

# Hartford Bible Students Newsletter - December 2014

## Will Israel Survive the End Times?

In 1989 Hamas, a violent Islamic fundamentalist party, began to wage an unprecedented war of terror upon Israel. They are demanding a Palestinian State in all of the land of Israel — but will they achieve their goal to eliminate the Jews from Israel? Prophecy indicates the contrary. "...those who hate Thee have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Thy people, and conspire together against Thy treasured ones. They have said, 'Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more... Fill their faces with dishonor, that they may seek Thy name, O LORD...' Psalms 83:1-18 NAS

God chose Israel out of all other nations to be a channel of His blessings to the world. God calls Israel the apple of His eye, His Firstborn, His Inheritance. Zechariah 2:8; Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 19:25 God has not abandoned His oath-bound covenant to Israel through their father Abraham. "...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins . . ." Romans 11:25-28

Israel is fulfilling Bible prophecy! Her regathering as a nation was one of the signs of Christ's return to establish his everlasting Kingdom. (Matthew 24:32) "...I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David... that the residue of men might seek after the Lord..." (Acts 15:14-18) God's Kingdom, with Christ as His honored agent, will be one of righteousness, unselfishness and peace beginning in Jerusalem and then spreading to the entire world.

Though Israel is now the center of trouble and terrorism in the world today, God's peace plan will make her a praise in all the earth. (Isaiah 62:7) Jerusalem will become the capital of the world and the center for lasting world peace, not only for the Jews, but for all who humble themselves and learn to love the righteous Laws of God. "Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem... In those days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you." Zechariah 8:22, 23

Yes, God will "gather the nations" to pour out the "fire of His wrath." And while that sounds painful — there is hope beyond the trouble. As a surgeon who must remove a cancerous tumor, God only wounds to heal. Out of the midst of the turmoil surrounding the globe at this time, God has a plan which will most certainly bring healing and everlasting joy! Isaiah 35:1-10

Continuing in Zephaniah's prophecy, after the fire of that day, God will then "turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." (verse 9) The "pure language" is truth. Once the chastening hand of justice quenches the fires of anarchy, God turns this "pure language" to the people — which indicates they did not have it before. "The people" referred to will be the untold billions of mankind who have never heard this "pure language." And, because of the troubles they have experienced, they will now be ready to listen to God's pure truth — untainted by the erroneous and evil doctrines of men. Mankind will learn to freely serve God with "one consent." The New American Standard puts this "one consent" as "shoulder to shoulder." Instead of brother fighting against brother, mankind will learn to cooperate in building a peaceful society. The desire of every young soldier on the field of battle will be realized: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore." Micah 4:3