

FOR CERTAIN

Isaiah 62:1-63:6

Two weeks ago, we discovered the name “Israel” means “he struggles with God”. The Jews have a long history of struggling with Yahweh. But a day is coming when the name “Israel” will no longer fit. A day is coming when Yahweh will give His people a new nature and a new name.

Yahweh chose the Jews for a specific mission (Exod. 19:4-6; Deut. 4:5-8). **Israel's mission was to _____ Yahweh and make Him known to all the nations of the _____.** Jesus described Israel as the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth”.

Unfortunately, Israel has failed to accomplish her mission. Please don't misunderstand; this is not a condemnation of the Jews, it is simply a historical/biblical fact. We love the Jews and honor them. But the fact of the matter is that they have not accomplished the mission for which Yahweh chose them (Ezek. 36:16-20).

Beginning in 605 BC Yahweh kicked the Jews out of the land of Israel for 70 years. Through King Cyrus of Persia, He provided a way home and rebuilt Jerusalem, the Temple and the towns of Judah. Why was Yahweh so adamant that His people return to the land of Israel?

Because Yahweh is determined to accomplish His purpose for Israel: that they glorify Him and make Him known to all the nations of the earth. **Two things must occur in order for this to happen. First, Israel as a nation must come into a _____ relationship with Yahweh. Second, the enemies of Israel must be _____.**

Writing to the Jews in exile, Isaiah reveals a day is coming when Yahweh will accomplish both and the nation of Israel will finally fulfill her mission.

That day is revealed in Isaiah chapters 60 through 63. For sake of time we'll survey chapters 60-61, but I encourage you to read them in their entirety. Did these promises sound too good to be true to the Jews in exile? Many believed Yahweh had been defeated by Babylon's gods and lacked the commitment and power to fulfill His promises. In chapter 62, Yahweh set His detractors straight.

Yahweh will bring the Jews into a right relationship with Himself. In that day, every Jew alive will love Yahweh with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. They will be transformed. This will be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation when the nation of Israel repents and accepts Jesus as their Messiah and Savior (Zech. 12:10-13:1). As a nation they will enter the New Covenant (Jer. 31:34).

Once Israel as a nation is brought into a right relationship with Yahweh, Yahweh will focus on the second necessity – subduing the enemies of Israel. This is the focus of Isaiah 63:1-6.

Yahweh alone will subdue the enemies of Israel. This will be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation when the Jews turn to Jesus and Jesus returns to earth to deliver His people from the Antichrist and the nations arrayed against Israel (Rev. 19:11-21).

When the nation of Israel repents and comes into the New Covenant by faith in Jesus they will be spiritually transformed and made righteous. Jesus will come and defeat the Antichrist and all the nations arrayed against Israel. When these two things are accomplished: the spiritual transformation of the Jews and the defeat of Israel's enemies, then Israel will fulfill her mission. She will glorify Yahweh and make Him known to all the nations of the earth during the Messianic Kingdom.

Things to Think About

1. The reestablishment of Israel as a nation and the regathering of the Jews to Israel is powerful evidence in our day that Yahweh is at work fulfilling His promises in Isaiah 60-63.

2. The Hamas-Israel war has exposed the breadth and depth of antisemitism that exists in the hearts of Americans and people the world over. The satanically driven genocidal hatred of the Jews we see today is but a foretaste of the hatred the Jews will experience during the Tribulation, particularly the final three and half years (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:15-22; Rev. 12:7-17).
3. For those who love the Jews and know the sufferings that await them, it makes the promises of Isaiah 60-63 that much more precious.
4. Yahweh always accomplishes His will with or without us. Israel's rebellious disobedience will not thwart Yahweh's purpose for Israel being fulfilled. The generations who disobeyed Yahweh missed out on the blessings found in serving Him.
5. The preservation of all human life is not the highest ethic. Certainly, *innocent* human life is to be protected at all costs. But people *committed to evil* forfeit that ethical protection. The fact that Jesus will kill the enemies of Yahweh and Israel at His second coming (Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:11-21) proves that the preservation of *all* human life is not the highest ethic. The highest ethic is that we love our Creator with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:28-34).
6. Are you right with Yahweh? Do you want a relationship with Him or are you satisfied living for yourself? If you want a relationship with Yahweh, He's made a way for your sins against Him to be forgiven, and that's through faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus, His burial and His resurrection (Isa. 53; John 3:16).
7. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus, you have a mission to glorify Jesus and make Him known to those in your sphere of influence. Are you glorifying Jesus in your daily life? You also have a mission to help build up Jesus' church by serving your church family using your spiritual gifts. Are you fulfilling the mission Jesus has given you?

Grace News and Needs

VOM Needs for December: Fleece blankets, hairbrushes.

Ramona Pregnancy Care Clinic Adopt-a-Mom: Take an ornament, bless a family.

Youth Ministry: Mexico Missions Trip Info. Meeting, Sunday, December 10th, 11:15, Youth Room.

Family Event: Cookies & Carols, Sunday evening, December 17th, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Day Schedule: Sunday services at our regularly scheduled times: 8:30 & 10:00 AM.

Women's Ministry: Journey Thru The Bible starts Jan. 1. See website for details.