THE LIGHT OF THE ETERNAL PEOPLE Presented by Rabbi Shmuel Irons

Series I Lecture #3

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE BIBLICAL PROPHECIES

I. The Eternal People

A.

והקמתי את בריתי ביני ובינך ובין זרעך אחריך לדרתם לברית עולם להיות לך לאלקים לזרעך אחריך. בראשית יז:ז

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations, an eternal covenant; to be your G-d and the G-d of your descendants after you. **Genesis 17:7**

B.
 ואף גם זאת בהיותם בארץ איביהם לא מאסתים ולא געלתים לכלתם להפר בריתי אתם כי אני
 ד' אלקיהם. וזכרתי להם ברית ראשונים אשר הוצאתי אותם מארץ מצרים לעיני הגוים להיות להם לאלקים אני ד'. ויקרא כו:מד,מה

Yet even so, even while they are in their enemies' land, I will not reject or spurn them, lest, by wiping them out, I make void My covenant with them; for I am their G-d. I will remember them because of the covenant I made with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt under the very eyes of the Gentiles, that I might be their G-d. **Leviticus 26:45-45**

 \boldsymbol{C}

אני זאת בריתי אותם אמר ד' רוחי אשר עליך ודברי אשר שמתי בפיך לא ימושו מפיך ומפי זרעך ומפי זרע זרעך אמר ד' מעתה ועד עולם. ישעיה נט:כא

As for Me, this is My covenant with them, says G-d. My Spirit, which rests upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth nor from the mouths of your children, nor from the mouths of your children, says G-d, from now on to all eternity. **Isaiah 59:21**

D. ברוך שומר הבטחתו לישראל ברוך הוא. והיא שעמדה לאבותינו ולנו. שלא אחד בלבד עמד עלינו לכלותנו. אלא שבכל דור ודור עומדים עלינו לכלותנו. והקדוש ברוך הוא מצילנו מידם. הגדה של פסח

Blessed is He who kept His promise to Israel! Blessed be He! This is what has stood up for our fathers and for us! Not one alone has stood up against us, but in every generation they rise up to finish us - and the Blessed Holy One saves us from their hand. **Hagadah of Passover**

- E. If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind his back. He could be vain of himself, and excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dreamstuff and passed away, the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? Mark Twain in his article "Concerning the Jews", Harpers 1899
- F. The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He whom neither slaughter nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he whom neither fire nor sword nor inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the earth, he who was the first to produce the oracles of G-d, he who has been for so long the guardian of prophecy, and who transmitted it to the rest of the world such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is as everlasting as is eternity itself. **Leo Tolstoy, from "Jewish World", London 1908**

II. Exile and Dispersion

A.

ואתכם אזרה בגוים והריקתי אחריכם חרב והיתה ארצכם שממה ועריכם יהיו חרבה. ויקרא כו:לג

You yourselves I will scatter among the nations, at the point of My drawn sword, leaving your countryside desolate and your cities in ruins. **Leviticus 26:33**

B.ונסחתם מעל האדמה אשר אתה בא שמה לרשתה. והפיצך ד' בכל העמים מקצה הארץ ועדקצה הארץ ועבדת שם אלהים אחרים אשר לא ידעת אתה ואבתיך עץ ואבן.דברים כח:סג,סד

You will be torn from the land which you are about to occupy. And G-d shall scatter you among all the peoples from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will serve other gods, of wood and stone, whom you and your forefathers have not known.

Deuteronomy 28:63-64

C.

והפיצותי אותך בגוים וזריתיך בארצות והתמתי טמאתך ממך. יחזקאל כב:טו

Then I shall scatter you among the nations and disperse you over foreign lands and I will destroy your impurity from you. **Ezekiel 22:15**

- D. As a result of the relentless persecutions and forced expulsions, most Jews are but recent newcomers to their respective lands of residence. 90% of the Jewish people have lived in their new homes for no more than 100 years. The majority of the large Jewish settlements date back no more than 50 or 60 years! 75% of Jewry has thus been dispersed throughout over 100 lands on all five continents. **Leschzinsky, "The Jewish Dispersion"**
- III. Desolation
- A. Land of Plenty
- 1)

ארץ טובה ורחבה ... זבת חלב ודבש. שמות ג:ח

A land goodly and large...flowing with milk and honey. **Exodus 3:8**

2)

ארץ אשׁר . . . לא תחסר כל בה. דברים ח:ט

A land which . . . lacks nothing. **Deuteronomy 8:9**

3)

בבי היא לכל הארצות. יחזקאל כ:ו. . . .

... the splendor of all lands. **Ezekiel 20:6**

4) עמים הר יקראו שם יזבחו זבחי צדק כי שפע ימים יינקו ושׂפני טמוני חול. דברים לג:יט

They shall call nations unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand. **Deuteronomy 33:19**

B.

והשמתי אני את הארץ ושממו עליה איביכם הישבים בה. ויקרא כו:לב

So devastated will I leave the land that your very enemies who come to dwell in it will stand aghast at the sight of it. **Leviticus 26:32**

C.

ואמר הדור האחרון בניכם אשר יקומו מאחריכם והנכרי אשר יבא מארץ רחוקה וראו את מכות הארץ ההוא ואת תחלאיה אשר חלה ד' בא. גפרית ומלח שרפה כל ארצה לא תזרע ולא תצמח ולא יעלה בה כל עשב כמהפכת סדם ועמרה אדמה וצבוים אשר הפך ד' באפו ובחמתו. דברים כט:כא-כב

Future generations, your own descendants who will rise up after you, as well as the foreigners who will come from distant lands, they will see the calamities of this land and the ills with which the L-rd has smitten it. All its soil being nothing but sulphur and salt, a burnt-out and devastated waste, unsown and unfruitful, without a blade of grass, destroyed like Sodom and Ammorah, Admah and Tzeboiim, which G-d overthrew in his furious wrath. **Deuteronomy 29:21-22**

D. We traversed some miles of desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given wholly to weeds - a silent, mournful expanse ... A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with pomp of life and action. We reached Tabor safely ... We never saw a human being on the whole route. We pressed on toward the goal of our crusade, renowned Jerusalem. The further we went the hotter the sun got and the more rocky and bare, repulsive and dreary the landscape became ... There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country. No landscape exists that is more tiresome to the eye than that which bounds the approaches to Jerusalem . . .

Jerusalem is mournful, dreary and lifeless. I would not desire to live here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land ... Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its field and fettered its energies . . . Palestine is desolate and unlovely. And why should it be otherwise? Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land? Palestine is no more of this work-day world. It is sacred to poetry and tradition - it is dream-land. Mark Twain, "The Innocents Abroad or the New Pilgrims Progress" [Describing his trip to Palestine in 1867]

IV. Return

A.

ושב ד' אלקיך את שבותך ורחמך ושב וקבצך מכל העמים אשר הפיצך ד' אלקיך שמה. אם יהי' נדחך בקצה השמים משם יקבצך ד' אלקיך ומשם יקחך. והביאך ד' אלקיך אל הארץ אשר ירשו אבתיך וירשתה והיטבך והרבך מאבתיך. דברים ל:ג–ה

The L-rd your G-d shall return you from your captivity, and have compassion upon you; He shall return and gather you from among all the nations to which the L-rd your G-d has scattered you... And the L-rd your G-d shall bring you into the land that your fathers occupied. You will occupy it again and He will make you even more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. **Deuteronomy 30:3-5**

B.
כה אמר ד' עוד ישמע במקום הזה אשר אתם אמרים חרב הוא מאין אדם ומאין בהמה
בערי יהודה ובחצות ירושלם הנשמות מאין אדם ומאין יושב ומאין בהמה. קול ששון וקול
שמחה קול חתן וקול כלה קול אמרים הודו את ד' צבקות כי טוב ד' כי לעולם חסדו מבאים
תודה בית ד' כי אשיב את שבות הארץ כבראשנה אמר ד'. ירמיה לג:י-יא

Thus says G-d, "In this place - of which you say, 'How desolate it is, without man or beast!' in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are now deserted, without man, without inhabitant, without beast - there shall yet be heard the sound of joy and the sound of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of those who bring thanks offerings to the house of G-d, singing, 'Give thanks to the L-rd of hosts, for the L-rd is good; his lovingkindness endures forever.' For I will restore this country as of old," says G-d. **Jeremiah 33:10-11**

C. ואתם הרי ישׂראל ענפכם תתנו ופריכם תשׂאו לעמי ישׂראל כי קרבו לבוא. כי הנני אליכם ופניתי אליכם ונעבדתם ונזרעתם. והרביתי עליכם אדם כל בית ישׂראל כלה ונושׁבו הערים והחרבות תבנינה. והרביתי עליכם אדם ובהמה ורבו ופרו והושׄבתי אתכם כקדמותיכם והיטבתי מראשׁתיכם וידעתם כי אני ד'. יחזקאל לו:ח–יא

As for you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, for their return is close at hand. For behold, I am with you and I shall turn to you; then you shall be tilled and sown. And I will multiply men upon you, the entire family of Israel... Then I will multiply men and animals upon you, and they shall increase and be fruitful. I shall cause you to be inhabited as in your former times and I will make you even more bountiful than you were in your beginnings. You shall know that I am G-d. **Ezekiel 36:8-11**

D.

ואמר רבי אבא: אין לך קץ מגולה מזה, שנאמר ואתם הרי ישראל ענפכם תתנו ופריכם תשאו לעמי ישראל וגו׳. סנהדרין צח.

Rabbi Abba also said: There can be no more manifest sign of redemption than this, as it is written, "As for you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, when their return is close at hand." **Sanhedrin 98a**

V. Prophecies of the Second Temple

A. The Exile of Aristobulus

יולך ד' אתך ואת מלכך אשר תקים עליך אל גוי אשר לא ידעת אתה ואבתיך ועבדת שם אלהים אחרים עץ ואבן. דברים כח:לו

The L-rd shall bring you, and your king which you shalt set over you, unto a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known; and there shall you serve other gods, wood and stone. **Deuteronomy 28:36**

B. The Rise of Herod

הגר אשר בקרבך יעלה עליך מעלה מעלה ואתה תרד מטה מטה. דברים כח:מג

The stranger that is within your midst shall get up above you very high; and you shall come down very low. **Deuteronomy 28:43**

C. Roman Domination

ועבדת את איביך אשר ישלחנו ד' בך ברעב ובצמא ובעירם ובחסר כל ונתן על ברזל על צוארך עד השמידו אתך. ישא ד' עליך גוי מרחק מקצה הארץ כאשר ידאה הנשר גוי אשר לא תשמע לשנו. דברים מח–מט

Therefore shall you serve your enemies which the L-rd shall send against you, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things; and He shall put a yoke of iron upon your neck, until He has destroyed you. The L-rd shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand. **Deuteronomy 28:48-49**

D. Dispersion and Persecution

והפיצך ד' בכל העמים מקצה הארץ ועד קצה הארץ ועבדת שם אלהים אחרים אשר לא ידעת אתה ואבתיך עץ ואבן. ובגוים ההם לא תרגיע ולא יהיה מנוח לכף רגלך ונתן ד' לך שם לב רגז וכליון עינים ודאבון נפש. דברים סד–סה

And the L-rd shall scatter you among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there you shalt serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shall you find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest; but the L-rd shall give you there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind. **Deuteronomy 28:64-65**

E. The Final Defeat

והשיבך ד' מצרים באניות בדרך אשר אמרתי לך לא תסיף עוד לראתה והתמכרתם שם לאיביך לעבדים ולשפחות ואין קנה. דברים כח:סח

And the L-rd shall bring you into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spoke unto you, You shall see it no more again; and there you shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you. **Deuteronomy 28:68**

VI. Purimfest

A.

ויכו היהודים בכל איביהם מכת חרב והרג ואבדן ויעשו בשנאיהם כרצונם. ובשושן הבירה הרגו היהודים ואבד חמש מאות

| .איש | ואת |
|------------------|-------|
| פרשנד <u>ת</u> א | ואת |
| דלפון | ואת |
| אספתא. | ואת |
| פורתא | ואת |
| אדליא | ואת |
| .ארידתא | ואת |
| פרמ <u>ש</u> תא | ואת |
| אריסי | ואת |
| אריתי | ואת |
| י <u>ז</u> תא | עשׂרת |

בני המן בן המדתא צרר היהודים הרגו ובבזה לא שׁלחו את ידם. אסתר ט:ה-י

Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha. And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha. And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha. The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand. **Esther 9:5-10**

B. Frantic prison officials, determined that no other victim should escape them (Goering had just committed suicide), at once shackled the ten surviving convicts in their cells. Then in 90 minutes in the early hours of Oct. 16, they followed each other to the gallows.

Only Julius Streicher went without dignity. He had to be pushed across the floor, wild eyed and screaming, "Heil Hitler!" Mounting the steps, he cried out, "And now I go to G-d." He stared at the witnesses facing the gallows and shouted, "Purimfest 1946." (Purim is a Jewish feast.) **Newsweek, October 28,1946**

- VII. The Hidden Prophecies of the Verses
- A. There are 5,845 verses in the Torah according to the Masoretic text.
- B. Every verse corresponds to a year. Verse one corresponds to year one etc.
- C. Verses 3,337-9 The years of the destruction of the First Temple and the Exile of Jewry.

ושמרתם את כל חקתי ואת כל משפטי ועשיתם אתם ולא תקיא אתכם הארץ אשר אני מביא אתכם שמה לשבת בה. ולא תלכו בחקת הגוי אשר אני משלח מפניכם כי את כל אלה עשו ואקץ בם. ואמר לכם אתם תירשו את אדמתם ואני אתננה לכם לרשת אתה ארץ זבת חלב ודבש אני ד' אלקיכם אשר הבדלתי אתכם מז העמים.

You shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them; that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spit you not out. And you shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you; for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them. But I have said unto you, You shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey; I am the L-rd your G-d, which have separated you from other people. **Leviticus 20:22-24**

D. Verses 3826-30 - The years of the destruction of the Second Temple (66-70)

כל ימי נדר נזרו תער לא יעבר על ראשו עד מלאת הימם אשר יזיר לד' קדש יהיה גדל פרע שער ראשו. כל ימי הזירו לד' על נפש מת לא יבא. לאביו ולאמו לאחיו ולאחתו לא יטמא להם במתם כי נזר אלקיו על ראשו. כ ימי נזרו קדש הוא לד'. וכי ימות מת עליו בפתע פתאם וטמא ראש נזרו וגלח ראשו ביום טהרתו ביום השביעי יגלחנו.

All the days of the vow of his separation, no razor shall come upon his head; until the days be fulfilled, in which he separates himself unto the L-rd, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. All the days that he separates himself unto the L-rd he shall come at no dead body. He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die; because the consecration of his G-d is upon his head. All the days of his separation he is holy unto the L-rd. And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it. **Numbers 6:5-9**

E.
 כשעלו נזירים מן הגולה ומצאו בית הקדש חרב אמר להם נחום המדי אילו הייתם יודעים כשעלו נזירים מן הגולה ומצאו בית הקדש לא! והתירן נחום המדי. וכשבאו הדברים אצל שבית המקדש חרב הייתם נוזרים? אמרו לו כל שנזרו עד שלא חרב הבית המקדש נזיר ומשחרב בית המקדש לא חרב.

אמר אביי ולא ידעין לאימת והכתיב שבועים שבעים נחתך על עמך ועל עיר קדשך ואכתי מי ידעינן בהי יומא. נזיר לב:

When Nazirites arrived [in Jerusalem] from the Diaspora and found the Temple in ruins, Nachum the Mede said to them: 'Had you known that the Temple would be destroyed would you have become Nazirites?' They answered: 'No.' Therefore Nachum the Mede absolved them [of their vow]. When, however, the matter came to the notice of the Sages they said: Whoever declared himself a Nazirite before the destruction of the Temple is a Nazirite, but if after the destruction of the Temple, he is not a Nazirite.

Abaye objected: And did they not know when? Is it not written 'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city' (Daniel 9:24)? All the same, did they know on which day? **Nazir 32b**

F. Verse 5252 - The Expulsion from Spain (1492)

כי ימצא איש שכב עם אשה בעלת בעל ומתו גם שניהם האיש השכב עם האשה והאשה ובערת הרע מישראל.

If a man be found lying with a woman married to a husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so shall you put away evil from Israel. **Deuteronomy 22:22**

G. Verses 5700 - 5705 World War II (1939-1945)

ויחר אף ד' בארץ ההוא להביא עליה את כל הקללה הכתובה בספר הזה. ויתשם ד' מעל אדמתם באף ובחמה ובקצף גדול וישלכם אל ארץ אחרת כיום הזה. הנסתרת לד' אלקינו והנגלת לנו ולבנינו עד עולם לעשות את כל דברי התורה הזאת. והי' כי יבאו עליך כל הדברים האלה הברכה והקללה אשר נתתי לפניך והשבת אל לבבך בכל הגוים אשר הדיחך ד' אלקיך שמה. ושבת עד ד' אלקיך ושמעת בקלו ככל אשר אנכי מצוך היום אתה ובניך בכל לבבך ובכל נפשך. ושב ד' אלקיך את שבותך ורחמך ושב וקבצך מכל העמים אשר הפיצך ד' אלקיך שמה. דברים כט:כו-כח, ל:א-ג

And the anger of the L-rd was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curse that is written in this book. And the L-rd rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day. The secret things belong unto the L-rd our G-d; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the L-rd thy G-d hath driven thee. And shalt return unto the L-rd thy G-d, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the L-rd thy G-d will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the L-rd thy G-d hath scattered you. **Deuteronomy 29:26 - 30:3**

H. Verse 5708 - The State of Israel (1948)

ומל ד' אלקיך את לבבך ואת לבב זרעך לאהבה את ד' אלקיך בכל לבבך ובכל נפשׁך למען חייך. דברים ל:ו

And the L-rd thy G-d will circumcise thine heart and the heart of thy seed, to love the L-rd thy G-d with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. **Deuteronomy 30:6**

I. Verse 5709 - The Victory over the Arab League (1949)

ונתן ד' אלקיך את כל האלות האלה על איביך ועל שנאיך אשר רדפוך. דברים ל:ז

And the L-rd thy G-d will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. **Deuteronomy 30:7**

J. Verse 5727 - The Six Day War (1967)

ונתנם ד' לפניכם ועשיתם להם ככל המצוה אשר צויתי אתכם. דברים לא:ה

And the L-rd shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you. **Deuteronomy 31:5**

K. Verse 5755 - The Coming Year (1994-1995)

כי שם ד' אקרא הבו גדל לאלקינו. דברים לב:ג

When I will call the name of the L-rd; ascribe ye greatness unto our G-d. **Deuteronomy** 32:3