

Israel's glorious future - Part 4

Shortly before Israel invaded Canaan under Joshua, Moses delivered some final words of warning to the nation. If they remained faithful to God, and aloof from idols, they would enjoy great prosperity - *"Blessed shall be **the fruit of your body** (population growth), **the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks...** And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to **give the rain to your land** in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand...if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them" - **Deuteronomy 28:4, 11-13.***

Sadly, Israel rebelled against God and preferred idolatry. Consequently the curses which are described in the same chapter came upon the nation. But *"the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" - **Romans 11:29.*** Foreseeing Israel's apostasy, Moses added in **Deuteronomy 30:3** *"the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you... 5 "Then the LORD your God will bring you to **the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you MORE than your fathers.***

9 *"The LORD your God will make you **abound** in all the work of your hand, **in the fruit of your body** (population growth), **in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers...***

Under Moses, the plan for Israel's first settlement in the land was as follows - **Exodus 23** - God promised to **28** *"drive out" the Canaanites "from before you. 29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. 30 **Little by little** I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. 31 And I will set your bounds - see map - from the Red Sea (Egypt) to the Sea of the Philistines (Mediterranean - see **Jer. 47:4; Amos 9:7**), and from the desert (midbar, wilderness = Sinai Peninsula) to the River" (Euphrates).*

Psalm 65 paints a prophetic picture of Israel in the land, with Jesus ruling on David's throne - **9** *"You visit the earth and water it, You **GREATLY enrich it**; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it. 10 You water its ridges **abundantly**, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. 11 You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with **abundance.** 12 They drop on **the pastures of the wilderness**, And the little hills rejoice on every side. 13 The pastures are **clothed with flocks**; The valleys also are **covered with grain**; They shout for joy, they also sing".*

The land of promise, now having a greatly improved climate, will bring forth abundant vegetation and meat. The land, during the thousand years reign of Jesus, will support a much enlarged population enjoying good health - **Psalm 72:1** *"Give **the king** Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the **king's Son...** 8 He shall have dominion also **from sea to sea**, And from **the River** to the **ends of the earth...** 16 There will be an **abundance of grain** in the earth, On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And those of the city shall **flourish like grass of the earth.** 17 His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. 18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!"*

Next time, God willing, we will see how the State of Israel under Christ's government, will no longer be regarded as the runt of nations. Both in geographic area and in population, Israel will stand head to head with her neighbours - and in other respects far exceed them...