

It Might Be Today

ISRAEL REGATHERED

Every Sunday we present a prophecy update. We show how news and trends in the world corroborate centuries-old prophecies you read in the Bible.

A literal reading of the Bible reveals that in the last days the nation of Israel will be regathered to the land unconditionally promised her by God. In fact, the Bible predicts two such returns by Jews to the Promised Land:

1. The first is a regathering in unbelief in preparation for judgment, namely the judgment of the Tribulation.
2. The second is a world-wide regathering of Jews who have received Jesus Christ in preparation for the promised kingdom of God on the earth we call the Millennium.

(By “the Tribulation” we mean a specific future seven-year period of time predicted repeatedly in the Bible and described in detail in the Revelation of Jesus Christ).

Ezekiel 20:33-38 speaks of a regathering of Jews to Israel which must take place before the Tribulation. The passage speaks of bringing the nation of Israel back "from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out" (v 34). That this regathering occurs before the Tribulation becomes clearer in verse twenty-one:

Ezekiel 22:21 Yes, I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst.

Like a metallurgist, the Lord will use the fire of the Tribulation to purge His chosen people.

Are nonbelieving Jews being regathered to the nation of Israel? Yes indeed!

Aliyah is the word used to describe the immigration of Jews back to the land of Israel. Someone who 'makes aliyah' is called *olah*, or *olim* (plural).

On September 15 the Jerusalem Post posted a story titled, *17,880 immigrants arrived in 5770*.¹

Excerpts:

Some 17,880 olim arrived in Israel during the Hebrew year 5770, an increase of 2,700 people from the year before, according to data released by the Jewish Agency on Saturday.

The biggest rise in numbers came from immigrants from the former Soviet Union: This year 7,340 people moved... to Israel in comparison to 6,340 the previous year.

The number of olim from English-speaking countries stayed roughly the same. Over the last 12 month period 5,130 people came from North America, the UK, South Africa and Australia as opposed to 5,030 the year before.

Aliya from France also saw a rise in numbers with 2,420 arriving this year, up by almost 400 olim a year.

"Aliya is a strategic asset for Israel," said Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency. "It is the most significant expression of the Diaspora with Israeli society. The rise in aliyah is even more moving because of the delegitimization campaign against Israel carried out around the world these days."

While most olim came from countries with established Jewish populations some came from unexpected countries including Japan, New Caledonia, Angola and Uganda.

In an earlier article the Jerusalem Post reported that,

Israel's population continues to grow, according to Central Bureau of Statistics data released on Monday. The population now stands at 7,645,000 people, continuing to grow at a steady rate of 1.8 percent per year for the seventh year in a row.²

Prophecy scholar Thomas Ice writes,

The fact that the last fifty years has seen a world-wide regathering and reestablishment of the nation of Israel, which is now poised in just the setting required for the revealing

¹ <http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=187135>

² <http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=187266>

of the Antichrist and the start of the tribulation, is God's grand indicator that all of the other areas of world development are prophetically significant.

Dr. John Walvoord says,

Of the many peculiar phenomena which characterize the present generation, few events can claim equal significance as far as Biblical prophecy is concerned with that of the return of Israel to their land. It constitutes a preparation for the end of the age, the setting for the coming of the Lord for His church, and the fulfillment of Israel's prophetic destiny.

The rebirth of Israel as a nation, in her homeland, and the return of Jews to their land is an amazing fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Are you ready for the return of Jesus? Fulfilled prophecy aside, nothing needs to occur before Jesus can return to resurrect and rapture the church. That event is always presented as imminent - meaning it could occur any moment.

Get ready, stay ready, keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***