

Hosea 3:4 (2,700 years ago) This had not been fulfilled in Hosea's day. When Hosea wrote they had all these things. But it has been true of Israel since 70 A.D. and it is still true today. It is not true of the church.

If we say the church is the new Israel so that the promises made concerning the people and land of Israel have been transferred to and now apply to the church, what do we make of these prophecies?

If some apply literally to Israel, why not all, including those of restoration? We cannot pick and choose.

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BIBLICAL REFERENCES CONCERNING ISRAEL

THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

1. God has made an eternal covenant with the Jewish people - Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:35-37; Romans 11:28-29.
2. When God made this covenant with Abraham He promised his descendants ownership of the land of Israel as an everlasting possession - Genesis 17:8. This promise of ownership was transferred through Isaac and Jacob to the 12 tribes of Israel - Genesis 26:3-4; 35:12; Psalm 105:8-11.
3. God refers to the unique character of this territory by calling it My land - Ezekiel 36:20; the Jewish peoples own land - Ezekiel 36:7,24; 37:21; and the Jewish people as My people - Ezekiel 38:16; Joel 3:2.
4. God promises a second regathering of the Jewish people to their land in the latter days, from which they will never be uprooted again - Isaiah 11:11-14; Jeremiah 16:14-16; Ezekiel 11:17; Amos 9:14-15. The promise of the regathering specifically includes Judea and Samaria - Jeremiah 31:5,14; (Ezekiel 36:1-15).
5. The Jewish people will return in unbelief, their return being a pre-condition for God to pour out His Spirit on them - Ezekiel 11:16-20; 20:42-43; 36:24-28; 37:12-14; 39:25-29; Jeremiah 32:37-41; 33:7-9.

6. Jesus in the New Testament implies a restoration of national sovereignty to the Jewish people - Acts 1:7, 8; Luke 21:24.

7. Paul speaks about the fullness of Israel as distinct from that of the Gentiles - Romans 11, especially vs.1, 2, 11, 12, 15, 25-29. As the nation's loss was first spiritual, then political, and finally territorial, it seems likely that this fullness will be first territorial, then political, and finally spiritual.

A wealth of scripture concerning the restoration of Israel is found in the Old Testament Prophets:

Isaiah 43:1-7; 46:3-4; 49:14-26; 54; 60; 61:5-11; 62; 66:12-16, 22-23.

Jeremiah 3:16-18; 16:9-18; 23:7-8; 30:1-3; 31:38-40; (all of chapters 30 and 31); 33:25-26; 46:27-28.

Ezekiel 11:17; 20:33-34; 28:25-26; 34:11-33; 36; 37:11-14, 21-22; 39:21-29.

Hosea 1:10-11; 2:14-23; 3:3-5.

Joel 3:1-3. Amos 9:9-15.

Obadiah vv.19-21.

Micah 4:1-8; 7:8-20.

Zephaniah 2:4,7; 3:14-20.

Zechariah 8:1-8, 20-23; 10:6-12; 12-14.

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLE LOVE FOR ISRAEL

Deuteronomy 7:8.

Isaiah 49:14-16; 54:8,10.

Jeremiah 31:2-3.

Zechariah 2:8.

GOD IS THE JUDGE OF NATIONS

He judges the nations on the basis of their treatment of Israel, people and land. He promises to bless those who bless Israel - Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 60:12; Joel 3:2; Obadiah 15; Matthew 25:31-46.

SOME OF THE FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Leviticus 26:32-33 Every word has been fulfilled over the past 1,800 years. How could it possibly refer to and have been fulfilled by the church?

Leviticus 26:36-39 This is an accurate description of the experience of the Jewish people over 15 to 16 centuries, even during World War II. How does this apply to the church?

Deuteronomy 28:64-68 This was fulfilled to the letter. Verse 68 was literally fulfilled after 70 A.D. when the slave markets of Egypt were so glutted with Hebrew slaves that no-one would buy them.