

## God in History

In 1851, in an outstanding book entitled, "*Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World*," Sir Edward Creasy wrote about those battles which actually changed the course of world history, those battles which, had they turned out differently, would have essentially varied the drama of world history, and all its subsequent events.

For the sake of seeing God in world history, let's look at just a few of those battles that Creasy wrote about:

1. In the 8th Century, Mohammedanism was engulfing much of the known world and, having successfully invaded Western Asia and North Africa, it was now threatening all of Europe. On October 3, 732 A.D., Abdalrahman, Arab governor of Spain, led the Mohammedan hordes against the Christian forces at Tours, France, and their "*purpose of conquest was nothing less than all Europe for Allah.*" At this famous Battle of Tours, which lasted six days, Charles ["*the hammer*"] Martell stopped the ravaging hordes of Islam. It was here that the cross and the sword, the Bible and the Koran, Christ and Mohammed, came face to face, and, had the devotees of the Prophet won, the majority the world today would be facing Mecca and reciting the Kalina five times a day.
2. In 1588 A.D., Philip II of Spain organized a great array of ships and soldiers [known as the "*Invincible Armada*"] against England "*to make an example of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth,*" however, despite the fact that the Spanish Armada was far superior to Queen Elizabeth's fleet, nonetheless, as the Armada neared the Thames and the battle began, a storm of hurricane proportions swept the channel which almost so completely annihilated the Spanish fleet that scarcely two score ships were able to limp home and tell the tale of disaster.

Recognizing the hand of God in this history, England struck a medal and engrave on it, "*God blew with His wind and scattered them.*"

When one considers the fact that it was after this battle at the Thames that England became mistress of the seas, which enabled her to insure the spread of the Gospel of Christ, can one believe anything other than the fact that God took a hand at the Thames?

3. In reiteration of Napoleon's belief that he was destined to rule the world, his wife, Josephine, once said, "*Napoleon is persuaded that he is to subjugate all the nations of the earth,*" however, **God** was not so persuaded!

At the famous Battle of Waterloo [so-named because the battlefield was two miles from the town of Waterloo], it has been Napoleon's plan to strike at the center of the English and Allied forces, to cut them in two, and then to drive the one wing into the Rhine, while he drove the other wing into the sea.

However, Napoleon did **not** cut the English and Allied forces in two, nor did he drive them into the river and the sea, as he had planned to do, because of the following "*turn of events*":

Although Napoleon had, originally, intended to attack at precisely **6 o'clock** Sunday morning, on June 18, 1815, he was not able to begin the attack until **11:35** simply because his

heavy artillery wagons were unable to pass over the ground which had been softened by the rains.

If it had not rained, the battle would have been fought at **6 o'clock** that Sunday morning, and Napoleon would have won, because, in order to win the battle, his opponent, Wellington, needed the aid of the Prussian Field Marshal, Gebhart Leberoch von Blucher, who could not arrive until **11 o'clock** that morning. As it turn out, since the battle didn't begin until **11:35**, he was able to arrive **35 minutes before the battle actually begin!** Had the battle begun at **6 o'clock** that morning, Blucher, obviously, would not have been there to aid Wellington.

History records **six so-called "trifles"** that decided the outcome of this battle, and, had any one of these "trifles" not occurred, the entire destine of Christianity, and the world, could have been changed!

These six "trifles," or "ifs," are as follows:

1. **If** - it had not rained that Sunday Morning!
2. **If** - McDonnell had not closed a gate at Hougomont!

Hougomont was a chateau, or a collection of farm buildings on a hill overlook- ing, and commanding, the whole battlefield. This field was a "key" to the outcome of the battle. Hougomont was surrounded by a wall, which was pierced by a great gate, and it was only because a man by the name of McDonnel had closed, and locked, that gate that the French lost 3000 men in their attempt to open the gate, Had they succeeded in opening that gate, they would have won the battle.

3. **If** - Napoleon had known about the Ohioan road!

At the sight of the battle, the ground rose gradually where a road had been cut through the raise, making a 12 foot deep abyss. When Napoleon struck the attack, he asked a peasant, "Is there a road there?" The peasant shook his head, no! The French army then charged on horseback up the grade, when, all of a sudden, the 12 foot deep trench was right at their horses' heads and, because the ground had been softened by the recent rains, there was no stopping and, as a result, the trench was filled with men, and horses, which had constituted nearly one-third of the brigade of Dubois, Napoleon's French commander.

If, when Napoleon had asked about the Ohioan road, the peasant had **nodded** his head yes, instead of no, it would have changed the course of the war, and world history!

4. **If** - Grouchee had not turned a deaf ear!

When Napoleon left one of his French commanders, Grouchee, nearby, with 35,000 of the finest French soldiers, he told him to wait for orders to attack, which is exactly what he did despite the fact that the messenger, who was supposed to give him those orders, had been captured and despite that fact that he had heard the canon's boom knew, for himself, that the battle had begun, even when his officers pleaded with him to move he turned a deaf ear. After the battle, he later said that he did not know *why* he had waited.

5. **If** - Blucher had been an hour later!

Gebhart Leberecht von Blucher, the Prussian Field Marshal coming to Wellington's aid, arrived with his Prussian forces only **35 minutes** before the battle started.

6. **If** - The shepherd boy had pointed to the left instead of to the right!

Blucher was pushing with all his might to arrive at the battle before it would be too late when, while still miles away, just as he came to a fork in the road, and was about to take the left fork, he sighted a shepherd boy and asked him, "*Is this the best road to Waterloo?*" In response, the shepherd boy simply pointed to the **right** road, instead of to the left one which Blucher had been about to take. The **left** road did go to Waterloo, but it traveled through a deep ravine which, because it was deep in mud, Blucher would never have been able to get through with his artillery.

Because the shepherd boy pointed to the right road, instead of to the left one, which Blucher was about to take, Blucher arrived at Waterloo just in time to turn the battle, save the day, and win the war!

All military reason tells us that Napoleon *should have* won the battle! The only rational, and reasonable, explanation that he didn't was because ***God's hand was in the outcome***. The victory over Napoleon was **not** because of Wellington, or Blucher, or Grouchee, it was because of **God**, and God alone!

Napoleon was exiled on the Island of St. Helena, off the West Coast of Africa, when, in his memoirs, he stated, "*There was a Hand moving in Europe which I did not see.*"

## GOD IN THE NEW WORLD

History records that as Columbus was sailing straight for the New Jersey coast, because the wind tugged and tugged southward and because a flock of birds were also flying southward, he, at the persuasion of Pinzon, changed the course of his ship and sailed after the birds, and, as a result, landed on what was to become known as San Salvador. God, by an act of providence, as simple as a south wind and a flock of birds, reserved America to be blessed with English Protestantism.

The colonies were founded primarily for "*religious*" reasons because, in the 1600's, the first pilgrims who came to the New World were fleeing from England, by way of Holland, in order to see "*religious*" liberty.

After a long voyage, in a very small ship, 120 people landed in the New World, America, in Jamestown, on November 11, 1620, and wrote the "***Mayflower Compact***," in which they stated that they had come to the New World, "*in the name of God, for the glory of God, and in the advancement of the Christian faith,*" to, "*solemnly and mutually pledge themselves to the presence of Almighty god.*"

Other explorers came to the New World; the French came to Canada; the Spanish came to Latin America; but, they came looking for

wealth and conquest. *The original 13 colonies were primarily a religious people*, and it is because they were an industrious, Bible-believing, people, seeking religious freedom, that each of the 13 colonies was founded on religious principles. The leaders and founders of these colonies had few books, but they knew their Bible, which was their book of law, ethics, and etiquette. The Bible governed their character, and their conduct, and was the chief cornerstone of the new republic.

In 1630, the colonists in New England signed a "Compact" which stated; "*We all have come into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely to advance the Kingdom of the Lord, Jesus Christ.*" These colonists sought to incorporate the principles of Christianity into every element of society, into both their civil, and political, institutions, in their endeavor to permeate the influence of their belief in God into every area of their lives, and the lives of others.

Despite the difficulties that these colonists faced, because they were not accustomed to the idea of religious freedom and because the ones who came seeking freedom from persecution persecuted those who did not agree with them, and, despite the fact that they made mistakes, they *were* men of God, like George Washington, who exerted his influence until the "*Bill of Rights*" was born. Article 3 of that Bill of Rights declares, "*that in America there will be no establishment of a religion and no hindrance of religious freedom.*"

The "*Declaration of Independence*," which was also birthed as a result of the influence of committed men of God, recognized "*the laws of nature as being from God* and that man **was created**. The second statement of this great document affirms that fact, when it goes on to state, "*that certain unalienable rights were endowed to him by God,*" and, then at last, it states "*we are signing in the fear of God and looking to Him for the righteousness of our action and that He will reward it.*"

It was recorded that, on one occasion, when a matter could not be settled, Benjamin Franklin stood up and said, "*I have lived a long time and, the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that **God governs in the affairs of men**. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that `except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.*" History tells us that, because the delegates agreed and stopped for fervent prayer, the difficulty was resolved.

Out of that meeting grew the great historic **CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, the greatest document ever conceived by man, or, as Gladstone put it, "*The greatest document ever struck from the brain of man.*"

## **GOD AT GETTYSBURG**

Why would General Robert E. Lee, a southern general, ever venture as far north as

Gettysburg? Robert E. Lee was to record, after the war, that he believe that, by his very boldness and daring, he could win a great victory, the south would be recognized by England and be established as a Southern Confederacy.

However, because GOD had a Divine mission for America, His plan was a little different than Lee's and, rather than gain a great victory at Gettysburg, the southern confederacy suffered loss, a loss which was occasioned by a peculiar combination of circumstances, because, the south would have won - **If**:

1. **If** - the Union army had been 6 hours later in crossing the Potomac, Lee would have already turned Harrisburg into ashes.

With his victory on June 1, 1863, at Chancellor, Virginia, Lee started north with the army of the Confederacy to take Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the railroad center of the North where the organizing, and equipping, of the Union troops took place. For Lee to take Harrisburg would break the back of the Union, after which, Lee planned to go on to easy victories at Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, and New York City, and *because* Harrisburg was Lee's objective, Gettysburg was an accident, or was it?

The Union Army of the Potomac had escaped the wily Confederate General, James Ewell Brown ["*Jeb*"] Stuart, and his dashing Confederate cavalry, and had hastened after General Robert E. Lee just as Lee was ready to attack Harrisburg. However, because Lee learned that the Union Army, under General George Gordon Meade, had crossed the line into Pennsylvania, he, hoping to find safer shelter, retraced his steps. As a result of Lee's "*retreat*," the Union and Confederate armies unexpectedly met at Gettysburg in an impact that would shake the world.

2. **If** - the Confederate Army had continued to push forward that first day, victory would have been assured them, why, then, didn't they?

The first day, the Confederates hammered the Union forces back into a "*fish-hook*" shaped line which made the Union Army, as history records, "*like an egg in the Confederates' hands*," and all the Confederates needed to do was to close their hands and crush the Union Army. In the first battle, because the Union Army lost 8,955 men, out of their total of 15,000 men, and, as a result, was only 6,000 men strong as compared with the confederate force of 45,000 men strong, defeat for the Union Army seemed certain - or was it?

3. **If** - Stuart, who, with his confederate cavalry, had been left in Virginia to harass, and keep, the Union Army from following Lee. However, because General Meade had outwitted him, Stuart, knowing Lee was headed for Harrisburg, moved rapidly north. On June 30th, the night *before* the first day's battle at Gettysburg, even though Stuart and his daring cavalry had camped near Hanover, which was *just six miles east of Gettysburg*, the next day, July 1st, because he did not know exactly where he was, Stuart pushed on to Carlisle, which was **30** miles to the north of Gettysburg, and, because he did not get his bearings until the morning of the second day, he did not arrive at the battle until the evening of the second day.

**If**, when just six miles away, Stuart had known about the battle of Gettysburg, the outcome of the battle would have been a different tale . . . **if** only . . . !

4. **If** - Lee, when on the morning of the second day, had continued his victorious fighting of the first day, he could have easily crushed the Union Army, however, for the unexplainable reasons and *out of character for Lee*, he didn't start fighting until **3 o'clock in the afternoon** of that second day, which proved to be fatal for the Confederate Army because it gave General Meade ample time to shift his forces and prepare his defenses.

Why did Lee wait?

5. **If** - The Union General, Warren, who was with Meade, had not realized the strategic position of a small knoll, referred to as "*Little Round Top*," which overlooked the battlefield, and, had he and the Union Army not possessed it before the Confederates did, the whole outcome of the battle would have been different. However, as it turned out, even though the Confederates had also realized the value of this area and had, in their determination to possess it at any cost, raced for this hill, the Union Army, under General Warren, beat the Confederates to "*Little Round Top*" by only **ten minutes!**

**If** the Union Army had gotten there just ten minutes later, and the Confederates had gotten there first, the whole outcome of the battle would have been different, - *if only!*

6. **If** - Only Confederate Lieutenant General, Richard Stoddert Ewell, could have heard the battle from where he was stationed. On the second day of the battle, Confederate General, James Longstreet, attacked the Union Army at "*Little Round Top*" from the left, while Ewell, waiting until he could hear the bombardment, was to attack the Union Army from the right, which meant that, between the two Confederate Armies, Longstreet on the left and Ewell on the right, they were sure to crush the Union Army.

Despite the fact that Longstreet's bloody battle in the *peach orchard* and the *wheat field* raged for **four hours**, Ewell never heard the bombardment so he never attacked the Union Army to aid Longstreet, who was finally repelled by the Union Army on "*Little Round Top*."

Later, Ewell was to state that "*the wind was so peculiar I could not hear the battle going on.*" **If** only . . .

7. **If** - Confederate General, Albert Sidney Johnston, had not turned back when, on the second night, he was just within **150 feet** of the Union's reserve ammunition train, which the Union Army had deserted for a short while simply because the Confederate Army had been pushed back earlier that day. However, Johnston, because he thought that, as he was to state later, "*It seemed too easy and I feared, therefore, that he was heading into a trap,*" and, so, instead of attacking, he whirled around and went back.

**If** Johnston had not turned back, **If** only . . .

8. **If** - On the *third* day of the battle, Longstreet, rather than having waited unto *one o'clock in the afternoon* to attack, had attacked at daybreak as Lee had commanded him to . . . and, which was so out of character for Longstreet . . . the battle might, well, have had a different outcome. Why did Longstreet wait? **If** only . . .

9. **If** - General Lee had not made that deadly "*picket charge*" up "*Little Round Top*,"

when, during the fearful bombardment of the third day, all of a sudden the Union's canons ceased firing and Lee assumed that their reason for doing so was because their supply of ammunition had become exhausted. However, the Union ceased firing, not for want of ammunition, but, rather, because their canons had become so hot that they had to cease firing to let them cool, something that, throughout the entire war, had never been known to happen.

**If** the Union Army had not ceased their bombardment, Lee would not have made his deadly "*Picket's charge*," and, **18,000** Confederates would not have died *in* that charge.

The Battle at Gettysburg established the fact that all of America would now be free, rather than half of America being free while the other half was enslaved, as it had been.

There is no explanation for the outcome of Gettysburg, with all its "*turn of events*," except that God, Divinely, intervened in that battle. Lincoln, at the cabinet meeting that was held right after Gettysburg, when asked if he was surprised at the outcome, responded with the simplicity of a child and said that, during the long night that he had spent with God, before the battle, God had given him the assurance that He would give him Gettysburg!

## WORLD WAR I

Seven incidents that changed the course of World War I are as follows:

1. It was four o'clock in the afternoon, on April 22, 1915, when the Germans turned loose, for the first time in history, their deadly poisonous gas on the unsuspecting, unprotected, Allied Armies, who, it was recorded, "*would pile up like bloated cord wood*." All Germany needed to do was to march through, take the English Channel, and the world would be her's.

The German meteorological authorities had selected this very hour of 4 o'clock P.M. to turn the gas loose, because, they claimed, "*the direction of the wind was settled for 36 hours and would carry the gas far out over the Allied lines*," however, when the gas was turned loose, *all of a sudden*, the wind *whirled* around back over the German Army and they, gasping and strangling, staggered, by the thousands, to their death.

Dr. Schmous, in his official report, stated, "*In 40 years of meteorological records of the German government, the wind never acted so peculiarly before*."

And, even stranger still, was the fact that the wind "*whirled*" only in that small area of the country!

2. June of 1915 looked like a dark month for the Allied Armies because the Germans, having swept down the Alps to swallow Italy, were heading to take Venice, the heart of Italy, and, if they were successful in doing so, it would then be easy for them to take Florence, Rome, Naples, Milan, all of Italy, a German victory that would have lost the war for the Allies. The only thing that stood in the way of that victory for the Germans was the Piave River, which is a slow, sluggish, stream that sleeps itself away for 125 miles to the sea and whose banks are so flat that it is easy to fling bridges across it and it is easy to transport tens of thousands of people, which is why the Germans, when planning to cross over this river, took no food with them because, after all, they were just within six and one half miles of Venice, which meant that the granaries of Italy were just ahead! However, as the Germans were about to cross over this river, all of a

sudden, out of what had been a dead, and dry, sky an hour before, burst a Niagara of water and, in just an hour's time, the Piave became a raging, roaring, wild sea, sweeping before it boats, bridges, trees, and, the whole battalions of Germans into it raging waters. Cut off from their supplies, the Germans were seized with a great terror which enabled the Italians to capture, or kill, more than **40,000** German soldiers.

Diaz, a German general, said, "*Deus facit*," which, translated, means, "*God did it!*"

3. On November 17, 1917, because Germany had been turning out submarines night and day for the last ten months, German submarine strength was at its peak, and, since the Germans felt that they had enough subs to sweep the seas of all American ships, they figured that the war *was* already won! But, was it?

While Berlin papers were gloating over the inevitable victory they believed their submarine strength would procure for them, the seas began to roll, and rage, as never before in the history of mankind, and, as a result, because the German submarines were unable to return to their bases and had to come to the surface, **199 submarines**, and **3,000 men**, were either captured or sunk, and "*the back of German submarine warfare was broken.*"

4. On September 6, 1914, just one month after the war began, the Germans were in sight of Paris, in fact, they were so close that it was stated that "*the Kaiser could plainly see the Eiffel Tower through his field glasses*" and, because the French **only had eight hours of ammunition left** with which to fight, the archives of the government were removed from Paris, the women and children were taken out of the city by the thousands, and the French were given the order, "*When the last round of ammunition has been fired, every man take to his heels!*"

However, despite the fact that the French had assumed that the war would be over in just eight hours, all of a sudden, the Germans ceased firing and did not begin firing again until **47 hours** later!

The French General, Callienny, then commanded every taxicab, automobile, carriage, cart, wheel-barrel, *everything* that had wheels, to race ammunition and men to the front battle lines, and, after the 47 hours, when the Germans began firing again, they were met with such fury from the French that they were pounded back and never, during the remaining years of the war, were the Germans ever again that close to Paris.

After the war, the generals in charge, Generals Von Kluck, Von Hausen, and Von Bulow, in their official report, said that "*they did not know why they had ceased firing that day!*"

5. Because, in the spring of 1917, German scientists found a pesticide that, if put into each potato hill, would kill every enemy of the potato which was either under, or above, the ground, they perfected, as never before in the history of the world, the growth of the potato crop, which meant that, for all intent and purposes, they had solved the problem of growing food and grain.

However, hundreds of acres of potatoes stretched for miles and miles in blossom when, all of a sudden, a blight, heretofore unknown, swept over the potato fields and, in *one day*, the potatoes were scorched, scabbed, and shrivelled, "*as though swept by fire*," and, as a result, hungry Germans cried for peace.



Erich Friedrich Wilhelm von Ludendorff, German General in World War I, in his history of the war, said, "*It was the failure of the potato crop of 1917 that lost Germany the war.*"

6. The world recognized that Germany was superior in the air to any nation, yet, despite this fact, she was beaten in the air the last few months of the war. **Why?**

The head of the aerial fighting department of Germany, in his report, said, "*The allies did not have superior air-ships, or fighters, but it was the accursed clouds that defeated us.*" He went on to explain, "*Nearly every time we had a bevy of enemy ships in our pocket ready to take, one of those accursed clouds would be hanging by and would envelop them like a thick blanket and the devil himself could not have found them, and they would escape at their leisure, It was the accursed clouds hat did it!*"

7. Six weeks after Germany began the war she could have possessed every foot of the English Channel, but, like madmen, they plunged toward Paris because they were told that, "*The Kaiser must have his Christmas dinner in Paris.*" However, the German army never reached Paris, and, later, when they attempted to reach the English Channel, it was too late, because in the interim, England had gotten between them and the Channel, a maneuver which cost the German army the price of **two million men**.

Why didn't Germany strike at Paris and give England time to get between them and the Channel?

- **Why, indeed?**

Looking back over the panorama of the history of mankind, both ancient and recent, it is easy to see that God's hand was at work in the outcome of events:

In 490 A.D., God settled, by the Battle of Marathon, the fact that, rather than go under the heel of Persia, Grecian civilization would express Christianity to the world by means of its language, and its world literature.

In 732 A.D., God settled, by the Battle of Tours, the fact that Europe would be Christian rather than Saracenic, the Saracens were a Pre-Islamic nomadic people of the Syrian Arabian deserts who are known today as "*Moslems.*"

In 1066, God settled, by the Battle of Hastings, the fact that Anglo-Saxon civilization would not perish from the earth.

In 1815, God settled, by the Battle of Waterloo, the fact that Europe would not become a slave of France's military might.

In 1863, God settled, by the Battle of Gettysburg, the fact that half of America would no longer continue to be enslaved while the other half was free, but, rather, that **all** of America would be free!

In 1914-1918, God settled, by the First World War, the fact that the hands on the clock of civilization would not be turned back a thousand years by the bloody hand of the Hun.

Close examination of the events of more recent wars, and battles, reveal that God's hand was, likewise, at work in the outcome of these events, events which decided what direction the world

would take:

For instance, on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, had she continued her sneak attack, she would have taken the whole Pacific, and America!

As a matter of fact, Japan *did* win at Pearl Harbor, and at Corrugator, Iwo-Jima, Batan, Okinaw, and Guadel-canal, however, the problem was the **God wasn't through fighting yet**, and so, when the final score was in, God's hand could again be witnessed in these world events:

In a very remarkable way, the hand of God was at work in World War I and II, because the Belfore Declaration, the liberation of Palestine from Turkish rule, and the preparation of the *land* of Israel for God's people, were all a result of World War I, while, on the other hand, World War II, with its terrible holocaust, was responsible for creating a longing in the hearts of Jewish people for their own homeland.

The story is told of an elderly Jewish man who, during the rise of Hitler's power, was laughing in Hitler's face and, when asked by Hitler *why* he was laughing, he replied, *"I was just thinking how today, because, a few years ago, a man tried to exterminate our race and failed, we, each year celebrate that man's overthrow by eating a Matzo cake at our Passover Feast, and how, also today, because years before that, another man tried to exterminate our race and, likewise, failed, we, each year, celebrate that man's overthrow by eating a cake at the Feast of Purim. So, I was just wondering what kind of cake we will eat when we celebrate **your** overthrow and failure to exterminate our race!"*

Even though, in our study, "*Fulfilled Bible Prophecy*," we dealt with the fact that Israel is a land of prophecy, we mention this fact again, *here*, for the purpose of better revealing how God's hand was at work in the events of *her* history, and, therefore, her destiny:

As we study Israel's history, and, watch what is taking place in that land, we not only receive the impression that we are witnessing actors preparing for the last scene of the drama of world history, but we also receive the impression that the curtain is about to open on the last act of the play, because, no other land is so persistently, and predominantly, in world news.

And, as we study some of the historical facts about the land of Israel, some of the *Biblical* facts we ought to be aware of are that:

1. God, **unconditionally**, gave the land of Palestine to Abraham and his seed!

Genesis 13:14-17, "*The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, 'Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.'*"

Genesis 17:7-8, "*I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the*

*God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

**No fact is more established in Scripture than the fact that the land of Palestine belongs to Israel!**

2. God told Israel, however, that *if* she disobeyed His Word, she would be dispersed throughout the earth:

*Deuteronomy 28:64-66 , "Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods--gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.*

Israel **did** disobey God, and history records that God **did** disperse them as He said He would:

*Ezekiel 36:17-19, "Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman's monthly uncleanness in my sight. So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions.*

*Leviticus 26:33-34, "I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its Sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its Sabbaths." [Vs.38] "You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will devour you."*

3. God, despite the reality of the consequences of her continual disobedience, miraculously preserved Israel! One of the greatest miracles in all the world's history is that this race, though broken into fragments and scattered to the four winds of the earth, has, for 2000 years, remained as homogeneous as any race on the face of the earth, because God was, and is, not yet through with His nation of Israel!
4. Israel's restoration to her own land is emphasized in such Scriptures as:

*Leviticus 26:42, "I will remember My covenant with Jacob and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land."*

*Isaiah 14:1, "The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob."*

*Jeremiah 16:14-15, "However, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when men will no longer say, `As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt, but they*

*will say, 'As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers."*

*Jeremiah 23:7-8, "'So then, the days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land."*

*Deuteronomy 30:3, "The LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where He scattered you."*

*Amos 9:14-15, "I will bring back My exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God."*

The importance of this momentous event which is still going on today, the restoration of Israel, should not be minimized, because, Israel's becoming a nation, on May 14, 1948, was not only evidence of God's miraculous hand at work in their history every bit as much as was their exodus out of Egypt, but it has been the most significant prophetic event to transpire since the destruction of Jerusalem, and the Jewish Temple there, in 70 A.D.

As Bible Prophecies converge upon end-time events, it is sometimes not only very difficult to distinguish their many threads, but, also to see them in their proper relationship with what is happening in the world today, however, many Scriptures, particularly the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel, **do** seem to describe what is happening in Israel today!

While our purpose in this series of studies is not to deal with the subject of prophecy, it is our purpose to reveal the fact that there is a God Whose hand we can see at work in the past history of the world and, with the conviction of the reality of this fact, to encourage people to look at the Scriptures which deal with our present time and, as they do so, to ask themselves the question: "*If God has been at work in our history in the past, is He at work in our history in this day and age?*" . . . and . . . also ask, "*How is He at work?*" . . . "*Do we have any proof of His hand at work in our history in this present day and age?*"