

## THE NATION OF ISRAEL'S REBIRTH

### Ezekiel 36:24

**Introduction:** On May 14, 1948, 4:00 p.m. in Tel Aviv, Israel, David Ben-Gurion drove to a two-storied building wherein was an art museum. Some 400 people, of various Jewish religious leaders, politicians and press representatives from all over the world, waited anxiously. In a matter of 17 minutes Ben-Gurion had called the meeting to order and read the Declaration of Independence of the "New State of Israel." For the first time since A.D. 135 there was a land called Israel in existence.

*"Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children." Isaiah 66:8*

On that day God made good His promise for the rebirth of the nation of Israel and its restoration to the promised land. Thus **a sign that the second coming of the Lord is at hand.**

Looking back through the Bible one can see why such a promise for resurrection, rebirth and restoration was necessary:

### I. FROM THE CREATION TO THE FLOOD

1. God created the heavens and the earth, placing man and woman in charge.
  - Daily God came and fellowshiped with them.
  - The fellowship ended when Satan led them into sin.
  - The world became populated and all were evil except for one man, Noah.
  - God ended the evil world with a flood except for Noah and his family.

### II. A TOWER OF CONFUSION

1. God started over again with just eight (8) people.
  - Eventually man was back to his old evil ways. This time a tower to the heavens was being built.
  - God responded by confusing their language and thus scattering the people all over the earth.

### III. GOD DOES SOMETHING DIFFERENT

1. God decided to bring a new people upon the earth who would worship and serve Him and Him alone.
  - Thus God finds Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-5)
  - God made certain promises to Abraham concerning the new people.
    - They would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.
    - They would have their own land.
    - They would live by the plan God had for them.
    - Abraham would be their father, even at his old age.
  - God brought the Jewish nation into existence because:
    - He wanted a people, a race, who would be holy in their living, unlike all others.
    - They were to infect the world with worship of God, the only true God.

- He wanted to bless them and show the rest of the world what He could do through a people who were wholly committed to Him.
2. The Jewish people failed to meet God's desire for them.
    - They failed to be holy in their living.
    - They became idolatrous in their worship, even though God sent prophet after prophet with the message, "Repent or you will be carried into captivity."
    - The message went unheeded. Even when God sent His own Son to them, they did not listen.
  3. God dispersed the Jewish people across the world.
    - First Nebuchadnezzar carried them off. God brought them back.
    - Jesus foretold of them being scattered again. (Matthew 24:1-3)
      - 38 years after Jesus gave His warning, Rome scattered the Jews and destroyed the Temple, the landmark of the Jews, leaving not a single stone.
    - Jerusalem was totally destroyed and there was a worldwide scattering of the Jewish people into virtually every country on the face of the earth.

#### **IV. GOD HAD A PLAN ALL ALONG**

1. Almost every prophet of God had spoken of a day when God would bring His people back into their own land. May 14, 1948 was the fulfillment of this promise.
2. For over 1800 years God's special people had been scattered all over the world.
  - Targets of hate, despised, transient with no place to call home, persecuted, killed by the millions.
  - The name of their homeland, Israel, changed to Syria Palestina (Palestine), Jerusalem changed to Aelia Capitalina.
  - A pagan temple built on the site of the ancient Temple of Jerusalem.
  - Every Jew was forbidden to even approach the once sacred city.
  - The land became barren and deserted with no permanent residents from any nation.
  - The land belonged to the Romans, Byzantines, Persians, Arab Moslems, Seljuks, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Turks, and finally the British.
3. God began to work His plan:
  - By the end of World War I, almost 50,000 Jews had made their way back.
  - By 1928, over 160,000 had come back, but with much difficulty.
  - By the end of World War II, over 600,000 Jews were in Palestine, some 25% of the population.
  - None of the ancient neighbors of Israel were left: Moabites, Hittites, Ammonites, Edomites.
  - Yet, the Jews, just as God had promised, remained and returned to their land.
4. On May 14, 1948, the flag of Great Britain was hauled down, the British High Commissioner left the Holy Land for the last time and the flag of Israel went up and the nation Israel was reborn.

## V. GOD + 1 = A MAJORITY

1. The Jews must now fight to hold their newly begotten land.
  - The Palestinians vowed to do what Hitler failed to do the very next day, May 15, 1948.
  - Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Iraq with several million troops invaded Israel who had a force of 64,000 troops with 10,000 old rifles, 50 rounds of ammunition per gun, ancient artillery pieces and a few submachine guns. - **an absolutely hopeless situation by any definition.**
  - Nine months later the War for Independence was over! Israel was still Israel.
  - Since A.D. 70 Israel was conquered 14 times in 13 centuries with each of the conquering nations ruling from OUTSIDE. No one ever settling its own people within the boundaries of Israel, only a mixture of various nearby people ever occupied the land.

## VI. GOD'S PROPHECIES DO COME TRUE

1. *"Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children." (Isaiah 66:8)*
2. *"In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth." (Isaiah 11:11-12)*
3. God said that he was going to reach out a second time and regather His people. And He did.

## VI. GOD'S CLOCK IS RUNNING

1. Jesus said: *"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs are tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door." (Matthew 24:32-33)*
  - Israel is the fig tree and was dormant for over 1800 years.
  - Israel, the fig tree has now come out of dormancy and has begun to put on leaves.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Christians can see that the rebirth of Israel and God's protective hand through five Israeli wars is a loud and clear sign that God's clock is just about to run down.
2. The most prominent sign of the ages of the second coming of our Lord has been given.
3. Knowing that time is running out before the heavens part and Jesus comes for His Church, what should His Church therefore be doing?