

greatly pleased; nay, many of them took their effects with them, and came to Babylon, as very desirous of going down to Jerusalem (now note what follows); but then the entire body of the people of Israel remained in that country (country of the Medes and Persians); wherefore there are about two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the ten tribes are beyond the Euphrates till now, and are an immense multitude not to be estimated by numbers."

The reason I place so much emphasis on the historical fact of the return of 43,000 people from the Babylonian captivity is that once this fact is understood and established in one's thinking, Bible prophecy opens up beautifully. But if Bible prophecy is read with the idea that the Jewish people are the Israel people of the Bible, there is confusion and contradiction. Preachers who believe the Jews are the Israel people must grab texts here and there and try to make them fit together. To correctly interpret Bible prophecy, however, one must expound verse after verse. That is the Scriptural way to preach and teach the Word.

In Part I of this Bible study I quoted briefly from *Jeremiah* 3, and at this point I would like to go further into the long-range prophecy recorded in this chapter. Verse 11 reads, "*And the LORD said unto*

*me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.*" Israel and Judah are two distinct and separate people throughout Bible history and Bible prophecy.

Verse 12 continues, "*Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.*"

As we mentioned previously, Jeremiah at this time was preaching in the little Judah nation. Ten-tribed Israel about 100 years before had been taken into the Assyrian captivity and was now in the North. God stopped Jeremiah in his preaching and pleading with the Judah nation and told him to "*Go and proclaim these words toward the north*" (where ten-tribed Israel had been placed).

Concerning God's mercy, we must agree that God has had more mercy upon the Isaac-sons (favoring, blessing and visiting them with revivals and spiritual refreshings) than all other peoples of all history combined.

We read on, "*Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree,*

*and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.*"

Ten-tribed Israel had gone into the worship of Baal and had departed from the national message, the gospel of the kingdom. Thus God in judgment and anger had sent them into the Assyrian captivity. But while in this Assyrian captivity God spoke to them through Jeremiah, promising that He was not going to abandon them, give them up or destroy them in spite of their sinfulness, rebelliousness and defiance of God.

"*Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you . . .*" Repeatedly in the Scriptures God speaks symbolically of being married to the Isaac-sons. God uses this symbol because it is one which we understand. We realize, for example, that when two people are married, they are obligated to one another; they have things in common and are loyal to each other. God also declares that His purpose and plan for the entire earth is involved with what Israel will do. He further says,

"*. . . and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.*" (The United States of America is Zion of Bible prophecy.)

Thus God promised to use these Anglo-Saxon Israel people who

made their trek up into Europe, England, Scotland, Ireland, Scandinavia and the other Israel nations to build this great kingdom nation (the United States of America) in the last days. This prophecy is interesting and challenging because it gives details as to how these people were to be brought to this great North American wilderness. They were not to come as one great mighty army of a million or two men. Rather, God promised, "*I will take you one of a city, and two of a family,*" which is exactly what happened.

"*And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*" The word "*pastors*" refers, it is true, to ministers of the gospel, and we do have an abundance of good gospel preaching in this nation. But the word "*pastors*" here also means "*leaders*" — in government, industry, education and in all of the various activities in which we are engaged as a people. God promised He would give inspired, capable, intelligent men according to His heart to feed His people with knowledge and understanding.

We all must agree that God has given this great kingdom nation knowledge and understanding perhaps beyond any generation of all history. This has come even though we have not yet had our cleansing