

G_d's Love For His People

When the L_rd speaks of His beloved Jewish people, He says such things as: "...you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people..."^(a), "...you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you..."^(b) and, concerning Jerusalem, "...it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honour before all nations of the earth..."^(c).

Do these promises still stand today or has G_d forgotten His people?

Messiah's Appearance and Reign

G_d says that the present domination of world affairs by the Gentile nations will come to an end^(d). He will bring judgment on the nations, including Israel. The Bible refers to this time as "the Day of the L_rd" and "The time of Jacob's trouble"^(e). It will be a period of "G_d's wrath, trouble, distress and devastation"^(f). The natural world will suffer destruction on a large scale and loss of life will be widespread. No nation will be spared. Even Israel will suffer severely. As this judgment draws to a close, G_d says that Israel will openly admit their sin to G_d. The nation will turn to G_d, pleading for Messiah to come^(g). G_d will answer and Messiah will come. He will set up His kingdom and reign over the world wisely, with justice and "righteousness"^(h). G_d will give Israel "fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth"⁽ⁱ⁾. Israel will be "...high above all nations..."^(j). G_d will make a new covenant with Israel: He will put His "law in their minds and write it on their hearts" so that they will want to obey Him out of love and appreciation for Him^(k).

Fulfilled Messianic Prophecies

Over one hundred prophecies were fulfilled at Jesus' first coming. They refer to His birth, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection. Calculations have been made of the probability of any man fulfilling even just

a few of these prophecies. The chances are absolutely infinitesimal. It is hard not to conclude that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Some examples of fulfilled messianic prophecies are:

| Prophecy | Fulfilment |
|---|--|
| Place of His Birth <i>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel...</i> Micah 5:2 | ⁴ <i>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem...</i> ⁷ <i>And she (Mary) brought forth her firstborn Son...</i> Luke 2:4,7 |
| Miracles of Healing ⁵ <i>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.</i> ⁶ <i>Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.</i> Isaiah 35:5-6 | <i>Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.</i> Matthew 9:35 |
| Timing of His Death ²⁵ <i>...from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...</i> ²⁶ <i>And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off... And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.</i> Daniel 9:25-26, Zechariah 9:9 | From the decree of Artaxerxes in 444 BCE until the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion in CE 33 is 69 "weeks" or 483 prophetic years. Nehemiah 2:1-8 and Matthew 21:5. The latter part of verse 26 refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Roman armies in CE 70. |
| Crucifixion <i>They pierced My hands and My feet.</i> Psalm 22:16 | <i>And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him...</i> Luke 23:33 |
| Resurrection <i>For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.</i> Psalm 16:10 | ^{...} <i>Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here.</i> Mark 16:6 |
| Ascension <i>You have ascended on high...</i> Psalm 68:18 | <i>He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.</i> Acts 1:9 |

The Jewish Source of Gentile Faith

Contrary to popular belief, Christianity did not begin as a religion by or for Gentiles. The source of Christianity and its Scriptural roots are one hundred percent Jewish.

Jesus, the central person of Christianity, was Jewish! His recorded ancestry goes back to Abraham and King David. Born in Bethlehem, He lived all of His life in the land of Israel as a member of the Jewish community. His close followers were Jewish as were most of the writers of the New Testament.

Christianity was established when, following Jesus' ascension, the Spirit of G_d came upon an assembly of Jesus' followers. The first converts, 3,000 on the first day, were all Jewish. Some years later the all-Jewish church leadership opposed the message of hope being spread to the Gentiles. G_d Himself intervened to bring Gentiles as well as Jews into the faith. In time, because of the dominance of Christianity by the Gentiles, people have come to think of Christianity as a Gentile religion when clearly true Christianity has grown out of unmistakably Jewish roots.



ENDNOTES:

- (a)Exod 19:5, (b)Deut 15:6, (c)Jeremiah 33:9, (d)Daniel 2:44, (e)Joel 1:15 and Jeremiah 30:7, (f)Zephaniah 1:15, (g)Hosea 5:15-6:3, (h)Jeremiah 23:5, (i)Zephaniah 3:20, (j)Deuteronomy 28:1, (k)Jeremiah 31:33-34, (l)Zechariah 13:8, (m)Isaiah 49:6.

G_d's Generous Invitation

Scripture affirms that, in the coming “*Day of the L_rd*”, only a remnant ^(l) of the Jewish community will be “*saved*.” On the other hand, at the present time, G_d invites all people, Jewish and Gentile alike ^(m), to turn to G_d and Messiah for forgiveness and the life of G_d.

Be aware that:

- You have broken G_d's law, Isaiah 53:6, Psalm 14:2-3. G_d calls this sin.
- The penalty of your sin is separation from G_d forever, Isaiah 59:2.
- You cannot connect with G_d by doing good works for His approval. We come to G_d believing or trusting in Him and Messiah (Jesus), Genesis 15:6.
- Being right with G_d, as pictured in the blood sacrifices, is based solely on the substitutionary sacrifice of Messiah (Jesus) when He gave His life's blood for everyone, Jews and Gentiles, Isaiah 53:11, Leviticus 17:11.
- G_d offers to forgive you once and for all. Simply call on the name of the L_rd and believe in Messiah (Jesus). Believe that He died, was buried and rose from death for you. “*And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the L_rd shall be saved.*” Joel 2:32

A Gentile who believes in Jesus remains a Gentile. A Jew who accepts Jesus as Messiah remains Jewish. The outcome is a new beginning. Each person enters into a relationship with G_d and Messiah (Jesus) where sin and guilt no longer separate them from G_d. His promises are true. He has not forsaken His people. There is great love awaiting you in Jesus.

To discuss further

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that includes
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G_d Has Not Forsaken His People

