

## Israel's glorious future - Part 5

The Romans destroyed the Jewish state in AD 70. This appeared to be the end of Israel - the Jews would soon be assimilated into the populations where they had been scattered. But *"the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable ... all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob' "* - **Romans 11:26, 29; Isaiah 59:20.**

After Jesus has returned, and *"Your judgments are in the earth" - Isaiah 26:9* - he will overcome world opposition to his authority, when *"You have punished and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish" - v.14.* He will then gather the remnant of the Jewish diaspora - *"You have increased the nation, O Lord, you have increased the nation" - when "you have expanded all the borders of the land" - v.15.* Using the imagery later seen by Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, Isaiah foresees when Jesus will *"restore again the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6) - "Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise..." - v.19.*

The reason for expanding the borders of Israel is shown in **Isaiah 49:19** - the immigration will be so high that *"your waste and desolate places ... will even now be too small for the inhabitants ... 20 The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell'."*

At that time *"... Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see (unlike as in the past) a land that stretches afar - Isaiah 33:15-17.* Another reason for the expansion of borders is that the growth in population will be uninterrupted - **Isaiah 60:21** *"Your people shall all be righteous\*"; they shall possess the land forever ... 22 The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation†; I am the Lord; in its time I will hasten it."*

\* In the past, God punished the nation with various and serious troubles, which resulted in a disruption of the national prosperity.

† "mighty" = Strong 6099 *`atsuwmm*, powerful, numerous.

And so the transplanted population will grow exponentially - **Jeremiah 23:3** *"I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase."* Life will be good in a prosperous and favoured Israel - **Jeremiah 30:19** *"Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small (as they were formerly)."* He continues, *"again there shall be heard in this place - in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate ... the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride" - from whom come children and population growth - 33:10-11.*

Ezekiel adds, *"I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. 11 I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings 37 ... I will increase their men like a flock ... so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the Lord" - Ezekiel 36:10, 37.*

And in his vision of the Valley of Dry Bones, he says *"the Spirit of the Lord, set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones ... 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an EXCEEDINGLY GREAT army (NRS - a vast multitude) ... 26 "... I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore" - Ezekiel 37:1-26.* The reign of Jesus will be from Jerusalem, in Israel - a populous and powerful nation, as *Isaiah* also shows in *chapter 19* - which sits at the confluence of Africa, Asia and Europe. All nations will go up to worship God in that Sanctuary.