prophecies. For the Jewish people it terminated in 1917.

**The “restoration” of Israel:** Refer to Ezekiel 37:21. “I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, wither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.” This text is representative. Note the clearly stated elements:

restoration of the people to the land,

reunification of the tribes into one nation,

the reign of God’s anointed king.

The bond of brotherhood of the Ten Tribes and Judah, broken at the time of Zechariah (Zech. 11:14), was to be restored (Ezekiel 37:16/19).

**The appearing of the “messiah”, the anointed ruler:** The restoration of Israel and the presence of the “messiah” came to be thought of as concurrent events. This, apparently, is clearly stated. But messianic prophecy is concerned primarily with the projection of the timeless values of God into the affairs of men, and this projection is nowhere limited to a particular period or event. The messiah “emerges” from the history of Israel as the embodiment of the servant nation’s ideals and values. This “emergence” is the animating spirit of messianic prophecy. (For further discussion see pamphlet No. 14).

**The "day of the Lord":** More commonly called Armageddon; this battle is both physical and spiritual. It takes place within the lifetime of the generation that witnessed the events of 1917 when the Turks were driven from Palestine and the land declared a national home for the Jewish people. The terrible destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD typifies the destruction yet to come.

**COMPENETRATION - THE INTERPRETATIVE PRINCIPLE:** Many Old Testament, and some New Testament prophecies have two fulfillments. The second is foreshadowed by the first. **Examples:** destruction by fire (Lk 12:49, Mal 4:1), appearing of Elijah (Matt 17:11, Mal 4:5), restoration of Israel (John 11:52, Acts 1:6). This double application is known as “compenetration.”

**THE PATTERN OF PROPHECY:** All prophecy is fulfilled within the limits of this broad pattern. In dealing with Israel, prophecy also deals with the opponents and oppressors of Israel. Rome, destroyer of Jerusalem, and the Roman Church, insidious simulator of messianic Israel, are spoken of in prophecy, particularly Revelation chs. 12 – 18. The gathering of the nations to Jerusalem, and the destruction of the Roman Church, takes place in the present age.