

Israel's glorious future - Part 3

If, as was suggested last time, the population of Israel will exceed 192 million by the end of the Millennium, how could they fit into the same sized territory which the nation occupied under David and Solomon? The law of Moses can help find an answer, saying about cities of refuge, *"...You shall separate three cities for yourself. Now if the Lord your God enlarges your territory*, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you the land which He promised to give to your fathers, and if you keep all these commandments and do them ... then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three..." - Deuteronomy 19:6-9.*

*It was the intention of God to give Israel at the beginning only what part of the land they could manage. Allowance was made for natural growth in the population, and a gradual expansion further into the land which God had promised. The same arrangement can be expected in the restored kingdom under Christ.

"Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you..." - Deuteronomy 6:3.* This promised population growth can be seen in the words of God to:

Abraham - *"Count the stars if you are able to number them... So shall your descendants be" - Genesis 15:5.*

Abraham - *"...I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore" - Genesis 22:17.*

Isaac - *"I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven" - Genesis 26:4.*

Jacob - *"Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad* to the west and the east, to the north and the south" - Genesis 28:14* (*gradual growth).

Moses - *"The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little*..." - Deuteronomy 7:22.*

*In Christ's kingdom Israel's population will gradually grow eastward, till it fills the land promised to Abraham and his Seed -

"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the furthest sea, shall be your territory" - Deuteronomy 11:24.*

*Literal Translation; AV - "uttermost" - refers to the Persian Gulf.

"When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you..." - Deuteronomy 12:20.

"When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it. And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you... Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations" - Deuteronomy 20:10-15.*

*This shows that the intended land of Israel was much larger than Canaan proper - expansion of the borders of Israel was allowed for, although it did not happen beyond what occurred under king David. This is because the people afterwards turned away from the law of God in preference for idolatry. Instead of growing in population and territory, their numbers shrank and the land was taken over by their enemies until they were scattered among all nations. This will not happen again in the restored kingdom under Christ. As Jesus promised the apostles in **Matthew 19:28**, they will then be the chief ministers of Christ's government over the nation. Under them will be a host of "shepherds" - **Jeremiah 23:3-4**, who also have been found faithful and made immortal at Christ's return. Their oversight will ensure that the "sheep" of Israel no longer will get lost - **Matthew 10:5-6**, but will prosper, grow and expand, non-stop for the next thousand years.