

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Signs of the second coming of Jesus

Luke 21:24, 28, 32-- (Jesus speaking of the Jews) *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.-- And "when these things begin" to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.--This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*

Amos 9:14,15 -- *I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel -- I will plant them upon their land, and "they shall no more be pulled up" out of their land, which I have given them.*

The Lord God made a covenant with the Jews to be their God (Gen. 17:7). He said that if they were not obedient to him and went worshiping other gods, he would scatter them upon the face of the earth (Jer. 16:11-13; 29:17-19). They fell into Baal (sun-god), grove (moon-goddess) and golden calf worship. God, indeed, scattered them by the edge of the sword as he promised. In 722 B.C. Northern Israel was carried into captivity by the sword of the Assyrians (II Kings 17:6). Israel had immersed itself in idolatry (Paul said covetousness is idolatry). Judah (Southern Israel) was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and carried off in chains to Babylon (II Chron. 36:5-21). Only Judah came back from the captivity during the Maccabean era (between the testaments) and the time of Christ, as a Roman province. Ezekiel prophesied, about the time of the captivity, that God would call his people "back from the sword" where he had "scattered" them through out the nations of the earth (Ezek. 36:24-28; 37:21-23). This homing pigeon instinct of the Jews of the world (where they were scattered) began in the 1890's. This movement was instituted by a Jew named Theodor Herzl. This heart felt call to Israel was called Zionism. It is truly a wonder and the sovereign act of God that a Jew raised in Russia, speaking Russian and living these customs as a native (with little knowledge of Israel) would wake up one morning and say, "I want to go home to Israel". By any rationale, the Jew should have been annihilated in the dust long ago with the legions of Rome. God has called his people back as he promised. On May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation for the first time in 2600 years. The persecution of the Jew over this period is the darkest record of racial discrimination and persecution in the history of the world. They died by the millions at the hands of unjust men, which God employed as his sword (Psalms 17:13,14; Isa. 10:5-15). Amos said that when God brings them back (20th century), they will never be pulled up again. God has already called them and the Gentiles have ceased to rule them (times of Gentiles). This generation, in which we live, will not pass away till all be fulfilled. The end is near. Jesus is coming.

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