

ISRAEL IS BACK IN THE LAND

Two Departures – Two Returns

As a NATION, the Scripture prophecies that for Israel there would be two departures from the Land of Promise and two returns. Only two!

In Lev. 26 and Deut. 28, God promised BLESSING on Israel if she obeyed and CURSING if she disobeyed. In Deut. 28, we find FIVE increasing levels of judgment.

Deuteronomy 28:14-48 – 5 levels of curses:

Level 1 (v. 14-17)

Level 2 (v. 18-20)

Level 3 (v. 21-23)

Level 4 (v. 24-27)

Level 5 (v. 28-48)

- The final level 5 involves the curse of being put out of the land. For Israel that is the ultimate hardship!

Twice in Israel's history, she has reached the climactic level 5 judgment where she was put out of the land. The first time was in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians destroyed the Jewish temple and then took Judah captive to Babylon. At that time, they were out of the land for 70 years (cf. Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10).

The second occasion was when the Romans destroyed the rebuilt Jewish temple in AD 70. This time the Jews were put out of the land and scattered throughout the entire world for almost 2,000 years before returning and becoming a nation once again in 1948.

And even now about half of the Jews in the world are still out of the land and have not returned – so the process is still not complete, but eventually it will be.

However, just as the return from the Babylonian Captivity took place in 3 phases, so also does the second return take place in phases, which I will deal with next time.

Right now, Israel is back in the land in spiritual blindness. Only a few Jews are true believers at this point. But this is part of a larger end times process, part of a BIGGER end times picture, that will be completed at the

Second Coming of Christ. We are privileged to have a front-row seat to see what God is doing in the process of bringing about the fulfillment of prophecy regarding His people coming back to the land in the latter days which sets the stage for the last days finale! Hold on to your hat – ISRAEL IS BACK IN THE LAND!

Psalm 33:11 (NKJV)

11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.