

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 148
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The Storm on the sea of Galilee by Rembrandt Cir. 1633

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

One-Hundred-Forty-Eight

THE LORD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

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Isaiah 66:22

²² For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith Jehovah, so shall your seed and your name remain (ASV, 1901).

The Lord here says that in the Messianic Kingdom the final segment begins and ends with the joyous renovation of the universe when He says, “*For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith Jehovah*”. God will have renovated His world, and sin will never control it again. The tragedies of the sinful old world, which He let run its course as Satan was allowed to infect it will be over. The great mass of the world of nations will perish, but the seed and name of Israel, i.e., Israel as a people with the same ancestors and an independent name, continues forever, like the new heaven and the new earth. Because the calling of Israel towards the world of nations will be fulfilled and everything will have become new, the former fencing off of Israel from other nations comes to an end.

God has made some irrevocable, unilateral commitments, formal covenants or promises, and one of His most essential characteristics is that He delights in making and keeping His promises. Many modern churches fail to appreciate the seriousness of these covenants and the fact that the Land Covenant, Davidic, Covenant and New Covenant all flow from the Abrahamic Covenant. Abraham was a Gentile when this covenant was first made. God made seven eternal promises to Abraham.

1. And I will make of thee a great nation,
2. and I will bless thee,
3. and make thy name great;
4. and thou shalt be a blessing;
5. And I will bless them that bless thee,
6. and curse him that curseth thee:
7. and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12:2-3

However, the sin of Israel and the greed of the world rulers made it seem as if even God could or would not keep His promises. Nonetheless, God is greater than human sin and human pride and will always keep His promises. The old heavens and earth had been called to witness the justice of God in punishing His people. Now the eternity of the new heavens and earth stands as a testimony to the eternity of God's promises. God gave His prophets God's promises and one of those was given to Jeremiah regarding the perpetuity of the nation Israel.

Jeremiah 31:35–37

³⁵ Thus saith Jehovah, who giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, who ^ustirreth up the sea, so that the waves

thereof roar; Jehovah of hosts is his name: ³⁶ If these ordinances depart from before me, saith Jehovah, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. ³⁷ Thus saith Jehovah: If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, then will I also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Here the Lord makes it certain that there is nothing anyone can do on earth or in Heaven to cause God to *cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith Jehovah*. This has been made obvious over the centuries through various circumstances. These 12 situations past, present, and future demonstrate the perseverance of Israel through history.

1. THE CORRUPTION OF ADAM'S LINE (GENESIS 6)

The apostle Paul, who recognized that demonic warfare was taking place in the spirit world, warned us that we were the objects of their wrath (Ephesians 6: 10-13). After Satan's success in the Garden of Eden, the next attack by Satan to prevent the coming of the Messiah was the series of events recorded in Genesis 6:1-5. Jewish scholars clearly understood this passage to be a union of angels and humans, which produced a corrupt line of humans known as the Nephilim. This was the cause of the Great Flood, to eliminate these monsters and restart the human line through which Jesus would come. The Lord Jesus warned His disciples that similar events would transpire when He was about to make His second coming to the earth and told them, and us, not to be deceived (Matthew 24: 4. 37).

2. FAMINE (GENESIS 42)

Famine came into the world and again threatened to terminate the family line of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, in Canaan. They would have died out had the Lord not intervened and caused the events that brought Joseph and then the rest of the family down to Egypt to survive and then thrive.

3. DESTRUCTION OF MALE LINE (EXODUS 1)

Satan, through Pharaoh Thutmose II, enslaved the Jews to stop the Messianic line from developing. Enslavement was only partially effective so Pharaoh decided to enact a more aggressive policy of infanticide. The king's instructions were explicit to the midwives: male babies were to be killed and female infants kept alive. The midwives, who feared God, disobeyed Pharaoh and under threat of death delivered the male babies alive to preserve the seed line.

4. PHARAOH'S PURSUIT (EXODUS 14)

As the Hebrews left Egypt in the Exodus following a series of miracles brought on by God, Pharaoh chased them with his army. As Pharaoh's armed troops approached, the Jews became fearful because they were trapped between the Red Sea and a vicious foe behind them. Then the angel of God, who guided them, moved from the front of the Israelites to the rear to protect them from the charging Egyptians. The angel shifted from guide to guardian! All through that night the pillar of cloud, which also had moved to the rear to be between the two camps, brought such darkness that military advance was impossible for the Egyptians. That night God performed another miracle by

splitting the sea by a strong east wind and drying the sea floor. While the wind kept the sea floor dry and the sea split, the Israelites walked through the sea bed to dry land on the other side. However, when the Egyptians came after them, God commanded the sea to return to its original state and drowned the entire Egyptian army.

5. JEHORAM KILLS HIS BROTHERS (II CHRONICLES 21)

As King Jehoram of Judah came to power, he killed his brothers along with others of the royal family, perhaps because of his close ties with the wicked rulers of the northern Israel. He too would suffer a cruel death after a brief reign of only eight years. Despite Jehoram's personal evil, however, the LORD did not destroy the nation, for He remembered his everlasting covenant with David, that David's line would continue forever. Satan tried again to stop the family line by causing Jehoram to kill his brothers, but not the entire Messianic line. God intervened and killed Jehoram and allowed Jehoram's sons to remain alive.

6. HAMAN'S ATTEMPTS (ESTHER 3)

After the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon, Mordecai was the single Jew in the Persian King Xerxes' court. Mordecai's job was to represent the Jews and translate the king's orders for the Jewish community. Haman, also close to the king, wanted to kill Mordecai for not bowing to him when ordered to do so, because Mordecai said that he, a Jew, does not bow to Haman.

In the story, Haman and his wife Zeresh instigate a plot to kill all of the Jews of ancient Persia. Haman attempts to convince King Xerxes to order the killing of Mordecai and all the Jews of the lands he ruled. Killing Mordecai would not solve Haman's problem because a new Jewish representative will take his place and will also not bow to him. So, Haman decided to kill the whole nation of Mordecai, including Mordecai himself, and then there will be no need for a new Jewish representative, who might not bow to him. The plot is foiled by Queen Esther, the king's recent wife, who herself is a Jew. Haman is hanged from the gallows that had originally been built to hang Mordecai. The Lord used Esther to intervene and save the entire Jewish nation.

7. 70 AD THE ROMANS DESTROY THE TEMPLE

Roman armies first entered Jerusalem in 63 BC when Roman general Pompey conquered the region. The city would remain in Roman hands, in one form or another, for over 600 years. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire the Byzantine emperors continued to rule the Holy Land until its eventual capture in 638 AD by the Muslim Caliph Umar. The last Muslim Caliphate was the Ottoman Turks. Since the destruction of the Second Jewish Commonwealth (AD 135) by the Romans, the land referred to as "Palestine" had been ruled by a series of foreign occupiers. The Ottoman Turks, who ruled this area from the year 1516 to 1917, regarded it as part of Southern Syria. The land later referred to as "Palestine" was divided into three separate districts. This all came to an end with WW I as the British took control of Israel. The outcome of this was:

1. The Romans are no longer a world power.
2. The Ottoman Turks lost their Caliphate and their political power.
3. The Jews were given the Land back under the Zionist movement.

8. DESPITE ALL ODDS GOD RETURNED THE NATION ISRAEL

Leviticus 26:44–45

⁴⁴And yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them; for I am Jehovah their God; ⁴⁵but I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am Jehovah. (ASV, 1901)

As a direct result of the Nazi persecutions, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted thirty-three to thirteen, with ten abstentions, in favor of a Partition Plan that created the State of Israel. On the same day, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted with a two-thirds majority to partition western Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.¹ Over seventy five percent of the land allocated to the Jews was desert. Desperate to find a haven for the remnants of European Jewry after the Holocaust, the Jewish population accepted the plan, which accorded them a diminished state. The Arabs, intent on preventing any Jewish entity in Palestine, rejected it.

On May 14, 1948, the last British forces left Haifa, and the Jewish Agency, led by Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, declared the creation of the State of Israel, in accordance with the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan. United States President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized the new state, followed hours later by Soviet premier Joseph Stalin. Arab League members Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq declared war and announced their rejection of the United Nations partition decision. Saudi-Arabia and Yemen also sent forces to participate in the invasion.

9. THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

In 1948, after the United Nations voted to give Israel statehood, five Arab armies (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq) immediately invaded Israel.

Despite the disadvantages in numbers, organization and weapons, the Jews began to overcome the invaders in the weeks from April 1 until the declaration of independence on May 14. The Haganah (Predecessor to the Israeli Defense Forces) captured several major towns including Tiberius and Haifa, and temporarily opened the road to Jerusalem. Czechoslovakia was the only country willing to provide the Jews with weapons. Because God wanted them to survive, He allowed them to capture territory from which the Arab aggressors attacked. Jordan captured what is now referred to as the "West Bank" (their true Jewish names are Judea and Samaria) including the Jewish eastern half of Jerusalem (which was then known as "Arab East Jerusalem").

In 1949 Israel prevailed and forced Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan to sign armistice agreements (Transjordan in April 1949 changed its name to Jordan). At this time Jordan annexed

¹ Laqueur, Walter, ed. *The Arab-Israeli Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. New York: Bantam Books, 1969, 113.

Judea and Samaria. Only Britain and Pakistan recognized this annexation as legitimate. This region became a source of many terrorists' attacks against Israel's citizens.

10. THE SIX DAY WAR

On May 15, 1967 Egypt's president Nasser ordered a blockade of the Strait of Tiran. This blockade cut off Israel's southern access to the Red Sea and beyond. By May 31, 1967 Egypt had moved 100,000 troops, one thousand tanks, and five hundred heavy guns into the Sinai. By June 4, Arab forces outnumbered Israel three to one as they poised on Israel's borders. This was Israel's Six Day War and it was fought on three fronts, against three countries, in three overlapping stages. In the south, Israel engaged and defeated the Egyptians. In the central region, Israel engaged and defeated the Jordanians. In the north, Israel engaged and defeated the Syrians. In each of these theaters, Israel gained significant territory that would serve as its own buffers in future years.

On the morning of June 5, 1967, the Israeli Air Force destroyed almost the entire Egyptian Air Force (more than three hundred planes) in less than three hours. Israel's armored divisions, under the leadership of General Ariel Sharon, also launched a lightning attack on the same day. More than eight hundred Egyptian tanks had been destroyed, and thousands of soldiers were taken as prisoners of war. Nasser later acknowledged that eighty percent of Egypt's Russian-supplied military equipment had been lost in the Sinai debacle. Finally, at 8:00 p.m. on June 8, Nasser accepted a cease-fire.

From 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city. The Arab Legion of Jordan had occupied East Jerusalem, including the Old City, since the War of Independence. When the Arab Legion began to shell Western Jerusalem, the Israelis swiftly counterattacked, with success. Paratroopers landed and attacked from the Mount of Olives, entering the Lion Gate from the east. By June 8, Israeli troops were gazing at Herod's stones of the Western Wall. Although Jerusalem was the central prize, Israel also captured in those four fierce days the areas of biblical Judea and Samaria. (Now called the West bank) These are not only the sites of biblical Jerusalem, but also the ancient towns of Shechem, Shiloh, Bethel, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

Egypt's ally in the north was Syria. From their heavily fortified bunkers and miles of trenches along the Golan Heights, Syrian gunners had harassed the Jewish farmers and fishermen of the Huleh Valley and Sea of Galilee for nineteen years. The Air Force prepared the way by landing paratroopers behind the Syrian lines. Finally, Israeli bulldozers were able to clear the way so the armored units could batter the Syrian troops and drive them deep into the Golan. Syria accepted a cease-fire on June 10, 1967

11. THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

In an effort to force Israel to surrender captured lands, Egypt and Syria jointly attacked Israel on October 6, 1973, on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Other Muslim states contributed troops and financial support. Caught by surprise, Israel suffered severe losses in human life and equipment. Following an Egyptian refusal to accept a cease-fire and a Soviet airlift to the Muslim states, the United States sent an airlift to Israel enabling a recovery from earlier setbacks. By October 10th, after heavy losses, Israeli forces succeeded in reversing the tide of battle in the

North and during the next three days, Israeli forces advanced 10 km beyond the 1967 cease-fire lines into Syrian territory. On the Egyptian front, Israeli forces succeeded in crossing the Canal on the 14th and surrounded the Egyptian Third Army. Fighting continued despite a cease-fire agreement on 22 October, which almost brought the USSR and the US to confrontation. Finally, on October 26th a US-Soviet sponsored Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire was accepted by all parties. Saudi Arabia then led the Arab world in an oil embargo imposed on the United States and other western nations.

12. THE FINAL WAR, THE TRIBULATION

The “Antichrist” will be controlled and energized by Satan. He will honor the god of fortresses, which is Satan. His policy will be “might makes right.” Then with the help of Satan he will take over the strongest defenses in the world appearing invulnerable. Those who give over themselves to his authority will be given status and authority in his kingdom. (Revelation 13:17-18) He will divide territory he has conquered among those who are loyal to him and confess him to be god.

The Nation of Israel will make a treaty with the “Anti-Christ” that God despises (Isaiah 28:14–22). The Bible does not disclose the exact nature of this pact. This will begin the Tribulation (Daniel 9:27). At the mid-point of the Tribulation the Anti-Christ will commit what the Bible calls the “Abomination of Desolation.” First, he will declare his deity within the Holy of Holies of the Temple, and God will allow him to continue in office for 1,260 days. So, the “Abomination of Desolation” includes more than just the “Anti-Christ’s” self-proclamation of deity. Matthew states that an image or idol would be erected in the temple (Matthew 24:15-16).

Second, to the “Abomination of Desolation”, the False Prophet (world religious leader) will be given authority to perform many signs and wonders (Revelation 13:13; II Thessalonians 2:8-12). He will deceive mankind in order to cause them to worship the “Anti-Christ” (Revelation 13:14). The great deception reaches its peak when an image of the “Antichrist” becomes alive and men are called upon to worship the image (Revelation 13:14-15), which furthers the deification of the “Antichrist”. By that time, Jesus will have already removed the authentic church from the earth sometime before the Tribulation begins.

With genuine believers gone from the earth, the deception is easier to foist upon mankind than if they were still here. Without the Church there will be nobody to “push back” on this sick doctrine. The image will be set up in the Holy of Holies to carry on the “Abomination of Desolation.” Jerusalem will become the religious capital of the “Antichrist”, and the Temple will be the center of the worship of the “Antichrist” where the living image will be standing. So, while the “Antichrist” will be deposed of after 1,260 days, the image will remain in the Temple for another thirty days beyond that. It too will then be disposed of (Daniel 12:11; Revelation 19:20).

After the “Abomination of Desolation” the “Anti-Christ” will break the covenant with the Jewish people bringing about the greatest persecution that they will have ever experienced (Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 24:21). Christ warning to the Jews living at the time the persecution breaks out will be to flee the region. These are obviously believers that come to faith in Christ during the Tribulation. Non-believers during Christ’s earthly life, now or at the time of the Tribulation will pay no attention to anything Christ has said. They never have. He warns new believers that after

the “Abomination of Desolation” is witnessed they should quickly emigrate. (Matthew 24:15-20) The worldwide persecution of the Jews, which will last for three- and one-half years, then, begins in earnest (Matthew 24:22-22; Revelation 12:13, 15, 17).

Revelation twelve provides us with an illustration of the persecution of the Jews on a worldwide basis by Satan. He uses the “Anti-Christ” and the world religious leader to carry out his diabolical plan. Satan will enjoy more success than Adolph Hitler did in his attempt to eradicate the Jewish Nation. One third or thirty three percent of the world’s Jews died in the Holocaust, two thirds or sixty six percent will die under “Anti-Christ’s” persecution.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith Jehovah, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. ⁹ And I will bring the third part into 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, Jehovah is my God (ASV, 1901).

Now the Jews, after suffering significant loss of life, will finally cry out to Christ to return and end their pain. Christ will do that just as He said He would.

Matthew 23:39

³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (KJV).

The Jew’s willful disobedience toward God finally dissolves as a result of the worst persecution the world has ever seen. They get ushered into the great thousand-year time of peace and prosperity under the earthly rule of their Mashiach Nagid, Jesus the Christ of Nazareth. The following ancient prophecy is finally fulfilled:

Deuteronomy 28:13

" ¹³ And Jehovah will make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if thou shalt hearken unto the commandments of Jehovah thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them," (ASV, 1901).

Next message: ALL PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP GOD

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