

THE BIG PICTURE OF SCRIPTURE THROUGH THE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

Week 12 – The Remnant

April 9, 2024

History records that Israel has returned to the land God gave them in stages. There have been successive waves of returning Jewish people to the land: Jewish immigrants from Europe returned to the land (1881-1939). After Israel's modern birth as a nation in 1948, approx. one million European Jewish survivors of the Holocaust came to Israel followed by a majority of the 800,000 Jewish people driven from their homes in Arab countries. More recently, 1.5 million Jewish people fled the former Soviet Union and immigrated to Israel. We can understand these stages through.... What caused the Jewish people to flood into Israel? (Jer. 16:16)

Jer. 16:14-17 - ¹⁴ *'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,'¹⁵ 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.* ¹⁶ *'Behold, I will send for many fishermen,' says the LORD, 'and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.* ¹⁷ *For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes.*

Isa. 40:1-2 - *Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God. ² 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.* God loves Israel w/ an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3).

Eze. 36:24-26 - *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.* ²⁵ *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.* ²⁶ *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.* ²⁷ *I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,* Scripture teaches that Israel is returning to the land in unbelief! Can we still thank God for Israel? YES...because God has called them to accomplish HIS purposes. There are more purposes which need to be accomplished including setting the stage for Jesus' Second Coming!

AND, we need to remember Gen. 12:3 and Gen. 18:18.

We have primarily delved into Scripture regarding:

- Who God is per Scripture. God is all His attributes...simultaneously...all the time.
- God chose Israel as an instrument of blessing for the world (Gen. 18:18).
- God told Abram *I will bless those who bless you and him who curses you I will curse* (Gen. 12:3).
- Through God's unconditional covenants with Israel He obligated Himself to deliver on the promises He made to Israel.
- ...EVEN THOUGH Israel, as a nation, veered from God due to disobedience to His commandments, and due to Israel's worshipping idols, thereby breaking the first

commandment, *I am the LORD your God; you shall have no other gods before Me*...God promised restoration to Israel (Deut. 30:1-6; Isa. 14:1; Jer. 31:31-34 & cross reference)

- The Prophets warned Israel of God's judgment/His chastisement through exile to Gentile lands (Deut. 28:64) and oppression under Gentile nations (the "times of the Gentiles" [Luke

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21:24]). The "times of the Gentiles" will last until the end of the tribulation (Rev. 11:1-3) – which means Israel CONTINUES under the rule and oppression of the Gentile nations NOW. What of the future? CONSIDER:...

- ...God's timeclock is Israel: Israel is the hour hand, Jerusalem is the minute hand, and the Temple Mount is second hand. Let's keep watch!

- The Prophets proclaimed HOPE to Israel through God's promise of the Kingdom of God/the Millennial Kingdom on earth in the future, established by Jesus at His Second Coming (Matt. 24:29-31; Zech. 12:10ff) following the tribulation. Israel, as a nation, those left alive at the end of the tribulation, will then be restored.

- The remnant of Israel, those Jewish people who are faithful to the Word of God (Deut. 6:5), who place their trust in the promise of the Jewish Messiah (OT saints), and those who come to faith in Jesus since He came, died, rose, and ascended into heaven, will be the ones who enter into the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5-7).

- The remnant will be restored at the end of the tribulation. What does that mean?

- Israel's restoration: the national salvation of Israel. As all nations come against Israel, God will pour out His Spirit upon the Jewish people left alive following the tribulation. The national salvation of Israel is intertwined with the permanent restoration to the land of Israel under Jesus ruling and reigning from King David's throne in Jerusalem.

- Deut. 30:3 - ...*then 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.*

- Romans 11:15 – and when Israel comes to faith in Jesus...when Israel comes to its *fullness* (completeness according to God's plan [Rom. 11:12]), when they are accepted/received (given admission – to the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus)...it will be as life from the dead for the world as Jesus will return and establish the Kingdom of God and He will rule and reign from the throne of David in Jerusalem! Creation will be restored (Isa. 11). The glory of God will once again dwell in the Millennial Temple.

During this semester we have not spent time on "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7). The tribulation is understood in Scripture as a time of trouble. For whom? Jacob – whose name was changed to Israel. It's the 70th week in Daniel's 70 Weeks prophecy. Sixty-nine weeks have been fulfilled; the 70th week is in the future. There's a gap between the 69th and 70th week. The Church is in the gap!

I do not believe, based on Scripture, that the Church will go through any part of the tribulation. (Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 5:9; Rom. 8:1; Rev. 22:20 – cross ref.), The pre-trib rapture of the church is the only view that allows for the imminency of Jesus coming for believers in the rapture. The rapture is expected at any moment. All the other views are waiting for signs. There

are no signs for the Church re: the rapture. The rapture is the next event on God's calendar for the Church)

The Scripture states that there are two major purposes to be accomplished in the 70th week... during the tribulation.

- Judgment on those who are the unsaved earth dwellers (Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6, and 17:8).

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- To prepare the nation of Israel for the Kingdom of God/the Millennial Kingdom to be established at the return of the Messiah in fulfillment of Israel's covenants.
- The Church is not seen in the book of Revelation from Rev. 4 through to Rev. 19:10.

Let's look at this time of trouble that we know as the tribulation...

Dan. 12:1-2 – In the visions that God gives to Daniel, we read, *At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people* (Michael is the archangel [chief angel] of God who specifically watches over Israel [Jude v. 9]); *and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered. Every one who is found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Observe that NOT all the children of Israel will be delivered to everlasting life. Those who are written in the book... God's book which is connected to deliverance/salvation/ everlasting life... are part of the remnant. There will be those among the children of Israel who will not be delivered but will awake (they will be resurrected) to shame and everlasting contempt – to live apart from God eternally. Those Jewish people who are written in God's book are “the remnant” and will be with God for all eternity!

The Remnant

Isa. 1:9 – *Unless the LORD of hosts (the angel armies engaged in warfare) had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.* If there was no remnant, Israel would've been destroyed! Let that resonate! God designated the “remnant” as the faithful among the children of Israel. The Apostle Paul cited this verse (Rom. 9:29) when he wrote of the ongoing existence of faithful Israelites (faithful to what God had told them in the Hebrew Scriptures about the Messiah). But, there was a remnant; God has always had a remnant (Rom. 11:5).

A remnant is a left-over amount from a larger portion or piece. Although remnants are typically looked upon as worthless, God assigns high value to those of His people whom He has set aside for holy purposes, those He labels as “remnants” in several places in the Bible.

The “remnant” in Scripture designates the faithful Israelites.

Rom. 9:27 - *Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved* – it is those Jewish people who have trusted the Jewish Messiah, Jesus!

From the Major and Minor Prophets, let's look at the "time of Jacob's trouble" in Scripture:
Dan. 9:27 – the antichrist rides into the scene on earth following the rapture of the Church and brokers a treaty with Israel...and the 7 years of tribulation begin (Rev. 6:1); 3.5 years into that treaty, the antichrist will bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

The tribulation is a time of purging of the Jewish people:

Eze. 20:33-38 – *As I live, says the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. ³⁶ 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*

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Lord GOD. ³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ 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. Not the remnant.

Eze. 22:17-22 – (READ)/Not the remnant.

Passages about the remnant:

Mal. 3:3 - *He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.* I'm suggesting that these are the priests who will be purged/refined/purified and who will serve in the Millennial Temple where they will, under the reign of Jesus, offer an offering of righteousness which was, in the past, never consistently offered to God!

When the antichrist breaks the treaty he brokered with Israel, after 3.5 years, the antichrist comes after Israel. In Rev. 12 we read of Satan (the dragon) coming against Israel (the woman) and the Child (Jesus) - in a great sign God gives to the Apostle John.

Rev. 12:4-6 - *And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days (3.5 years – 'til the end of the tribulation). Here we read of the woman who represents Israel giving birth to the Messiah and Satan goes after the baby (Matt. 2:16-18).*

AND, we read of a place in the wilderness prepared for Israel by GOD!!! And the "they" noted in Rev. 12:6 will feed her/Israel.

Who are the "they" who will be feeding Israel for 1, 260 days – 3.5 years?

Matt. 25:31-40 (READ)

Micah 2:12-13 - *I will surely assemble (to gather, to receive into) all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel (specifically); I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people.*

13 The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it; their king will pass before them, with the LORD at their head.

Messianic title of Jesus: *the Breaker* as He is the captain and leader of His people advancing in front of His flock.

Micah 2:12-13 specifically states that those in the sheepfold (Petra/Bozrah) will be protected are “the remnant.” “Bozrah” means sheep pen!

There are many, including myself, who are of the viewpoint that Israel will flee to Petra in Jordan in the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God. www.visitpetra.jo

AND, isn't it so OF GOD that Daniel 11:41 tells us that Edom, Ammon, and Moab (all in Jordan; Petra is in Jordan) during the tribulation will escape from antichrist's hand/from his grip!

Petra is located in a basin within Edom and is totally surrounded by mountains and cliffs. The only way in and out of the city is through a narrow passageway (the SIQ) that extends for about one mile and can only be negotiated on foot or by horseback. “Bozrah” means sheepfold.

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An ancient sheepfold had a narrow entrance so that the shepherd could count his sheep. Petra is shaped like a giant sheepfold, with its narrow passage opening up to a spacious circle surrounded by cliffs.

Isa. 34:6b – *For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.* What about “Bozrah” and the great sacrifice and a great slaughter in Edom? Bozrah is near Edom. Petra is within Edom. (see map) What is this sacrifice mentioned in Bozrah?

Isa. 26:20-21 - *Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. ²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.*

Jesus will come from Bozrah...Jesus will return to earth and enter the battle against the antichrist and his armies. He will save the Jews in the wilderness from destruction.

Jesus will come from Edom, from Bozrah...with bloodied garments from fighting “the nations” coming against Israel at Petra/Bozrah.

Isa. 63:1-4 - *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (the sheep pen; could this be Petra as there is an extremely narrow entrance into Petra which could be protected by THE Shepherd - THE Shepherd Who lays His life down for the sheep [Jn. 10:11, 15b]), this One Who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? ‘I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.’ ² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ ‘I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples (the nations) no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart (righteous vengeance motivated by God's LOVE – coming against*

wickedness/sin), and the year of My redeemed has come (God's redemption of Israel [Zech. 12:10ff; Rom. 11:26 – all Israel will be saved])

Zech. 12:2-4 - Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it... ¹⁰ And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

HABAKKUK

The book of Habakkuk is unique. Prophets declared God's message. The Prophet Habakkuk confronted God! To Habakkuk, God seemed to be indifferent re: Judah's sin. Habakkuk was impatient with God's longsuffering and inactivity! Habakkuk questioned God's wisdom and blamed God for indifference. Habakkuk confronted God about not rising up and judging Judah!

God told Habakkuk to look among the nations and watch – and be utterly astounded. God told Habakkuk that He was working. God told Habakkuk that He was raising up the Babylonians to judge the Kingdom of Judah...and that the judgment coming against Judah would be dreadful!

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Habakkuk's next complaint against God... "Why, God, are you going to use a nation more wicked than Judah to bring judgment on Judah?"

In the midst of the confrontation, Habakkuk remembers WHO GOD IS. God is from everlasting. Israel shall not be obliterated. God has marked the Babylonians for judgment (Hab. 1:12-13). God had promised a remnant within Israel. God would purge the nation of Israel; God would not annihilate the nation of Israel.

Therefore, Habakkuk speaks these words, *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer...when I am corrected.* At this moment, having heard God, Habakkuk digested what God said and expected God to correct him. At this moment, Habakkuk knew that he was wrong and he needed to be corrected. It was as if Habakkuk was calling out to God saying, "Please speak to me and correct me."

God tells Habakkuk, *the just shall live by his faith...faith in ALL Who God is*

Habakkuk now understands and offers a prayer of praise because God is in control. Habakkuk repents and humbles himself before God. He accepts the coming judgment and praises God. *A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet...O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years....*

Habakkuk then offers to God a hymn of faith...that in the midst of Babylon's invading and making most desolate the countryside, he, Habakkuk, DECLARES that he will REJOICE and take JOY in the God of his salvation. Habakkuk's longing and joyful desire was for GOD HIMSELF!

*Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
19)The LORD God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.*

TABLE TIME

What are we remembering from this semester?
How are we worshipping God?
What are we anticipating?

Talk about whom we might invite to the Passover Seder

HOMEWORK

Remember...
Worship...
Anticipate...
...as we thank our great God and rejoice in Him!