

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Other Important Old Testament Prophecies About the End

by Dan Trygg

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, “Yahweh our righteousness.” ⁷ Therefore behold, the days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “when they will no longer say, “As Yahweh lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt,” ⁸ but, “As Yahweh lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.” Then they will live on their own soil.” Jeremiah 23:5-8

“Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover *the second time* with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. ¹² And He will lift up a standard for the nations, and will assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” Isaiah 11:11-12

“I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. ³ Then Yahweh will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. ⁵ And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then Yahweh, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! ⁶ And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. ⁷ For it will be a unique day which is known to Yahweh, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. ⁸ And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ⁹ And Yahweh will be king over all the earth...” Zechariah 14:2-9

While the book of Daniel is unquestionably the most significant prophetic book in the OT that speaks of future events, ...especially future kingdoms and the some of the key figures and developments that will take place before the end of history..., **there are also significant prophecies contained in other books, as well.**

The nation of Israel will be gathered again from exile (Isa. 10:20-27; 11:11-12; 44:26-45:8; Jer. 16:14,15; 23:3,7-8; 24:5-7; 29:10-14; 31:1-14; 32:37-42; Ezk. 11:16-17; 20:33-38; 34:12-14; 36:17-28; 37:1-28; 39:27-29; Hos. 3:4,5; Zec. 10:8-10). This is an amazing prophecy all by itself, ...and God spoke it out *repeatedly*, through several people in recorded scripture. I have listed 17 different passages, from five different authors. This is in addition to the prophecy of Moses in Deuteronomy 30:1-4. Including Moses, these prophecies were spoken over a period of 1,000 years! **These prophecies were spoken of before the exile even took place, during the exile, and again after the first return from exile.** (Moses' prophecy was given before Israel originally took possession of the land!) **Some of the prophecies not only speak of the return from the Assyrian or Babylonian exiles (Isa. 10:20-27; 44:26-45:8), ...but also about a return from another diaspora (Isa. 11:11,12), a second exile that would begin with the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. at the hands of the Romans. This turned into a global dispersion of Jews to nearly every corner of the world that lasted for centuries! God also promised that the Jews would not be dispersed after this second return (Jer. 31:38-40; Ezk. 37:21-25).** The return of the Jews to the land from this exile began with the Zionist movement of the late 19th century, and eventually culminated with the reestablishment of Israel as a nation-state in 1948, and the possession of Jerusalem once again as their capitol city. It continues today, with Jews from all over the world returning to Israel. **God Himself said that this would be an even greater miracle than the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt (Jer. 23:7,8), and He will be known by this feat!**

Note that **a central part of the prophecies about the regathering of Israel involves the raising up of the Messiah, ...the root of Jesse (Isa. 11:1-16), the righteous Branch (Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5-8; 33:1-16; Zec. 3:8,9; 6:9-15), the arm of Yahweh (Isa. 51:5-14; 52:7-53:12).** He will ultimately be a signal for the peoples, a standard for the nations, a banner to which the dispersed of Judah will be gathered from the four corners of the earth. Some of this may continue to happen *after* the time of Christ's return.

There is a wealth of other detailed prophetic information in these same passages. For example, Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied that **it would be after a regathering of Israel to the land of promise that God would establish a new covenant.** Of course, this took place *after* the return from the Babylonian exile, and *before* the global dispersion caused by the Romans. This new and better covenant was established by Jesus in 30 A.D. **This not only would remove sin for those who believe, it would bring about a cleansing and re-creation of the heart** (a “new heart and a new spirit”, a “heart of flesh” – Jer. 24:7; 31:31-33; Ezk. 11:19; 36:25-27). **One of the key purposes of the diaspora was to purge the**

waywardness and rebellion from the nation (Ezk. 20:38; Amos 9:8-10; Zep. 3:11-13; Zec. 13:8-9). **It will be only a remnant of the nation that will return** (Isa. 10:20-22; 11:11-16; Jer. 31:7; 50:20; Mic. 2:12; Zep. 3:13; Zec. 8:12-15).

A coalition of nations will gather to make war against Israel. They will come from the north, and from the south, and will enter the land of Israel (Ezk. 38,39; Zech 12:1-9). **God will destroy them with an earthquake, confusion** (so that they turn and fight against each other), **pestilence, rain, huge hailstones, fire and brimstone falling from heaven** (Ezk. 38:19-22). Yahweh will reveal Himself powerfully before all the nations. Israel will know that Yahweh is their God from that day forward (Ezk. 39:22). It will take seven months to bury the dead, and parts from the weapons will be used for fuel for seven years (Ezk. 39:9-15). **If this is the same conflict described in Zechariah 12, it will be armies from all the nations of the earth who will be gathered against Israel.** God will arouse them, and bring them to the land for judgment (Joel 3:1-14). God will make Israel to be a powerful and dreadful force among them, but **it will be Yahweh Himself who will ultimately destroy them** (Zech. 12:1-9). In Zechariah 14, these armies will enter Jerusalem, and take the city. Half the city will be exiled, plundered and abused. Then, however, Yahweh Himself will go forth and fight against these nations. **Yahweh will stand upon the Mount of Olives, and it will split in two**, opening a valley from Jerusalem east to Azel, a valley on the far eastern side of the Mount. The remaining people in Jerusalem will be able to flee through this valley opened by Yahweh's coming. **"Then", says Zechariah, "Yahweh my God will come, with all the 'holy ones' with Him."** (The word for "holy ones" in the Greek Septuagint translation is the same as "saints").

After the return to the land from this second exile, God will revive the nation of Israel so that they would know that He is Yahweh, and He has brought this about (Ezk. 37:9-14). During that final conflict, when the nations are attacking Jerusalem, **Yahweh will pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication, and the people will "look upon Him whom they had pierced, and they will mourn for Him, as for an only son"** (Zec. 12:10). **Could this be a reference to a realization of who Jesus really is?** On that same "day" (13:1-9), a **"fountain will be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and impurity"**. **Could this be referring to the turning of the Jews to faith in Jesus?** Two-thirds of the people will perish, but one third will come through, "refined by the fire". **"They will call upon My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people', and they will say, 'Yahweh is my God'"** (Zec. 13:8,9). God will destroy those who disregarded the warnings, and supposed that no calamity or judgment would befall them for their sin. But He will also restore the land and plant His people in the land of promise, ...and **they will not be uprooted again** (Amos 9:10-15).

Then there will be drastic changes to the creation. There will be no more day or night, yet there will be light (Zec. 14:6,7). **Living water will flow from Jerusalem**, half to the Dead Sea, and half to the Mediterranean Sea (Zec. 14:8; Ezk. 47:1-11). It will flow year round. It will grow deeper, the farther it goes from the sanctuary. (Ezekiel saw a vision of a rebuilt temple, yet unfulfilled in its dimensions.) It will be lined on both sides by trees that will bear fruit each month (Ezk. 47:14). **The curse will be removed** (Zec. 14:11). **The land will be changed into a plain, but Jerusalem will rise above.** People will live in it, and it will be secure and at peace (Zec. 14:11). **Yahweh will be King over all the earth, ...the only King** (Zec 14:9). **There will be survivors of other nations, who will worship Yahweh at the Feast of Booths each year** (Zec. 14:15). However, at this time, there will still be sin. People may choose to *not* worship Yahweh. Those who do not honor Yahweh will have no rain fall on their land. **People will live much longer** (Isa. 65:20,22). There will still be death, at this time, but peoples' lifespans will be much extended. **People will build houses and plant fields** (Isa. 65:21). **God's people will not toil in vain** (Isa. 65:23). **They will not have children for calamity or sudden terror.** They are blessed and their children will be blessed. **God will answer their prayers, even before they finish speaking them** (Isa. 65:24). **The animals will no longer be carnivorous** (Isa. 65:25; cf. Isa. 11:6-9). No animals will hurt or destroy any more. **The nations at that time will inquire about and seek the root of Jesse** (Isa. 11:10).

There was much more in OT prophecy about the coming of Jesus, and the nature of His ministry. I have chosen here to focus on what the OT has to say about end time events. **What is important for us to see is that we live at a time in history where the stage is set for the end time events to come to pass.** Before 1948, Israel was not regathered from the nations. Even now, God is gathering His people in preparation to fulfill His Word. **In fulfillment of His Word, He drove them out, ...and in fulfillment of His Word, He has brought them back.** For nearly 1900 years that was not the case. 150 years ago, many would have thought *that* was unthinkable, ...it could never happen. Yet, *it has happened*, and *it is happening*. **Now, however, we are watching and waiting for the next step: Will we see a rebuilding of a Temple in Jerusalem?** People think that is impossible, too? Yet, there are other people who are dedicated to seeing that vision fulfilled. It would take an act of God, it would seem, ...but *isn't that Who we are talking about here?* Isn't that the point of these prophecies? God can do the *unthinkable!* **Will we see a coalition of nations from around the world to come against Israel?** It is unthinkable? *Not at all.*

God knows the future. He is in control. He is working all things out according to the counsel of His will. He has shared glimpses into the future, for our benefit and edification. He has revealed more for us in the NT. We are to watch for, and pray for, these things. **We will see what Jesus had to say about these matters, next.**