

PARALLELS BETWEEN THE FIRST EXODUS AND THE COMING GREATER EXODUS OF ISRAEL

In this article I'd like to have a look at a momentous prophetic event to occur in the near future after the return of Jesus Christ – the coming exodus of the tribes of Israel to the land of Palestine. In studying the prophecies about this incredible event I've found some fascinating parallels with the first exodus that I'd like to share with you that I hope will help us to better understand this greater exodus to come.

This wonderful event will be preceded by the severest of trials – the captivity of the modern day nations of Israel and Judah. Part of our commission as the end-time church is warning our Israelite nations of this coming captivity. Just as Joseph was revealed to his brothers prior to the settling of Jacob's family in Egypt which was followed by their slavery, through our literature such as "The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy" we are opening the eyes of the English-speaking nations to their true identity as modern-day Joseph before the captivity of end-time Israel.

The prophecies in Ezekiel 5 show that one third of modern-day Israel will be taken captive to various nations during the Tribulation after their invasion by the coming beast power.

Amos 5:1-3 implies that our modern-day Israelite nations will be decimated in the Great Tribulation to where only 1/10 of Israel survives into the millennium. When Israel came out of Egypt they numbered around 2 to 3 million people. If we combine the peoples of America, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, NW Europe and the Jews in Palestine there would be around 350 million people. A tenth of that would leave us with 35 million people which is still over 10 times the number of Israelites who came out of Egypt. Despite the terrible loss of numbers during the tribulation this coming exodus will be enormous plus they will come from all corners of the earth rather than just out of one country.

We read of this great exodus in Jeremiah 23:7-8 if you'd like to turn there with me. So great will this exodus be that Jeremiah writes of this wonderful time, "Therefore, behold, *the* days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land".

When God brings back Israel a second time they will come from many directions including Europe and North Africa. Just as God parted the Red Sea for Israel during the first exodus God says that He will part the waters of the Nile for those coming from North Africa as they make their way to Palestine.

We read about this in Isaiah 11:11-16, " It shall come to pass in that day *that* the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea...(dropping down to verse 15) The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make *men* cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt."

We know that when Israel thirsted for water on their way to the Promised Land that God will cause water to come out of the rock for them at Horeb. When God brings Israel out of modern Babylon He will also provide water for the Israelites in this greater exodus to come.

If you'd like to turn with me to Isaiah 48:20-21 we'll read of this future miraculous provision of God, "Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this,

utter it to the end of the earth; say, 'The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!' And they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out."

Now we know that the Israelites of old didn't go straight into the Promised Land. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. In Ezekiel 20 we find that before entering Palestine God will first bring Israel into the wilderness and prepare them for entry into the Holy Land. We also read that God will purge out the rebels from Israel. Just as there was the rebellion of Korah during the first exodus there will be one this time which God will put down. In Ezekiel 20, starting in verse 33 we read:

"'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'Surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,' says the Lord GOD. 'I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I *am* the LORD."

At Mt Sinai God proposed the old covenant to ancient Israel. When God brings modern Israel into the wilderness for a time before they move into the Holy Land He will propose to them the new covenant which they will agree to. This time around Israel God will give them the Holy Spirit and they will have the heart to be able to live God's way and keep the terms of the new covenant which will be a great joy to God after the unfaithfulness of ancient Israel. The implication from Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy in Daniel 9 is that this proposing of the new covenant and preparation in the wilderness might last 3 ½ years.

This we read of Jeremiah 31, verses 31 to 33: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Another very interesting scripture about this time ahead of us is found in Isaiah 49:22. In that verse we read: "They shall bring your sons in *their* arms, and your daughters shall be carried on *their* shoulders. Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers." After their terrible captivity there will be thousands of orphans who have lost parents. Just as God is called the father of the fatherless in Psalm 68, part of our job description at this time as kings and queens will be foster fathers and nursing mothers who will look after these children and place them with parents who will take care of them.

In Ezekiel 37 we read that the kingdoms of Judah and Israel will be re-united as political entities. While this does not have a parallel with the first exodus out of Egypt it looks as if it has an interesting parallel with the British Empire. England is descended primarily from Joseph's son, Ephraim, while the Scots, according to my research, are descended, in part, from the tribe of Judah.

To help keep England Protestant Queen Elizabeth I saw to it that the throne of England passed on to James Stuart, the king of Scotland, after her death. He then became James I, king of England, in 1603. James I was the king who commissioned the King James Bible. From King James I for a century afterwards England and Scotland had separate parliaments and were still separate countries but they were ruled by the same monarch as a dynastic union.

On May 1, 1707 the Act of Union was passed which united the two countries under one parliament to create "The United Kingdom of Great Britain". This union of England and Scotland appears to have been a small forerunner of the greater reunion of the House of Israel and the House of Judah to occur after Christ returns.

After Israel enters the Holy Land they will finally fulfill their destiny (Exod.19:4-6) and become a nation of kings and priests. In Hosea 14:4-6 we read, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree."

That phrase "his branches shall spread" is used in a similar way in Genesis 49:22 in describing the prophecy of Joseph in the latter days when the British Empire spread all over the earth at the time God began to give the fulness of the birthright blessings to Israel.

Isaiah 49:20 says of Israel in the future that "The children you will have after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, 'The place *is* too small for me; Give me a place where I may dwell.' Israel in the World Tomorrow after they have been established in the Holy Land will have a population explosion like Britain did at the time of the industrial revolution and begin to colonize the rest of the world.

At first, God will leave the Gentile nations alone while He prepares Israel in the wilderness and then brings them into the Holy Land. This will be part of the reason why Gog and Magog try and conquer Israel at the beginning of the millennium to no avail (Ezek. 38-39).

Isaiah 14, verse 2 says that "they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors." Like in the days of the British Empire they will colonize other nations, help rebuild their cities, develop their civil infrastructure and teach them God's values. As they mature spiritually those nations will likely be granted independence and be a part of a great commonwealth of spiritual Israel.

There are many parallels between the imperfect human forerunner of the British Empire and the Kingdom of God. As the British Empire was led by men without God's spirit the empire was a mixture of good and evil. That said, the British extended the rule of law and order wherever they went, similar to how the law will go forth from Zion around the world in the Kingdom (Isa. 2:1-4). The 19th century was called Pax Britannica – the British Peace. Similarly Christ is called the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) because His reign will bring world peace.

During the time of their empire the British developed technology and industry well ahead of the rest of the world. People came from around the world to admire British genius displayed at the Crystal Palace during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Similarly nations will flow to Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4) and be eager to learn from God's chosen people. The British also took the Bible and many of its teachings and conservative morals throughout its empire. Queen Victoria said 'the Bible is the secret to British greatness'. Though a rather imperfect human forerunner, this was a type of God's coming Kingdom when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9).

In conclusion, the coming great exodus of all the tribes of Israel from many countries back to Palestine at the return of Jesus Christ will be an incredible event and be a greater and even more memorable event than Israel's exodus of out of Egypt. At this time the physical descendants of Israel will truly become converted and become a part of spiritual Israel – the church. When Israel's God-given talents of inventiveness and administration are used to glorify God in the World Tomorrow they will truly be the model nation God intended them to be. After Israel fulfils its destiny as God's model nation in the World Tomorrow all nations will then become converted and spiritually become a part of God's chosen people.