

2 Kings 17:6-7 (John Ruskin Gill) 130364

The Future, Lecture Number 3 (17:6-7)

After the invasion of Palestine by the armies of the Beast and the King of the North, there remains the invasion of Gog before the peaceful reign of Christ in the Millennium begins.

In Scripture, when distinguished, the Jews mean the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Israel means the remaining ten tribes. These latter, in our study so far, have not returned.

Second Kings 17:6-7 refers to the ten tribes, not the twelve tribes: "In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh King of Egypt, and had feared other gods." They are carried away captive while the Jews still remain.

The ten tribes are now lost, in spite of much speculation on their whereabouts. They were taken by the Gozan River. This empties into the Caspian Sea. The cities of the Medes are also easily identified. Media is later associated with Persia. So the location of their dispersion is quite specific. The date here is about 740 B.C.

In Acts 2:9, the "Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites" were not Jews but members of the ten tribes. They were still in the same location about 800 years later—at least a sufficient number so that delegates might be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, as was evidently customary year after year. There is also the evidence of Josephus as well as Scripture. He says, writing one hundred years after Christ, "To this day the ten tribes remain beyond the Euphrates." They were thus in profane history around the base of the Caspian Sea in the general direction of Afghanistan, as well as in Scripture.

We may note also the precise words of 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."

See also Acts 4:26-27: "The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ. For of a truth against Thy holy child Jesus, whom Thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together." All Israel are responsible for the rejection and murder of Jesus. Delegates in Jerusalem are here again involved.

So, in these days, they were not yet lost. See also James 1:1: "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."

Soon after this, however, Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jews themselves scattered over the earth. Then the ten tribes dropped out of view and, in spite of much investigation, they cannot be located. The Anglo-Saxon race is not these tribes for one reason, at least: because idolatry characterizes them. "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." (Hosea 4:17.) See also Hosea 14:8: "Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols?"

Also Romans 11:19-21: "Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee."

A comparison is here given between Israel and Gentiles. And in verses 22-25, unbelief and blindness are attributed to Israel, not Jews merely: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree; how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

Now this is not true of the Anglo-Saxon race, which of all nations on earth is most professedly Christian. English-speaking peoples have stood for the maintenance of the truth of the Bible. "In God We Trust" on coinage is peculiar to them.

Others say the most idolatrous nation that looks like the Jew in features is the North American Indian. It is not impossible that they are a small part, but numbers are very few. Others speak of China and its hosts. Possibly, but who can say? It is all guess work. So with the Afghans and races still around the Caspian Sea's base, and the north of Persia.

As a matter of fact, God knows where they are. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" applies to earthly people as well as heavenly. This is the foundation of blessing for all on earth and in heaven.

Revelation 7 is a parenthesis preliminary to the great tribulation. Verses 3-8 show that God knows where they all are; and, before the tribulation, the messenger of God sets His seal on a number of them to preserve them for millennial blessing.

Revelation 7:3-8: "Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand."

His purpose concerning them is that they shall be brought back, and in the beginning of His kingdom He will have all there in the land.

Ezekiel 20 refers to this. Verses 33-44 are addressed to the ten tribes: "As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I 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. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. 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. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: and 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. As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto Me: but pollute ye My holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. For in Mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve Me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I lifted up Mine hand to give it to your fathers. And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have wrought with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord God."

God swears by Himself, "As I live." How doubly sure that it will come to pass! The ten tribes will not go through the tribulation in the land. But, on the way, will be dealt with as we have seen in verses 35-38.

Where is there an event like this recorded? A whole nation brought and gathered from the four quarters of the earth—little by little collected till the numbers are swelled on their approach to the land. What comment it will raise, some favorable and some adverse!

See Jeremiah 31:6-10: "For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save Thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock." How sweet and gracious!

Ezekiel showed them under the rod, and rebels purged out. Here in Jeremiah we see great exercise of soul in them, "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them." Why the great emotion? For one thing, the sense of the wonderful character of God's dealing with them. Also because of their previous centuries of idolatry. When God reveals Himself to them, a sense of shame and contrition fills them.

Now Jeremiah 31:15-21: "Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border. I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn Thou me, and I shall be turned; for Thou art the Lord my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord. Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities."

Rachel is figurative of the two tribes now in the land restored and weeping because of the missing ten tribes and their own decimated numbers. Isaiah 49:12-23 gives a touching picture of the reunion of the two tribes with the ten. The thoughts and exercise of soul of the Jews are faithfully recorded:

"Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me. Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee. Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. As I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth. For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away. The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me

that I may dwell. Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been? Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up Mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up My standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for Me."

Ezekiel gives God's rod. Jeremiah gives their weeping. Here kings and queens will favor their return and give them material help. So presently they are returned to find the Lord is there.

After their return we get the final invasion of the land.

Ezekiel 38:1-16: "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of Man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: and thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, to take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when My people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against My people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against My land, that the heathen may know Me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes."

"The chief prince," referred to in verses 1-2 should read, "prince of Rosh." Rosh is the ancient form of Russia, Meshech is the ancient form of Moscow, and Tubal is the ancient form of Tobolsk. These are two of the most ancient cities of Russia, capitals of the western and eastern sections of the country.

Russia did not exist as a nation till centuries after Christ—1,400 years after this Scripture. Gog is the mystical name of the man who will head the Russian Empire. Gog has a combination of countries with him now coming up to attack Christ in His seat at Jerusalem. Gomer is almost certainly Germany.

China and Japan with East Germany will probably lend their hand. All the north of Europe and Asia will funnel-like converge down upon Palestine, aided by Persia and India. The numbers involved stagger the mind. The leader will know that the armies of the Beast and those of the Assyrian were destroyed there, so he spares no limit to roll down upon the land to meet the terrible foe there. See verse 9 as to this; also verses 14-16:

"Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. ... Therefore, son of man, prophecy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when My people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against My people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against My land, that the heathen may know Me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes." God here threatens to advertise Himself in the doom of Gog.

Ezekiel 39:1-6: "Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: and I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field, to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord."

Here God threatens judgment on the land that these hordes come from. Also see verses 9-10 for details of the destruction upon them:

"And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: so that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord God."

Verses 11-16 give more startling details: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea; and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it, The valley of Hamongog. And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may

cleanse the land. Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord God. And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land, to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land."

This is the full, final and complete destruction of all peoples that venture to come against the Lord and His people. This is the final invasion of Palestine before the peaceful reign of Christ in the Millennium. God could do all this in a moment, but the King of the North required time for his maneuvers. So also with Gog. Long months must probably elapse during these events.

We have covered the three main events in the judgment setting up Christ's kingdom. Having dealt with and judged all that is contrary to Him, the Lord will reign in resplendent glory. Now is the day of His rejection, and we taste it. How wonderful to see and share in His earthly coming glory, to say nothing of His heavenly glory. We know we shall see Him and be with Him in heaven and on earth, see Him taking to Himself His great power and reign, and see the earth blessed under His blessed rule!

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