

Briefing Document: Israel's Position in the Tribulation-Lesson 3

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Executive Summary

This document synthesizes an eschatological analysis of the nation of Israel's role during the Tribulation period. The central argument posits that the current re-gathering of Jewish people to the land of Israel is a preliminary, physical fulfillment of prophecy that sets the stage for future end-times events. Contrary to some beliefs, this return will be followed by another catastrophic dispersion at the midpoint of the Tribulation, initiated by the Antichrist's "abomination of desolation." This period will serve as a severe, divine chastisement for Israel's historical rejection of the Messiah, during which two-thirds of the Jewish population are prophesied to perish. However, this time of purging will ultimately lead to a mass national conversion and salvation. The final, true re-gathering will be a spiritual one, orchestrated by Christ at His Second Coming, to bring the believing remnant of Israel, along with Gentiles, into the Millennial Kingdom, which will be followed by a period of divine comfort for the nation.

The Prophetic Re-gathering of Israel

The analysis outlines a two-stage process for the prophesied re-gathering of Israel: a preliminary physical return happening now and a final spiritual gathering at the end of the Tribulation.

A Preliminary Physical Return

The current return of Jewish people to the nation of Israel is presented as a direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, signaling that biblical events are unfolding in the modern era.

- **Prophetic Foundation:** Passages from Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 37 are cited as the basis for this re-gathering.

- **Jeremiah 31:8, 10:** God promises to bring His people "from the north country" and "gather them from the ends of the earth," stating, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock."

- **Ezekiel 37:13:** The prophet describes this return from the nations as God opening their "graves" and bringing them out, with "graves" being symbolic of the nations where they were scattered (e.g., the United States, Russia).

- **Current Demographics:** This prophetic movement is reflected in current population figures:

- **World Population:** Approximately 16 million Jews.
- **Israel:** Approximately 7 million Jews.
- **United States:** Approximately 8 million Jews.
- **Russia:** Over 1 million Jews.
- Israel's national vision is to grow its Jewish population to over 10 million.
- **National Reunification:** The prophecy also includes the reunification of the divided kingdoms of Israel. Ezekiel 37:16-22 describes the joining of two sticks, one representing Judah (the southern kingdom) and the other representing Joseph/Ephraim (the northern kingdom), symbolizing their restoration as "one nation in the land... they shall no longer be two nations."
- **A Physical, Not Spiritual, Return:** It is emphasized that this current gathering is purely physical. There is no widespread spiritual regeneration or movement towards God in Israel. The nation is described as nationalistic but not spiritually interested in Jesus. This physical return is a necessary prerequisite for the events of the Tribulation.

The Final Spiritual Gathering

The ultimate fulfillment of the prophetic gathering will occur at the conclusion of the Tribulation, orchestrated directly by Jesus Christ.

- **Christ's Direct Intervention:** As described in **Matthew 24:29-31**, after the cosmic disturbances that mark the end of the Tribulation, Christ "will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
- **Gathering for the Kingdom:** This event is identified as the true, final re-gathering spoken of by the prophets. Its purpose is to bring the saved remnant of Israel, along with Gentile believers, into the Millennial Kingdom.
- **Prophetic Support:** Isaiah 43:5-6 reinforces this global gathering: "I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!'"

A Future Dispersion and Chastisement

The document argues that Israel's current return to its homeland is not permanent. The nation is being gathered in preparation for a period of intense persecution and divine judgment during the Tribulation.

The Mid-Tribulation Flight

A pivotal event will force Israel to flee its land once again, creating a new diaspora.¹

- **Trigger Event:** This flight is precipitated by the "abomination of desolation," when the Antichrist, having broken his seven-year peace treaty with Israel at the 3.5-year mark, will enter the Temple and declare himself to be God.
- **Scriptural Mandate: Matthew 24:16** issues a direct command for this moment: "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."
- **Prophetic Vision: Revelation 12:13-14** depicts this event symbolically. The "woman" (Israel) is persecuted by the "dragon" (Satan) and is given "two wings of a great eagle" to fly into the wilderness, where she will be protected for "a time and times and half a time" (3.5 years).
- **Contradiction of Modern Views:** This biblical prophecy is presented as a direct refutation of the famous declaration by Israeli general Moshe Dayan after the Six-Day War that "Jerusalem is ours now and we will never leave again." The analysis asserts that he was wrong, and they will be forced to run again.

The Great Purging

The Tribulation, and specifically its second half, is defined as a period of severe chastisement designed to purge Israel of rebellion and punish the nation for its centuries-long rejection of the Messiah.

- **Purpose of Gathering:** Israel is currently being gathered for two primary reasons: first for chastisement, and then for salvation.
- **Prophesied Destruction:** The Old Testament is cited as predicting that two-thirds of the Jewish nation will perish during this time of intense persecution.
- **Divine Judgment on Rebels:** God's judgment will be severe against rebellious and transgressing Jews. **Ezekiel 20:33-38** describes this process in stark terms, where God will act not as a savior but as a ruler with "fury poured out." He will "plead My case with you face to face," make them "pass under the rod," and "purge the rebels from among you."
- **Sin Must Be Addressed:** This period of chastisement is presented as a necessary precursor to national salvation, as sin must be dealt with before redemption can occur.

National Salvation and Ultimate Comfort

Following the period of divine chastisement, the prophecies point to a national conversion of Israel and a subsequent era of comfort and security in the Kingdom.

A Sweeping Conversion

A massive spiritual awakening is predicted to occur among the Jewish people during the Tribulation.

- **Messianic Realization:** This conversion will be sparked by the realization of Jesus's identity, as prophesied in Zechariah, where "they will look on Me whom they pierced."
- **"All Israel Will Be Saved":** **Romans 11:26** is cited to support the concept of a national salvation. The term "all Israel" is interpreted to mean the nation as a whole, with the exact number of saved individuals being determined by God.
- **The 144,000 Evangelists:** The salvation of a large number of Jews is seen as necessary, as it must include at least the 144,000 Jewish evangelists—12,000 from twelve tribes (notably excluding Dan)—who are described in the book of Revelation.

The Parable of the Virgins

The parable of the ten virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13** is interpreted not as a message to the Church, but as a specific warning to the nation of Israel at the Second Coming.

- **Believers and Unbelievers:** The five wise virgins with oil represent believing Jews who are prepared for the Bridegroom's (Christ's) return. The five foolish virgins without oil represent unbelieving Jews.
- **Judgment and Exclusion:** When the Bridegroom arrives, the unprepared (unbelieving) virgins are shut out of the wedding feast (the Kingdom), with Christ telling them, "Assuredly,² I say to you, I do not know you." This illustrates the purging of rebels from the nation before its entry into the Kingdom.

The Promised Comfort

After the trials of the Tribulation, God promises to bring an era of profound comfort and peace to His people.

- **A New Covenant:** God will establish an "everlasting covenant" with Israel, causing them to "dwell safely" in their land (**Jeremiah 32:37, 40**), a condition not met today.
- **Warfare Ended, Iniquity Pardoned:** **Isaiah 40:1-2** provides the ultimate promise of this restoration: "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins.""

- **Double Punishment:** The reference to receiving "double for all her sins" is explained by the principle that "to whom much is given, much is required." Israel, having received more revelation than any other nation, is held to a higher standard for its failure.

Commentary on Modern Judaism and Society

The analysis includes commentary on the state of contemporary Judaism and broader societal trends, viewing them through a theological lens.

The State of Modern Judaism

Modern rabbinic Judaism is portrayed as having strayed from its biblical foundations and is classified as a cult.

- **Elevation of Rabbinic Tradition:** It is argued that in modern Judaism, the teachings and writings of rabbis over the centuries have been elevated to a status equal to that of the Torah (the Pentateuch³), a practice that mirrors the tradition Jesus condemned.
- **Diminishing of Christ:** Like other cults, which elevate human leaders (e.g., Joseph Smith, John Rutherford), modern Judaism is seen as elevating man while lowering the position of Christ.
- **Sectarianism:** The religion is highly fractured into many different sects, which are distinguished by their allegiance to the teachings of different rabbis.

Observations on Societal Decay

The source connects theological points to perceived evidence of moral and social decline in the United States.

- **Breakdown of the Family:** The transfer of leadership in the home away from the father since the 1960s is linked to rising rates of teenage pregnancy, suicide, and drug addiction.
- **Abdication of the Church:** The Church is said to have abdicated its role in caring for those in need, ceding its authority to the government. This has occurred as some churches have stopped helping those outside their own congregations due to negative experiences.
- **Decline of Major Cities:** Once-great American cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco are described as being in disarray due to their leadership.
- **Dangers of Higher Education:** Public universities are labeled as one of the "greatest evils" in the country, with history curriculums from as early as the 1990s being described as abysmal and politically biased.

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition and Context
Diaspora ¹	<i>dye-ASS-por-uh</i>	From the Greek word <i>diaspeirein</i> ("to scatter"). It refers to the dispersion of the Jewish people from their ancestral homeland.
Assuredly ²	<i>(a-men)</i>	The English translation of the Greek word <i>Amēn</i> (ἀμήν), which is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning "truly" or "so be it." It is used by Jesus to emphasize the truthfulness of a statement.
Pentateuch ³	<i>PEN-tuh-took</i>	From the Greek words <i>pente</i> ("five") and <i>teuchos</i> ("scroll" or "book"). It refers to the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Torah.
Bereans ⁴	<i>buh-REE-uns</i>	A term for people from the Greek city of Berea, praised in the book of Acts for diligently examining the Scriptures to verify apostolic teaching. The source uses it to refer to dedicated students of the Bible.