
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **When will the kingdom be restored to Israel?**

Acts 1:6-7

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

The OT Prophecies

First, let's begin by noticing that the OT prophets promised a restoration of the kingdom of Israel.

Jeremiah 33:14-18

¹⁴ 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:

¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time

I will cause to grow up to David

A Branch of righteousness;

He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved,

And Jerusalem will dwell safely.

And this is the name by which she will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'

¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;

¹⁸ nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.'"

There are many more passages like this which could be given, but this passage is enough to illustrate that the prophets of the OT predicted a restoration of the kingdom of Israel.

Two Israels

The critical point which many fail to understand is that the Bible speaks of two Israels:

- A fleshly, physical nation called "Israel"
- A spiritual, heavenly nation called "Israel"

Romans 9:6

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For **they are not all Israel who are of Israel,**

Basically this passage is saying: "Not every Jew is a Jew."

When the OT made promises that God was going to restore Israel, many people have concluded that God was referring to the ethnic, fleshly nation of Israel. In 1945, when the United Nations declared its recognition of the modern-day nation of Israel, many Bible students concluded that God was behind this series of events and that 1945 marked the fulfillment of God's promises to restore the nation. This simply is not true.

When the Bible was speaking about the restoration of the kingdom of Israel, it was speaking about the spiritual, heavenly nation or "*Spiritual Israel*."

The Context

Watch carefully as we read the context of Acts 1:

Acts 1:3-5

³ [Jesus] presented Himself alive [to His apostles] after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Q: According to v3, what was Jesus teaching His apostles about?

A: He was teaching about "*things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*"

Immediately after v3 we begin reading about:

- The city of **Jerusalem.**
- The **baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

The original question of the disciples in Acts 1:6 was about the timing of this restoration. The disciples wanted to know when this was all going to happen. Jesus explained in v7 that it was not necessary for them to know exactly when it would occur, but Jesus also informed them that it would happen (a) in Jerusalem (b) when the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred.

When we come to Acts 2 we see the fulfillment. There in Acts 2 we see the apostles in the city of Jerusalem. They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and this was the visible sign that the promises of the restored, spiritual nation of Israel had occurred. The new spiritual Israel came in the form of the Lord's church.

The church is God's Israel restored:

Galatians 6:16

¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon **the Israel of God.**

Q: According to this, who is the "**Israel of God**"?

A: The passage says, "*as many as walk according to this rule*"?

This is the church – founded on the apostles and prophets – Jesus Himself being the "chief cornerstone" (Eph 2:20).

Let us then be careful:

- Not to neglect the church in our lives.
- Not to speak of the church as if it were optional.
- Not to speak badly of the church to anyone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on **Bible Talk**.