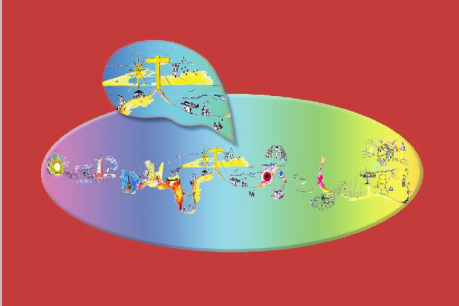


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## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

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HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## [ GOD'S NEVER CEASING LOVE AND BLESSING UPON ISRAEL ]

*I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy. Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.*

*If the LORD had not been on our side –let Israel say- if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive; the flood would have engulfed us, the torment would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away.*

*Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures for ever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and for evermore. The sceptre of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. But those who turn to crooked ways the LORD will banish with the evildoers. Peace be upon Israel.*

*When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD*

***has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.***  
**PSALM123:1-126:6.**

Last month we noted how important the nation Israel, its promised land and also its capital city Jerusalem (Zion) are for the Lord simply because He tied His name and integrity to Israel. While the nation Israel has continually been rebellious against the Lord from the very beginning, His choice of Israel to bless her is unchangeable.

As Jeremiah prophesied and revealed the Lord’s passionate desire: *‘This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who declares the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar –the LORD Almighty is his name: “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will the descendants of Israel even cease to be a nation before me.” This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heaven above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done, “declares the LORD” (Jer.31:35-37),* so Israel will never cease from being a nation. In other words, Jeremiah emphatically spoke that if one was to destroy Israel, he would first have to dethrone God Himself. Along with numerous prophecies, foretelling Israel’s eternal significance in God’s plans of man’s salvation, this declaration is very significant. It very clearly contradicts the still prevailing false-belief that Israel is no longer significant to God because of her rejection of Jesus Christ as her Messiah. And that the church, i.e., spiritual Israel had replaced her, i.e., physical Israel.

In reality, Israel is understood to merely represent one-thousandth of the earth’s population, and the land itself has neither particularly attractive nor important features from the worldly point of view. Nevertheless, the Bible mentions her capital city Jerusalem 811 times, calling it *“the city of our God,” “the city of God,” “the holy city,”* and *“the city of the LORD of hosts.”* It also declares that Jerusalem is to be eternally the centre of the universe (2Ki.21:7, 2Chr.33:7). Adopting someone’s calculation, about 70 percent of the pages of Scripture are taken up in recounting Israel’s history and predicting her future. It speaks of her continual rebellion against God and continual rejection of Christ as her God-sent Messiah to the very end of times, i.e., the time of tribulation called *‘a time of trouble for Jacob’ (Jer.30:7),* and the extinction of two thirds of the Jews on earth (Zec.13:8-9), but the ultimate restoration and the rule by the Messiah (Zec.12-14). Despite God’s foremost passion for His chosen, Israel has throughout history failed to fulfil her calling to be a witness of the Lord to the entire world as His first-born. She should have exemplified a holy and faithfully dedicated life to Him to the world.

While the election of Israel was purely by God’s grace, God’s promise to Israel, was conditional: *‘Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the roads, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates...for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you and he will destroy you from the face of the land’ (Dt.6:3-15).* At the same time, however, God’s promise of love and blessing for Israel, His covenant people is eternal, and He is consistent to protect the remnant of the nation Israel no matter how hopeless she should turn out to be, regardless of her disobedience and unfaithfulness to Him. Until Israel is fully awakened out of her spiritually blinded situation, the Lord will patiently be on her side to rescue her: *‘The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other people, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers ...Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands’ (Dt.7:7-9).*

The Lord’s seemingly contradict and complicated but honest heart for Israel is well described in Jeremiah’s message as well: *“I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no-one will make him afraid. I am with you and will save you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished’ (Jer.30:10-11, Line added).*

It was to Abraham that God revealed Himself as the only true God and His special calling as the chosen out of the idol-worshipping people and further, it was to Moses that God revealed His calling for Israel as His chosen “nation”. Accordingly, since then until today, for more than 3400 years Israel has been unfaithful to God. She continues to remain in unbelief and to trust in her own ability, intelligence and arms. Thinking of her history, although so many inexplicable miraculous events that cannot be attributed to any other source than only God’s intervention have happened to her, Israel has not yet fully recognised His protection and provision. She has neither been humbled to the point of acknowledging God’s blessing and His significance for her as King David sang with a humble and thankful heart, whose Psalms have been quoted at the beginning.

For the time-being, Israel’s ignorance and rejection of acknowledging her Messiah as the fulfilment of God’s promise will continue while a God-defying world is to be used by God to lead Israel through the wilderness so that what was really in her heart was revealed as written in Deuteronomy 8:2-5: ***‘Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD ...Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.’*** Thus, only through hunger and thirst and suffering Israel would learn to humble herself before the Lord and eventually return to Him with wholehearted repentance. It is one of the biblical principles that God punishes Israel through the Gentiles by using them as His rod and that it is God Himself that rescues her out of the enemy’s hands. In other words, God indirectly judges Israel but He directly saves His own people. On the other hand, God indirectly saves the Gentiles through the Jews, that is, there is no salvation for the Gentiles without the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, but God directly judges the unbelieving Gentiles according to how they dealt with God’s chosen.

All these things about the past, the present, and the future of Israel, including her destruction, dispersion, and ultimate restoration, had been written by the end of the first century and subsequently complied in both Testaments, and the process of those prophecies’ fulfilment is still going on today. Apparently, none of those prophecies of destruction, dispersion, and ultimate restoration could possibly apply to the church. As examined above and in the previous letters, God’s chosen nation Israel is very much distinct from the church, i.e., spiritual Israel. However, there are of course many similarities between Israel and the church, which might have contributed to the false “replacement theology” which insists that Israel has been replaced by the church and therefore finished. Regrettably this theology is still prevailing today.

- (1) Israel and the church are both called ***‘God’s elect,’*** separated from the world (Is.45:4, Lv.20:24-26, Matt.24:31, 1Pt.2:9)
- (2) Both are to be hated and persecuted by the world whose ruler is Satan (Ps.119:161, Matt.24:9, Jn17:14)
- (3) Both are called to holiness (Lv.20:7, Dt.14:2, 1Pt.1:15-16)
- (4) Both are called to be a ***‘witness’*** of the Lord (Is.43:10,44:8, Lk.24:48, Acts1:8,;22)
- (5) Both inherits the ***‘kingdom of God.’*** (Matt.8:11, Lk.12:32)

However, what is most ignored is the clear distinction between the two.

- (1) What is promised to Israel as the next phase of the age is an earthly kingdom, i.e., a country and a city on earth while the church is promised an eternal home in heaven
- (2) In the coming God’s kingdom on earth, Israel will be ruled by Jesus Christ, her promised Messiah while the true church will rule Israel and the world with Christ
- (3) Israel is called the wife of the Lord and the relationship with God is a wife-husband relationship while the church is called the bride of Christ and the relationship with Him is a bride-bridegroom relationship
- (4) In the last days two-thirds of the entire Jews on earth will be killed under the antichrist regime as God’s judgment, and only a handful remnant will remain to enter the earthly kingdom of God while the church will be refined through persecution and suffering under the antichrist regime, and in the end it will be raptured to the air with their resurrection body so as to marry Christ and to live with Him eternally
- (5) At His Second Coming, Israel will finally accept Christ as her long-awaited Messiah and enter the earthly phase of the kingdom of God while the church enter the heavenly phase of the kingdom with a

renewed spiritual body.

- (6) In this world, Israel has always been in a state of faithlessness and rebellion against God from the very beginning as depicted in Psalm 81:6-14, while the church will go into apostasy in the last days after starting with faithfulness, as Paul predicted in Acts 20:28-30
- (7) After the phase of this world, in the end, Israel will be saved by the Lord Himself out of apostasy and transformed into a total restoration on earth as Ezekiel 36 & 37 depicted, while the church will be glorified in heaven

Through the trustworthy historical and prophetic document of God, i.e., the Scriptures what we know about Israel can be summarised in the following. After nearly 2500 year dispersion and wandering among inhospitable and hostile Gentiles in that even a total assimilation of the Jews has often been attempted, the Lord has preserved the nation Israel as His elect. The modern State of Israel has been at last birthed into existence on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1948, which was an amazing sudden rebirth of Jewish life, the historic re-establishment of the national Jewish homeland exactly as prophesied in Is.66:6-9, whose complete fulfilment is still awaited. Jews from around the world returned home, including over 800,000 Jews who had lived in Arab countries. The latest eruption of returnees to Israel from the former Soviet Union is counted to be nearly half a million. Subsequently, the then population of about half a million is said to have today grown over ten times. In the near future another astonishing eruption of the return is to be expected, and we are witnessing its ongoing process of fulfilment historically. Eventually, the Messiah's reign will prevail over the reconciled Jews, whose state would be like what Psalm 123-126, quoted at the beginning illustrates. Significantly enough, we are witnessing that history is proving what has been stated in the Scriptures prophetically, and accordingly, we are more than sure that other prophetic statements in the Bible are to be literally fulfilled.

The following article on "*Israel's Six Decades*" describes such an amazing nation Israel, well, her supernatural existence, strength and affluent influence to the world despite being hated by it. Needless to say, its secret lies on the Lord's continual love and blessing upon her. 'In spite of the Land of Israel being devoid of oil and rich minerals, despite being surrounded by countries bent on its destruction, despite Israel housing a large Arabic-Muslim population committed to end the Jewish State, despite six wars, a war of attrition, and two intifadas, worldwide trade embargoes, boycotts and divestments, and well-financed hate-filled anti-Israel media propaganda assaults, Israel has done the unimaginable – it still exists. Not only does it still exist, its citizens continue to win a disproportionate number of Nobel awards in science and the humanities. It continues to make enormous discoveries in science, technology, and medicine. It still accepts, houses, feeds and trains immigrants from all parts of the world – saving Russian Jewry and Ethiopian Jews, as well as Vietnamese boat people. Even with years of Islamic terrorists blowing up buses, schools, market, discotheques and restaurants, the majority of Israelis have chosen to live the dream and not to give up. The review of the almost sixty years of Israel's humanitarian accomplishments, its scientific and technological accomplishments, and its gifts to the world is stunning and inspiring ...In turn, the world has chosen to supply ample weapons public relations, and funds to the nations most outraged that Israel still exists. ... "anti-Jewishism" - the United States, the European union, and certainly the United Nations have championed causes aimed at weakening and even destroying the success of the Jews.' (*ISRAEL & Christian TODAY*, Issue 3 '07).

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This month Money Gift of £\*\*\*\* has been sent to FREDERIC in Burundi. Despite his desire of helping the Burundian refugees in Tanzania for their humanitarian and spiritual needs, the money gift sent to him last month had to be used for car repair. FREDERIC and others in his car was involved in a terrible accident in July, in which his car went off the road, fell down a steep mountainside until it stopped upside-down by a tree stump. Their survival without any particular injury was believed as miraculous. The car also survived despite considerable disfigurement. But for the Lord's protection, it would have been far more disastrous.

His mission to Tanzania requires a car and he continues to use it under a less reliable condition than before after temporary repairs. Actually he has several times experienced the car rolling out of control since then, whereas the Lord's supernatural intervention is going on. '*If the LORD had not been on (his) side...*,' the enemy would have rejoiced at his successful prevention of FREDERIC and his co-workers from working for the Lord. How relevant the Word of God quoted from Psalms 124 at the beginning is for His true, precious believers! Pray for the Lord's protection upon him, his family and his co-workers.

Both MARY JANE's and FREDERIC's ministry reports are soon due on the Huldah Ministry web site.