

IT IS ZION; NO ONE CARES FOR HER!

These words which are found in Jeremiah 30:17 seem to express so clearly the attitude of the world to Israel. No one cares for her. America which was once so supportive of Israel has been less so under the Obama regime. Our own nation, in

spite of so many “friends of Israel” in the Conservative Party, also seems to be more ready to criticise Israel if we note the words of the Prime Minister regarding Gaza and Israel. There seems to be little understanding of Israel’s plight. Nations

are quick to criticise her without appreciating the background to her struggle for survival, or that Islam basically wants her extermination.

An official working with the Mayor of Jerusalem told a delegation of international Intercessors' leaders in 2000: "We could easily make peace with the Palestinians if it were not for Islam." Islam is the real problem to peace in the Middle East. It can be seen so clearly in the words of Ahmadinejad when he calls for Israel to be wiped off the map. That problem was recognised by the Psalmist when he wrote: "They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, 'Come let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.'" (Psalm 83:3,4)

The day is fast approaching when Israel will stand alone. The cost will become too great for America to defend its ally in the Middle East. World opinion, no doubt led by the lies and false propaganda of Islamic nations, will turn against this little nation. Indeed the scriptures make it very plain that all the nations will come up against Israel in the final days. We can see how desperately alone Israel is now if we note the numerous United Nations resolutions against Israel. Sometimes, America has been the only nation to veto some of those resolutions to prevent action against Israel. How one sided they have been. No resolution condemned the constant rocketing of Israel from Gaza, but the moment Israel invaded that area to prevent rockets falling on her citizens, the world screamed blue murder!

"It is Zion, no one cares for her!" How true that is apart from the Almighty. Let the nations note the words of God: "... all who devour you will be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, will go into captivity; and those who plunder you will be for plunder, and all who prey upon you I will give for prey." (Jeremiah 30:16) Yet that is not all God has to say. To this little nation that no one cares about, God says, "I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast, saying 'It is Zion; no one cares for her.'" (Jeremiah 30:17)

Many will say that refers to the restoration of Israel from the Babylonian exile, and everything has changed since their rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Lord. Oh, has it? The prophet Zechariah who lives after the return from exile speaks that a time would come when Jerusalem becomes a heavy stone and a cup of reeling to all the people's around her. We are seeing that at the present time with the Palestinians trying to lay claim to part of Jerusalem and Israel having declared it their eternal capital. America and the Palestinians are trying to prevent Israel from building any further in what they claim to be occupied territory. But who occupied it in 1948 but Jordan. Israel simply reclaimed much of the land in 1967 which the Jews had been living in prior to 1948. However, Zechariah indicates that this will become a source of conflict, but he states that the Lord will defend His people and will destroy all nations which come up against her. (See Zechariah 12:1-10)

Ezekiel speaks, in chapter 38 & 39, of a time to come when various nations will

attack Israel. The nations which are mentioned include Iran, Sudan, Libya, Turkey and Russia. Those nations have not yet come against Israel in the whole of her history, but they are beginning to associate themselves together with Turkey now giving support to Iran. However, the prophet makes it clear that God will rise up in anger against those nations and they “will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.” (Ezekiel 39:7)

Jesus, Himself states that Israel “will be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24) Long before 1967 Bible students saw, as a result of reading that prophecy, that Jerusalem would come back under Jewish control and the Jews would return to their own land from all those nations where they had been scattered. A similar return had happened when the Jews first fell into the hands of the Assyrians (the Northern Kingdom of Israel) and the Babylonians (the Southern Kingdom of Judah) but the return from that exile had been on a far smaller scale. Jesus also indicated that the time would come when God would once again restore the Kingdom to Israel. (See Acts 1:6,7.) Of course in the end, it is not so much about restoring land, but removing the hardness of heart from the Jews so that all Israel would be saved. (Romans 11:25-30) It is amazing what conjuring tricks people play with this passage in Romans, stating that in some places ‘Israel’ means ‘the Church’ and in other places it means ‘Israel’. When God says Israel, He means Israel!

“It is Zion; no one cares for her.” God does! - and He seems to encourage

‘watchmen’ who will “give Him no rest until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” They are the Lord’s reminders. The Hebrew word for “who reminds” or “reminder” is used today for a secretary. The Lord has an appointment to keep to bring about Israel’s salvation and glowing righteousness. That may seem a long way off but God will do it. (See Isaiah 62:1,6 & 7.) Do not be surprised when Israel stands completely alone, or when many within the Church fail to understand God’s time and purposes and oppose Israel. Israel will become increasingly isolated and will be blamed for all the world’s ills. It should be Islam that receives such notoriety, but Satan has always hated God’s chosen people and stirs up animosity against her. God, however, will not fail her. When God intends to work, He raises up those who will pray through His purposes. God cares and He wants you to care and keep on reminding God that He has an appointment with Jerusalem regarding her salvation and righteousness.

Ray Borlase