

The End of the Exile

Ezekiel 37:16-19 KJV Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions: 17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. 18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these? 19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

When are Ephraim (Northern kingdom) and Judah (Southern kingdom) going to be brought back together as this prophecy says? Right now Judah is in the promised land, but Israel (Ephraim) is scattered around the world. In order for the two houses to be brought together, Ephraim must be brought out of exile.

Deuteronomy 30:3 CJB At that point, Adonai your God will reverse your exile and show you mercy; he will return and gather you from all the peoples to which Adonai your God scattered you.

Isaiah 56:8 CJB Adonai Elohim says, he who gathers Isra'el's exiles: "There are yet others I will gather, besides those gathered already."

Ezekiel 34:13 CJB I will bring them back from those peoples, gather them from those countries and return them to their own land. Then I will let them feed on the mountains of Isra'el, by the streams and in all the livable places of the land.

Let's take a look at the context of these scriptures. First Deuteronomy 30:3,

Deuteronomy 30:1-2 CJB "When the time arrives that all these things have come upon you, both the blessing and the curse which I have presented to you; and you are there among the nations to which Adonai your God has driven you; then, at last, you will start thinking about what has happened to you; 2 and you will return to Adonai your God and pay attention to what he has said, which will be exactly what I am ordering you to do today - you and your children, with all your heart and all your being.

Deuteronomy 30:6 CJB Then Adonai your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your children, so that you will love Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being, and thus you will live.

Deuteronomy 30:8 CJB but you will return and pay attention to what Adonai says and

obey all his mitzvot which I am giving you today.

In order for Israel to return, Israel must turn back to God and his Mitzvot (commandments). When this happens God will circumcise their hearts.

Next Isaiah 56:8,

Isaiah 56:1-7 CJB Here is what Adonai says: "Observe justice, do what is right, for my salvation is close to coming, my righteousness to being revealed." 2 Happy is the person who does this, anyone who grasps it firmly, who keeps Shabbat and does not profane it, and keeps himself from doing any evil. 3 A foreigner joining Adonai should not say, "Adonai will separate me from his people"; likewise the eunuch should not say, "I am only a dried-up tree." 4 For here is what Adonai says: "As for the eunuchs who keep my Shabbats, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant: 5 in my house, within my walls, I will give them power and a name greater than sons and daughters; I will give him an everlasting name that will not be cut off. 6 "And the foreigners who join themselves to Adonai to serve him, to love the name of Adonai, and to be his workers, all who keep Shabbat and do not profane it, and hold fast to my covenant, 7 I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

The end of the exile is not just about those who are physical descendants of Israel. This passage specifically mentions the foreigners who join Adonai. In fact it says the "foreigner joining Adonai should not say, "Adonai will separate me from his people". I believe that the Gentiles who have attached themselves to Adonai will return with the rest of Israel.

Finally let's look at Ezekiel 37. There is too much there to put here, so you will have to read it in your own Bible.

Immediately before the teaching of the two sticks is the teaching with the dry bones. It says:

Ezekiel 37:12 CJB Therefore prophesy; say to them that Adonai Elohim says, 'My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Isra'el.

After the two stick teaching, it talks about the end of sin. It says that Israel will live there forever. And it says that God will dwell with them.

Jeremiah 16:14 compares it to the exodus from Egypt.

Joel 3:1 speaks of the end of the exile. Farther down the passage, judgment on the nations is mentioned.

The exiles will be gathered in the last days.

Are we in the last days?

Zephaniah 2:2-4 KJV Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you. 3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger. 4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

Gaza has been forsaken by Israel.

Zechariah 14:2 KJV 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.

The nations are conspiring to divide Jerusalem.

These are some of the signs that we may be in the last days.

So, what does all of this mean for us? I believe that we need to watch what is happening, study and compare it to the Word, and prepare for the end of the exile.

Here are a few scriptures that have yet to be fulfilled:

Isaiah 4:5-6 CJB Adonai will create over the whole site of Mount Tziyon and over those who assemble there a smoking cloud by day and a shining, flaming fire by night; for the Glory will be over everything like a hupah. 6 A sukkah will give shade by day from the heat; it will also provide refuge and cover from storm and rain.

Hosea 12:9 KJV And I *that am* the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

Tradition says that only 20% of the Israelites left Egypt in the Exodus. Regardless of whether that number is accurate, there is a possibility that there were some Israelites who put the blood on their door post but did not leave Egypt.

If God calls you out, are you willing to leave everything that you have and follow Him into the wilderness?

This article doesn't even scratch the surface of this topic. I encourage you to dig deeper

into this topic. Below is a link to another good article on this subject by Monte Judah:
<http://www.lionlamb.net/v3/YavohHeisComing/01/04>
I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this subject.

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