

Jeremiah 30

Read Jeremiah 30:1-9: The first 28 chapters have been about God's coming judgement against Judah. Chapter 29 was about the new start and better life in Babylon. Chapter 30 is about the conclusion and the end times of Israel. God tells Jeremiah to publish these prophecies. One purpose of publishing prophecy is to show later generations that God is always 100% accurate. Later generations may appreciate the *housecleaning* that went into the new and improved Israel. The biggest message in the Bible is redemption. There is a sweet and sour aspect to being sinners.

Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. (Revelation 10:10)

Mankind has consistently blown it since Adam. God has been reaching out through both positive reinforcements and negative reinforcements, to encourage man to accept God's plan for our lives. The Jews got kicked out and reduced in order to get back to a sustainable remnant.

Chapter 30 begins by telling us that the Jews will return to their homeland. Israel is the only country to leave their homeland and forget their language and return 2,000 years later! The term for the Jewish repatriation to their homeland is called **Aliyah**. It means 'going up', because Jerusalem is uphill from all surrounding directions. In 1950 the Israeli Parliament passed The Law of Return, which allows Jews to come back home with the right to relocate to Israel and acquire Israeli citizenship.

The pattern of leaving home to eventually return goes all the way back to the Egyptian exodus. We read last week about the 1/3 who would survive in Jerusalem to be driven from nation to nation because of antisemitism. Most Jews still have been living in the *diaspora* (scattering and dispersement) away from home. The immediate context here is Babylon. Later, in 73 AD the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, and Jews yet again were scattered all over the world. Those Jews who scattered had to yet again flee from their host countries such as Spain, England, and in the middle east because of antisemitism. This re-scattering spread them abroad even further.

In 1939, the core Jewish population reached its historical peak of 16.6 million. Almost half the Jewish population lived in America and Poland. Due to the murder of approximately six million Jews during the Holocaust, this number was reduced to 11 million by 1945.

First Aliyah (1882–1903)

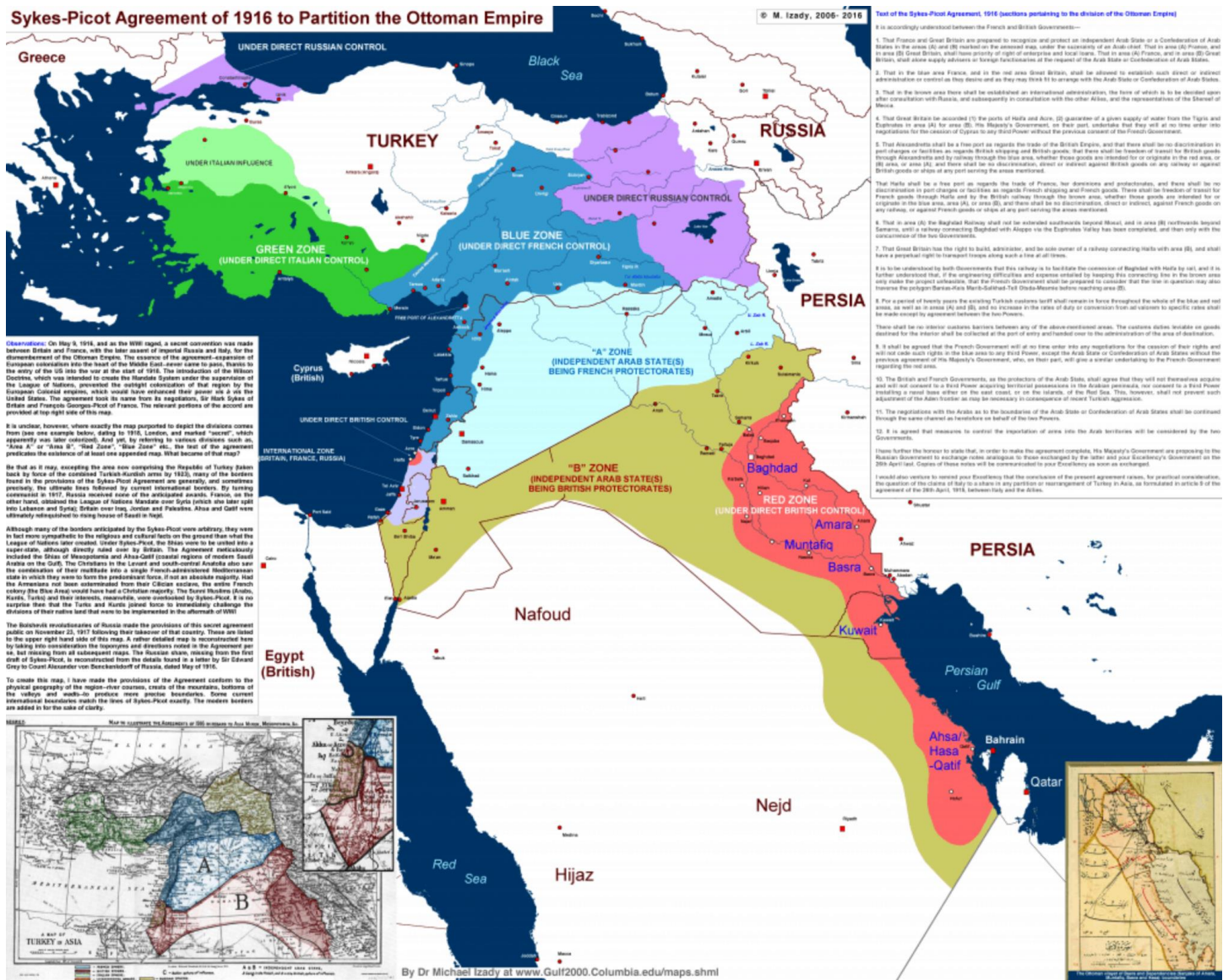
Between 1882 and 1903, approximately 35,000 Jews immigrated to the Ottoman Palestine, joining the pre-existing Jewish population which in 1880 numbered 20,000-25,000. The Jews immigrating arrived in groups that had been assembled, or recruited. Most of these groups had been arranged in the areas of Romania and Russia in the 1880s.

Second Aliyah (1904–1914)

Between 1904 and 1914, 35–40,000 Jews immigrated to Ottoman Palestine. The vast majority came from the Russian Empire, in particular from the Pale of Settlement in Eastern Europe. Jews from other countries in Eastern Europe such as Romania and Bulgaria also joined.

Third Aliyah (1919–1923)

World War 1 ended with a division of nations called the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The Ottoman Empire was broken up and national boundaries were re-drawn. Britain, France, Russia and Italy divided up many countries. Britain controlled the part allocated to Israel.



Israel as a region was regaining an identity. Between 1919 and 1923, 40,000 Jews, mainly from Eastern Europe arrived in the wake of World War I. The British occupation of Palestine and the establishment of the British Mandate created the conditions for the implementation of the promises contained in the Balfour Declaration. Many of the Jewish immigrants were ideologically driven pioneers, known as *halutzim*, trained in agriculture and capable of establishing self-sustaining economies. In spite of immigration quotas established by the British administration, the Jewish population reached 90,000 by the end of this period.

Fourth Aliyah (1924–1929)

Between 1924 and 1929, 82,000 Jews arrived, many as a result of increasing anti-Semitism in Poland and throughout Europe.

Fifth Aliyah (1929–1939)

Between 1929 and 1939, with the rise of Nazism in Germany, a new wave of 250,000 immigrants arrived; the majority of these, 174,000, arrived between 1933 and 1936

Aliyah Bet: Illegal immigration (1933–1948)

The British government limited Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine with quotas, and following the rise of Nazism to power in Germany, illegal immigration to Mandatory Palestine commenced. The illegal immigration was known as *Aliyah Bet* ("secondary immigration"), or *Ha'apalah*, and was organized by the Mossad Le'aliyah Bet, as well as by the Irgun. Immigration was done mainly by sea, and to a lesser extent overland through Iraq and Syria. During World War II and the years that followed until independence, *Aliyah Bet* became the main form of Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine. Following the war, Bricha ("escape"), an organization of former partisans and ghetto fighters was primarily responsible for smuggling Jews from Eastern Europe through Poland. In 1946 Poland was the only Eastern Bloc country to allow free Jewish Aliyah to Mandate Palestine without visas or exit permits.¹

Early statehood (1948–1960)

After Aliyah Bet, the process of numbering or naming individual aliyot ceased, but immigration did not. A major wave of Jewish immigration, mainly from post-Holocaust Europe and the Arab and Muslim world took place from 1948 to 1951.

Many churches participated in efforts such as on Wings of Eagles in recent decades to continue to bring Jews back to their homeland.

Why Jews Make Aliyah

These *olim* are also given the chance—many for the first time in their lives—to live freely as Jews. For Jews who have had to keep their Jewish identity secret for their entire lives—or who have lost touch with their Jewish identity through generations of anti-Semitic oppression and violence—the ability to reclaim that identity, and live and worship openly in a free and democratic Jewish state, is truly a dream come true.

Aliyah also sends a powerful message to Israel's enemies, many of whom still do not accept the reality of a Jewish state in their midst. It is a message that, sadly, is still necessary to restate: Israel isn't going anywhere. Jews recognize the founding of the Jewish state for the miracle that it is and, having been denied their own sovereign country for so long, they are committed to keeping and protecting this one. Antisemitism is once again on the rise, making the idea of going home to Israel appealing. 2023 had 3,291 antisemitism incidents in the US, representing a 360% rise. The largest population of Jews abroad is being driven back home to kick off the final adjustments in God's plan for mankind.

Foretaste of the Great Tribulation

Prophecy can relate to near term or long-term events. Frequently prophecy includes *a bridge* that connects the pattern shared by the current situation to the future. In this case, the *sanitizing* of the Jews into a sustainable remnant conceptually leads into the sanitation of mankind. Those who refuse to honor God will not survive. The process of cleansing involves pain and punishment. The positive side is for the survivors and God-enthusiasts. Their lives and health just improved immensely.

This chapter describes a man going through the pain like childbirth. It is figurative language; and it is not actually describing a man having a baby. It is talking about how the pain and intensity will come in increasing waves upon all men. There is nothing they can do about it. Jeremiah has provided graphic descriptions of the destruction and death and pain that was required to save a few souls to go to Babylon. This pattern of destruction and salvation points towards *The Great Tribulation*. The Great Tribulation is called *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*, but it is not limited to Jews. Instead of Israel, we are now broadening the *repent or die* scenario to the whole world. Israel is serving like *alligator bait*, to see who wants to take a swing at God's people. The surviving Jews are reconciling with God. God will allow living conditions to become so bad that men will have to repent or die. Matthew 24 is written primarily to Jews.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24)

God began with the Jews, and now he takes the eternal gospel all over the world. They were to be our examples.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

Jews have been returning home from many countries.

Immigration to Israel in the years following the May 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence. ^[41]							
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1948-53
Eastern Europe							
Romania	17678	13595	47041	40625	3712	61	122712
Poland	28788	47331	25071	2529	264	225	104208
Bulgaria	15091	20008	1000	1142	461	359	38061
Czechoslovakia	2115	15685	263	150	24	10	18247
Hungary	3463	6842	2302	1022	133	224	13986
Soviet Union	1175	3230	2618	689	198	216	8126
Yugoslavia	4126	2470	427	572	88	14	7697
Total	72436	109161	78722	46729	4880	1109	313037
Other Europe							
Germany	1422	5329	1439	662	142	100	9094
France	640	1653	1165	548	227	117	4350
Austria	395	1618	746	233	76	45	3113
United Kingdom	501	756	581	302	233	140	2513
Greece	175	1364	343	122	46	71	2121
Italy	530	501	242	142	95	37	1547
Netherlands	188	367	265	282	112	95	1309
Belgium	-	615	297	196	51	44	1203
Total	3851	12203	5078	2487	982	649	25250
Asia							
Iraq	15	1708	31627	88161	868	375	122754
Yemen	270	35422	9203	588	89	26	45598
Turkey	4362	26295	2323	1228	271	220	34699
Iran	43	1778	11935	11048	4856	1096	30756
Aden	-	2636	190	328	35	58	3247
India	12	856	1105	364	49	650	3036
China	-	644	1207	316	85	160	2412
Other	-	1966	931	634	230	197	3958
Total	4702	71305	58521	102667	6483	2782	246460
Africa							
Tunisia	6821	17353	3725	3414	2548	606	34467
Libya	1064	14352	8818	6534	1146	224	32138
Morocco	-	-	4980	7770	5031	2990	20771
Egypt	-	7268	7154	2086	1251	1041	18800
Algeria	-	-	506	272	92	84	954
South Africa	178	217	154	35	11	33	628
Other	-	382	5	6	3	9	405
Total	8063	39572	25342	20117	10082	4987	108163
Unknown	13827	10942	1742	1901	948	820	30180
All countries	102879	243183	169405	173901	23375	10347	723090

Less than half of the world’s Jews have come back home.

	Countries	Core population	
		Total	pct
1	 Israel ^[a]	7,272,000	46.7
2	 United States	5,700,000	36
3	 France ^[b]	440,000	2.8
4	 West Bank ^[c]	432,800	2.8
5	 Canada	393,000	2.5
6	 United Kingdom ^[d]	292,000	1.9
7	 Argentina	175,000	1.1
8	 Russia	155,000	0.99
9	 Australia	118,000	0.75
10	 Germany	118,000	0.75
11	 Brazil	92,000	0.59
12	 South Africa	52,300	0.33
13	 Hungary	47,200	0.30
14	 Ukraine	45,000	0.29
15	 Mexico	40,000	0.25
16	 Netherlands	29,800	0.19
17	 Belgium	29,000	0.18
18	 Italy	27,000	0.17
19	 Switzerland	18,500	0.12

The Prince Returns

Just like the removal and repatriation, the tribulation will ultimately provide national freedom. It is no different than the flood in that respect. It was a home fumigation and renovation. Israel will be the highest nation in power and wealth and control when the LORD returns. Romans 11:26 says that all of Israel will be saved. 2/3's of the Jews will be killed in the tribulation; so the surviving remnant will be believers. Interestingly, there is a future reference to David their King. This could be a situation where David is the prince, and Jesus (Jehovah Tsidkenu) is God.

King David's Role In The Millennium

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After carefully studying the Old Testament prophets Jeremiah, Hosea and Ezekiel, one cannot come to any other conclusion than this: King David will reign in Jerusalem under Jesus, the Messiah during the millennium.

Consider the following passages of scripture which address conditions during the millennium:

- **Hosea 3:5**
Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and **David their king**; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.
- **Jeremiah 30:9**
But they shall serve the LORD their God, and **David their king**, whom I will raise up unto them.
- **Ezekiel 34:23-24**
And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even **my servant David**; **he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd**. And I the LORD will be their God, and **my servant David a prince among them**; I the LORD have spoken it.
- **Ezekiel 37:24-25**
And **David my servant shall be king over them**; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and **my servant David shall be their prince for ever**.

Most Bible teachers race right past those verses and generally accept them as a reference to Jesus the Messiah, who was born into a Jewish family descended from King David. They assume that those passages are referring to David's descendant, Jesus the Messiah. However, that cannot be the case when we look more closely at Ezekiel's prophecies.

Let's take a look at **Ezekiel 44:1-3**.

- 1 Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut.
- 2 Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.
- 3 It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.

According to Isaiah 9:6-7, the Messiah, Jesus, will be known as "the mighty God" and "the everlasting Father." That means that Jesus, as the Messiah, is LORD. Yet, in these three verses, the LORD is differentiated from "the prince." Verse 3 tells us that the prince "shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD." So you see, the "prince" and the "LORD" are different here.

In Ezekiel 45:9-25 we have the prince offering sacrifices **for himself** and the people "to the LORD." As a matter of fact, Ezekiel 45:22 instructs, "And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering." We all know that Jesus, the Messiah, is without sin. This prince, however, is not without sin.

There are some interesting specifications in Ezekiel 46:18, "Moreover the prince shall not take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession." This prince shall have sons. Do you think that's talking about Jesus, the Messiah? Of course it isn't.

In Ezekiel 48:22 we are told that this prince shall have a land allotment along with the Tribes of Israel. Of course that's not a reference to Jesus as the Messiah either. In Ezekiel 45 and 46 we see that this prince will have a unique relationship with regard to the temple where he will be performing some priestly functions (Ezekiel 45:16-17,22 and Ezekiel 46:4, 12).

A careful examination of Jeremiah, Hosea and Ezekiel clearly leads us to the conclusion that, during the millennium, Jesus will be present as the Messiah, while David will be present fulfilling the role of the "prince." Obviously, he will be resurrected to fulfill this role. Now, that shouldn't really throw us. Jesus raised Lazarus after he had been dead for four days. Therefore, God is able to raise David to fulfill his millennial purposes if he so desires. And...apparently that's exactly what he does according to these passages.

Read Jeremiah 30:10-17: The nations have served a purpose in housing and disciplining the Jews. Now these same nations will have to pay for taking advantage of the Jews. It was not their intention to bless the Jews or further God's plan. Unbelieving agents of change are all around us. They are all pawns in God's hands. God uses unbelievers in our lives all day long. We have to be careful about cursing our circumstances and difficult people. God has allowed it and he's using it.

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good (Genesis 50:20)

Babylon was the hammer that broke Judah and the nations steeped in idolatry. They cleaned out the sin-infected nation of Israel. Medo Persia brought them back to make a fresh start, and dispose of the no-longer needed Babylon. Greece made the whole world speak one language, to make the way for the gospel. Rome built roads, so that the gospel could spread.

Read Jeremiah 30: 18-24: This chapter goes back and forth in time, to tie the present limitations and pressures and back to the glorious future that God has planned for us. The Old Testament does a lot of that. You could say that the world is filled with *straw men* and *virtual* countries to shepherd us along on our path of personal faith development. Mankind needs *forces* instead of mere instruction to go the right way. Once we graduate God can make a paradigm shift in the world around us. That is how we should view this decaying world. It is somehow beneficial for us to engage our faith.

The *Governor* over Israel is mentioned here. He will be a person who draws near to God. He pledges his heart to God. This may tie back to the idea of King David returning to lead his people.