

## JACOB'S TROUBLE

Jeremiah 30:6 Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins Like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale? 7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Does it say that Israel was to be taken captive or the very opposite: Israel will be gathered, after its long dispersion

This refers to the Time of the Lord, to the time of Jesus' final return to this earth in might and power. That time will be a horrible time to all and any on this planet.

It will certainly be a restless time even for Jacob: the tribes of Israel, especially if we understand that the Bible says that Jacob (all the tribes) have been scattered among all nations in the whole world, from its one corner to the other,

That is really the only description the Bible has concerning the fate of the tribes of Israel right now, until their coming restoration. So, even Jacob will be affected, because the nations among which they are scattered will be greatly affected. But Jeremiah 30 says much more. There will be a going into captivity in the end times, for some people. Who?

Jeremiah 30:16 `Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

Who goes into captivity here? Who is made prey? Jeremiah 30 clearly says that it is Israel's earlier plunderers and enemies who will be taken captive. Why then are so many preachers saying that it is Israel who will be "destroyed" at this time?

There is to be a punishment, even for Israel.

Jeremiah 30:11 For with thee am I, An affirmation of Jehovah to save thee, For I make an end of all the nations Whither I have scattered thee, Only, of thee I do not make an end, And I have chastised thee in judgment, And do not entirely acquit thee. (Young's Literal)

Who is being saved? It is the other nations which are the target of punishment here. Israel will not go altogether unpunished either, but the theme of Jeremiah 30 is that while the other nations will be destroyed, Israel is being saved.

This is easy to understand. The tribes of Israel have been under punishment for more than two thousand years, and still are, scattered among the nations who persecute them: mostly Judaea. But when Jesus returns, the tables will be turned.

The scattering mentioned in Jeremiah 30:11 did take place more than two thousand years ago. Israel has not been restored since then.. Yes, Israel has been promised a restoration, and it is precisely that yet future restoration that Jeremiah 30 is talking about! The Bible gives a very specific timing for the coming restoration and blessing of Israel..

Also: As I see it the tribes of Israel are not prophesied to be dominant or strong or numerous today. No, the Bible makes it clear that it is only after their restoration that they will be blessed and become multiplied and strong and be given back their one and only (physical) promised land: Canaan. The events of Jeremiah 30 will happen at the very Time ("day") of the Lord, that "dark and cloudy day" as it is called

The still future gathering of the tribes of Israel is the main theme of Ezekiel also, even while some claim something else. Here is one example:

Yes there is a small piece of land today called but basically a remnant of Judea. The Hebrew word *tsar* has such meanings as "adversary", "foe", "enemy", "oppressor". There is also a feminine form of *tsar*, *tsarah*. Here is an example of *tsarah* referring to an oppressor:

1 Samuel 1:6 And her adversary [*tsarah*] also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. (KJV)

Now, Jeremiah 30:7 has that same word:

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's adversary [*tsarah*]. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, says Jehovah of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and will burst your bonds.

And strangers shall no more rule over him, 9 but they shall serve Jehovah their Mighty one and David their king whom I will raise up to them.

The pronoun "his" in verse 8 here; could refer to except this *tsarah*, to Jacob's oppressor(s)? It could be translated, "I will break the yoke of your enemy from off your neck" (this was said to Israel).

This scripture clearly shows how Israel is scattered and will be saved while the other nations will be destroyed. And Israel is scattered all over the earth.

So, is that *tsarah* an adversary, or and adversity? Strong Concordance says *tsarah* is the feminine form of *tsar* which means "adversary".

The question : Does that *tsarah* refer to the oppressor(s) of Israel (being destroyed, as Jeremiah 30 shows), or to Israel being destroyed? You can see it refers to Israel's enemies, those influenced by Satan, being destroyed.

We know that all peoples and nations on this planet will suffer at the Time ["day"] of the Lord when Jesus comes with "fury poured out". But the "fury being poured out; on whom will that be? The Bible says, on the other nations.

It is the other nations of this world who are going to be crushed by the Lord, not Israel Jeremiah 30:8 `For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the LORD of hosts, `That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. (NKJV)

There is only one gathering prophesied for the tribes, the one which is yet to come. There are no two times of blessing prophesied for the tribes but only one, the one which will occur after they have made the new covenant with the Lord. The Bible gives the timing very clearly. Jeremiah 30 talks about a time when Jacob's adversaries will be punished and destroyed, while Jacob (the tribes of Israel) will be saved, liberated and regathered.