



**One New Man Study Lesson Eleven:  
Israel's THE RETURN TO THE LAND**

*Isaiah 60:8 - Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?*

*Ezekiel 37:21-22 - And say unto them, Thus says the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: [22] And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:*

There is no other nation than that of Israel. The Almighty God Himself signed the title deed to her property:

*Ezekiel 5:5 - Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.*

In fact, the very separating of all of humanity was tied directly into the number of the children of Israel:

*Deut. 32:8 - When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.*

David called Israel the people, "close to his (God's) heart." (Psalms 148:14). God promised the land of Abraham and signed the covenant in blood:

*Genesis 15:17-21 - And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. [18] In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: [19] The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, [20] And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, [21] And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*

In Genesis 15:18 we can even see God getting extremely precise with His declaration! He outlined the borders. To Joshua He would repeat Himself just so there would be no misunderstanding (Josh 1:4). Many may ask then "how can Israel extend all the way to the Euphrates?" If that is so (and we believe it will be so one day in the future) what upheavals must take place in Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt for this to come into reality? Samuel wrote in the Chronicles

that this covenant with Abraham would last a thousand "generations." If we take the conservative thought and say a generation is 40 years that's 40,000 years! He told them to "be mindful" of his covenant, especially the one he made with Abraham and of His oath to Isaac and Jacob.<sup>1</sup>

*1 Chr. 16:15-17 - Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; [16] Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; [17] And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant,*

Then in verse 18 God puts the cherry on top:

*1 Chr. 16:18 - Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;*

When God made these promises they were conditional on Israel's obedience. Disobedience would result in Israel being scattered as prisoners to all nations. Her history for nearly 20 centuries has proven these words true. It all started when the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom in 721 B.C. The influential leaders were exiled and dispersed, never to return. Jerusalem and the southern kingdom endured for almost 150 years before the Babylonian invasion destroyed both the city and the Temple. After a 70-year exile, some Israelites returned and the Temple was rebuilt. Then the Romans took over rule and destroyed the Temple in A.D. 70. For nearly 2,000 there had been no nation of Israel - until 1948.

Ezekiel's prophetic vision of the dry bones in the 37th chapter of his book predicted a coming together, or "rising from the dead," if you will of the nation of Israel. This risen-from-the-dead nation was no longer to be two nations as it was prior to the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests:<sup>2</sup>

*Ezekiel 37:10-14 - So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. [11] Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. [12] Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. [13] And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, [14] And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.*

*Ezekiel 37:22 - **And I will make them one nation** in the land upon the mountains of*

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<sup>1</sup> Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People*. Regal Books, Ventura, CA. 2001

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

*Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:*

*Jeremiah 3:18 - In those days **the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel,** and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.*

*Hosea 1:11 - Then shall **the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together,** and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.*

## A. Return Of The Remnant

The return of the dispersed people of Israel is to be "from the four quarters of the earth" (Isaiah 11:12), not just from the East - from Babylon - as was the return in 516 B.C. Isaiah makes it clear that this is to be a second return and that it will include immigrants from the north, south, east, and west. Isaiah even named some of the lands - Egypt, Africa (Cush) and Babylon - but other regions - "the islands of the seas."

Ships would come bringing "their sons from afar." (Isa. 60:9). Others would "fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests," (v. 8), a prophetic reference perhaps to air traffic that would fill the skies 2,600 years after Isaiah's time! It was to be a great exodus than the earlier one in Egypt:

*Jeremiah 23:7-8 - Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord lives, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; [8] But, The Lord lives, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.*

Jeremiah says "expectant mothers and women in labor," would be among those returning. When the Yemen Jews arrived in 1950, 12 babies had been born in flight, five in the Ethiopian airlift of May 1991. The wilderness has burst into bloom. Desert fortunes are being restored. Vineyards have been planted on the hills of Samaria (Jer. 31:5) - what the news media now calls the West Bank. Wealth from other nations is being invested in Israel. Prophecy is being fulfilled in the return to the land:<sup>3</sup>

*Isaiah 35:1-2 - The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. [2] It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the*

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

*excellency of our God.*

*Jeremiah 31:5 - Thou shall yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.*

*Isaiah 60:5 - Then thou shall see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*

*Isaiah 43:6 - I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*

## B. The First Aliyah

The first aliyah or "return to the land," occurred in the late 19th century. In 1882, according to Jewish census records, there were only about 24,000 Jewish residents of "Palestine" living in 17 agricultural colonies. One of the early pioneers was another Eliezer - Eliezer ben-Yehuda - who spent every waking hour pulling together what would become the resurrected Hebrew language. Another early settler was Polish-born David Green, who later took the name David ben-Gurion and became Israel's first prime minister.

The man though given the credit for the rebirth of the nation was a young secular Jewish Viennese newspaperman named Theodor Herzl. In Paris, 1895, he was present at the public humiliation of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, the only Jew on the general staff of the French army, falsely accused of espionage. As Dreyfus was sentenced, the chants of the crowd changed from "kill the traitor!" to "Kill the Jews!" Herzl left the city with an urgency to establish a safe place for Jewish people. Two years later he convened the First World Zionist Conference in Basel, Switzerland. At that first meeting a national flag was selected for Israel - the blue and white of a prayer shawl - and a national anthem was chosen, "**Hatikvah,**" meaning *the Hope.*" An elected Jewish executive was chosen to guide the movement, and a Jewish National Bank and a Land Bank were created with which to begin buying land in the area of the new state.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps the work of another man - Chaim Weizman, a Jewish scientist who had produced a acetone used in gunpowder needed by the British during World War I. When asked for the price of remuneration he said, "If Britain wins the battle for Palestine, I ask for a national home for my people in their ancient land." His request resulted in the Balfour Declaration, issued on November 2, 1917. Later in the same month, the British general Sir Edmund Allenby led the charge that gave Great Britain control over Jerusalem. As he was entering the city through the Jaffa Gate, he dismounted his horse and took off his hat, believing that none but the Messiah should enter Jerusalem mounted on a steed. General

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Allenby had ordered planes to fly overhead and leaflets to be dropped, calling the Turks to surrender. These leaflets, signed by Allenby, were taken by the Turkish Muslims to be a directive from ALLAH for them to leave the city. Not a shot was fired. Following World War I, in 1920, the League of Nations gave Britain control of Palestine but the Balfour Declaration had been forgotten. Fear of Arab reprisals turned British hearts against the Jewish immigrants. Refugees were not allowed to land in the Haifa harbor, and the quota of returning Jews was greatly reduced. Britain installed an Arab government over much of the land that had been biblically promised to Israel. Another war and a lifetime of horror would transpire before the world's conscience was sufficiently pricked to establish that homeland for the Jews promised by His MAJESTY. The British government had long washed its hands of the whole affair. The fate of the potential Jewish nation now rested in the hands of the United Nations<sup>5</sup>

### C. A New Nation

The United Nations began to consider the partitioning of "Palestine" to create a homeland for the Jews. A two-thirds majority of the nations was necessary in order for the State to be established. In the two months leading up to the decision, the Bible College at Wales, under Rees Howell's leadership, concentrated 11 days of prayer on the UN vote. "I firmly believe the time of the Gentiles is drawing to a close, and the Jews must be back in their own land when the Master comes," Rees had said.

On the evening of November 24, 1947, the college received word that the partitioning had not carried. The intercessors prayed more fervently and saw in faith "God's angels influencing those men in the UN Conference in New York to work on behalf of God's people." When news came the following day that the petition had passed, the college called it "one of the greatest days for the Holy Ghost in the history of these 2,000 years."

**PRESIDENT HARRY Truman's** support was ESSENTIAL if the vote was to pass, but he was slow in adding his weight. In fact, the president had been ignoring all requests for a meeting about the partitioning until leaders from the Jewish community contacted Truman's good friend and former business partner, Eddie Jacobson. Jacobson appealed to the president's sense of history and prevailed upon him to meet with Chaim Weizman, who though poor in health, had traveled to the United States and was waiting in a hotel room until the appointment could be secured.<sup>6</sup> It was this visit with Weizman, the hero of Britain's win in World War I that so influenced Truman's ultimate decision. Without that encounter, the resolution would not have passed. With the president's pressure on several key countries, the vote was taken. 33 nations in favor; 13 against and 10 abstentions. The date was November 29, 1947. Hezrl

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. Another good source of information on this historical meeting is Mike Evans book, '*Jerusalem Betrayed*. Moody Press, Chicago, IL. 1996.

had spoken prophetically when in 1897 he predicted that within 50 years the State of Israel would be birthed. A country was born in a day!

*Isaiah 66:8 - Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*

In spite of the vote, the young nation had to battle SEVEN Arab nations - Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iraq - to defend and establish itself. Reading about those days is like reading a page from the book of Kings or Chronicles in the Bible. Israel fielded only 18,000 men, 10,000 rifles, 3,600 sub-machine guns, a few old field guns, two tanks, and four planes, of which two were shot down in the first day. Israel was not only hopelessly outnumbered, she did not even possess sufficient guns for each man to have one of his own! Against full-fledged air forces, Israel had next to no air power. And if they had not somehow stolen two tanks from the British, they would have been completely without armor. Nevertheless, by the time the UN managed to arrange a cease-fire between the warring parties, Israel was holding THREE TIMES the area of land she had been allocated in the partition!

Every Israeli war has seen its own set of miracles. There was a time in the 1956 Sinai Campaign when two Israeli tanks topped a sand dune and found themselves facing a complete Egyptian tank unit. With no explanation, the Egyptians stopped, opened their turrets, jumped out and began to flee through the desert. After the Egyptians were captured, they explained their actions, telling stories of the "hundreds of Israeli tanks," they had encountered. During the 1973 Yom Kippur war, Syria marched across the unprotected Golan Heights. They could have been in the city of Haifa within 24 hours had they not suddenly stopped on the ridge of the Jordan River, nearly within firing range of the city of Tiberias, and remained there for three days. This gave the Israelis time to muster their forces and engage the Syrians in battle. Why did they stop? A nonreligious Israeli general described a "great gray-white hand pressing down onto the Syrians from out of the sky." Israel's return is God's fulfillment to His prophets. And if God's promises to Israel have been so vividly kept - then why do we as the Gentile church seem to not care about our role with the Jewish people in the last days? Israel's return to the land is just another key to the fulfilling of the One New Man. Israel is a huge harvest field right now with a great open door for evangelism.

We need to walk through it in Yeshua's name!

## Lesson Eleven Study Questions.

1. The very separating of all of humanity was tied directly into the number of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The first aliyah or "return to the land," occurred in the late \_\_\_\_\_ century
3. When God made the promises to \_\_\_\_\_ they were conditional on obedience.
4. The man given a great deal of credit for the rebirth of the nation was a young secular Jewish Viennese newspaperman named \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Herzl urgently worked to establish a safe place for \_\_\_\_\_ people. He would convene the \_\_\_\_\_ Conference in Basel, Switzerland
6. \_\_\_\_\_, a Jewish scientist who had produced a acetone used in gunpowder needed by the British during World War I. When asked for the price of remuneration he said, "If \_\_\_\_\_ wins the battle for Palestine, I ask for a national home for my people in their ancient land."
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ majority of the nations was necessary in order for the State of Israel to be established in 1948.
8. In spite of the vote, the young nation had to battle the Arab nations of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to defend and establish itself.

## Matching

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| 1. Harry S. Truman      | A. British paper regarding Palestine_____        |
| 2. Chaim Wizeman        | B. The Yom Kippur War_____                       |
| 3. Theodore Herzl       | C. Number of Arab States vs. Israel in 1948_____ |
| 4. David Ben Gurion     | D. Israel Becomes A Nation_____                  |
| 5. 1956                 | E. Six-Days War_____                             |
| 6. 1967                 | F. Sinai Campaign_____                           |
| 7. 1973                 | G.U.S. President At Time Israel Was Born_____    |
| 8. 1948                 | H. Held First Zionist Conference_____            |
| 9. Seven                | I. Chemist Who Encouraged Truman's Support____   |
| 10. Balfour Declaration | J. Israel's First Prime Minister_____            |