

THE JEWISH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY A SPIRITUAL SIGNPOST

Events

There are many important events taking place in the world today, in the material as well as the spiritual spheres of life, events which, because of their remarkable and unprecedented character, have caused a stir in most people's minds.

In the realm of human power there has been the increased knowledge and use of atomic energy, crowned by the successful launching of the space satellite by the Russians.

Historically, the great event of our time has been the return of the Jews to their homeland after 2000 years, and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Spiritually, the significant event that has taken place is the coming into being of the Jewish Christian Community, a small group of Jews who recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah of Israel, thus showing the first ray of light penetrating the part-blindness which came upon Israel 2000 years ago.

For those who look upon these events without the light of the Bible, the power now in the hands of man is a sign of human progress. The restoration of Israel is of minor interest and the existence of the Jewish Christian Community is of so little importance as to be entirely ignored.

But what do all these events show to those who read the Bible with light and wisdom from above, and who accept what they read as the word of God?

God's Plan

The Bible gives us the history of the past, explains the events of the present, and reveals what is to happen in the future. The history and prophecies of the Bible concern the world and mankind as a whole; they reveal the plan of God for the salvation and redemption of this earth and all creation. This plan, however, is shown to be worked out through the nation of Israel, which was formed and kept by God for the fulfilment of His purpose.

In the beginning God called Abraham and promised him that through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. Through the nation of Israel He gave the commandments which lifted men out of the darkness of heathenism. He made His power manifest in Israel when He delivered the nation out of Egypt, when He guided and fed them in the wilderness and gave them the victory over all their enemies.

He sent His Son, the Saviour of the world, on to this earth as a man of Israel, a Jew, and later the Gentile nations received the Gospel of salvation through faithful Jews who were His disciples.

God's Promises

Two thousand years ago, because of their ways and unbelief, the Jews were scattered among all the nations of the world. "God scattered them among the heathen and they were dispersed through the countries, accord-

ing to their doings I judged them, said the Lord.” But God had not cast them away completely, “for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” He promised them: “I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries and will bring you back into your own land and I will sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean . . . a new heart will I give you and a new spirit I will put within you . . . and ye shall dwell in the land I gave to your fathers and ye shall be my people and I will be your God”! (Ezek. 6.)

It was also promised: “Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall exercise judgement and justice in the earth”. Also: “The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.” And Jesus said: “I appoint unto you a Kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me.”

Spiritual Signposts

According to the worldly way of thinking the most important event of our time is the Sputnik, but to the believers the most momentous happening is the return of the Jews to the land promised to their fathers, and of still greater significance, the coming into being of the Jewish Christian Community.

These events are spiritual signposts pointing the way to the approaching Kingdom of God which is to be established on earth—the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness under the rule of the Messiah, who is to return to reign upon the throne of David—in Jerusalem.

Time of The End

The events in the material spheres of power in the world today are also signs of the times in which we live. The formidable powers now in the hands of man foretell the end of this age, just as the restoration of the Jews points to the beginning of the new age.

We see the enmity growing between the nations and we remember the words of Jesus concerning the time of the end. “Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom . . . and there shall be tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world . . .”.

With atomic power in the hands of man and enmity in his heart, all these tribulations—suffering and destruction such as never before—seem very near to us now. If this were the only sign in the world, the end of these dark days would still seem far off, but God in His mercy shows also the preparatory step towards the new dawn, by His hand at work with His people Israel.

If we now see the Jews regathered and established on their land, it is surely a sign that God soon intends to carry out His purpose, when His great name will be sanctified in this nation. “The heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes”.

Israel and the Gentiles

When the Jews were dispersed among the nations 2000 years ago,

and God gave them “the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear”, it was a time as Paul tells us, when salvation came to the Gentiles. The Gospel of Christ has been preached in all countries of the world, and “blindness in part happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in”.

If now we see grace returning to Israel it is also a confirmation that the time of the Gentile church is coming to an end. The Jewish Christian Community now kindles the light of the Messiah once again in the synagogue, continuing in the way of the early church, which was a synagogue in which Christ preached and later His disciples carried His light until it was handed over to the Gentiles.

In our day we see this light returning to its place of origin, to shed its rays once again from Jerusalem, in the midst of Israel.

The Light of The Messiah

This light of the Messiah has been burning again in Jerusalem since 1946, and the small band of torch bearers in Israel have been called to herald His return and give the message to the world of His impending kingdom—with a call to repentance, as the time is short.

When Jesus left the earth at His first advent, a small band of Jewish Christians were with Him and watched Him go. They were told that He would come again in like manner as He had gone. Now a small band of Jewish Christians are called to prepare the way for His return, to meet Him when He comes to establish His Kingdom on earth. They form a bridge spanning the end of this age and the beginning of the next, the turbulent waters beneath and the shaken heavens above.

The Millennial Kingdom

All these events and signs in the world show us where we stand on the road to the millennial Kingdom on earth, but when that day will come nobody can say, no, “not even the angels”, but we believe that the fact of the existence of a Jewish Christian Community in the world today, is one of the most important spiritual signs revealing the nearness of the Kingdom.

As the fury of the last days of this age breaks upon the world, covering it with darkness, and as the Jewish nation passes through its final cleansing and purifying, when it will be sprinkled with clean water and all that is not built upon the Rock of Israel will be destroyed—this light of the Messiah will illumine a pathway in the darkness, which leads to the gates of the Kingdom. There it will lose itself in the dawn of a new day, when the Light of the World Himself, the Sun of righteousness, will cast His rays over all creation. In that day the voice from heaven will say to Israel: “I am the Lord you God, and you are my people”.

“If the casting away of the Jews be for the reconciling of the world, what shall be the receiving of them but life from the dead.”

PAULINE ROSE.