

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT OF RETURN

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

INTRO: We are listening to the Jewish song, "Hatikvah", which means, "The Hope." It was written some 50 years before Israel became a nation again. It is now the national anthem of Israel. And while it plays I want to read for us Ezekiel 37:1-14:

Ezekiel 37:

*1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.*

*2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.*

*3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."*

*4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!*

*5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.*

*6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."'"*

*7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.*

*8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

*9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'"*

*10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'"

(Note the words: *Our Hope is Lost*. What you are hearing is Israel's national anthem called, "Hatikva" or "The Hope". Ten times in the refrain it says: *Our hope is not yet lost*. Verse 12:)

12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."

13 "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves."

14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD."

Our subject this morning is "Israel's Right Of Return." We want to briefly look at Israel's first great disobedience, their scattering and their return and then spend more time on their second great disobedience, their scattering and their return.

Many years ago a little book came into my hands, I do not remember how. It is written by Arthur U. Mickelson, a Jewish Christian. He writes, "Frederick the Great, king of Prussia, who was a friend of the atheistic poet Voltaire, got into an argument with his court chaplain about the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible. The king asked, "How do you know the Bible is the word of God? Prove to me there is a God." The answer came promptly: "The Jew," and the monarch confirmed the statement by saying, "Correct!" (pg. 27). Well, it is more correct today than ever before!

## I. ISRAEL'S FIRST GREAT DISOBEDIENCE

### A. Their Scattering

You might turn to Leviticus 26 as we look at their first great disobedience and their scattering. Moses wrote down God's commands for Israel when they became a nation.

And in 26 the Lord spells out what would happen if they obeyed Him. Let's just look at verses 1-13:

- 1 *'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.*
- 2 *You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.*
- 3 *'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,*
- 4 *then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.*
- 5 *Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.*
- 6 *I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.*
- 7 *You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.*
- 8 *Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.*
- 9 *'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.*
- 10 *You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.*
- 11 *I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.*
- 12 *I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.*

13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

So we have this great promise if Israel would obey the Lord. But in verses 14-33 we have what will happen if they disobey:

14 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments,

15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant,

16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

18 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

19 I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

20 And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

21 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

23 'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me,

- 24 then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.
- 25 And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.
- 26 When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.
- 27 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me,
- 28 then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.
- 29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.
- 30 I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you.
- 31 I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.
- 32 I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.
- 33 I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

Well, you know the story. Israel eventually disobeyed to the extent that God brought Babylon on them and so God scattered them.

Let me introduce you to a term used with regard to this. It is the *diaspora*. You will find this word in James 1:1 where *diaspora* is translated 'scattering'. They disobeyed and were scattered.

## B. Israel's Regathering

But God never scattered Israel so that they were forever forsaken. Well, if you have read through the Bible you will have read the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, and they speak of this first regathering of the Jews.

Cyrus, king of Persia, which is modern day Iran, defeated Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Israel. It was a political decision that allowed them to return.

## II. ISRAEL'S SECOND GREAT DISOBEDIENCE

### A. Israel's Second Scattering

Well, Israel did not learn her lesson and when the fourth world power came on the scene, which was Rome, they defeated Israel in 63 BC. However, Rome allowed the Jews to remain in the land, but they were now under Roman rule. So Rome was in power when Christ was born. Go now to Matthew 24. Just before Christ was crucified, He prophesied what would happen. We begin in verse 1:

*1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.*

*2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

Jesus spoke these words around 30 AD. Well, Israel rejected their Messiah and had him crucified. You are familiar with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and that 40 days after His resurrection He ascended to heaven. The Church was born another ten days after His ascension and Christianity suffered under the Jews.

In 70 AD, 40 years after Christ ascended to heaven, the Roman General Titus came, and Josephus says over a million Jews died. Almost 100,000 were captured and enslaved and many others fled, and thus the second diaspora, or scattering occurred. When James writes about the Jews scattered abroad, it is these Jews he is speaking about.

And so the Church age began, and the Jew wandered all through  
Gentile lands for 2,000 years.

When our people lived in Russia, many lived beside Jews and a  
number of our people intermarried with the Jews. Like  
the Jews, our people were like a separate nationality  
without a nation.

## B. Israel's Second Regathering

### 1. Precursors to the regathering

For many years Jews wandered from land to land. There seemed to  
be little interest in a Jewish homeland. As  
Ezekiel 37:2-3 says,

*2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold,  
there were very many in the open valley; and  
indeed they were very dry.*

*3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I  
answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."*

How did the Jews answer that question during the years of their  
scattering from 70 AD to say the 1800s? We find it  
in verse 11:

*11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole  
house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are  
dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut  
off!'*

What was their answer? "No, they can't live. Our bones are dry,  
our hope is lost, and we are cut off!" Well, in  
the 1800's a new hope was born among Jews. The  
song "Hatikvah" has 10 stanzas, beginning with the  
words "As long as..." and then it says things like  
stanza 1:

As long as in the heart, within,  
A Jewish soul still yearns,  
And onward, towards the ends of the east,  
An eye still looks toward [Zion](#);

### **Refrain**

Our hope is not yet lost,

The ancient hope,  
To return to the land of our fathers,  
The city where David encamped.

Ten times that refrain is repeated. This song was written in 1878 and adopted in 1897 at the first Jewish Congress.

In the 1700 and 1800s precursors to this second regathering began to take place. Israel would have to suffer greatly in many of the countries they had been scattered into before they were even interested in returning to the land of Israel. Many lost their lives in countries like Spain and Russia.

Mickelson says, "Every nation on the face of the earth that has persecuted and mistreated the Jews has had to pay for it. You know how Germany, Russia, Romania, Turkey, Spain, and other European countries persecuted the Jews. The late Czar of Russia at the time his country lost the battle against Germany, blamed the Jews for the misfortunes of his army and said, 'Let us kill the Jews.' They had pogroms in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Warsaw, and Kiev, and Jews were killed by the thousands" (26).

Well, we could give many stories but finally the Jews began to realize they needed their own country. Then God put something in motion and through allowing much persecution He began to prepare the Jewish people for a desire for a homeland. One of the Jews instrumental in that was Theodore Herzl. He was born in the Austrian Empire, in what is now Budapest Hungary. He was born in 1860 and died in 1904. He founded the Zionist movement. He organized a world congress of Jewish people and they met in Basel, Switzerland.

I understand that Herzl said in his diary what he dared not voice otherwise. He wrote: "Were I to sum up the Basel Congress in a word – which I shall guard against pronouncing publicly – it would be this: At Basel, I founded the Jewish State. If I said



this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will know it." Well, within 50 years the state of Israel was born.

It is here that it is relevant to read Ezekiel 37:1-7 once more:

1 *The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.*

2 *Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.*

3 *And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."*

4 *Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!*

5 *'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.*

6 *"I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."'"*

7 *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.*

There is the prophecy of the second regathering and it has begun. The [reformjudaism.org](http://reformjudaism.org) internet site says:

While Herzl and others were laying the groundwork outside of Palestine for a state, many Jews were moving there from Europe in waves called aliyot. The first wave, known as the "First Aliyah," took place prior to political Zionism, in the late 1800s. Most of these new immigrants came from Russia and Yemen, and set up towns including Petah Tikvah, Rishon LeZion and Zikhron Ya'akov. The Second Aliyah, prior to World War I, was almost exclusively made up of Russian Jews, following pogroms and anti-Semitism in their country. Inspired by Socialism and Jewish nationalism, this group started the first kibbutz and revived the Hebrew language.  
<https://reformjudaism.org/history-jewish-immigration-israel-aliyah>

Well, we come to world war 1. This war lasted from 1 August 1914 to November 11, 1918. That is four years. Of this war Mickelson says, "Everybody lost; the only nation that won is the nation that never fought as a nation and that is the nation of the Jews. Is that not remarkable? In the treaty of Sevres on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1920, the Turks renounced all their rights over Palestine and on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1922, the League of Nations gave to England a mandate over Palestine and granted the Jews of the world the right and liberty to return to their own country and to rebuild their national home" (38).

Well, one would wish the story then read, "And they lived happily ever after." But that is not the case. Problems for the Jews were far from over. Even the British who had been instrumental in bringing about what we have just mentioned turned against Israel.

Well, the Jews suffered tremendously in many nations. They had a long history in Spain, and suffered greatly there. They had a long history in Russia. I think it is generally agreed that Stalin killed more people than Hitler and many of those were Jews. Which brings us to Germany and the holocaust, which

means mass destruction. Jewish suffering reached its climax in Germany.

And the Jews finally were driven to desperation. During second world war, they got onto ships, sometimes dilapidated vessels that were unseaworthy, and they made for other countries. When they reached the shores of America and Canada and other countries, even Israel, they were turned back to be left to the fate of the sea, and many, many never made it.

Another name important in bringing about the regathering of the Jews is Dr. Chaim Weizman. I have read two different accounts why Britain was indebted to him. Some say it was some discovery regarding the most powerful explosive up to that point known as TNT. Whatever it was, the British government asked what he wanted for this. And he said, "I do not want any money, just liberate Palestine and secure it for Jewish occupation. That is all I ask of you."

Well, that led to the famous Balfour declaration. So in November of 1917, Lord Balfour wrote to Lord Rothschild:

I have much pleasure in conveying to you on behalf of His Majesty's government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations, which has been submitted to, and approved by the Cabinet:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.'

"I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation."

Yours sincerely,

Arthur James Balfour."

Well, Britain was a tremendous blessing and also a curse to Israel in years to come. But it is to their credit that Israel did become a nation.

I must read a little more from Mickelson. He writes, "A month later one of the greatest events happened. Palestine was taken by the British army under General Allenby. It was remarkable how General Allenby captured Jerusalem. As he approached Jerusalem with his army he wondered what were the best means of capturing the city from the Turks. He abhorred the thought of shedding blood in the city of the Lord, or of damaging its walls, for Allenby was a Christian. He then marched up to Jerusalem and cabled to King George for orders as to whether or not he should destroy the Holy City, if capture seemed impossible otherwise. In reply the king requested his General to pray about it and do as he felt led. It is true when God purposes to exert His power in the affairs of men, he often stirs someone to pray, for He has condescended to make His people co-workers with Himself through prayer. Meanwhile a rumor had reached the city that a strong army was approaching and led by one whose name was Allenby, which meant to the Turks, Allah Be, the prophet of God. The terrifying conviction came upon the Turkish army that God was against them and they decided to send a delegation to General Allenby, to surrender the city to him.

While General Allenby was at prayer with his officers in his tent west of Jerusalem the Turkish delegation appeared and surrendered the city. God used a man with such a name, because he wanted to show that

He is the same today, and that He can perform miracles as of old.

It is interesting to note that while the Turks surrendered Jerusalem on December 9<sup>th</sup>, General Allenby did not take possession of it, but sent to the chief rabbi to come and counsel with him about it. The rabbi asked him to wait two more days, because then he would enter the city on the same date that Judas Maccabeus drove Antiochus Epiphanus out of Jerusalem and delivered the Jews (164 B.C.). After some deliberation General Allenby to wait two days longer. He notified the Commander-in-chief of the Turks about it, warning him that any act of sabotage on the part of the Turkish soldiers would result in an aerial bombardment. To affirm his warnings he ordered that several aeroplanes should fly over Jerusalem to preserve it.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, took Jerusalem and destroyed the temple of Solomon on the ninth day of the Jewish month Ab 587 B.C. On the anniversary of this day in the year 70 A.D. the Roman emperor Titus captured the city and destroyed the temple. Jerusalem has been exactly 2520 years in the hands of the Gentiles. The Turks had Jerusalem about 1200 years in their possession.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1917, which was the first day of the Jewish feast 'Chanukah' or the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month Kislev, General Allenby and his army entered in while the aeroplanes were flying over the city and captured Jerusalem without firing a single shot and without shedding a single drop of blood. God was defending the city. Of the 27 captures of Jerusalem in the past, this is the only time it was delivered and preserved. The prophet Isaiah had foretold about 700 years B.C. how Jerusalem would be taken. 'As the birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem, defending also He will deliver it and passing over it He will preserve it (Isaiah 31:5)" end quote (35-37.

Though slowly however, Jews continued to return to Israel. The reformjudaism.org internet site says,

*After World War I and until 1923, the Third Aliyah came to Israel. This group was also from Russia, but they arrived after the establishment of the British Mandate over Palestine and the Balfour Declaration and set about creating a sustainable Jewish agricultural economy by strengthening and building the kibbutz movement and its ancillary institutions. The Fourth Aliyah, which took place over a short period of time from 1924 to 1929, was mostly made up of Jews seeking to escape anti-Semitism in Poland and Hungary. Many of these immigrants were made up of middle-class families who established small businesses and created a more rounded economy.*

*The Fifth Aliyah coincided with the rise of Nazism in Germany and extreme nationalism across Eastern Europe and included the largest number of immigrants to date- nearly one quarter of a million Jews entered Mandate Palestine between 1929 and the beginning of World War II. This group of immigrants included professionals, doctors, lawyers and artists. They created a thriving art and architecture scene, and with the establishment of the Port of Haifa, a thriving economy. Most arrived prior to 1936, when the British began imposing harsh restrictions on Jewish immigration as a result of increasing anger and violence in the Palestinian Arab community. In 1939, the British issued the White Paper of 1939, which severely restricted Jewish immigration, leaving many European Jews during the Holocaust with nowhere to go. Illegal immigration, though dangerous, became a necessity. By the time the United Nations agreed to split Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, a very well ordered and lively Jewish society had been created there, end of quote.*

Then came world war 2. This war lasted from September 1, 1939 to September 2, 1945. In that time 6 million Jews lost their lives to Germany alone!

But what happened out of this is that the Jews finally realized they had to have to have their own nation. All kinds of countries were considered as options but it had to be Israel. During the war and thereafter boatloads of Jews sought refuge in different countries, only to be turned away.

There is the story of the St. Louis, and it is a dark story. Museum pictures show Jewish families holding one another and smiling as the luxury liner leaves a nation of hate, to sail off across the Atlantic. They went to Cuba, only to be turned away; to Caribbean countries and finally to the United States and they all closed their ports to them, even Canada said, "No, not here either."

There are many heartrending stories. But steadily there was a growing hope of establishing a homeland in Israel. Then on May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion declared Israel to be a nation. It was a most incredible day. But the new nation was immediately plunged into war as five Muslim nations sought to push the Jews into the Mediterranean Sea.

The little nation survived but life was often difficult. Here is a little Jewish story of the difficulties of that time, showing Jewish humor. At one time when meat was very scarce, William L. Hull, a Canadian who writes of the history of Israel, writes, "After several meatless meals, an irate husband in Tel Aviv rose from his chair and told his wife: 'I'll get meat, even if I have to shoot Ben Gurion (he was the first prime minister of Israel).' Rifle in hand, he stalked out of the house. In a short while he was back. 'Nu, where's the meat?' asked the wife." And he said, "'Ah, there's a long line ahead of me.'" Things were often very difficult.

2. The regathering

But in spite of all that, the beginnings of the regathering have taken place, and Israel is now a nation. But it is after this that the greater regathering began to take place. Let me tell you what is happening in words that were penned 2,500 years earlier by the Lord's words through Ezekiel:

7 *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.*

8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

A nation was born. After Israel became a nation they had many, many struggles. But Jews began to return. And as the little country began to form laws, on July 5, 1950, they made a law called 'The Law Of Return.' It states that, and I quote: "Every Jew has the right to come to this country as an oleh [immigrant]".

So Ezekiel goes on like this:

8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

That is where we are today. Verses 9-10 still await fulfillment. So let me show you some of what has been happening with regard to the regathering of the Jewish people after Israel became a nation and it is still happening today. We'll begin at 1961 though there is much to say about this before 1961.

We begin with Operation Jachin: **OVERHEAD 1**

In November 1961, Israel's Mossad arranged a secret operation for 97,000 Moroccan Jews to leave for Israel, by plane and ship from Casablanca and Tangier, going via France and Italy. Here is a picture of part of them.





One of the amazing miracles was called Operation Solomon.

The BBC said, "In 1991, Ethiopia was coming to the end of a long civil war and the government was close to being toppled.

Israel was concerned for the ancient community of Ethiopian Jews and did a deal with the tottering regime to airlift thousands of people out of the country.

The Israelis were given less than two days to carry out Operation Solomon. During that window, they flew more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel..." end quote.

In 1991, Israel was given a window of less than two days, May 24-25 to airlift over 14,000 Ethiopian

Jews out of Ethiopia. 35 Israeli aircraft were used which included Israeli Air Force C-130s, and El Al Boeing 747s. They transported over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews in 36 hours. Here is a picture of a plane load of them. They flew non-stop for 36 hours.

**OVERHEAD 2** Here we see them boarding in Ethiopia. Let me encourage you to check this out on the internet and on youtube.

**BOARDING IN ETHIOPIA:**



On **OVERHEAD 3** we see them in flight. Many of them had little if any idea of what an airplane was. They took as comfort the prophetic Scriptures.



A US Ambassador wrote: "Operation Solomon was such an impressive job that I put in a phone call to my son Alex, who was then a career Air Force pilot flying B-52 bombers. I said, "Alex, you command a B-52 and are an expert on large aircraft. Let me ask you a question. In an emergency, how many people could you put in a Boeing 747?"

My son thought a while and said, 'Well, in a real emergency, I could cram some 700 people in it.'

I said, 'How about 1,030 people, or thereabouts?'

He said, 'What?'

I said, 'A Boeing 747 has just landed at Ben Gurion International Airport with over 1,000 Ethiopian Falasha people aboard. Put that in your pipe and smoke it.'"

Then he says: "It was really a remarkable achievement."

Wikipedia says, "The operation was kept secret by military censorship. In order to accommodate as many people as possible, airplanes were stripped of their seats and up to 1,122 passengers were boarded on a single plane." They go on to say that they thought they were carrying 1,087 passengers, but dozens of children hid in their mother's skirts. The planners had planned to put 760 people on board but because they were so light, many more were squeezed in. Five babies were born on these planes.

The Jews landed in Israel and cheered and rejoiced, according to Wikipedia, when they arrived. They quote twenty-nine-year-old Mukat Abag as saying, "We didn't bring any of our clothes, we didn't bring any of our things, but we are very glad to be here.'"

**OVERHEAD 4** Here we see them disembarking in Israel.



Ethiopian Jews disembarking from a jet plane at an [Israeli Air Force](#) base, 24 May 1991





## OVERHEAD 5

Then last year over 100 members of a 'Lost Jewish Tribe' in India made aliya to Israel. They are called the Bnei Menashe olim and they made their home in Nazareth.



*Bnei Menashe immigrants prepare to head for the airport in Aizawl, the capital of the northeastern Indian state of Mizoram. (photo credit: SHAVEI ISRAEL).*

**OVERHEAD 6:** On Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> of this year a flight of 239 Israeli immigrants from 24 US States and three Canadian provinces landed in the Jewish homeland as a part of the Nefesh B'Nefesh charter flight. The aliyah (immigration to Israel) flight included 30 families, 90 children and 57 future Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers.



**OVERHEAD 7:** Then on August 22, just a few days ago, the first known Ethiopian Jews with "official" permission since 2017 were slated to arrive in Israel. After months of lobbying the government, the mother and siblings of Sintayehu Shaparou, the Ethiopian who competed in Israel's 2018 Chidon HaTanach (International Bible) contest, are being granted residency status.



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CONCL: And so, to conclude, Israel became a nation in 1948. That is not so long ago. Time didn't allow in this message many of the prophecies that have been fulfilled in this regathering. At this very moment returning Jews are fulfilling Ezekiel's prophecy through Israel's right of return law. And today we are between verse 8 and 9 of Ezekiel's amazing prophecy. Verse 8 says:

*8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

This is where we are today. There is no breath in them. They are physically alive and spiritually dead. So verse 9 says:

*9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from*



*the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'"*

*10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

As I see it, this has not yet been fulfilled and will happen at the end of the tribulation. So what will happen next on the big scene? The Church will go to the place Jesus is preparing for her, the tribulation will begin, and at the end of that time, breath will enter the Jewish people. They will be saved. Zechariah describes it like this in 12:10:

*12:10, "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

I just received an updated newsletter from Gershom Solomon, the head of the Temple Mount Faithful, and there is an ever growing anticipation of the rebuilding of the third temple. From all this we see that the Lord will return very soon.