

The PLAIN TRUTH

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PROPHESED TO HAPPEN to the United States and Britain!

Few people are aware of the drastic turn of events soon to befall our nations. The most startling book of this generation is Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book revealing tremendous prophecies closed and sealed until now! This is the fifth installment.

by **Herbert W. Armstrong**

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

VERY soon the most colossal disaster of all history is destined to fall upon our nations. Yet, organized religion fails to warn our people of *this very next prophesied event!*

WHY?

Because few know *where* the peoples of America, Britain, and Northwestern Europe are mentioned in Bible prophecy!

Today, aggressor nations covet our wealth. The astounding fact that the Bible foretold that we should become the wealthiest of nations has been overlooked by the churches of this world. And so what is now prophesied to befall us is hidden from them.

God's time has come for this warning to go out to our nations. But first, we must learn *how* our peoples are identified in prophecy. For a fuller, yet condensed, synopsis of the chapters that have gone before, write for our free booklet, "The United States and Britain in Prophecy."

God promised this national wealth and world power to the patriarch Abraham for his descendants. Dual promises were made to Abraham. The kingly and spiritual promise, called *the Sceptre*, culminating in the Messiah, and salvation

thru Him; and the purely material and national promises, called *the Birthright*.

These two distinct promises were handed down thru Isaac and Jacob, but they went into separate tribes—for *the Sceptre* was never to depart from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), "but *the Birthright was JOSEPH'S*" (I Chron. 5:2). The *Sceptre* promise involved GRACE, the *Birthright* concerned only RACE. Later, with David, God made another *unconditional* covenant—guaranteeing that David's throne, and his dynasty would be established thruout *all generations*, FOREVER, in his son Solomon. David's dynasty was never to cease, even for a single generation, unless God's Word fail! The last king of David's dynasty recorded in history was Zedekiah of Judah. Christ did not take the throne. Did God break His covenant? *Has the Sceptre departed from Judah? Has the Word of God failed?*

After Solomon's death, the twelve tribes of Israel were divided into TWO NATIONS. The nation rejected its king, Rehoboam, son of Solomon. But, in order to keep His covenant with David, God gave one tribe—Judah—to Rehoboam. This tribe, JUDAH, seceded from the nation ISRAEL, and formed a separate and *different nation*, the King-

dom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin, and most of Levi, went into the new Kingdom of Judah. Now the *Birthright* and the *Sceptre* were divided into *two separate nations*. JUDAH had the *Sceptre*, and the kingly dynasty—ISRAEL had the *Birthright*, jointly possessed by Ephraim and Manasseh, descendants of the sons of Joseph.

The people of the separate nation, Kingdom of JUDAH, came to be known as "Jews"—the nickname for Judah. The ten-tribed House of ISRAEL was *not Jewish*. Their descendants today *are not Jews*. Abraham was *not a Jew!* The term "Jew" is a nickname for "Judah," and was never applied to any but those of the Kingdom of Judah! The first place in all the Bible where the term "Jews" occurs is II Kings 16:6—and there we find the Kingdom of ISRAEL *at war against the Jews!* The next place in the Bible where the term "Jew" is employed is after the ten-tribed House of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered, and removed as slaves from their land, and *only the Jews remained!*

After Israel rejected Rehoboam as king, and set up Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, on the throne, Jeroboam introduced immediately into the northern kingdom idolatry, and Sabbath-

breaking. These two violations of God's law became Israel's national sins. (Ezek. 20:10-24), and after the reigns of 19 kings through seven dynasties, God's prophetic warning of Leviticus 26 was carried out on the Kingdom of Israel. They were invaded, conquered, removed from their land as slaves. The vast national wealth and world power promised by God unconditionally were now withheld for 2520 years ("seven times") from the date of their captivity, 721 B.C.—until 1800 A.D.!

The House of Israel now *lost* its identity, its language, its religion, its land, and its NAME, as God had warned in Deut. 32:26. Now they began to dwell *many days* "without a king" (Hos. 3:4). They became known as the "LOST Ten Tribes." Now *only* the Jews remained in Palestine. Those of the House of Israel, *possessors of the Birthright*, have been regarded as *gentiles* from that day! Yet, wherever they are today, it is *THEY*, and not the Jews, who are the *Birthright* possessors! Where are they? By what name are they known today? The answer is the most astounding fact of our time!

Meanwhile, what happened to the Jews, left behind in Palestine?

CHAPTER V JEREMIAH'S MYSTERIOUS COMMISSION

WECOME now to one of the most fascinating phases of this strange story of Israel—indeed, the very connecting link between prophecy and present-day fulfillment—yet unrecognized by theologians.

After the House of Israel, the northern kingdom whose capital was Samaria, was driven into Assyrian captivity, 721 B.C., the Kingdom of JUDAH continued on in the southern part of Palestine known as Judaea. At that time Judah, as a nation, had not yet rejected the government and religion of God. God had continued to keep His covenant with David. David's dynasty had continued on the throne over *part* of the Israelites—the House of JUDAH—the Jews.

But after Israel had become lost from view, Judah turned from the ways and government of God, going after the ways of the *gentile nations*, sinning even worse than Israel, until finally the Eternal drove Judah, too, into national captivity and slavery.

Before Judah's apostasy, God had said, thru the prophet Hosea, "Though thou, ISRAEL, play the harlot, yet let not JUDAH offend." (Hos. 4:15.)

But later, the Eternal said to Jeremiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, ISRAEL, how she . . . played the harlot? . . . and her false sister JUDAH saw it. She saw that for all

the adulteries of that faithless one, ISRAEL, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister JUDAH did not fear, but *she, too*, went and played the harlot . . . Faithless ISRAEL has shown herself less guilty than the false JUDAH." (Jer. 3:6-11.)

"And the Eternal said, 'I will remove JUDAH *also* out of my sight, as I have removed ISRAEL, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.'" (II Kings 23:27.)

And so, more than a hundred years after Israel's captivity, the time came when God caused the Jews, also, to be driven out of their land in national captivity and slavery.

For this purpose God raised up a very special prophet, whose real call and commission few, indeed, understand.

This prophet was Jeremiah. Jeremiah played a strange and little realized role in this captivity.

Something of the importance of this mission may be gleaned from this significant fact: The Bible mentions three men, only, who were sanctified for their respective offices before they were born—and of these three Jeremiah was the first. The other two were John the Baptist and Jesus Christ!

The Eternal first spoke to Jeremiah when he was but a young lad, about, some evidence indicates, seventeen years of age. By the time his mission was completed he was an aged, white-haired patriarch.

This vital, yet little-known call and commission is described in the opening verses of the first chapter of the Book of Jeremiah.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," the Eternal said to him, "and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jer. 1:5.)

But Jeremiah was frightened—afraid! "Ah, Eternal God!" he replied, "Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

But the Eternal answered, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth;' for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." (Jer. 1:6-8.)

Then the Eternal put forth His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth. "See," said God, "I have set you this day *over nations* and over kingdoms, to *pluck up* and to *break down*, to *destroy* and to *overthrow*, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT." (Verses 9-10 RSV.) Or, as this tremendous commission is worded in the Authorized version: "to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT."

Notice, Jeremiah was set over NATIONS—more than one kingdom. He

was a Jewish lad, living in Judah. He was set a prophet over Judah—but not Judah *alone*. Over NATIONS—over KINGDOMS! He was set over these kingdoms to do *two* things:

First, to "pluck up," or "root out," to "pull down," or to "overthrow," and second, TO BUILD, AND TO PLANT.

Not Realized, Today

Look at it in your own Bible! Jeremiah was used of God as a prophet to warn the nation JUDAH of their transgressions against God's government and ways. He was sent to WARN this rebellious nation of the impending PUNISHMENT—the invasion and captivity at the hands of the Chaldean armed forces, unless they acknowledged their guilt and changed their ways. He was used as a go-between—an intermediary—between the kings of Judah and Babylon.

It is well known that Jeremiah was used in warning Judah of the impending captivity, and the "pulling down," or "overthrowing" of the THRONE OF DAVID in the Kingdom of JUDAH.

It is understood generally that the House of Judah was invaded by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar—that the Jews were taken captive to Babylon—that they ceased from being a kingdom—that there no longer existed a ruler of David's dynasty on the throne over the Kingdom of JUDAH.

What, then, does this mean? Did God, at last, forget His covenant promise to DAVID that David's dynasty should *never cease*—that David's throne was established in Solomon to continue through ALL GENERATIONS FOREVER? Has God Almighty now forgotten that He had sworn that He would not alter this promise—even though the kings and the people rebelled and sinned?

The faithfulness of GOD is at stake. The inspiration of the Holy Bible as His revealed WORD is at stake!

But NOTE IT!—see it in your own Bible!—Jeremiah was divinely commissioned to PULL DOWN, and to OVERTHROW that very throne of David in Judah—but notice the second half of the commission . . .

TO BUILD AND TO PLANT!

To build and to plant WHAT?

Why, naturally, that which he was used in "rooting out" of Judah—the THRONE OF DAVID which God swore He would preserve forever! Jeremiah was set over not just the *one* nation, JUDAH—but over NATIONS. Over THE KINGDOMS—the Kingdom of ISRAEL as well as Judah!

He was used in "rooting out" that throne from JUDAH. Then what was Jeremiah commissioned to do in ISRAEL?

Ah! Note it! Notice the *second* half of his strange and little-understood commission (Please continue on page 15)

vention on your behalf *now*—and preparing yourself by spiritual growth for the gift of eternal life in the world tomorrow.

Prophesied to Happen

(Continued from page 2)

mission—to BUILD and to PLANT!

So far as the world knows, the last king to sit on that throne of David was Zedekiah of Judah. He was thrown down off the throne, and the throne rooted out of Judah in the year 585 B.C.—nearly 600 years before Christ!

What happened to that throne? Where was that throne between 585 B.C. and the time of Christ, 600 years later? We know Jeremiah did not plant and re-BUILD it in Babylon. God had promised that David's throne should rule over ISRAELITES thru all generations—not over Gentiles. We have the history of the continuance of the gentile throne in Babylon. That throne was never again planted or built among the Jews! It was not reigning over the Jews in the time of Christ. The Jews were then under the Roman rule. Jesus did not ascend any such throne. The throne was not functioning in Judah—it was not existing at that place or over that people—it was not there for Jesus to take over. And Jesus said plainly that HIS Kingdom *was not of this present age!* Yet He was born to sit upon this very THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID (Luke 1:32)!

Yet that throne was divinely commissioned to be planted and re-BUILD by the prophet Jeremiah—*during his lifetime!* To plant and to build, then, of necessity, among the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, lo, these many days without a king—among LOST Israel, now supposing herself to be GENTILE! Therefore the identity and location of the re-planting *must remain hidden to the world until this Time of the END* in which we live.

Tearing Down the Throne

The life and work of Jeremiah is a most fascinating story.

It is generally known that Babylon took Judah in three different stages. The first siege was in 604 B.C., a date about two years later than has been commonly reckoned, but a date now firmly established. The land did not *completely* pass into the hands of these Gentile Babylonians, however, until 19 years later, or 585 B.C. You can read the part played by Jeremiah in this captivity in the *book* of Jeremiah.

But now notice an interesting fact. The last and final king recorded either in Bible or secular history as having sat

on the throne of David was King Zedekiah of Judah. Remember his name. Now notice II Ki. 24:18: "Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And *his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah* of Libnah." It is assumed that this was Jeremiah the prophet. There is no evidence to the contrary. This young King Zedekiah, the fifth to occupy the throne after Jeremiah's commission, and the last king of Judah, therefore, WAS JEREMIAH'S OWN GRANDSON! That fact has an important bearing on Jeremiah's commission.

Now notice briefly a description of the final tearing down and rooting out of this throne of David:

"In the ninth year of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it. And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up . . . And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled . . . but the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon." (Jerc 39:1-7.)

In the 52nd chapter, first 11 verses, we find almost a word-for-word description of the same events, adding, "and put him (Zedekiah) in prison TILL THE DAY OF HIS DEATH."

These passages bring out these points:

1. The king of Babylon slew *all the sons* of Zedekiah who were heirs to the throne of David.

2. He also slew all the nobles of Judah, so as to leave no possible heirs for that throne.

3. Finally, after putting out Zedekiah's eyes, the king who sat on David's throne was himself taken to Babylon where he died in prison.

4. Thus, as it *appears*, and as the whole world has believed, the throne of David ceased, with no possible heirs, or sons, to keep the dynasty alive. Certain it is that from that day on the throne never again has existed in Judah, in Jerusalem, or among the Jews!!

Jeremiah has now accomplished the *first* part of his great commission. The throne has been rooted out, the kingdom torn completely down. Judah is now be-

ginning HER national punishment.

Where Did Jeremiah Go?

But what about the SECOND part of Jeremiah's commission? God's Word often repeats an important fact to emphasize it. In Jeremiah 31:28 we find repeated this commission of Jeremiah which is the actual connecting link between Bible history and prophecy! Here it says: "It shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT, SAITH THE ETERNAL." Here the tearing down has already happened. And now that the first part of Jeremiah's commission is performed, the ETERNAL again reiterates the second part—to BUILD AND TO PLANT.

Listen!! Jeremiah was among these captive Jews. He must be free to carry out the second part of his commission. So "Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, Take him and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee." (Jer. 39:11-12). "And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, . . . behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which were upon thine hand. If it seem good to thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear; behold, all the land is before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go . . . So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward (money) and let him go." (Jer. 40:1-5.)

So Jeremiah was left absolutely free to do as he pleased, supplied even with expense money, and given complete freedom, so that he might perform the second half of his mission. Where did he go? We come now to an amazing, fascinating, thrilling part of the Book of Jeremiah which has been almost entirely overlooked.

"Then went Jeremiah unto Gedeliah, the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah; and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land." (6th verse.)

Now this Gedeliah had been made governor over a remnant of Jews in the land by the king of Babylon, and since Jerusalem was destroyed, he had made Mizpah his headquarters. But the king of Ammon plotted with a Jew named Ishmael to assassinate Gedeliah. The plot was executed; the governor and part of the Jews were slain. Jeremiah was among the survivors.

"Then Ishmael carried away captive all the residue of the people that were

in Mizpah, even the king's daughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard (from Babylon), had committed to Gedeliah . . . and carried them away captives, and departed to go over to the Ammonites" (Jer. 41:10).

Ah! Did you catch it? Read that passage again.

Among these Jews were *the king's daughters!* Daughters of Zedekiah, King of Judah and of David's dynasty!

King Zedekiah had died. All his sons had been killed. All the princes of Judah had been killed. All possible heirs to David's throne had been killed—*except the king's daughters!* Now we see why Jeremiah went to Mizpah!

Jeremiah, with Royal Seed for Replanting, Escapes

Soon a man named Johanan replaced Ishmael as leader. And in fear of reprisals from Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean army, they appealed to the prophet, "and said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the Lord thy God . . . that the Lord thy God may show us the way wherein we may walk." (Jer. 42:2-3.)

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, and He told them not to fear, that He would protect and deliver them. But the people wanted to flee to Egypt. This the Lord warned them not to do. If they did, the sword of Nebuchadnezzar, which they feared, would overtake them there, and they would die. (Jer. 42:7-16.)

"If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt," God said, "and go to sojourn there; Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared shall overtake you there . . . and there ye shall die." (Jer. 42:7-16.)

But as people usually do, they rejected God's warning.

"Thou speakest falsely," Johanan answered. "The ETERNAL our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt." (Jer. 43:2-3.) "So Johanan . . . and all the people obeyed not the voice of the ETERNAL" (verse 4).

And so Johanan "took all the remnant of Judah . . . even men, and women, and children, *and the king's daughters . . . and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch, the son of Neriah* (Jeremiah's scribe, or secretary). So they came into the land of Egypt." (Jer. 43:5-7.)

Baruch was Jeremiah's constant companion and secretary. It is important to note here God's promise of protection to him: "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch . . . Behold, that which I have built I will break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land . . . but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest." (Jer. 45:2-5.)

Under Divine Protection

Baruch's life, like Jeremiah's, was under Divine protection!

On reaching Egypt, God warned these Jews again through Jeremiah that they should die there by the sword and famine, and "none shall return *but such as shall escape!*" (Jer. 44:12-14.)

Yes, a few in this company are under divine protection. A divine mission is to be performed. They shall ESCAPE! The ETERNAL continues: "Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah." (Jer. 44:28.)

Now previously, the ETERNAL had said to Jeremiah, "Verily it shall be well with THY REMNANT." The only "remnant" left of Jeremiah's family is the

king's daughters, his own *great-grand-daughters*. The rest have been killed. "Verily," continues the ETERNAL, same verse, "I will cause the enemy to enreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction . . . *and I will make thee to pass with thine enemies INTO A LAND WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT.*" (Jer. 15:11, 14.)

Notice, it is *Jeremiah's remnant*, not Judah's, and therefore it is to be well with the remnant of *his own family*, or his great-grand-daughter princesses, THE ROYAL material given TO JEREMIAH WITH WHICH TO BUILD AND TO PLANT—and Jeremiah is to be protected and to go to a land that he knows not! Who else was to go to a land they knew not? *The ten-tribed birthright kingdom, ISRAEL!*

So, Jeremiah and his little royal remnant are to escape out of Egypt, return to Judah, and then—WHERE? "*Into a land which thou knowest not!*"

Now let Isaiah complete this prophecy:

"For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of Mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. And the remnant that escaped of the house of Judah shall AGAIN TAKE ROOT DOWNWARD, AND BEAR FRUIT UPWARD." (Isa. 37:32, 31.)

This remnant with Jeremiah—at least one of the king's daughters—shall *take root downward!* That is, BE RE-PLANTED!

And then *bear fruit upward!* BE BUILDED!

Has God failed in His solemn covenant to keep alive David's throne? Where was this planting and building? Can we find it in God's Word?

We can! The place and the people among whom the throne was re-established, are clearly identified!

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