

Illustration

March 30, 2003 in

Wake-up Calls!

Statistics on Israel's Captivity

Israel is back on the map. If nothing else, that ought to be enough of a wake-up call for us to say, "God is doing something very interesting here!" But that is not the most radical aspect of it. Even though that is pretty radical, the timing and the predictions concerning the timing are even more radical.

Let me just take about four or five minutes and explain this because it really is helpful to understand exactly what is going on.

Israel was sent into the Babylonian captivity. It was predicted that they would be there for 70 years. At the end of that 70 years, through a miraculous series of events, God enabled them to return to the land of Israel. However 95 percent of the Jews did not want to return. Five percent returned, fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecy. But 95 percent said "We like it here, we're not going home! We like the culture, we like the area, we raised our kids here, we're not going back!" This was viewed by God as a defiance of His directives. They no longer wanted to be His people; they no longer wanted to engage in His game plan. They stubbornly stayed in the land of Babylon. Now when they refused to come back to the land, God sent them another warning through the prophet Ezekiel. And in this warning, Ezekiel predicted exactly how long they would be exiled without a land. Let me read it to you, it is Ezekiel 4:3-6. It's kind of a strange little deal. This was what Ezekiel was supposed to do.

Ezekiel 4:3-6

This will be a sign to the house of Israel.

"Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel.

"After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

Now I realize, ripping that right out of the context really quickly, you are thinking, "What in the world is he talking about?" Here is the big picture. Ezekiel was told, "I want you to go give them an object lesson. I want you to lay down right there at the city gates, and I want you to lay on your left-hand side for 390 days." Aren't you glad you are not a prophet? So what would happen, people would walk up and they would say, "Ezekiel, what are you doing lying down here?"

"Well, the Lord told me to lie here one day for every year of additional judgment if you guys don't repent and get back to the land." And for 390 days, they heard that message and soon it spread all through the land and everybody knew they really ought to go back to the land, but they refused it. Then he flipped over on his right-hand side for forty days to represent 40 more years of judgment. "And if you don't return to the land, forty more years." So it is a total of 430 years additional judgment without a nation if you guys just don't go home. And they refused to go home still. As a result of that refusal, the book of Leviticus tells us that another set of judgment went into place and that is this: "If, after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over." So since they did not repent, and would not track with the divine directives, it wasn't going to be 430 years anymore, it was going to be multiplied by seven!

Now let's do the math! You will find this fascinating! This is a powerful wake-up call. Imagine 430 years of judgment, now they have already served 70 years in Babylon. Right? So you deduct 70 years for already served, and they now have an additional sentence of 360 years without a land. But since they refused to listen still, that number was multiplied by seven. So you multiply those 360 years of outstanding judgment times seven and it give you 2,520 years of their new judgment for refusing to conform. Now, if you check my math out later, you must remember that these were lunar years and not solar years - 360 days and not 365 days. That makes a big difference when you figure there are 2500 of them. So let's just make it simple and let's convert 2,520 lunar years into days. That is 907,200 days. Now don't fade on me, catch this: That means their additional judgment is going to be 907,200 days before they have a land.

Now they were released from the Babylonian captivity in 536 BC. If you take 536 BC, roll the calendar forward 907,200 and remember that there is no zero between 1 BC and AD 1, it will take you to the date of May 15, 1948. Now I don't know if that date means anything to you or not, but it was May 15, 1948 that Israel became a nation -- perfectly predicted by the Hebrew Scriptures in the 6th century BC. Now I realize that Israel proclaimed their independence on May 14, but the official mandate from the British government was May 15. You know what? Something like this has never happened before. This has never happened before! In fact, this has never happened before!

Excerpt from David T. Moore
How to be Radical without being Fanatical
"Wake Up World"