

**THE ASSEMBLY  
AND ISRAEL  
IN THE  
KINGDOM AGE**

**BY C. O. DODD**

## ISRAEL AND THE CONGREGATION OF YAHSHUA

The teaching of the prophets that the people known as Israel shall be restored to the Kodesh Land, and there, as a nation, have their sins forgiven, and there, as a people, be instrumental in the hands of the living Creator to fulfill His will here on earth, is a very beautiful teaching to us. We rejoice in it, for we shall be blest through Israel, though we be a Gentile; but, better yet, we shall be instrumental in bringing Yahweh's blessing to all nations, if we be descendants of the Israel race.

We have been accused however, by those who do not see the Israel message clearly, that we minimize the part of the Congregation of Yahshua in the age to come, and void the merits of the sacrifice of Yahshua our Redeemer, by teaching the message that the prophets have always taught; that is, that the people of Israel who were dispersed throughout the earth, for sin, uncleanness and disobedience, shall be restored to Yahweh's favor and love, in the last days. Then, as a special people, they shall, being inhabitants again of their own land, be used of Yahweh to evangelize and convert the world to Yahweh.

Some ministers teach that Yahweh cast away Israel lesser enlightened nations throughout the earth. Yahweh said, "You shall be a kingdom of priests to me, and a kodesh nation."--Ex. 19:6.

But men teach that because Israel sinned, their place is taken by Yahshua's followers from among all nations: and, thus, Israel is to be reckoned no more in the Father's plans. But the scriptures referring to Israel now means "The Assembly" (the Congregation of Yahshua.)

But, has Yahweh really forsaken Israel, never to acknowledge them as his special people again? No! The prophets always speak of a final conversion of the Israel nation. They will be brought back to Yahweh through their fiery trials and afflictions with a final restoration to the Kodesh Land. They will never be uprooted again; and then, there in their own land, they shall be used of Yahweh as a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, in relation to the other nations of earth.

Hear the apostle Paul speaks of this very thing. "I ask then, **has Yahweh repudiated his people?** By no means. Why, I am an Israelite myself. I am descended from Abraham, and I belong to the tribe of Benjamin. **Yahweh has not repudiated his people, which he marked out from the first**" Rom. 11:1-2.

Hear the prophet Jeremiah also, as he speaks plainly: "Have you not observed what **this people have said, that Yahweh hast cast off the two families whom he chose, and has spurned his people so as to be no longer a nation before him.**--Therefore, thus saith Yahweh ...I will restore their fortune, and will have pity on them."-Jer. 33:24-26.

The prophetic theme, as flowing through the messages of all the kodesh prophets, is one. There prophecy is this:

"The Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith Yahweh."--Isa. 59:20.

"Your people shall be all of them righteous, and shall possess the land forever ...I Yahweh will hasten it in its proper time."--Isa. 60:21-22, An American Translation.

"And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith Yahweh."--Jer. 31:28.

"I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first." (This is the promised return of both houses of Israel,--Jewish Israel and Ephraim-Israel.)

"And I will **cleanse them from all their iniquity**, whereby they have sinned against me: and **I will pardon all their iniquities**, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me." (A plain statement that Yahweh is going to pardon and cleanse Israel eventually.)

Now, let's summarize: If Yahweh has mercy on Israel, restores them to the kodesh land, forgives them (as a nation) of their iniquities, pardons them from their sins, remembers them no more, then what can we say, but what Paul has so succinctly expressed:

"I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness, in part, is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles (nations) be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written. There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn unrighteousness from Jacob."--Rom. 11:25-26.

Yahweh has said, "Behold I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them **again** to this place, and will cause them to dwell safely."--Jer. 32:37.

Some have said that this "regathering" was when a remnant of the Jews returned to Palestine in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. But look at the Scriptures, and forget opinions of men. Jeremiah continues stating that Yahweh will return Israel to the kodesh land, from whence they were driven for chastisement, "I will gather them ... and ...bring them again to this place, and will cause them to **dwell safely**." Let any one read the: History of the Jews," by Josephus, describing the wars and sufferings of the Jews who returned prior to his day. These underwent indescribable sufferings at the hands of the Greeks under Antiochus Epiphanes (See the Book of Maccabees). Later when Titus totally destroyed Jerusalem and its millions, who were assembled observing the Passover, and then, I feel sure, they will not say that Israel was made "**to dwell safely**."

"And they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim: and I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them ... For thus saith Yahweh, like as I have brought this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them."-Jer. 32:38-42.

This was fulfilled only in token at the advent of the Messiah. Then the disciples numbered about 120 souls (Acts 1:15); but the prophecies we have referred to, are speaking not

of a handful, not of 120 souls, but of the great people, known as the "whole house of Israel." That is Jewish-Israel and Ephraim-Israel.

Hear Yahweh's promise again, "Behold the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith Yahweh. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith Yahweh, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people."--Jer. 31:31

Tis said that this prophecy was fulfilled at the advent of Yahshua the Messiah; but it is evident that the text does not refer to a few individuals from among the Jewish nation who accepted the Messiah. This event will be as far-spread and all-inclusive as was the number with whom the first covenant was made, which was, the entire Israelitish nation which escaped from Egyptian slavery.

We do not contend that those who accepted Yahshua as their Redeemer at His first advent, and since, are not in the covenant relationship with Yahweh; but, we are sticking to the text which states that this new covenant shall eventually be made with all Israel, the whole nation: and not just a few having the righteous principles of Yahweh engraved in their hearts, the whole nation shall be made a righteous, saved and kodesh people.

It is just as easy for Yahweh to convert and save an entire nation, as it is to convert a city, or a family, or an individual. Let's not limit the mercy and the power of the Eternal!

But, it is evident that the New Covenant has not been established with the Nation of Israel, as Yahweh means for it to be, for Jeremiah continues, saying, "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh; for they shall **all know** me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, **saith Yahweh.**"--Jer. 31:31-34.

Is there a man who will dare to say that this is the day when we should cease teaching the righteous principles of Yahweh, and to point sinners to a forgiving Father, and to teach them to know Yahweh, His love, His grace, and His mercy? Is there even one? If not then it is evident that this is not the day when the New Covenant is established with the house of Judah and the house of Israel. Let's treat Yahweh's Scriptures honestly, fairly, and consistently.

But, though the day has not yet come, it will come, when Yahweh will "cause the captivity of Judah and Israel" to be no more, and will restore them to "their land," and there forgive them, cleanse them, bless them, and use them forever.

"I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the old waste cities, and inhabit them... and I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them saith Yahweh thy Elohim.--Amos 8:15.

It is true that Yahweh allowed some of Israel to return to Palestine under Ezra and Nehemiah, but this is not the return Amos speaks of, for they were then oppressed under the

Grecian tyrants, and dispersed again by the Romans under the leadership of General Titus. From the dispersion the Jews have never been regathered, until now, when a remnant are seeking to again establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine; but it is premature, and will result in sufferings and sorrow for the inhabitants; but, in due time, Yahweh will regather Judah (the Jews) and Israel (Ephraim), and from this regathering there will never again be a dispersal, for Yahweh shall cause them to be a righteous nation, over which he will watch that no evil again befall them. And, after this return, **"they shall no more be pulled up out of their land ...saith Yahweh."**

Is it clear now to you, dear reader, that Yahweh is going to regather the same race which was dispersed from Palestine, the same race which was led out of Egypt, the same race with which He made a covenant, and with this same race He will make a new covenant, and will make them a kodesh people, and through them bless all the nations of the entire earth? I hope it is clear to you, for it is the message of the prophets, and the clarion call of our day!

It is said that there is now no Israel but the saved in Yahshua the Messiah, be they the race of Israel, or white, or black, or yellow; but such teaching brings havoc into the message of the prophets, for it is not founded on Scripture, but on man's opinion. Here is the gist of the message: **Not all the saved shall be fleshly Israel; but all Israel shall be saved, or righteous."**

And here is another truth that we must face, as we properly divide the Scriptures:

**The Assembly is not Israel.**

**Israel is not the Assembly.**

We use the term "Assembly" guardedly, and simply because it expresses the thought of Yahshua's saved company in the minds of many. What we mean, however, is that the Congregation of Yahshua is not the nation of Israel, which the prophets speak about, and Israel has not come to mean merely the saved of the Evangel Age, which makes up the congregation of Yahshua. The Congregation is one thing, Israel is another. Israel has her work to perform, and the congregation has its mission to accomplish. We hope to make this clear in the following pages.

Confusion results from the failure of Bible teachers to differentiate between Israel and the called out ones from all nations, The Congregation of Yahshua. Yahweh never promised to make Israel into a Congregation (Assembly); nor did He promise to make the Congregation (Assembly) into Israel.

The Congregation (ecclesia, assembly) is the body of the Messiah (I Cor. 12:12-27). It enjoys, and will enjoy with him, all the rights and privileges ordained by the Father for Yahshua as the head of his body, the Congregation. It is ordained that it shall reign with him, rule with him, and be a blessing to the nations with him.

"They shall rule with him," and, if with him, then over the nation of Israel, the house of Jacob, I.e., the entire twelve tribes.

A "great multitude" have accepted the plan of salvation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:9-14); but it is "the little flock," Yahshua's own body, unto whom Yahweh in His good pleasure has destined to give the kingdom rule.

The Congregation (assembly) is the little flock, but Israel once it is reconverted, cleansed, purged, saved, shall be as numerous as the sands of the sea.

Israel once in covenant relationship with Yahweh was the "Bride of Yahweh" (Isa. 54:5-7; Jer. 31:32). When it is re-covenanted, that is under the New Covenant, it shall again be "Yahweh's Bride."--Isa. 54:7; Hosea 2:14-16; 19-20.

Isaiah foresaw and foretold the relationship between the Congregation (assembly) and Yahweh, also Israel and Yahweh, so we may do well to study this in the 56th chapter of Isaiah.

"Neither let the son of the stranger that hath joined himself to Yahweh, speak, saying, Yahweh hath utterly separated me from his people ... The sons of the stranger (aliens) that join themselves to Yahweh to serve Him, and to love the name of Yahweh, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and **taketh hold of my covenant** (Here is the new covenant for the Gentile); even them will I bring to my kodesh mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer..." "Yahweh Elohim which gathered the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him."--Isa. 56:3, 6-8.

Yes the Gentile, be he white, black or yellow, may join himself unto Yahweh and have a part in the kingdom blessings; but that fact does not nullify the promises made to, and concerning, the nation of Israel.

Israel has one work; the Congregation of Yahshua has another. Let's be careful to differentiate. Then we'll understand the Scriptures better.

We have given the scriptures, which teach clearly that Yahweh will in the last days have mercy upon the same people he cast away, that is, upon the house of Jacob, Israel, or the twelve tribes. We have read that this people shall be gathered back into their own land, and be an integral nation in the Kodesh Land. That people shall be welded into a kingdom. Over it shall reign a king. Under the king shall be various ranks of co-rulers, responsible to the king. The nation is Israel. The King is Yahshua. The officials are the Congregation of Yahshua (erroneously called the assembly).

Yahshua was born to be a King. He shall be a King. He was to reign over the "house of Jacob." Hear the angel prophesy:

"Thou shalt call his name Yahshua (Yahweh is saviour). He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the highest: and Yahweh Elohim shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."--Luke 1:33.

This was the same message as by the prophets. Hear them:

"In the days of these kings shall the Mighty One of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."--Daniel 2:44.

"But thou, Bethlehem-Ephratah, though thou be a little among the thousands of Israel, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting. "--Micah 5:2; Matt. 3:6.

"Unto us a child is born ... and of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to establish it with judgment and with justice from hence forth and for ever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this."--Isa. 9:6-7.

"Behold the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will raise unto David a righteous branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days shall Judah be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is the name whereby he shall be called,--Yahweh-tsedeq (Yahweh our righteousness)."--Jer. 23:5-6.

The above texts made it clear that the King over the "house of Jacob" shall be Yahshua, but now let's consider the scriptures, which pertain, unto His body, the Congregation.

Yahshua promised His followers a part in His kingdom rule. Hear Him: "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."--Luke 22:29-30.

Yahshua Messiah shall begin his earthly reign on David's throne, that is, at Jerusalem, over the "house of Jacob," but the little stone kingdom (nation of Israel) shall continue to grow unceasingly until its dominion "fills the whole earth." Daniel 2nd chapter.

Yahshua, hence, on the throne of His forefather David, reigning over the nation of Israel, shall indeed be eventually sovereign over all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples. With him, reigning in the re-covenanted nation of Israel will be the twelve apostles, but "joint heirs with him" in the reign will be all the "disciples" from all nationalities, who, as a Congregation, make up His Body.

"Yahshua said unto them, verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration (making new age, age of re-creation. Isa. 11:6-9; Rom. 8:19-23) when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of His glory, ye shall sit upon **twelve thrones**, judging the **twelve tribes** of Israel.

For the forty days after His resurrection, the risen Saviour had been instructing His followers in "the things pertaining to the kingdom of Yahweh" here on earth, doubtless after His usual manner (Lu. 24:27, 32, 34, 45), teaching them out of the Hebrew Scriptures. They understood Him and His message of the kingdom, but on one point, they did not understand. "When?" When would the kingdom rights be restored back to the Israel people, from which they were taken away because of sin and iniquity? This was the question, and the Saviour's answer

was in accordance with the question and His previous teaching.--Matt. 24:36, 42, 44; 25:13.

Yahweh alone knew: it was His secret at that time. But, the disciples understood the prophetic message, and the Saviour did not tell them that the Congregation (assembly) would take the place of Israel, and Israel would come to mean the Congregation; for this is not the prophetic plan. Yahweh had a plan for Israel, and one for the Congregation.

Yahweh would judge the world,--through Yahshua Messiah,--through His apostles and followers,--through the saints,--through re-covenanted Israel.--Matt. 19:28; I Cor. 6:2.

The prophet Isaiah plainly tells of the status of the Israel people in the Millenium, their work, and also their relationship with the Gentile nations. Let's read these scriptures:

"Then shall they build the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the desolations of old: they shall renew the waste cities, the desolation of age after age. The strangers (aliens) shall stand and feed your flocks, aliens (Gentiles) shall be your plowmen and your vine dressers; but you shall be called the priests of Yahweh, the ministers of our Elohim shall you be called. You shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall revel."--Isa. 61:4-6, An American Translation.

"Yahweh will have pity on Jacob, and will once more choose Israel, and will settle them upon their own soil; and aliens (foreigners) will join them, and will become members of the house of Jacob. For they will take them along with them, and will bring them to their place; and the house of Israel will give them a foothold upon Yahweh's soil as male and female slaves, thus making captives of those who took them captives, and ruling over those who were their masters."--Isa. 14:1-2, An American Translation.

"Aliens shall build your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for tho in my wrath I smote you, in my favor will I have pity upon you. And your gates shall be open continually; day and night shall they not be closed, that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings conducted in state. For the nation and the kingdom that will not serve you shall perish--utterly wast shall those nations be laid."--Isa. 60:10-12, An American Translation.

As the priestly order was set aside from the common mass, so the Israelites, compared with other people, were to sustain the same near relation to Yahweh, a community of spiritual sovereigns, an kodesh nation, set aside to preserve the knowledge and worship of Yahweh. "Ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a kodesh nation."--Exo. 19:6.

In other words, Israel when under the New Covenant, will be a kodesh nation, and as such, be used as kings and priests in relation to the backward peoples of the world who need to be taught of the way of Salvation and led in the Laws of the Eternal Yahweh. Like as the priesthood was sustained by tithes and offerings by the others in Israel, so re-covenanted Israel shall be cared for and supplied with their needs by the aliens, while Israel gives itself to the office of a priestly nation, that is teaching, judging, administering the laws of the Eternal,--in other words, bringing the Gentiles into the covenant relationship.

But, we repeat, over Israel will be reigning King Yahshua, and the Congregation of



Yahshua, who have followed Him in this life.

Yahshua shall reign on David's throne. With Him on twelve thrones shall rule the twelve apostles. With them as official representatives in Israel shall be the saints. Hence, Yahshua, on David's throne, shall be sovereign, King of kings, over all. Thus, in and through Israel, the re-covenanted people, during the thousand-year epoch, Yahshua Messiah and his saints, as "joint heirs with him," shall reign over the entire earth, and all nations and all peoples must (it will be a "must") indeed obey the Laws of Yahweh. Then shall justice, peace, prosperity, security, be administered by the Sovereign and His ruling class for all men, in and through "the house of Jacob," and peace and security shall be the order of the day, instead of the exception. None shall make the people afraid. Nation shall not be allowed to wage war against another nation. They shall not even learn how to wage war. Peace shall be universal.

A picture is given us in Isaiah 2:2-5 of the prophetic "League of Nations." or Yahweh's "United Nations." Man is now trying to do what Yahweh shall accomplish in due time. Listen: "It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain (kingdom) of Yahweh's house (administration) shall be established in the top of the mountains (among the ruling classes) and shall be exalted above the hills (the lesser states); and all nations (earth wide) shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh (Yahweh's kingdom on earth), to the house of the Mighty One of Jacob (the nation of Israel); and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem" (the kingdom capital city).--Isa. 2:2-5.

"Thus saith Yahweh of hosts: It shall come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities; and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before Yahweh, and to seek Yahweh of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek Yahweh of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before Yahweh."--Zech. 8:20-22.

In Revelation 5:8-10 is given a symbolic picture of the ruling class, and of them the record states, "They sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to Yahweh by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our Mighty One (El) kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Again, we refer to the prophet: "The kingdom and dominion and the might of all kingdoms under heaven shall be given to the saints of the Most High, a people whose kingdom is a lasting kingdom, to be served and obeyed by all dominions. This is the end."--Dan. 7:27, Moffatt.

One before us has ably worded the sacred plan in a few words: "The whole matter may be summarized as follows: 'The great white host' is made up of those of the Adamic race who have been justified and regenerated through the Messiah Yahshua by the 'free gift' of life. The call for this 'common salvation' is given to all men, and those who accept it become 'fellow-citizens' with all the descendants of Jacob-Israel, who as a family were called by Yahweh to become the nucleus of His Kingdom on the earth. When they turn to Yahweh for personal salvation, and as a race voluntarily seek his face and acknowledge their offence,' they will be restored as Yahweh's

Kingdom Nation to whom will be joined the 'Great White Host' who in Messiah Yahshua have been prepared to citizenship in the Kingdom of Yahweh; and the Assembly (Congregation of Yahshua) is the 'little flock' chosen by Yahshua Himself to rule and reign with Him over His restored Kingdom."--Conrad Gaard in "The Interpreter."

It is true that Israel sinned, that Yahweh cast them off, but the record is just as clear that his punishment is not forever; but they shall be restored to the kodesh land again, this time for ever (Amos 9:14-15); and there they shall be converted; they shall look at him whom they have pierced; they shall come into the bonds of the New Covenant, and be a kodesh nation, all righteous (Isa. 61:21). They shall be eligible to fulfill the part, which Yahweh has ordained for them in the sacred plan of the ages. They shall then be blessed and the blessing of nations.

Yahweh has promised: "An everlasting covenant will I make with them. Their sons shall be known among the nations, their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them **shall acknowledge them as a race that Yahweh has blessed.**"--Isa. 61:9.

But for us at the present time, our duty is plain. We are to make our calling and election sure. We are called to a high calling in Messiah Yahshua, a call to become with him kings and priests in the coming Kingdom of Yahweh here on earth. (2 Pet. 1:10; Phil. 3:14; 2 Tim. 2:12). May we not miss the goal is our prayer. (All references from An American Translation).

Yes, the kingdom shall be again restored to Israel. Truly, Yahshua shall sit upon the throne of His Father David. Yes, He shall reign over the house of Jacob (the nation of Israel) forever. 'Tis true, the Congregation of Yahshua will have a part in that glorious reign. "If we suffer (with him), we shall also reign with him."--2 Tim. 2:12.

"Blessed and kodesh is he that hath a part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of the Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years."--Rev. 20:6.

For the Kingdom of Yahweh is Israel, under the King of kings, Yahshua the Messiah, with His saints as "joint heirs," we are glad to pray; for eventually Yahweh's will shall be done right here on earth, as it is now done in heaven. For a part in that Kingdom may each reader be anxiously striving, is our prayer.

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