

IS TODAY'S ISRAEL THE RESTORED
ISRAEL OF THE BIBLE?
Rom. 11: 25-36

All right, I want to finish the chapter and spend most of the time in a total summation of the miracle nation. Up to this point, you will recall how Paul has reviewed the fall of the Jews. That is: their failure to believe on Christ and how the Lord, in His wisdom, turned to the Gentiles and then he says that the time will come that He will turn back to the Jews. One of the mysteries of the Sovereignty and Providence of God is that He was able to turn the flaw of Israel into salvation of the world, through the Gentiles.

God will never be defeated but He will not work like we would think He would work. Paul is so overwhelmed with this that his theology erupts into doxology ~~and~~ in V. 33, 34, 35 and 36 - how God did not let Israel's temporary rejection of the Messiah defeat His plan, for world redemption.

V. 25 (read) he's speaking to Gentiles. This is a word to Gentiles. God having shown mercy upon them, a danger that they would be ~~deceived and conceited~~ deceived and conceited and feel they were special. He goes on to point out what the mystery is. Last part of verse: 'blindness in part, has happened to Israel' and this indicates only a partial blindness. Jews are being saved today. Paul points out that he's in this dispensation and he's certainly was not blind! But he believed the Gospel. Dr. Gartenhouse, this world authority on Jewish Evangelism, wrote me recently, that more Jews are being saved today than any age in history.

We do not live in an area where there are many Jews at all. If we were in a city where there were a lot of Jews, I think we would see Jews from time to time saved. We had a member of this class, who was saved about two years ago when we were teaching Hebrews. Baptized in the church. Had a Jewish name. Jews are being saved, so 'blindness' has been partial but also the time of the blindness is limited by God because he says 'until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in'. What is the fulness of the Gentiles? That will be that hour, known only to God, when the full quota of Gentiles will be converted and that time is coming. We cannot say when it will come. The 'times' of the Gentiles is the time that Jerusalem will be occupied by Gentile nations. But the 'fulness' of the Gentiles refers to the conversion of the

Gentiles - or the Spiritual riches through Christ. Now he says, when this occurs

V. 26 (read) all Israel will be saved. Does this mean every Jew that has ever lived will be saved? No, it doesn't mean that. You read the 30th chapter of Jeremiah and you'd have to read a lot of Scripture to get all this together, you discover that many jews will be judged in the time of the Great Trib. and will die without Christ. But there will be a remnant that will go through this G. Trib. and all those at the end of the G. Trib. are gonna see Jes. when He comes, and they will be saved. The details of this is in Zechariah, chapter 12, 13 and 14. All Israel shall be saved (re-reading V. 26). Out of Sion (out of Jerusalem) the Deliverer and that is none other than JC Himself.

Coming at the end of the Great. Trib. to planet earth (last part of this verse:) shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. XXXXXX

V. 27 (read) he's quoting Isaiah 27. Now we're gonna bring all this together at the end of the study this morning.

V. 28 (read) 'Concerning the Gospel (or from the standpoint of the Gospel) 'they' (that would be the Jews) are enemies for your sakes.' That's a strange statement, isn't it? But we've already seen throughout the chapter how Paul has pointed out that when the Jews rejected Christ, Christ turned to the Gentiles and the mercy He offered the Jews, He offered the Gentiles. 'But as touching the election (Gods people, whom He foreknew) they are beloved for the fathers sakes.' Now that is not with a big F; that is not God, the Father; that's speaking of the patriarchs; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are beloved for the fathers sake. For they are favored. What does that mean?

The next verse is tied in with that. V. 29 (read) what Paul is saying is God is not gonna break His Covenant with the fathers, with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And He promised them a land and He promised them the restoration. He promised them the great fulness and great conversions that are going to come and then he says 'for the gifts'. What are the gifts? We saw

these in Chapter 9. The wonderful advantages that God has given the Jews and the 'calling of God' (the calling to be a special people) are without repentance'. Or is irrevocable! God has not suspended the gifts nor the calling. Now we quote this and of course, it would apply to the church that Gods gift and calling are irrevocable to us, if He gives us a Spiritual gift, He doesn't withdraw it. He calls me to preach; He doesn't uncall me and I'm not debating the fact that a man can be say - a pastor - and then could go into another field. That's quite possible.

I entertained, very strongly, going to the Seminary and teaching. God could have permitted that; He did not in my life, but I have some friends, who tell me that they started pastoring and then God led them to teach. I don't understand a man ever being called and leaving the ministry - that is unthinkable to me, with all the problems. I cannot conceive with this. But this was to Israel. This was stated directly to Israel: that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. God does not - has not taken away these things/~~from Israel~~ I do not know what aumillennial people do with this verse!

You say 'what do you mean by aumillennialism?' The aumillennial school which is very strong, indeed. Post-millennialism is dead. No one in his right mind would be a post-millennialist and say 'the church is gonna bring in the golden age and then Christ is gonna come and take it over'. But we still got aumillennialism pretty strong, among us. We have it in Ft. Smith. I think it's regrettable. It says that the Promises to Israel have been taken away and have been given to the church. I don't know what they do with this verse. This plainly says that the gifts and the calling has NOT been taken away!

V. 30 (read) 'ye (or course, he's talking to the Romans or Gentiles). 'Their (the Jews).

V. 31 (read) and 32 (read) and that's a key verse, indeed. He says 'God has bound all men over to the knowledge of their disobedience, really, is the word. 'Unbelief-is disobedience'. 'God has bound all men over to the knowledge oftheir disobedience, that ~~He~~ may have mercy on them all! When we're knowledgable of our disobedience, or our unbelief, that is when God,

indeed, would have mercy. Israel, one day, will see their disobedience. NOT until Jes. comes, but they WILL see it and they will turn to the Lord in great numbers, according to the Bible. Did Paul understand all of this? He certainly did not. How could God take Israel's rejection of the Gospel and turn it into a blessing for the world? Only God could do this. Only God could DO this!

I'm gonna preach at 9: 30 on the subject 'I Refuse To Worry'. Only God can keep us from worrying and that's when we really believe in the God of the Scriptures. Not the god that - of the humanist or the god of logic, but the God of Scriptures! Aw, Lord God, Thou hast made the Heavens and the earth with Thy great power and outstretched arm and there is nothing too hard for Thee! YOU don't defeat God! When the Jews rejected the Lord, He just turned it into a mighty blessing and the Gentile church is gonna run its course and He's gonna turn right back and redeem the world through the Jews.

So Paul turns his theology into doxology!

V. 33 (read) what's wisdom and knowledge? Well, knowledge is the accumulation of information. Wisdom is to know how to use that information. God has all information - from Eternity past to Eternity future! There's nothing that God doesn't know and He knows how to use this, to accomplish His purpose. Last part of this verse: 'His ways past finding out' (or His path untraceable). YOU just don't understand it. When you think that you've finally figured out the ways of God, He will contradict you. You take the great work of the H. S., which is God without body in our lives, doing the work of Jes. The only predictable thing about the H. S. is His unpredictability!

Sometimes you can - in obedience to the command of Christ - you can go out here and witness; you can pray; you can fast and you can do everything within your power. You come to services; the anointing of the Spirit is upon you; you invite the people to Christ and not a person comes. Then, again, you can have a hard week and fly to Singapore and get back exhausted and you come in the pulpit and say 'oh, my goodness, I don't know whether I'm up to this or

not and you haven't made a visit; you haven't prayed; and you give an invitation and twenty people will be saved! There is no way in this world to figure out God. And these poor ~~XX~~legalists who make a plan and put God in a box and say 'He's got to act like this' I tell you, if they were honest for one year, they would get out of that thinking and thought!

Paul certainly is saying that and it's in the context, in the way that he dealt with the Gentiles and the way he's gonna deal with the Jews: 'O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God'.

V. 34 (read) he asks three questions - who knows what God is thinking and what Gods gonna do? NO one. If anybody on earth could have known, Paul would have known. He wrote half of the N. T. Paul did not know that. 'Or who hath been His counsellor?' Whose been Gods advisor? Or who hath first given to Him and it shall be recompensed unto him again? Who has ever put God in his debt? Given to God ~~AND SO ON~~ so that God would have to pay him back? You can't give God anything! not at all. The ways of God cannot be understood!

We understand some things but it's very little and when we think we've got it down, that's the very moment that He will act differently than we ever thought. Now He won't act contrary to His character and He won't act contrary to the Scrip., but He is the mystery of God. I've said to my wife many times, as we have talked and her interest when she went to Seminary was Theology. She was President of the Theology Club and so it's a joy to have a wife who has a theological mind. I said 'the greatest mystery and problem in my thinking is God'. Gods the mystery and that's what Paul is saying.

They came to Jes., remember? With the question 'should we pay taxes'? Well, what if He says yes. If He does, He'll make the Jews mad. What if He says no? He'll make the Romans mad. You know what He did, to show how wise God is; Jes. is God in the flesh. He just said 'show Me a coin' and Peter pulled out a coin and He said 'whose image is on that?' He said 'Caesars' and Jes. said 'give unto Caesar that which is Caesars'. Give to Caesars what his image is

on. Pay your taxes. Give him the coin.' 'But give unto God what is unto God'. What image is on us? His image. What are we to give to Him? Ourselves. All we have. And that settled it. Man, such wisdom! The world has never known anything like it. They bring a woman, caught in adultery. She's caught in adultery by the law; she's to be stoned. (Mark 8). You know what Jes. does? He just kneels down and begins to write. What did He write? About their sins, in my opinion.

On the sand. And when He quit writing, they were leaving(?) (not real plain on tape here) they were all gone. He said 'he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone'. Oh, the wisdom of God! No one would ever have thought of that. That's God working. And then, this great verse

V. 36 (read) my what a statement that is. I read that to a member of our congregation, a doctor, fifteen years ago when he was in the hospital and when I read it, he said 'I want that on my tombstone. I want you to preach on that at my funeral' and that IS on his tombstone and I preached on it at his funeral. 'For of Him, (do you realize that everything is OF Him? He's the source. You and I came from Him). This world came from Him. 'For OF Him (of God) He's our source, but not only did we come from Him 'and through Him (He's our force. You and I could not live a moment.) The world in which we live would not hold together a minute if it were not for His sustaining power!

A great scientist - a great atomic scientist calls Coll. 1: 17, which says 'He holds all things together': 'The Colossians Force' and I want to tell you something else. You cannot hold your life together or your marriage or anything without Jes. I would be dead or I'd be a lunatic; I would be crazy if it were not for Jes. He is not only our source; He is our force. But not only our source and our force but 'TO Him are all things'. He's our course. We got to go to Him, absolutely. Everything is gonna end with Him. It begins with Him, comes through us and goes back to Him. Do you realize that's one of the greatest verses on prayer in the world? Prayer begins in His great soul; passes through us and goes back to Him!

He's our source; He's our force and He's our course. What a God He is! 'To whom be glory forever. Amen' This is Paul.

His theology has turned into doxology! And, indeed, it does when we see the greatness of God! We can praise God. When we really see the wonder of God, we're caught with awe! And that will cause us to worship and to praise God. The greater our vision of God is and the greatness of God - and you and I are like our God. And the reason the nation is in the trouble it's in and many believers is - that they do not believe in the God of the Scriptures! But a plastic, 20th Century God that's been humanized is not the God of the Bible at all!

You show me your God and I will show you what you are! Your God determines who you are! And Paul's God was so greater than he that Paul was just astounded and especially concerning His dealing with His chosen people.

Now I want to talk about Israel, the Miracle Nation. There are four miracles in the history of Israel:

FIRST: THE MIRACLE OF GENERATION. Israel began with a miracle. We read of this in Gen. 17 and 18. Sarah is ninety years of age. Abraham is a hundred. And God says to them 'you're gonna have a baby' - said that to Sarah. It was so ludicrous that Sarah laughed. But she didn't laugh long! Because she was immediately pregnant and nine months later, she gave birth to Isaac, not Jacob, Isaac! Which means 'laughter'. Did you ever hear of a ninety woman having a baby? Did you ever hear of a hundred year old man fathering a child? When you see a Jew, you can say 'there goes a miracle'. The nation began in a miracle, unlike any nation in history. Began in a miracle.

I don't see why any Jew would have any difficulty in believing in the Virgin Birth. But you say 'it was not a Virgin Birth'. No, it wasn't a Virgin Birth, but it was a miraculous birth; it was beyond any ability of man to produce. As Rom. 4: 19 & 20 points out. There

was no possibility except through the intervention of God. God could not be defeated. Sarah herself had been an instrument of the flesh, encouraged her husband to have a child by Hagar and she did. But that was not the line at all. You say 'well, Gods defeated'. No, He isn't defeated. Isaac is born and the nation is born. That's a miracle. But that's only the beginning of the miracles. The second miracle is

SECOND: THEIR PRESERVATION. I just want to remind you of a little bit of history. In A.D. 70, the Roman army - the mighty Roman army - under Titus marched in Jerusalem, destroyed the city, destroyed the Temple. What they ~~XXXX~~^(?) was completed in 135 A.D. From 135 A.D. until 1948, there was no Jewish state. The Jews have no homeland. They were scattered over the entire earth for about 1900 years. In some areas of the world, especially in the Holy Land, they virtually disappeared. In the 8th Century, the Mohammedans moved into the Holy Land and they did not find many Jews there at all.

They persecuted them severely. From 1200 A.D. to about 1400 the Xtns of Western Europe, in the famous crusades, went to the Holy Land to recover the Holy places, which the Mohammedans were occupying, believing that was a great Xtn duty and they'd get great merits. They did not find many Jews but when they got to Jerusalem, they ~~XXXX~~^M rounded up the Jews they found and put them in a Synagogue and burned it. The saddest chapter in Xtn History has been the persecution, by Xtns, of the Jews! I want to tell you something, whether you know it or not, liberal theology today, is basically enemies of Jews!

You find a liberal in your pulpit - he doesn't have any time for Jews! Isn't that interesting? Who would deny the Bible is anti-semitic basically. It's very interesting, what we're saying. And then in the 14th Century, the Black Plague hit Europe and they blamed the Jews and thousands of Jews were slaughtered. Jes. has said that they would be, in Luke 21: 24 (read) he says they would fall by the sword. Indeed, that has been their history. It climaxed under Hitler. Hitler said 'I ~~WILL~~ will destroy every Jew in the world' and before WW II there was three million in Poland and at the end of the war, only one hundred thousand. I'm quoting reliable statistics. He murdered six MILLION Jews - half of them were children. He used the

power of the state in saying 'I will destroy forever, the Jews. I will blow them off the face of the earth'. Did he? He did not! As a matter of fact, God used the holocaust in restoring Israel - as we'll see in just a few moments, when we get to the restoration.

Now, during all this time, the Jews are preserved. Now there were a lot of people in the world who were contemporaries of the Jews. There were Moabites and Cannanites and Jebusites and Ammonites and Hitites, Greeks and Romans and Egyptians - these people have lost their identity. When did you bump into an Ammonite at the Mall? You say, but this is Ft. Smith. You will not see one in N.Y. City, either. Or Los Angeles. Or the Jebusites or the Hitites - that was one of the greatest nation in the world. The Bible mentions it and for years; as a matter of fact, in my lifetime, the liberal scholars said 'there's nothing to this'.

In my lifetime, in Asia Minor, the most brilliant civilization in Ancient History, has been dug up. It's always that way! The Hitites - you won't find any Hitites. All the ancient people are gone. You think there would be an American stock if we had been dispersed to the ends of the earth for two thousand years? Here's a miracle of God. Not only this, but the contribution of the people cannot even be described in the time that I would have. Do you realize that it was a Jew that financed the trip of Columbus to America? Do you realize it was a Jew, Hiram Solomon, who financed Washington's army to fight the Revolutionary War? I have read that the first person on Columbus's crew to set foot on the new world was a Jew!

Do you realize how Jews have influenced our lives? Did you ever hear of Saulk Vaccine? Well, Saulk was a Jew. Did you ever hear of digitalis? For the heart? Digitalis was a Jew. Did you ever take Wasserman test before marriage? Wasserman was a Jew. Do you know what ended WW II? The atomic bomb. You know who discovered the atomic bomb at the Univ. of Pennsylvania? Albert Einstein : It has been said and with not a great deal of ~~exaggeration~~ exaggeration that the history of man revolves around seven Jews. It'll be hard to disprove it. Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Paul, Froids(?), Carl Marx and Albert Einstein.

I gave that question to an intellectual recently and the intellectual said 'that would be hard

to challenge'. Our lives are so tremendously affected by the contribution of a relatively small segment of humanity. Did God promise that the Jews would be preserved and could not be destroyed? I would just refer you to Jeremiah 31: 35 and Psalm 89: 28 (following each of these verses) here God says that the sun will refuse to shine; the moon has quickly as Israel ceases to exist. It will exist forever and ever and ever! To deny these things, is to deny what the Bible says. If language means anything, I would conspiritualize these things but if you do that, in my opinion, you're just trying to get around the teaching of the Bible!

So you have the Generation of Israel; you have the Preservation of Israel but then you have

THIRD: MIRACULOUS RESTORATION OF ISRAEL. I just want to review this real quickly with you. You see, the Jewish nation was completely blotted out in A.D. 135. No Temple, no nation, no government, no land. For about 1900 years! In 1850, the Reform Synagogue, a major expression of Jewry, renounced all belief from the Messiah and any hope of every returning back to the Promised Land. By the 19th Century, it was generally agreed, that this will not occur. I can hear some of my professors say right now 'well, you know, this Israel - they are just an urban people. They love the city and it's ridiculous that they will ever go back to the Promised Land. To a place of rocks and deserts.'

The intellectual unbelieving world, before 1948, just poked fun at this idea. About 1895, the Zionist ~~movement~~ movement began and that was the movement dedicated to ~~the~~ the return of the Jews to their homeland. In WW I, the British Government, who had a Protectotote over this area, signed what is called the famous 'Therefore DEclaration' in 1919, I believe, in which they promised the Jews a homeland in Palestine. But that was not redeemed by the British Government. It came through the mysterious working of God and His Plan. And it came unexpectedly. After the holocaust, the Jews said, and not only the Jews, but the Western World, said 'never again can this happen to the Jews' and there are about six hundred and fifty thousand Jews, at that time, in Palestine, surrounded by forty million Arabs.

But the United Nations recognized the state in 1948; the Arabs thought they could wipe Israel

off the map. Little over half a million people. I've read miracle after miracle of how they repelled the Arab forces. I read an account where an Arab legion was marching down to wipe out the Israelis and they entered a grove of trees and the bees came out and just swarmed and stung them and the Arabs had to flee. An American newspaperman said 'the bees fight for Israel' The Restoration, in the

FIRST PLACE: is a Military Miracle! I 1967, in the 6-day war, Israel enlarged its territory from 8 thousand to 34 thousand square feet. Then in 1973, they extended it far beyond this and had it not been for the Western World, they would have taken Egypt and Syria and anything they wanted to. Military men will tell you that the military exploits of the Israelis are miraculous. There's not a nation of it's size in the world that could have existed as it has. And have withstood what it has withstood. An absolute miracle.

Not only a Military Miracle, but in the next place

SECOND PLACE: a Socialogocal Miracle. Sixty one nations are represented in Israel, I read. Major Socialogist said 'these people will NEVER get together. Therewill NEVER be an intergration of this culture'. But in fifteen years, that was one nation. It's also been in

THIRD PLACE: an Agriculture Miracle. Who wanted Israel? It was nothing but rocks and deserts. Prior to 1948. I have read that Israel today is one of the six countries in the world that makes it's own food and exports food. If you have eaten any oranges or citrus fruit right here in Ft. Smith, you're eating fruit shipped to Ft. Smith from Israel. It's an amazing thing. If you have been there, I don't have to stretch the point at all. It's the most aggressive country on earth unless it be Japan or the U.S. and I'm not sure it doesn't exceed them! And then, it is in the

FOURTH PLACE: a Linguistic Miracle. As I've already indicated. They speak Hebrew. And there's never been the revival of another ancient language in the history of the world.

Now, we come to the final point, which would be Future and that is

FOURTH: THE GENERATION. I come back to my question: if the present Israel the restored Israel promised in the Bible? The Bible certainly promises that Israel will be placed back in the land, never to be plucked up again. The last verse of Amos (there's some in Isaiah, many of them) but I think the clearest one is in Amos 9: 15 (read). I asked a Hebrew scholar recently what he believed about this and he said 'I do not believe what you believe'. I said 'I don't know how you can HELP but believe what I believe'. You know if you don't WANT to believe, you can disbelieve it and I'm literally amazed how peoples minds can be brain-washed against the plain teaching of the Bible!

He said 'well, that's the Babylonian captivity. The return from the Babylonian captivity. It says 'I will plant them and they shall never be pulled out'. That was not fulfilled in the Babylonian Captivity. They are gonna be planted in the land, never to be pulled out again.

All right: Is The Present State of Israel the Restored Israel Promised In Scripture? I cannot answer this question with finality. Only God can do this. But this I know: I KNOW that the Israel that will be restored will be centered in Palestine. It will just include a great deal more than Israel has. It will go to the Euphrates River. It'll include Syria. The center of the restored Israel will be in Palestine, where the present Israel is located. Not only that, the activities of the restored Israel will center in Old Jerusalem, which in July of 1981, was made the capitol of the state of Israel.

Now the first stage of the restoration would be the return of Israel, in unbelief, to their land. They are not regenerated today. We have not got to the ultimate Fourth state of the miracles. They are in unbelief. They are anti-Christ. They are against the Gospel of Christ. But you see, the Bible teaches that they must be in the land, when Christ comes for the Rapture of the Church and indeed, during part of the G. Trib. will be in unbelief and the regeneration will not occur until the last of the G. Trib. When Christ comes, with the church, to the Mt. of Olives and they SEE Him. Those who have survived the G. Trib.

Will the present state of Israel be wiped out? I do not believe that. I cannot SAY that it won't be, but I do not believe it will be. I believe that what we're witnessing is the return of the restored Israel or what will become the Restored Israel. They're returning in unbelief.

Now What is the Scenario? According to the Bible? The fulness of the Gentiles is gonna come in. The Gentile church is gonna run its course; the full quota is gonna be saved. Jes. is going to come for His bride, the Church - basically a Gentile body. This can occur any moment. He's gonna take it to Heaven with Him. Are you ready? That's the next event. Hal Lindsey said 'it'll happen in 1988'. I hope he doesn't have a red face after 1988. I would never go out on a limb like that. But he believes it will be 1988. But we don't have any clear sign of it. The best sign is what I'm telling you: is the return of Israel to the land, getting ready for the final regeneration.

All right, what's gonna happen on the earth? Israel will be in the land at that time. The stage is undoubtedly set for this, though I think there'll be more that's gonna come in. I think that we might have some years before the Rapture. I do not know. I think things are gonna get worse. I think America is gonna have to pay a price for the Gospel, probably before Christ comes, for the church. But what's gonna happen? The Bible teaches that the man of sin, the anti-christ, is gonna rule the world during these seven years. 11 Thess. 2 'he will move into the Temple'. This Temple will be in Jerusalem. I believe he's gonna help the Jews rebuild the Temple and after he's rebuilt it, he's gonna move in to the Temple and say 'I am god'.

They will look upon him as being a great deliverer, up until this point. But when he declares he's god, he will reveal his colors and that will be about the middle of the G. Trib. Then the great warfare between anti-christ and the Jews is going to take place. During this time, there's going to be the first-fruit of the regeneration or the salvation of the nation. Moses and Elijah, in fulfillment of the prophecy, are going to come. They're gonna witness. They're gonna witness and there's a hundred and forty four thousand Jews that's gonna be saved. You

read this in Rev. 7: 4 through 8 and then immediately following this, it says a multitude which no man could number, of all nations, kindred peoples and tongues are seen before the Throne. These are the Tribulation martyrs who were killed for their faith and went to Heaven. Where are they going to hear the Gospel? Well, I can draw no over-intelligent conclusion than to say 'it's through the witness of the hundred and forty four thousand Jews.' You remember what Paul said in Rom. 11: 15? He says that if the obedience of the Gentiles has resulted in the reconciliation of the world, how much more will the Spiritual blessing to the world be when He goes back to the Jews'.

He says it will be like a resurrection from the dead and you have this described in Ezekiel 37 - where a dead nation will be raised from the dead and stand like a mighty army. During this time according to Jeremiah 30, many, many Jews will be killed but there will be MANY that will survive the G. Trib

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.... Christ. But they will see Him - the hundred and forty four thousand Jews. I call this the Welcoming Committee. They are gonna meet Him on the Mt. of Olives but there will be, in my judgment, several million Jews in Palestine, at that time. You have the details of this in the minor prophets, especially Zechariah. If you want to turn to Zech. 12: 10 (read) 'look upon' is not a good translation. 'And they shall look unto Me, whom they have pierced (that is the crucifixion) and they shall mourn for Him as one mourneth for his only son' and it goes on and describes a sorrow and ~~repentance~~ a repentance like crying over a loved one who's died. The Jews looking upon the Messiah whom they have crucified.

'And shall be in bitterness for Him as one that is in bitterness for his first born'. Here's the scene at the end of the G. Trib. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Look at Zech. 13:1 (read) what is that fountain? That's the fountain filled with blood. How will the Jews be saved? Just like you and I are saved. By faith in the blood of the crucified one. In the 14th Chap. of Zech., he goes on and says 'His feet (that is, the feet of Jes.) shall stand in that day

upon the Mt. of Olives, which is before Jerusalem, on the East and the Mt. of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof, toward the East and toward the West and there shall be a very great valley and half of the mountain shall remove toward the ~~East~~ North and half of it toward the South.' Jesus is going to come back to the point from which He departed!

The hundred and forty four thousand Jews, according to Rev. 14, will meet Him there. But then the nation - all the Jews that are living - will look upon Him. They will see Him and Paul says in Rom. 11:26 (read) all Israel will be saved and this nation will go into the Millennium and reign with Him a thousand years. Yes, I believe that the present state of Israel will continue. I believe that it will be expanding. I think you can expect, if you live to two thousand, I would not be surprised if Israel were to take Syria. We simply don't know what's gonna happen but I believe that the present state of Israel is the beginning of the total restoration.

What are you and I to do in the meantime? Are we to give up and dress in white and go up to Mt. Gaylor and give up our job or not go to school? Not at all! You know what the Bible says, in Luke 19: 13? 'Occupy (you know what that word means in the original?) be practical or pragmatic; we get our word 'pragmatic' from the verb 'occupy'. Be practical. A young person said to me this week 'well, I don't think I'll go to Seminary; Christ is coming'. I said 'do you really believe what the Bible says about His coming'? He said 'yes'. I said 'well, if you do, you better go to the Seminary'. I've preached the ~~em~~minent coming of Christ all my life and in our church in No. Carolina, I preached it and God just led me out as clear as day to go back to the Seminary and one of the dear brothers in the church said 'Pastor, I'm just amazed at you. You must not believe what you preach' and I said 'what's that'?

Said 'you've been preaching on the ~~em~~minent coming of the Lord and yet, you leave us to go back to Seminary'. And then I referred him to Luke 19: 13 - occupy. Peter says that we are to live Holy lives, that we are to be at our best, as we see the world coming to its end or the age coming to its end. As we see these things happening, and John says 'every man that has

this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure'. No, the Second Coming of Christ does not make us irresponsible. You take a pastor, who really believes in the Second Coming of Christ is a pastor who prays, witnesses, is evangelistic, preaches the Gospel. Now we can get caught up into the theory and just studying prophecy as a project but if we really believe what the Bible says, these things will make ~~us~~ us urgent, will call us to separation and sanctification and obedience and witnessing for the Lord.

The young evangelist who was in our church, he was a very intelligent man and, incidentally, he's well recognized all over the world. He was on the consulting team for the New King James Bible and is considered one of the authorities in the whole world today on Youth - he says this is it! He says 'this is IT'. 11 Tim. 3: 1 (read) you read those things in 11 Tim. 3:1 - it's really a commentary; ~~it's~~ it's a description of modern American culture. I hope if He comes, that you are ready.

It's not a question IF He's coming. The question is 'is He coming for you'? He can come! He can come! It's a great day to be alive; it really is. It's a wonderful time to preach and to teach and to live for Jes. Many mysteries surround us, as Paul said. But God, if the Bible means anything, God is not through with His people, the Jews, and we're just seeing the beginning of the fulfillment of one of the most magnificent things ever stated in the Bible! Now Paul deals with the Jewish problem in 9, 10 & 11 and then he takes up Chap. 12, he comes back to our responsibility as Xtns. But he spends three whole chapters on the Jewish problem. Must have been pretty important! Indeed it is.

Let's stand and pray.