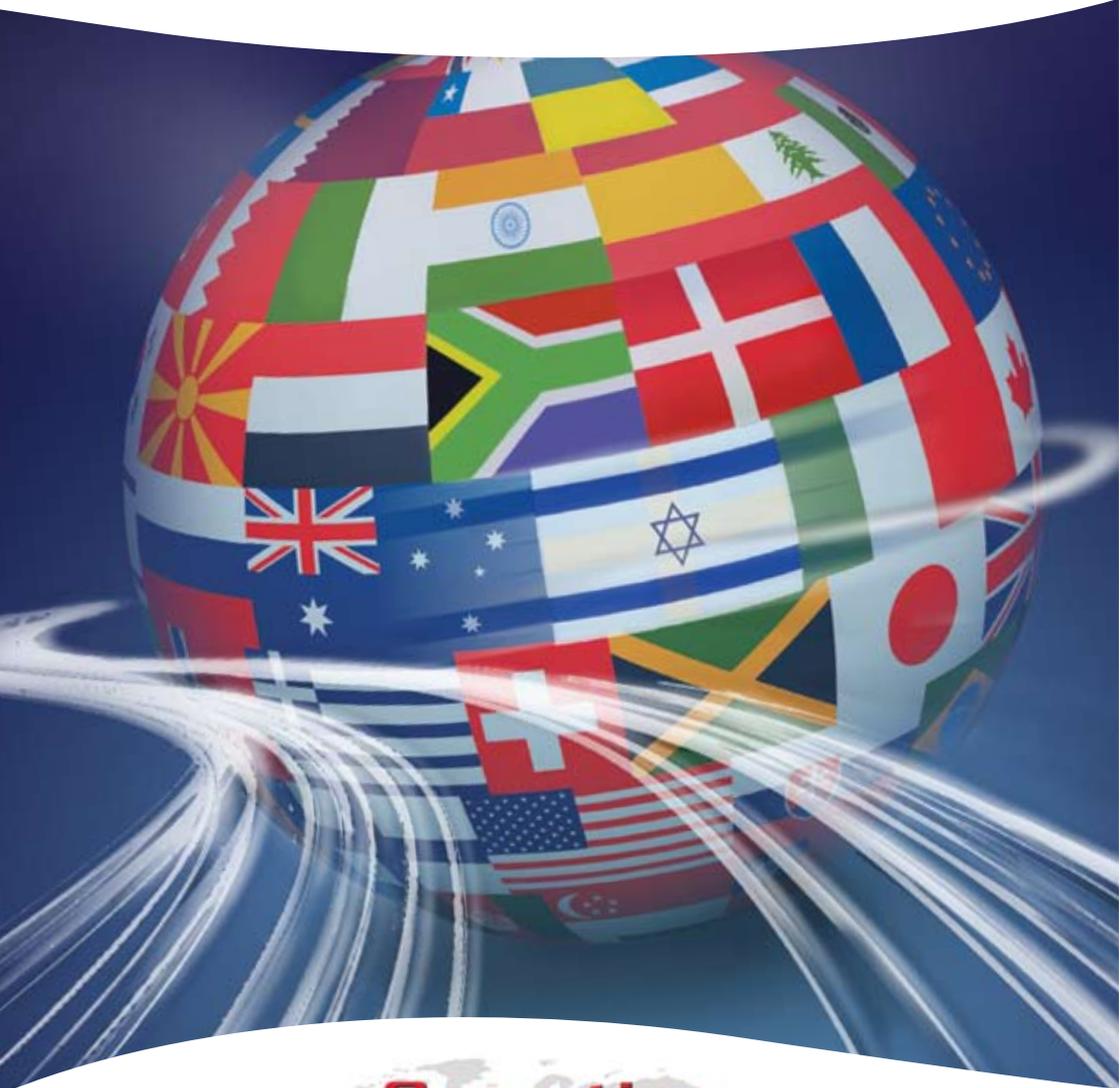


BIBLICAL PROPHECY

THE RETURN OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO ISRAEL



Ebenezer - Operation Exodus Teaching Resources

BIBLICAL PROPHECY

God's plan for the return of the Jewish people to Israel



The return of the Jewish people to the land from which they were banished nearly 2,000 years ago is one of the greatest miracles of all time. Just as amazing is the fact that the Hebrew prophets predicted this return more than 3,000 years ago!

God himself is bringing the Jewish people to Israel from all over the world, in fulfilment of numerous Biblical prophecies. Many of those prophecies refer specifically to 'the land of the north'. This is widely understood to refer to the lands of the former Soviet Union, given that Moscow, the former capital of the Soviet Union, is due north of Jerusalem.

This re-gathering from the land of the north and from all the countries to which the Jewish people have been scattered is known as the aliyah, a Hebrew word which means 'to go up', 'to ascend'. When Jewish people emigrate to Israel they are 'making aliyah,' because they are 'going up' to the land that God

gave them. Knowledge of the Biblical prophecies gives an understanding of God's purposes for the Jewish people and of the times in which we live – the days preceding the coming of the Messiah of Israel.

The Israelites were exiled from their land as a result of their disobedience, but many passages of the Hebrew Scriptures (known to Christians as the Old Testament), record God's promise to bring His people back from the nations and to settle them in their own land.

In Ezekiel it shows us that aliyah is much more than a people returning to their ancient homeland; it is about the multiple blessings God brings, especially the transformation of the people's hearts from disobedience to love and obedience. It is about the restoration of His people and the Land.

Ezekiel 36 comes at the end of God's prophetic judgment on the neighbouring nations who invaded and ruined Israel.



Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon soon after King Nebuchadnezzar had carried the Jewish people from Judea into captivity. Earlier the Assyrians had taken the people of the 10 northern tribes of Israel into captivity, so now the land of Israel was virtually bereft of its people. Ezekiel understood that God would bring His people back from Babylon to the land, as had been revealed to the prophet Daniel, but he also understood that God was speaking to him, and through him, of a far greater ingathering — from all the nations where the Jewish people would be scattered.

This final ingathering would bring honour to the name of the God of Israel, reveal to the watching world His faithfulness and His love for His people, and display His character as one who keeps His promises for all time.

We can follow the unveiling of God's proposes through

this booklet. We start with a brief study of Ezekiel 36 and follow this with a selection of scriptures which reveal what God has said about his plans and purposes for His Chosen people.



A study of Ezekiel chapter 36

The Land laid Desolate (Ezekiel 36: 1–7)

Understanding of God's purposes for the Jewish people begins with God's eternal covenant with Abraham, whereby He promised to bless the whole world through his seed and promised his descendants a land of their own. Jewish people have no other homeland and God's promise stands for ever. Today we are seeing the restoration of the land.

The chapter opens with God commanding Ezekiel: '*... prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, "... hear the word of the LORD!"*' Then God speaks about the enemies who boast that the 'ancient heights' have become theirs (v.2). The people of Israel are attacked and utterly humiliated by the surrounding nations and the land laid desolate because of their rebellion against God. Yet despite this desolation and degradation hope arises. God will rescue His people and will judge their persecutors:

"Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations." Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame. (v.6,7)

The Land will be restored (Ezekiel 36: 8–15)

Ruled by one pagan empire after another, the barren land with its ruined towns ridiculed by the nations will become fruitful. The prophet sees a day when the rightful owners would return and walk upon their own land, build houses and cultivate the soil. The people would be restored to the land and the land to the people, and they will know that He is the Lord. The nations will not insult or cause them to stumble any longer.

But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come. For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. (v.8-10)

The exile was deserved (Ezekiel 36: 16–20)

Through the prophet, God speaks of His anger at the way the people had behaved, worshipping idols and defiling the land, behaviour which led to their exile and their scattering among the nations.

“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.” (v.17–19)

Aliyah Is ‘for the sake of His Name’ (Ezekiel 36: 21–23)

The heart of this passage shows that God is doing this for the sake of His Holy Name which has been profaned amongst the nations. In scripture a name reflects a person’s character, so when the Lord speaks of His concern for His Name he is referring to His concern for His reputation among the nations. Through the restoration of the Jewish people and the land of Israel the nations will see that He is the true God.



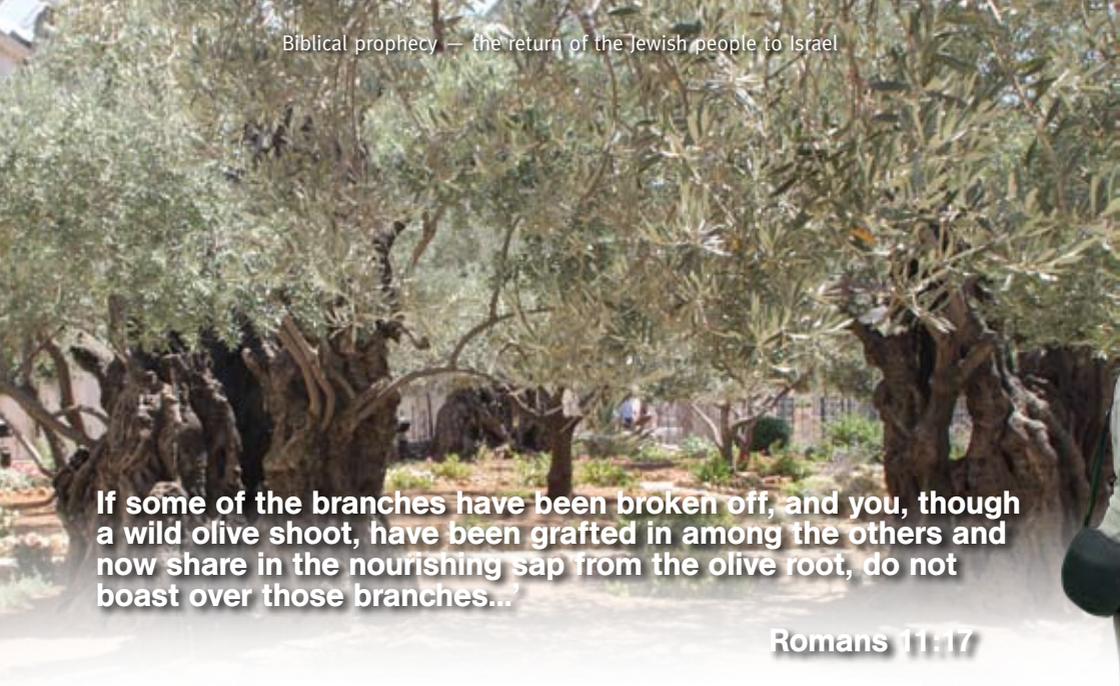
“And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD,” says the Lord GOD, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.”(v.23)

The Final Ingathering & Cleansing (Ezekiel 36: 23–33)

To emphasise the importance of this restoration God personally says ‘I will’ many times in these verses:

He will

- Show the holiness of His great name (v.23)
- Take them out of the nations (v.24)
- Gather them from all the countries and bring them back to their own land (v.24)
- Sprinkle clean water upon them and they will be clean (sanctified) (v.25)
- Cleanse them from their impurities and idols (v.25)
- Give them a new heart and put a new spirit in them (salvation) (v.26)
- Remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh (repentance) (v.26)
- Put His spirit within them and move them to follow His decrees (v.27)
- Be their God and they His people (v.28)
- Save them from their uncleanness (v.29)
- Cause an abundant harvest (restore the fertility of the land) (v.29)
- Resettle their towns and cause the ruins to be rebuilt (v.33)



If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches...

Romans 11:17

Spiritual Restoration (Ezekiel 36: 24–29)

Restored to the land, the Jewish people benefit from a restored faith and relationship with God. *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

The Land of Abundance (Ezekiel 36: 29–30)

Little more than a century ago the whole land was a desolate wasteland, but as the early pioneers tilled the land and drained it of malarial swamps it has been transformed into a land of plenty. This is the evidence of God's blessing. *I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.*

Israel's Repentance (Ezekiel 36: 31–32)

The day will come when the nation will realise what has happened and turn to God in repentance *“Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord GOD, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!”*



The Land becomes fruitful! (Ezekiel 36: 34–36)

The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

Many passages in the prophetic scriptures speak of Gentiles being involved in the return of the Jewish people to their land. Operation Exodus has been called of God to stand with the Jewish people and encourage and help them in this return.

The ministry was birthed in 1991 at an intercessory prayer conference in Jerusalem when the Lord spoke to its founder Gustav Scheller, and said, 'Now is the time to help my people go home.'

At the end of that year a ship was chartered and in three sailings brought more than a thousand Jewish people from the Ukraine and Russia to Israel. Since then more than 128,000 Jewish people have been helped to leave former Soviet Union countries and emigrate to Israel. We now help Jewish people from other countries too including the UK, USA and South Africa return to Israel. Truly a fulfilment of the prophetic word!

Our prayer is that as you study Ezekiel chapter 36 and the following Bible verses the Holy Spirit will give you fresh understanding of the important place the return of the Jewish people occupies on God's agenda today. Maybe He will speak to you about getting involved in some way.



Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."'

Ezekiel 11:17



Biblical prophecies relating to the return of the Jewish people to Israel

God's promises to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 13:14-17

"And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Genesis 17:7-8

"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your

descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

God's promises confirmed to Isaac and Jacob

Genesis 26:3-5

Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.

Genesis 28:12-14

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above

it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God’s covenant with Israel

Exodus 6:2–4

And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them. I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.”

Exodus 19:3–6

And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of

priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Psalm 105:6–11

O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded,
for a thousand generations,
The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac,
And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,
Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan
As the allotment of your inheritance,”

God’s warning to Israel

Leviticus 25:23

The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

Leviticus 26:14–17

But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies

shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

Leviticus 26:33

I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

Deuteronomy 4:27

And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.

Deuteronomy 28:64

Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known— wood and stone.

The consequences of disobedience

Isaiah 42:22–24

But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, “Restore!” Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against

whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law.

Ezekiel 36:17–20

“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.’”

God’s promises to restore His people

Leviticus 26:40–45

“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt— then **I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac**

and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.

The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes. Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 30:1-4

Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that **the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.** If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from

there He will bring you.

Deuteronomy 33:29

“Happy are you, O Israel!
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help
And the sword of your majesty!
Your enemies shall submit to you,
And you shall tread down their high places.”

Nehemiah 1:8-9

Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’

Psalms 102:13-16

You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.
For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.

Psalms 106:44-47

Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, When He heard their cry; And for their sake He remembered

His covenant, And relented according to the multitude of His mercies. He also made them to be pitied By all those who carried them away captive. Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise.

Psalm 107:1-3

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south.

Psalm 126:1-4

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad. Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South.

Psalm 147:1-2

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

Isaiah 11:11-12

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. He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 11:16

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.

Isaiah 14:1

For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.

Isaiah 27:12-13

And it shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will thresh, From the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of

Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Isaiah 32:17–18

The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 35:8–10

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 41:8–10

But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions, And said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will

help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

Isaiah 43:1–2

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.”

Isaiah 43:5–6

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 43:13

“Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?”

Isaiah 44:3–5

‘For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring they will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses.’ One will say, ‘I am the LORD’s’; Another will call himself by

the name of Jacob; Another will write with his hand, 'The LORD's,' And name himself by the name of Israel.

Isaiah 46:3-4

Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Isaiah 49:8-13

Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; That You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' "They shall feed along the roads, And their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, Neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, Even by the springs of water He will guide them. I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated. Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim." Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing,

O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted.

Isaiah 51:14

The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, That he should not die in the pit, And that his bread should not fail.

Isaiah 54:1-3

"Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the LORD. "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited."

Isaiah 54:7-8

"For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.

Isaiah 56:8

The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him."

Isaiah 57:14

And one shall say, “Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way, Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people.”

Isaiah 62:4-5

You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.

Jeremiah 3:16-18

“Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days,” says the LORD, “that they will say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore.

“At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.”

“In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.”

Jeremiah 16:14-15

“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘**The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,**’ but, ‘**The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.**’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.”

Jeremiah 23:3

“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.”

Jeremiah 23:7-8

“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.”

Jeremiah 29:14

I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; **I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from**

which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Jeremiah 30:17

‘For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the LORD, ‘Because they called you an outcast saying: “This is Zion; No one seeks her.”’

Jeremiah 31:8–11

Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth, Among them the blind and the lame, The woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; A great throng shall return there. They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn. **“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’**

For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he.

Jeremiah 31:21

Set up signposts, Make landmarks; Set your heart toward the highway, The way in which you went. Turn back, O virgin of Israel, Turn back to these your cities.

Jeremiah 31:31–34

“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. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Ezekiel 11:17–20

Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: **“I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”**’ And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they

may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 20:34–38

“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.”

Ezekiel 28:25–26

‘Thus says the Lord GOD: **“When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob.** And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those

around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God.”

Ezekiel 34:11–13

For thus says the Lord GOD: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. And **I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.**”

Ezekiel 36:8–10

But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come. For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

Ezekiel 36:24–28

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 37:12–14

“Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,” says the LORD.’”

Ezekiel 37:21–22

“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.’””

Ezekiel 37:25–28

Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.

Ezekiel 39:27–28

When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, **but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.**

Hosea 11:3–4

I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck I stooped and fed them.

Amos 9:13–15

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. **I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them;** They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

Micah 4:6–7

“In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and for ever.”

Zephaniah 3:14–15

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

Zephaniah 3:19–20

“Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you;

I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes,” Says the LORD.

Zechariah 2:6–7

“Up, up! Flee from the land of the north,” says the LORD; “for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven,” says the LORD. “Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.”

Gentiles will be involved in the restoration of Israel

Isaiah 14:1–2

For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob. Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the LORD; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.

Isaiah 40:1–5

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her

iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 43:6

I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth—

Isaiah 49:22–26

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; 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; They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, And lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD, For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me." Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

But thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children. I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, And they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

Isaiah 60:4

Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.

Isaiah 60:8–12

Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you. "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you. Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession. For the

nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined.”

Isaiah 62:6–12

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. The LORD has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: “Surely I will no longer give your grain as food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored. But those who have gathered it shall eat it, And praise the LORD; Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts.” Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples! Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.’” And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Jeremiah 31:7

For thus says the LORD: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the

nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel!’

The future glory of Jerusalem

Zechariah 8:20–23

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.” Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.’
“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”’”

Zechariah 14:16

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

The debt we owe to the Jewish people

Romans 11:1

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:11–15

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Romans 11:25–31

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.” Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your

sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

Romans 15:27

It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

Matthew 25:40

And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Operation Exodus is an instrument of the Lord to encourage and help the Jewish people to return to the land of Israel from the land of the north and all the nations and to proclaim God's Kingdom purposes for their return.

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