

## **The Doctrine of the Dispersions and Restorations of Israel**

- I. **Introduction:** Israel is unique in the fact that it has been dispersed and restored on multiple occasions and has still continued to survive and flourish as a nation. It has undergone three dispersions and two restorations. The most recent restoration continues on to this day with Jews migrating to Israel. This doctrine must be understood in connection with the Doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline and Fourth Generation Course as well as the many promises God has made regarding dispersion and restoration.
- II. God promised that He would disperse the Jews under the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of discipline if they continued on in reversionism up to the fourth generation (Deut. 28:15; Lev. 26:14ff).
  - A. If the children of Israel got involved in reversionism, God would punish them (1<sup>st</sup> cycle of discipline). If the next generation did not repent, He would punish them additionally (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of discipline). Such would continue up until the fourth generation. If they did not repent, the nation would be destroyed (5<sup>th</sup> cycle of discipline).
  - B. For the Jews, God promised that He would remove them from the land and take them to a far and distant land for a time (Jer. 5:19).
  - C. However no dispersion would be permanent. After a time they would be restored.
- III. There are a total of three dispersions or captivities and two restorations faced by the Jews throughout the ages.
  - A. The Assyrian dispersion of the Northern Kingdom 722 BC (II Kings 17:1-23).
    1. The basis for the dispersion was their repudiation of the Mosaic Law (Lev. 26:33, 34; Deut. 4:27; 28:63, 64).
    2. The principle or “cardinal sin” associated with their evil was that of idolatry (II Kings 17:12-18).
  - B. The Babylonian dispersion of the southern kingdom of Judah in 587 BC (II Kings 25:3ff; Ezek. 24:1ff; Jer. 25:11, 12).
    1. The basis for this dispersion was also idolatry.
    2. However running alongside the idolatry was a great amount of violence (Ezek. 7:11, 23; 8:17; 12:19).
    3. Judah was all set to be destroyed right after that of the Northern Kingdom (II Kings 17:19).
    4. Indeed, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, rolled into town a short time after Shalmaneser, his predecessor, sacked the Northern Kingdom (II Kings 18:11-13).
    5. However the people, led by Hezekiah and Isaiah, repented and God fought for them, killing 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrian army (II Kings 19:35).
    6. This gave them a new lease on life. However they went right back to their idolatry and the five cycles of discipline hit them again.
    7. In 587 BC they again faced destruction, this time at the hands of the Babylonians.

8. There are two dates given for the return: 70 years for a remnant and 2520 years for the rest (please see chart).
- C. The First Restoration of the nation came in 537, 518 B.C., seventy years after the dispersion.
1. This was a progressive movement which began with some Jews returning to rebuild the temple in 537 B.C. (70 years after the captivity began), then an additional contingency of Jews returning in 518 B.C. to rebuild the city of Jerusalem (70 years after it had fallen – see chart).
  2. The basis of the restoration was repentance and national confession of their sins (Lev. 26:40-45; Deut. 30:1-10; Dan. 9:2ff; Neh. 1:4-11)
  3. This event was the subject of prophecy by Jeremiah and Daniel (Daniel 9:2; Jer. 25:11, 12).
  4. With the return of the Jews to Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple and capital city of Jerusalem, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth was born.
  5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> commonwealth would last through to the time of Christ, being destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.
- D. The Roman dispersion of 70 AD (Dan. 9:26; Luke 21:20-24).
1. Over time the Jews realized their failures of having succumbed to idolatry.
  2. To combat this they go to the other extreme and Judaism morphed into legalism with a false gospel of salvation by works.
  3. As a result God again sent the five cycles of discipline.
  4. Their cardinal sin was the rejection of their Messiah (Matt. 21:33-46; 22:1-10).
  5. This dispersion was prophesied by Jesus and Daniel (Dan. 9:26; Luke 19:41-44; 21:20ff).
- E. Second Restoration
1. Like the progression involving their captivity and their return to form the 2<sup>nd</sup> commonwealth, the return to the land is also a progressive event, beginning in 1948 with the establishment of the nation of Israel and terminating in 1967 with the recapturing of the city of Eastern Jerusalem.
  2. This restoration was predicted by Ezekiel, though there is a contingency involving the Jewish people's volition (cp. Ezek. 4:1-7 – see chart).
  3. The condition of their return is NOT their repenting and returning to God's will for their life.
  4. To the contrary, the Jews for the most part are still in unbelief and reversionism.
  5. God through His prophets declared that this would be the case. God moves them back into the land because He is sick of hearing His name profaned among the nations (Ezek. 36:1-20ff; Jer. 30:17).
  6. Hence the Jews in Israel are in unbelief and will remain that way till the Tribulation. Otherwise they would be raptured with us and there would be no Jews in Israel for Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week!!!

IV. A Timeline regarding the Three Dispersions and Two Restorations

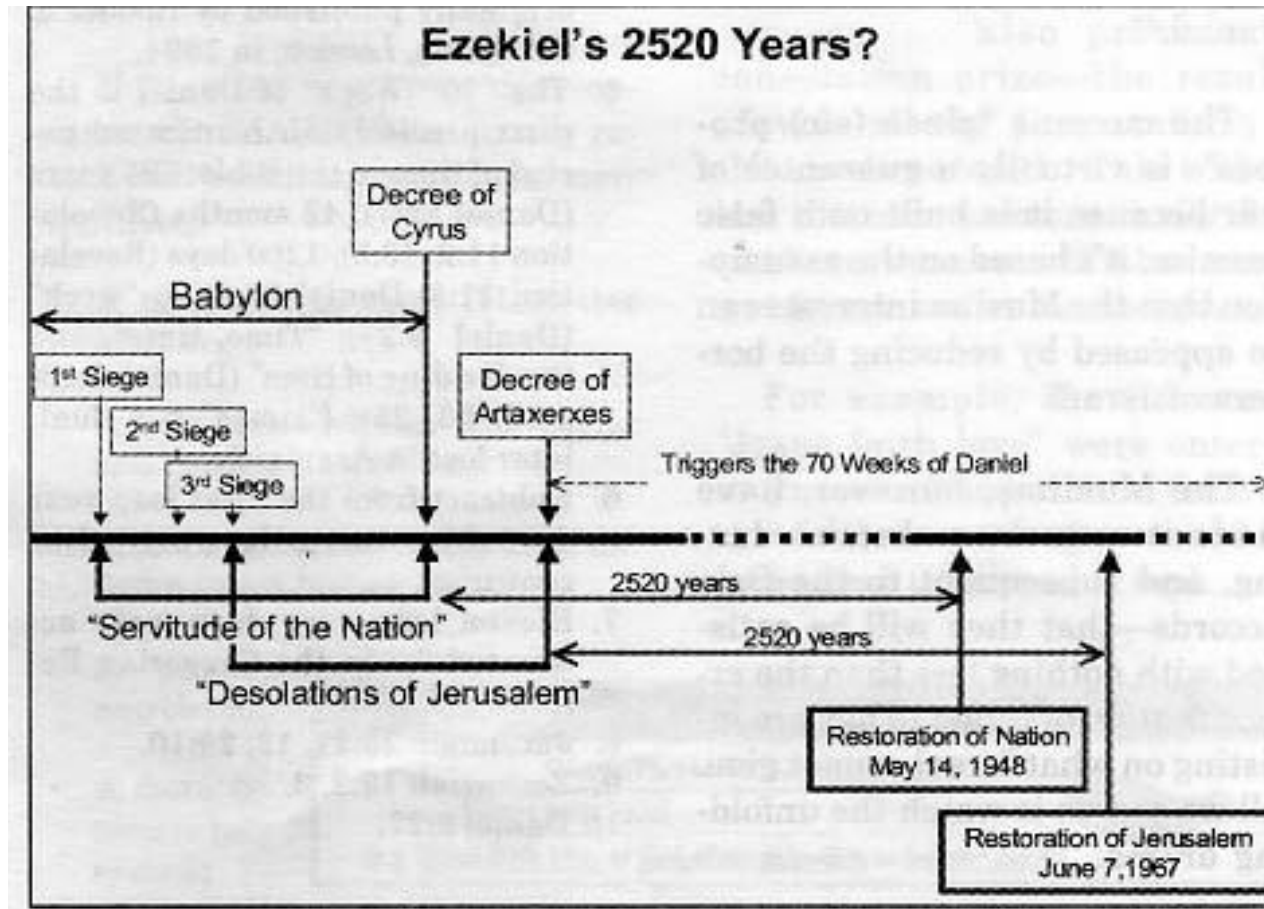
- 722 B.C. the Northern Kingdom is sacked by Shalmaneser. The Jews are deported to various parts of the Assyrian Empire.

- 606 B.C. Begins the “Servitude of the Nations” . Seventy years later some Jews are allowed to return home to rebuild the temple with Zerubbubel.
- 587 B.C. in the tenth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin. The final destruction of Jerusalem and Judah, Begins the “Desolations of Jerusalem. 70 years later more Jews are able to return and build the rest of the city. Daniel’s Seventy Weeks of Years.
- 537 B.C. A group of Jews return under Ezra return to the land and lay the foundation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple (70 years after the first deportation – Ezr. 1:1ff).
- 518 B.C. Temple is build, 70 years after the fall of Jerusalem (This triggers Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week - Dan. 9:24, 25).
- 3 B.C. Messiah is born in the 2<sup>nd</sup> commonwealth.
- 33 A.D. End of Daniel’s 69<sup>th</sup> Week, Messiah is cut off. Jesus dies and ascends into 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven at the Father’s right hand
- 66 A.D. Roman emperor Nero sends future emperors Vespasian and Titus to Judea to quell rebellion and warring factions (cp. Luke 21:20).
- 70 A.D. Jerusalem is put under siege and falls that same year. The Jews are dispersed to the four winds once again (Ezek. 5:10, 12; 12:14; 17:21).
- 132 A.D. the Bar Kokhba Rebelllion erupts and is put down. It was harshly put down by Emperor Hadrian personally. The last visages of Jewish culture are destroyed and the land is renamed Syria Palestina (*History of Israel*).
- 70 A.D. to 390 A.D. Roman Period. Very few Jews remain in Israel. Galilee becomes the center of Jewish worship. Mass influx of pagan gentiles.
- 390-634 A.D. Byzantine Period, due to a split in the Roman Empire. This time saw a huge migration of Christian pilgrims to holy sites in the region.
- 634-1099 A.D. Early Muslim Period. Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque built.
- 1099 – 1244 A.D. Crusader Period. Jews and Muslims massacred or sold into slavery.
- 1244 – 1291 A.D. Jerusalem is sacked by Khwarezmian Tatars who decimated Jerusalem’s Christian population, drove out the Jews and razed the city to the ground (again!).
- 1291 – 1517 A.D. Mamluk Period. The Mamluks were slaves/warriors who gained their independence from Egypt and ruled Palestine, fending off crusader outposts as well as the Mongol Invaders.
- 1517 – 1917 A.D. Ottoman Period. Palestine is conquered by the Turkish Sultan Selim I. The Turks hold on to the land of Israel until the end of WWI.
- 1920 – 1948 A.D. British Mandate of Palestine. Mass migration to Palestine.
- 1947 – 1948 A.D. The two state solution in Palestine ends up in civil war.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948: The Jewish Peoples’ Council proclaims Eretz Israel, the State of Israel.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> 1967: The Jews annex Eastern Jerusalem as part of their spoils in the Six Day War.

- V. Israel’s absence from the land resulted in a curse upon the land (Lev. 26:31-33; Jer. 18:16).
- A. The land lay mainly uncultivated while the Jews were out of Israel during their two dispersions.
  - B. The land was given 70 years of sabbatical rest during the Babylonian Captivity (II Chron. 36:20, 21).

- C. During the Second Dispersion, the land was uncultivated and was significantly lacking in agricultural growth. It was only with the return in 1948 that trees were planted again fields became fertile.
- VI. Observations Concerning the second and final Restoration
  - A. It is not due to +V as the 1<sup>st</sup> restoration was. Rather it is due to the “insults of the nations” (Ezek. 36:1-8, 13-15, 20-23; Jer. 30:17).
  - B. It begins with the Jews in unbelief (Ezek. 36:22, 32).
  - C. Physical restoration precedes spiritual restoration (Ezek. 36:24-30; 37:1ff).
  - D. The reestablishment of Israel is the “fig tree” which is the sign that the Rapture is on its way.
    - 1. Recall that the 2<sup>nd</sup> dispersion, 1<sup>st</sup> restoration and 2<sup>nd</sup> restoration all occur in a progressive pattern that occurs over a roughly 20 year period.
    - 2. The progressive period of reform occurs between May of 1948 and June of 1967).
    - 3. Those born during this period are the “fig tree generation” (Matt. 24:34).
  - E. The restoration consists of immigration from the nations (Jer. 16:14-16; Zech. 2:6, 7).
  - F. Christ will rule over the nation when the restoration is complete (Ezek. 34:23, 24; 36:8-11; Jer. 30:21).
  - G. Israel is here to stay and there will be no more dispersion.
  - H. Phases of the Final Restoration
    - 1. Pre-Rapture Phase: continued immigration from 1948 (and before) till the rapture event. Because the Jews are still in unbelief, they will NOT be raptured.
    - 2. Tribulation Phase
      - a. Immigration continues, especially from the United States (Rev. 18).
      - b. The Jews make a pact with Antichrist in the middle of the week (Dan. 9:27).
      - c. The period ends with the nation surrounded by gentile armies at the Battle of Armageddon (Jer. 50:8; Dan. 11:1ff).
      - d. At the very end, Jesus returns to fight for Israel and vanquishes all of her enemies (Rev. 19:11ff).
    - 3. Millennial Phase: The whole house of Israel dwells safely under the New Covenant with Jesus and the 12 apostles ruling over her (Jer. 31:31-34; Luke 22:30).
- VII. Additional Observations
  - A. Divine Discipline follows the Jews among the nations (Lev. 26:33, 36-39; Psal. 44:11)
  - B. Dispersion/captivity does not mean destruction of the Jewish people as God has promised He must keep to the Jews.
  - C. Psalms dealing with the dispersion (Psal. 44:9-26; 74; 79; 80; 85; 107).

## Diagram of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dispersion and Two Restorations of Israel.



**First Siege:** 606 B.C. Begins the "Servitude of the Nations" . 70 years later some Jews are allowed to return home to rebuild the temple with Zerubbubel.

**Second Siege:** 597 B.C. Ezekiel and 10,000 Jews are deported along with King Jehoiachin.

**Third Siege:** 587 B.C. in the tenth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin. The final destruction of Jerusalem and Judah, Begins the "Desolations of Jerusalem. 70 years later more Jews are able to return and build the rest of the city. Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years.

Reviewed: 12/15/2025

### Works Cited:

*History of Israel* as posted on [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel)