

## Israel's glorious future - Part 7

The climate change which undoubtedly is occurring, can be seen in the melting of centuries-old ice. This is increasing the available quantity of water into the weather cycle, and may be one way in which God is preparing to fulfil his promise to make Israel flourish - **Isaiah 27:2** *In that day sing to her, "A vineyard of red wine! 3 I, the Lord, keep it, I water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day. 6 Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; ISRAEL SHALL BLOSSOM AND BUD, and fill the face of the world with fruit* - (unprecedented population growth). .. **13** *So it shall be in that day. that the great trumpet will be blown; they will come* (returning to their ancient homeland), *who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

The same prophet speaks of those sizeable districts, which are contained in that tract of land which God promised to give Abraham - regions which have been barren from time immemorial. The people there will be amazed to see rivers flowing through them! **19** *Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. 21 This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise - Isaiah 43.* And so Israel will no longer be back-sliders as they were formerly. Not only the wild creatures, but the people will spread eastwards and northwards and southwards into well-watered lands which were formerly dry desert.

**Jeremiah** refers to Israel's ever-expanding population during Christ's thousand year reign - **33:22** *As the host of heaven* (the stars) *cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.* This also is an allusion to God's promise to Abraham - **Genesis 22:17** *I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore.*

**Amos 9** refers to God's restoration of David's kingdom, when Jesus returns to rule in Jerusalem, **13** *Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. 14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land\* I have given them, says the LORD your God.* \*It will not be like Israel in Old Testament times. The figurative "vine" of Israel will not be pulled out of the ground this time, but will be permitted to grow and keep on growing throughout the entire thousand years.

Utilizing another figure **Micah** saw the day when **4:4** *Everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree\*, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

\*This applies first and foremost to Israel in the Promised Land. If the millennial land of Israel were as small as it now is, then it would become densely populated. On the other hand, if the growing populations of the tribes gradually spread out eastward into the former desert, then there would truly be opportunity for each family to have their own piece of land, as it was under the law of Moses - see **Numbers 36:7; Ezekiel 46:18.** If, by the end of the thousand years, the population of Israel were 192 million, then there would be one acre available for every person. Or, for the average nuclear family of five people there would be five acres (about two hectares) available - truly a possession of the land by all - as God promised Abraham in **Genesis 17:8** - *I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.* □