Building A Case For The Pre-Trib Rapture

Lesson #32

Judgment & Redemption Of the Nation of Israel

God married Israel in the beginning of the relationship and divorced her in Jer. 3:6-10.

Will there be a remarry or reconciliation after the Tribulation Period?

Their relationship can be divided into 6 stages.

Stage 1: The Marriage Contract

<u>Deut. 5:1 -3</u> And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and observe to do them. Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Horeb [Mt. Sinai]. Jehovah made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

<u>Ex. 19:4-6a</u> Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

<u>Deut.6:10-15</u> God announced His jealousy over His wife, Israel and her warned against adultery.

> How could Israel be guilty of adultery against Jehovah? Worship Other gods. God's burning jealousy would be kindled against her and eventually cause her expulsion out of the land which God had given her.

<u>Deut. 7:6-11</u> Israel is described as the one chosen by God because of His love for Israel. He entered in a <u>covenant relationship</u> with her which is the <u>marriage contract</u>.

But now Israel has an obligation. God implored Israel to be a faithful wife to Jehovah by being obedient and subject to Him. [Deut. 7:9-11]

<u>Ezek. 16:8</u> Ezkeiel describes the wedding night, the covenant at Sinai and the relationship between Israel and Jehovah. God declared Israel as His own.

Stage 2: The Great Adultery

<u>Jer. 3:1-5</u> Although Israel was sternly admonished to remain faithful to her husband, she was guilty of a great adultery.

Jer. 3:20 Israel was guilty of playing the harlot with <u>many lovers</u>.

Jer. 31:32 Because of this adultery, the original marriage contract was broken.

<u>Ezek. 16:15-34</u> Ezekiel declares Israel's guilt: She had played the part of a prostitute. Prostitutes generally receive money for their services. Israel paid her lovers [v. 16-19].

- She paid them with the things her true husband, God, had given to her as His wife.
- Israel's very children were sacrificed to these lovers, the pagan gods [v. 20-21].
- Israel forgot her love of her youth when God first entered the covenant relationship with her [v. 22].

In v.23-29, Ezekiel portrayed her lovers as the gods of the Egyptians, the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Israel suffered terribly from the hands of the Egyptians, Assyrians and Babylonians. She committed adultery with those that hurt her the most.

Hosea 2:2-5 Hosea declared the charge God had against Israel: She Was Guilty Of Harlotry.

- > V 2-3 She committed adultery
- > V 4 She produced children of adultery; they were illegitimate
- > V 5 She played the part of a prostitute

<u>Truth</u>: In spite of God's manifold blessings to Israel, Israel turned away from God in order to play the part of a prostitute and was guilty of the great adultery.

Stage 3: The Separation

Isaiah 50:1 In the days of Isaiah, God and Israel were not divorced.

They were separated for about 100 years due to Israel's adultery.

<u>Deut. 24:1</u> If a husband wished to divorce his wife, he had to write out a bill of divorcement.

When he gave it to his wife, the divorce was final.

<u>Consider</u>: When Isaiah was a prophet, Israel's adultery was so great it was necessary for God to withhold His blessings. This caused many in Israel to say: God had divorced His wife. God told Isaiah He had not given her a bill of divorcement.

Stage 4: The Divorce

Even after 100 years of separation, during which time the blessings of Deuteronomy continued to be withheld, Israel still failed to return to God her husband. One hundred years of separation failed to produce repentance in Israel. Thus, God was forced to finally issue the bill of divorcement on the grounds of adultery. [Jer. 3:6-10]

Stage 5:	The Punishment
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<u>Ezek. 16:</u> 35-36	Cause for the punishment = Adultery
v. 37-41	Israel will be destroyed by her very own lovers
	 The Egyptians will destroy her.

- The Assyrians will devastate her.
- The Babylonians will make her desolate.
- v. 42 The jealousy of God will be spent
- v. 43 Aim of the punishment is to cause Israel to stop sinning and stop her adulteries

Hosea 2:6-13 describes the punishment

- v. 6 Israel's searching ways will be blocked by various thorns and walls
- v. 7 Her search for her old lovers will prove fruitless

Purpose: Show Israel her need for her true husband and not for her false lovers

v. 8-9 The very things she paid her lovers with will be taken away. They belonged to Jehovah.

v. 10-13 She will finally realize her shame when she sees herself truly spiritually naked, her joy removed and her material blessings gone.

Consider: During the long period of punishment, there is a continual call to repentance. Jer. 3

- v. 11-13 God's continual call for Israel to repent and return to Him
- v. 14-18 Describes the blessings God has for Israel once she returns to Him
- v. 14 Jehovah declares He will again be a husband to her
- v. 15-18 He promised to restore and to provide for her like a husband should.

The basic reason for this lies in Israel's relationship to God as <u>God's first born</u> [Exodus 4:22] and therefore <u>receives double</u> both in blessing and cursing.

The principle that Israel receives double for all her sins is stated in:

<u>Isaiah 40:1-2</u> Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she hath received of Jehovah's hand <u>double for all her sins</u>.

<u>Jer. 16:16-18</u> Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith Jehovah, and they shall fish them up; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity concealed from mine eyes. And first <u>I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double</u> because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable things and have filled mine inheritance with their abominations. <u>Key Point:</u> The principle of Israel receiving double for all her sins is the reason why the tribulation is uniquely the time of Jacob's trouble.

The uniqueness of the <u>tribulation's relationship to Israel</u> is especially brought out in: <u>Jer. 30:4-7</u> And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith Jehovah: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child: Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even <u>the time of Jacob's trouble</u>; but he shall be saved out of it.

<u>Question:</u> The Bible refers to The Tribulation in Jer. 30:7 as "The Time Of Jacob's Trouble." Why does the Bible revert to his old name? Why isn't it known as the time of Israel's trouble?

- > Jacob wrestled with God. God renamed him Israel. [Gen. 32:22-32]
- > When the Kingdom divided after the death of Solomon, the Southern Kingdom was known as Judah. The Northern Kingdom was known as Israel [or Ephraim].
- > Jacob is mentioned 8x in 6 verses in Jeremiah 30-33 which speaks of the distress.

> The 12 tribes all came from Jacob. All 12 Tribes are included in The Tribulation Period.

<u>Consider:</u> If it were Time of Israel's trouble, many would think it is the northern tribes only.

<u>Israel Is Still In The Punishment Stage</u> of her historical and prophetic relationship with Jehovah, her God. Waiting for The Day Of The Lord

<u>The Day of The Lord</u>: The period of time when God will send judgment to the nations and purify Israel in preparation for the coming of His King to reign in Jerusalem during the Millennium.

There are 5 Day of the LORD passages that <u>directly relate the Great Tribulation</u> <u>to Israel.</u>

- 1. Ezekiel 13:1-7 describes the Day of the LORD in relationship to the false Jewish prophets in the tribulation:
- > The multiplication of false prophets among Israel will require a massive cleansing described in Zech. 13:2-6.
 - 2. Joel 2:1-11 The Day of The LORD is depicted as a time of darkness and invasion.
 - 3. Joel 3:14-17 The Day of The LORD is described as the time of refuge for Israel.
 - 4. Amos 5:18-20 The Day of The LORD is depicted as the time of darkness.
 - 5. Zeph. 1:7-13 The Day of The LORD is portrayed as very heavy against Jerusalem.

A graphic description of Israel in the Tribulation period: Isa. 3:1-4:1

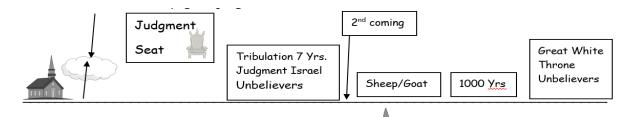
- Verses 1-15 describe the effects of the tribulation on the Jewish leaders.
- > Isa. 3:16-4:1 describe the effects on Jewish women > a removal of their luxury items;
 - A sharp reduction of the male population until there will be 7 Jewish women for each Jewish male.

How do we know when Bible passages are referring to The Tribulation Period? In the Old Testament, the most common name for the Tribulation is the Day of Jehovah or the Day of the Lord. It does not include the Millennial Kingdom. Other names used for the Tribulation Period found in the 1901 edition of the American Standard Version.

Time of Jacob's Trouble	Jer. 30:7
> 70 th week of Daniel	Dan. 9:27
> Jehovah's Strange Work or Act	Isa. 28:21
Day of Israel's Calamity	Deut. 32:35; Obadiah 12-14
The Tribulation	Deut. 4:30
The Indignation	Isa. 26:20; Daniel 11:36
The Overflowing Scourge	Isa. 28:15, 18
The Day of Vengeance	Isa. 34:8; 35:4; 61:2
The Year of Recompense	Isa. 34:8
> The Time of Trouble	Dan. 12:1; Zeph. 1:15
The Day of Wrath; Distress; Wasteness	Zeph. 1:15
The Day of Desolation	Zeph. 1:15
The Day of Darkness	Zeph. 1:15; Amos 5:18; 20; Joel 2:2
The Day of Gloominess	Zeph. 1:15; Joel 2:2
The Day of Clouds	Zeph. 1:15; Joel 2:2
The Day of Thick Darkness	Zeph. 1:15; Joel 2:2
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- > The Day of the Trumpet; Day of Alarm
- Day of The Lord
- The Wrath of God
- The Hour of Trial
- > Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb Of God
- The Wrath to Come
- > The Wrath
- The Great Tribulation
- > The Hour of Judgment

Zeph. 1:16 I Thess. 5:2 Rev. 15:1, 7; 14:10, 19; 16:1 Rev. 3:10 Rev. 6:16-17 I Thess. 1:10 I Thess. 5:9; Rev. 11:18 Matt. 24:21; Rev. 2:22; 7:14 Rev. 14:7



- > The Church Age is set between week 69 _____ week 70 of Daniel's prophecy.
- > During the Church Age, God is not dealing with Israel as a nation.
- When the Rapture takes place, Church Age believers dead and alive will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and the Judgment Seat of Christ will take place.

<u>Key Point:</u> Once the Rapture takes place, God will, at some point, start the clock for the 70th week of Daniel which is the 7 year tribulation period.

What are the purposes of the Tribulation Period according to Scripture? A. The Tribulation will complete the <u>decreed period of national Israel's judicial hardening</u> as <u>punishment</u> for its rejection of the messianic program, which the partial return from exile did not remove and which culminated in the national rejection of Jesus. Isa, 6:9-13 Isa, 24:1-6 John 12:37-41 Rom, 11:7-10

B. To Bring About Worldwide Revival > The first 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years

Note: Rev. 7:1-17 gives us the means and the results.

<u>Rev. 7:1-4</u> And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. ² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the <u>servants of our God</u> in their foreheads. ⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an 144,00 of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

> 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes: They are sealed with the special protection of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the 144,000 witnesses will spark a miraculous revival during the first 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of the Tribulation. [Rev. 7:9-17] <u>Rev. 7:9-10, 13-14</u> After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

It will produce a messianic revival among Jewish people scattered throughout the world. <u>Deut. 4:27-30</u> And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. ²⁸ And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. ²⁹ But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. ³⁰ When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, <u>even in the latter days</u>, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto His voice; ³¹ (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them.

<u>Side Note:</u> It is worth noting that Joseph's name stands in the place of the tribe of Dan who is not listed as one of the tribes among the special witnesses.

<u>Judges 18:1-31</u> People of Dan fell into gross idolatry. They did not like the territory allotted to them near the Mediterranean Sea—the Amorites and Philistines gave them trouble.

So they sent out spies to find a better area.

In the north, the Danites learned of an area inhabited by a peaceful group of people,

whom the Danites proceeded to wipe out and moved their entire tribe into that area.

<u>Judges 18:27b</u> came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword and burnt the city with fire.

Dan was the 1st tribe to establish an organized, pagan and idolatrous religion based on golden calf worship. They thoroughly rejected God and were far from Him 500 years.

Their embrace of idolatry and immorality could be the reason they are disqualified to serve as one of the tribes represented as the 144,000 witnesses.

<u>Ezek. 48:1-30</u> During the Millennial Kingdom, <u>Dan is listed as first</u> in receiving a distribution of land, his inheritance. [God's Grace]

 ${\cal C}$. To Break the Power or the Stubborn Will of the Jewish Nation

<u>Purge Out The Rebel</u> One of God's major purposes for Israel during the 7 year tribulation is the conversion of the Jewish remnant to faith in Jesus as their Messiah.

The purging will take place throughout the tribulation, but by the end of the seven-year period the entire number of the elect remnant will become converted to Jesus.

Before Conversion, They Are To Be JUDGED

<u>Ezek. 20:33-38</u> 'As I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I will rule over you. And I will bring you out from the people and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched-out arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. ³⁶ Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. ³⁷ And I will cause you to pass under the rod [evaluate & separate], and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

³⁸And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

God Will Cast Them Into His Melting Pot: Purge Out The Unfaithful

<u>Ezek. 22:17-22</u> And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹⁸ Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver. Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in My fury and I will leave you there, and MELT YOU.

Yea I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you." <u>Zech.13:8-9</u> And it will come about in all the land, declares the LORD, 'that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but <u>the third will be left in it</u>. And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is my God. <u>Jer. 30:11</u> For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

<u>Jer. 30:17, 22</u> For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, And you shall be My people, And I will be your God"

D. To Make an End of Wickedness & Wicked Ones

<u>Isa. 13:9</u> Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

<u>Isa. 24:19-20</u> The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. ²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Side Note: For your personal study

- 1. Isa. 2:12-22 emphasizes the terror of Jehovah manifested at this time.
- 2. Isa. 13:6-16 elaborates on the purpose to makes an end of wickedness & wicked ones.
- 3. Isa. 13-20 Judgments on Middle East nations
- 4. Joel 1:15-20 stresses how the Day of Jehovah will affect the crops of the earth.
- 5. Obadiah 1:10-20 describes the effects on Edom, present-day southern Jordan. This time will be very severe on Edom because of their special mistreatment of Israel. Edom had a blood relationship to Israel.
- 6. Zeph. 1:14-18 It is a time of darkness and distress.
- 7. II Pet. 3:10-12 The Day of Jehovah is described as a time of burning of the earth.
- E. It will end the time of the Gentiles and effect the deliverance of the Jewish people from Gentile dominion [Isa. 24:21-23; 59:16-20; cf. Mt 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Rom. 11:25]

Note: Until the Times of The Gentiles be Fulfilled

<u>Luke 21:24</u> And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, <u>until the times of the Gentiles be</u> <u>fulfilled.</u> [Context: Tribulation Period]

In Daniel 11-12, Daniel was given a vision of what conditions will be like for his people during the Tribulation. In <u>Daniel 12:5-7</u>: <u>How long will this period continue</u>?

Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

⁶ And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river,

How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by Him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a <u>time, times, and an half</u> $[3\frac{1}{2}]$ years; 42 months; 1260 days] and when He shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

God intends to break the power and the stubborn will of the nation of Israel in order to bring about a national regeneration.

ISRAEL & SATAN

<u>Rev. 12:1-17</u> central passage describing Satan's relationship to Israel during the tribulation. At that time there will be an all-out satanically organized campaign to wipe out the Jews once and for all.

- > Rev. 12:1-5 Historical summary from the birth to the ascension of Christ
- > Rev. 12:6
 Pictures Israel in flight just as Matthew 24:16-20 did.
- > Rev. 12:7-12 Why the Jews are on the run
- > Rev. 12:12 Satan will be cast down to the earth and set out to destroy the Jews.
- > Rev. 12:13-14 Explain where Israel is in their flight

<u>Rev. 12:14</u> And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, $[3\frac{1}{2}]$ years; 42 months; 1260 days] from the face of the serpent.

- > Rev. 12:15-17 Describes Satan's persecution of the Jews, esp. the believing remnant
- F. The Tribulation will purge the earth of wicked people in order to establish the Messianic Kingdom in righteousness [Isa. 13:9; 24:19-20; Eze. 37:23; Zec. 13:2; 14:9; Isa. 11:9].

The violent reduction of the world's unbelieving population will result from the divine judgments unleashed throughout the Tribulation (Rev. 6-18). It will climax with the Battle of Armageddon under King Messiah [Rev. 19] and His purge of rebel Jews and oppressive Gentiles at the end of the Tribulation [Ezek. 20:33-38; Mt 25:31-46] Jesus Christ will establish His Millennial Kingdom on earth with the remnant of Israel, a regenerate nation.

Scripture states: God did divorce Israel, His unfaithful wife.

<u>Jer. 3:1</u> They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

<u>Deut. 24:1-4</u> The answer, according to the Mosaic Law, was "no"; a man who had divorced his wife could not later remarry her. Israel seems to be in a hopeless situation: she has been divorced by God, and, according to the law, she can never be accepted back.

<u>But God: His mercy intervenes</u>: <u>Jer. 3:12</u> Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger forever.

<u>Jer. 3:14</u> "Return, faithless people,' declares the Lord, 'for I am your husband. I will choose you . . . and bring you to Zion" (Jeremiah 3:14).

God promises to do what the Mosaic Law could never do: restore the broken "marriage." It was unthinkable that a human husband would take back his unfaithful wife, but God is greater than that; He can and will forgive His wayward people when they repent of their sin and seek Him again. [Jer. 3:13]

The National Conversion Of Israel

One day the nation of Israel will return to the Lord their God.

This will occur by the end of the tribulation and is the purpose for the time of Jacob's trouble.

Result of Regeneration: Israel's Final Restoration

Israel will be reunited as a nation, never to be divided into 2 separate kingdoms. <u>Jer. 3:18</u> In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers. God promised a united, restored kingdom with one king forever.

Ezek. 37:16-17 "Now you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' ¹⁷ Then put them together for yourself one to another into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. Ezek.37:21-23 Behold, I am going to take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their offenses; but I will rescue them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. Jer. 16:14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; ¹⁵ But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. [2nd Exodus; fulfillment of covenants and promises] Zech. 10:6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God and will hear them.

Hosea was instructed to marry a prostitute named Gomer, who subsequently bore him three children. He wasn't sure the last two children were fathered by him. Then Gomer left him for another man. Hosea had the humiliating responsibility of <u>buying back his own wife</u>. This was a vivid picture of what the people of Israel had done to their God by prostituting themselves to idols and committing "spiritual adultery."

Hosea's & Gomer's three children were given meaningful names selected by the Lord.

> Child #1 = Son = Jezreel = God scatters or God sows

God announced that He would avenge the innocent blood shed by Jehu who had murdered far more people than God commanded. God would put an end to Jehu's dynasty in Israel which was fulfilled in 752 BC when Zechariah was assassinated, the great-great-grandson of Jehu and the last of his dynasty to reign. [II Kings 10:30] God also announced that the whole kingdom of Israel would come to an end with the defeat of her army, which occurred in 724.

Child #2 = Daughter = Lo-ruhama = unpitied or not loved God would withdraw His love and no longer show them mercy.

Child #3 = Son = Lo-ammi = not my people
 This was like a man divorcing his wife and turning his back on her.
 Reflects the climax of Israel's fate.

<u>God's grace</u>: He will one day change these names to reflect the nation's new relationship to God.

- > Not my people will become My people.
- > Unloved will become My loved one

<u>Hosea 1:10-11</u> Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."

And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, And they will appoint for themselves one leader, And they will go up from the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel.

Stage 6: The Remariage With Restored Blessings & A New Marriage Contract

<u>Jer. 31:31-34</u> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Note: This is also described in Ezekiel 16:60-63

The restoration of Israel as Jehovah's wife is described in Isa. 54:1-8

The remarriage is described in Isaiah 62:4-5

The Reunion of Jehovah and Israel is described in Hosea 2:14-23

v. 14-15 Hosea describes the courtship and the wooing in the wilderness.

Israel will again be allured into the wilderness [land of Edom & city of Bozrah] where God will speak to her heart in courtship, and when she responds all her vineyards will be restored.

v.16-17 Israel will no longer address God as Baali = my husband, my master Israel will address God as Ishi. = my husband, my man

Note: To avoid even the hint of the other lover, Baal, Israel will address God as Ishi.

- v. 18 Peace and safety: Israel will never again be invaded by the nations whose gods she once worshiped.
- v. 19-20 The betrothal is used 3 times. It will be forever. It will be in righteousness, justice, lovingkindness and mercy. It will be in faithfulness.
- V. 21-23 New meaning to Jezreel.
 During the punishment stage, Israel experienced the 1st meaning of God scatters.
 Then Israel will experience the 2nd meaning: God sows.

<u>Note</u>: The Valley of Jezreel, Israel's largest valley and most productive, had often failed to produce because God removed His blessings. But then with the new remarriage, all of God's blessings will be restored in the Valley of Jezreel.

It will produce almost as soon as the field is sown.

<u>Consider</u>: ALL these blessings are promised to Israel and are awaiting her return to her husband. <u>Israel Is Still In The Punishment State</u> of her historical and prophetic relationship with Jehovah, her God. However, the time is coming when Israel will be remarried at her national regeneration and be reunited to her God with all her blessings restored.

Then they will enter their promised kingdom, and the promises of the prophets will be fulfilled. [Isa. 11–12; 32; 35; Jer. 30–31; Ezek. 37; Amos 9:11-15].

<u>Fulfillment of Ex. 19:6</u> you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'