

# For Heaven's Sake - Finish What You Started

By

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# Preface

With the advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the human race finds itself reeling from the pressures of increased population levels; a worldwide decline in environmental integrity; intense global competition for energy, water, and other natural resources; with underlying political, cultural and religious conflicts; and great inconsistencies in the wealth of nations, both among the various regions and within individual countries.

Strategists predict various scenarios for the future, with only a few anticipating a positive outcome, and many anticipating worldwide devastation, with the ultimate extinction of many species on earth including our own. Throughout history many prophets have spoken, some with great insight and clarity, others being more cloudy and obtuse. Some have human history validate their predictions, while others are shown to be far from the truth in the course of human events.

Archaeology, paleontology, and various new discoveries have shed additional light on areas that may have been cloudy up to that moment in time. Great advances in science and technology help us to confirm or deny plausibility in ways that were never available to us beforehand.

We listen attentively to the stories handed down to us and also evaluate what currently is before us. We have our very own experience in our own time. With creativity and imagination we put the pieces together in a way that works for us.

Foresight is seldom viable, for we can never know for sure what will, or will not come to pass, yet we do have the most wonderful gift of hindsight. Even though some historians have altered stories over time

to suit their own purposes, and still continue to do so, there is enough information for agreeing on truth, no matter how remote such a possibility existed previously.

With or without the stories handed down to us, what does exist, if well contemplated, reveals its purpose, and casts light on why it has come to exist. For whatever is must be, there is no denying that. When the aspects of truth in the stories handed down to us are also utilized, we have all we ever can have for our evaluation. Fortunately it is enough.

# The Jewish Experience

The faith of our fathers began with Abraham who journeyed from his own country in Mesopotamia into Canaan Land to begin a new life based on the promise of God that was revealed to him.

It was said that, "Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness". Later, based on the positive outcome of Abraham's experience through faith, it was said that, "the just shall live by faith". And again later still, it was said that, "without faith it is impossible to please God".

So, with the experience of Abraham handed down to us, it may be construed that Abraham believed that God exists; and that he believed that God intervenes in the lives of human beings; and that it is paramount to have faith in God and to follow his guidance in order to obtain God's promises.

Subsequent review of all the biblical stories in both the Old and New Testaments further reveals that God always uses human beings to accomplish his purposes. Angelic messengers may or may not be sent as intermediaries, but eventually the prophetic message is always revealed to human beings, and it is up to them to carry out God's will.

When the Torah was revealed to Moses in the Sinai wilderness, there began the written record of the Jewish experience. The record has continued to be written up to the present moment. There have been many important milestones for the Jewish people along the way; those before Moses and after Moses; before the exile into Babylon and after the exile into Babylon; before the coming of Christ and after the coming of Christ, even up to the present moment.

The miraculous birth of the nation of Israel in 1948 is the latest milestone. Today, Jews that were previously scattered all over the world, now live in the state of Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital. This is real and true. What is the meaning and purpose, and what light does it shed on human history? The promises given to the Jewish people in the Old and New Testaments are thoroughly catalogued and well known, so what does it mean to the entire world, to have the Jewish people living in their own nation, free to worship the God of Abraham, to know and do his will?

Most importantly, if we allow the Jewish people living in Israel to live-out their destiny, and do not stand in the way or hinder them, they actually may complete what they started. This holds great promise to all of us today, and to our children's, children tomorrow.

## What Remains To Be Done

Provocatively, it is nothing more or less than the redemption of the whole world that remains to be done. It is the birthright of every human being, to live freely in the world that we have inherited, the world that was first delivered to Adam and Eve by God; then delivered to Noah and cleansed by the flood; promised to Moses and delivered to Joshua in Canaan Land; delivered to Christ and cleansed by his blood; delivered in 1948 to the Jewish people, with Jerusalem as its capital; delivered to you and me, wherever we may be at the present moment.

God always uses people to accomplish his purpose and to do his will. It is now up to you and me. The Jewish experience became the entire world's experience through the coming of Christ, for the Gentile was then grafted into the Jewish tree of life. There is no separation between the faithful Jew and the faithful in Christ, all are equal in the sight of God, and afforded the same promise.

Yet the original covenant with the Jewish people will not be broken. Although the entire world is ours, for Jew and Gentile alike, the nation of Israel with Jerusalem as its capital, is the express domicile of the Jewish people. They are the original people of promise and hold right to the Holy Land. They are the people and keepers of The Book. God will use them to accomplish his purpose, and to do his will, and to complete what they have started, this is the promise of God.

It is astounding that the Jewish people have the faithful in Christ to thank for the creation of the Jewish Nation State. God used them because of their faith in Christ, to accomplish his purpose and to do his will. It was the Gentiles that ratified the United Nations proclamation for the creation of the Jewish Nation State.

The United States of America has also played a central role, Jews and Gentiles alike. The very great but still young country of America is founded and wholly based on freedom, religious and otherwise. For America knows that for it to be truly free, all countries must be truly free. It is no coincidence that within America, there are “churches on every street corner”, and that America calls itself, “one nation under God”. It is no accident that America is today, proud to be called “the friend of Israel”.

As those faithful in Christ rediscover their own Jewish heritage, and as the Jews, now living in Israel, sort out truth from error, faith from faithlessness, and reevaluate their expectations of Messiah, the promises of God will be fully realized in truth. This is the story handed down to us, and the very real world in which we now live.

## Finish What You Started

So let the Jewish people finish what they have begun, and pray for them. The Jews are Gods people, Israel is a Holy Land, and Jerusalem is "A City on a Hill". It is promised that righteousness will spring forth from Zion and water the entire earth, that God will be our light, and that there will be peace on earth.

The victory is won, Christ accomplished it on the cross, and as he himself proclaimed, "it is finished". No more sacrifice for sin can be found. Prophecy has ceased, but God's word remains. We can add nothing to nor take anything away from the story handed down to us. *But only the Jewish people can write the ending. This task is reserved for them.* We can only, add nothing to nor take anything away from the Gospel of Christ. We can only, have faith in God and thus inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

No one knows for certainty what will be. Yet, hindsight is near perfect. So what do you see? From the stories handed down to us, what has been shown to be true? What has God promised you? Do you have faith as did Abraham, to believe God and be counted among the righteous? There is a covenant for you, whether old or new. Heaven and earth declare God's handiwork. You are wonderfully made.

As for me, I have heard no voices from heaven and have seen no heavenly visions. But I have seen courage, love and forgiveness in the hearts of men and women, from all walks of life, from every race, and every persuasion. I believe in you and I believe in me. For heaven's sake, let us finish what we started. I love you all, Amen.