

Repentance Needed in Israel

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Jeremiah 30:3 Israel shall possess the land
Deuteronomy 28:64 The LORD shall scatter thee
Deuteronomy 30:2 They shall return to the LORD
Deuteronomy 30:3 has compassion on Israel
2 Peter 3:11 live in holy conduct and godliness
2 Corinthians 3:14 to this day the veil remains
Matthew 23:24 strain a gnat & swallow a camel
Acts 2:22 by wicked hands have crucified
Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up
Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized
Exodus 32:1 make us gods—Idolatry
Romans 11:20 broken off because of unbelief

Theme: **God requires Israel My Glory to repent**

God makes many promises about the restoration of Israel—all have come true.

Prophecies about the Messiah's first coming came to pass—the Messiah was born in Bethlehem **Micah 5:2**; to a virgin **Isaiah 7:14**; and His hands and feet were pierced **Psalms 22:16**. There is no doubt that all future prophecies will be fulfilled.

Israel is restored as a nation—NKJV **Jeremiah 30:3** “*For behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah, says the LORD. And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.*”

The creation of the state of Israel is most significant because the Jews were scattered all over the world for centuries.

AV **Deuteronomy 28:64** “*And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*”

That happened to Israel following the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD.

And the same prophecy said Israel AV **Deuteronomy 30:2** “*Shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.*”

Government surveillance has increased significantly in the last decade—which is just another sign of the times.

No one can use a credit card or debit card; bank machine; phone card; mobile phone; or do other types of transactions without creating an electronic trail.

Daniel's prophecies tell us that Western Europe plays a major role in the end times. The European Union was formed in 1993, includes 500 million people, and owns 30% of the world's GDP gross domestic product. Since 2002, the Euro has been the common currency.

Knowing of these things—NKJV **2 Peter 3:11** “*What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.*”

The existing European Union could possibly play a role in the rise of the Antichrist and his monetary system.

AV **Deuteronomy 30:3** “*Then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.*”

The first part of the prophecy was fulfilled in May 1948 when the state of Israel was established. President Truman quickly recognized Israel—and the Jews celebrated around the globe. Israel is back in the land but remains spiritually dark because of unbelief and secular living.

Some Israelis observe Jewish rituals, but they show no real conviction of heart or of any desire to obey God's Word.

The official proclamation of the modern state of Israel made no mention of God and only a vague reference to the *Rock of Israel*. Many who founded the state were opposed to any reference to God and had the word *Redeemer* omitted.

Many of Israel's leaders are *secular Jews*—including their first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion. His vision was quote *A new type of Jew, emancipated from religion—whose Judaism would be expressed by a national framework* unquote.

He said in a book that in all his years in Israel he visited a synagogue only one time. It is no surprise that Israel has suffered so many attacks and endured so much persecution over the years.

Another Israeli leader, Golda Meir, said, *I wasn't at all pious*. Her autobiography gives no glory to God for the restoration of Israel and she does not think that God's promises will be fulfilled.

Her vision of Israel's future was for the nation to quote *Remain a flourishing democracy and a society resting on social justice and equality* unquote.

One of Israel's prominent defense ministers and chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, was a secular Jew whose faith in God was vague at best.

He gave no glory to God in his autobiography and saying: *Our foremost duty is to live up to the vision of ourselves—and being a courageous state prepared to fight to the death to defend itself* unquote.

The present Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, praises the military for Israel's victories rather than giving glory to God.

He says that Bible prophecy does not tell us what to expect for the future. Israel's spiritual blindness is evident.

NIV 2 Corinthians 3:14 *“For to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.”*

Orthodox Jews today, like the Pharisees of old, pay more attention to Jewish *tradition* than to the study of *Scripture*.

Their prayers are rituals to be seen by others. They visit the Wailing Wall to be near the Holy of Holies and to make a display of wearing their phylacteries in just the right manner or praying in just the right posture.

They keep dietary laws and then go beyond what the Bible says. Much of what they follow is human tradition that has been *added* to God's law.

Jesus said **AV Matthew 23:23** *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!—24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”*

The focus of the Passover for religious Jews today is the Seder—which is mainly a ritualistic meal with little to do concerning the Passover. They eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs, but also include fish, chicken, and beef brisket.

Their Passover includes no lamb and no shedding of blood—even though **AV Leviticus 17:11** *“It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”* And the *Passover Lamb* is a picture of the true Messiah **John 1:29**.

The evidence that Israel remains in a dark spiritual condition is their continued rejection of their own Messiah, the Lord Jesus. The apostle Peter rebuked the Jews in his day for that same reason.

AV Acts 2:22 *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

23 *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”*

Repentance is desperately needed in Israel today and throughout the world. There was no excuse *then* and less excuse *now* for Israel not accepting their Messiah.

The apostle continued—**AV Acts 2:32** *“This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost.”*

The apostle added **AV Acts 2:36** *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

They were convicted in heart and asked the apostle what they could possibly do to be forgiven of this serious sin and to correct this serious wrong.

38 *“Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

The penalty for the worst crime ever committed, is the offer of a Gift—that of the Holy Spirit who would inspire faith in them and could eventually save them from the Lake of Fire.

That promise of salvation by faith in Christ is extended to every one! **NKJV Acts 2:39** *“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off.”*

God chose Israel because He loved them—He just wanted them to love Him in return, but they still had a free-will choice to love Him and to

believe His Word *in faith* so they could receive His blessings *by faith*.

Over and over God's people made the wrong choice—they chose to trust in false gods instead of trusting in the one true God.

Their apostasy finally led to Israel asking Aaron to *“make us gods who will go before us”* **Exodus 32:1** NIV.

The sin of Adam was trusting on some *thing*; some *plan*; or another *power* in *rebellion*, rather than trusting the one true God of the Bible in *faith*.

This defiant attitude will not trust God for anything and this rebellion of Adam was passed on to everyone else since that time.

Israel's sin, and everyone else's sin, is unbelief. **AV Romans 11:20** *“Because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.”* If we truly believe God and trust only in Him, He will spare us.

The world persists in unbelief, but everyone *still* has a *choice*—a choice to *believe* and *trust* God in faith—or the *choice* to *disbelieve* and follow the *world* in rebellion.

By the mercy and grace of God, may we be able to see the importance of *repenting* of any *rebellion* in our own life, and to include a fervent *prayer* for *Israel* to do the same.

Israel's *redemption* and our eternal *destiny* is on the line!



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