

# Israel Today Is Only Judah

Many people are confused about Israel. The nation called Israel in the Middle East is actually the nation of the Jews, originally those descended from Judah, only **one** of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Back in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC, Israel was united, one country under King David. When he died, his son Solomon was a lavish spender, undertaking ambitious programmes that taxed the people heavily. On his death, his son was advised to ease up on the taxes, but refused, and ten of the 12 tribes broke away, forming the Northern nation of Israel, leaving just two tribes to Solomon's son.

The 10 tribes of Israel were carried away in slavery by the Assyrians for their sins, in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, and later Judah was too – by the Babylonians. Israel never returned (listen to their history in our audio message 'Britain's Awesome Future,' which also includes the British Commonwealth nations.)

God allowed Judah to return, but after Christ's death, the Romans drove them from the land, and it was only in 1948 that Judah was restored to the land, taking the name Israel, though they are only the one tribe of Judah and their proselytes. Since then they have experienced war after war.

Zechariah 1:12, *'Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, **against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?**'* This scripture is often taken to apply to the time the Jews were held captive in Babylon for 70 years, but the Jews were not in the cities of Judah or Jerusalem then, were they? Also, the whole book of Zechariah is essentially about Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and the future glory of Christ, as He establishes His Kingdom here on the earth.

These glimpses of the End Time and Christ's future Kingdom, provided by the prophet Zechariah, confirm this, though they often have duality, and start with a series of Eight Night Visions, 1:7 - 6:8.

In Merrill F Unger's 'Commentary of The Old Testament', he comments on the third vision (2:1-3) "The warnings to flee and escape foretold impending peril upon Judah's captor, which did befall her two years after this prophecy. But the fulfilment of the prediction (**in line with the scope of ALL the other night visions**) envisions the age-end destruction of both ecclesiastical ( Revelation 17 ) and commercial Babylon ( Revelation 18 ) of the satanic world system at the coming of Christ in the Kingdom glory ( Revelation 19:11 – 20:3 )" ie, **ALL the visions relate to the End Time!**

The only reason why some scholars have concluded that verse 12 in Zechariah 1, cannot be about Judah at the End Time, is that verse 11 reports that at that point (the end of the 70 years mentioned in verse 12), the whole world "sits still, and is at rest". Thus they assume that verse 12 cannot indicate the soon return of Christ to Jerusalem, for His coming, as we know, is preceded by the Tribulation, a time of worldwide war and strife.

However, the tribulation lasts for seven years (see our article 'How Long is the Tribulation?', and it is introduced by the message of the angel in Revelation 14:6-7. (Article – 'Revelation 14')

What follows for the next 7-8 months is a time of great rejoicing among 'Christians', 1Thessalonians 5:2-3, *'For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, **Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a*

*woman with child; and they shall not escape.*’ It is a time of peace and, they believe, safety, but then sudden destruction falls upon them. (Read our article, ‘Come Out of Her My People’).

It is this short period of peace and safety which verse 11 may well refer to, which follows 70 years of God’s indignation upon the Jews because of their conduct in their newly gained land.... Hosea 5:10, *‘The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.’*

If this is indeed a period of peace after 70 years of war and strife in Judah, which is then followed by the remainder of the first 3 ½ years of tribulation, Matthew 24:29, *‘the tribulation of those days’* and then by the 3 ½ years of *‘The Great Tribulation’* (Revelation 7:8), this may be the only indication in the whole Bible of the coming time of the End Time events and may well reflect 1 Thessalonians 5:4! *‘But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.’*

Since the nation of Israel (more correctly Judah – not the whole 12 tribes) was restored to its God given land, Genesis 17:8, *“And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God,”* in 1948, it seems to have been almost one long war in the Middle East.

These troubles are likely to continue then, for several years yet, spurred on by extremists who take advantage of the volatile Arab character (descendants of Ishmael) Genesis 16:11-12, *“And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”*

Even to this day the sectarian violence seen in the Middle East witnesses to that wildness, but, in turning it against Judah, they have found that they are fighting against God’s will. Zechariah 12:2-3,6, *“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. [6] In that day will I make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.”*

Eventually, after that brief period of ‘peace and safety,’ America and the British people, (Manasseh and Ephraim, two of the leading tribes of Israel) will be brought down because of their sins, and Judah will be surrounded by her enemies, which will then see her invaded, and many of her people taken away into captivity, until, after the seven years, will come the culmination at Armageddon, Zechariah 12:9, *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”* Zechariah 14:2, *“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.”* Revelation 9:14-16, *“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.”*

Some men of Judah will fight in this battle, Zechariah 14:14, *“And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and*

*silver, and apparel, in great abundance,*” in the Kidron valley, East of Jerusalem - but it will be her last war in defence of Jerusalem, and the victor will be Jesus Christ with His angelic armies, her soon coming King !

Revelation 19:11-15, *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”*

The period when the one tribe of Judah resides in Israel alone, is about to end, for then, the Kingdom of God has arrived! (Also read Zechariah 14, the whole chapter, about the start of Christ’s Kingdom..)

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