

# A COVENANT WITH DEATH...

## Part IV

*The Mariners Tried it in Jonah's Day  
Man Is Trying It Today  
Antichrist Will Try It Yet Future  
BUT...*

By Arlen L. Chitwood

“And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it” (Isa. 28:18).

“And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them” (Jonah 1:12, 13).

Had those during Jonah's day believed the prophet, they would have reacted in a quite different manner than they did. They would have recognized that the prophet's words were not just his words but what God had to say about the matter. And, instead of trying to save the ship themselves — rowing hard to bring the ship to land, escaping what the storm could do in an open sea — they would have done what Jonah told them to do. They would have thrown him overboard, regardless of their understanding of the matter.

Christians today, of the same mindset as these mariners, contending for Israel's right to not only be in but remain in the land, *are doing EXACTLY the same thing that these mariners did in the type.* They are refusing to believe the Prophets, refusing

to believe what God has to say about the matter, attempting to solve problems apart from the Prophets, other than through the way God has clearly stated *matters MUST be carried out.*

*Jonah had to be removed from the ship and thrown out into the sea; Israel has to be removed from their land and driven back out among the nations.*

That's simply what God has to say about the matter, and Christians need to bring their thoughts on Israel in line with the Word of God rather than allowing their thoughts to remain in line with the mariner's thoughts during Jonah's day, along with the world's thoughts today.

To keep Jonah on board the ship, completely contrary to what the prophet had said, was *to prevent Jonah from fulfilling the very purpose for his calling.* It was to leave him in his unrepentant, running-from-God state, leaving the Gentiles in Nineveh without the Word of God and thus remaining separated from God and His blessings.

### From Type to Antitype

Moving this over into the antitype, dealing with Israel in the same respect as seen in the first chapter of Jonah, *a person would have to say EXACTLY the same thing about Israel as seen in this chapter.* That would be to say, contending for Israel's right to remain in the land (as many Christians see matters, never to be uprooted from their land again) is not only completely contrary to what the Prophets have written but such would also *prevent Israel from fulfilling the nation's calling as God's witness to the nations.* Exactly as seen in the type, it would leave Israel in their present unrepentant, running-from-God state, leaving the Gentile nations without the Word and thus remaining separated from God and His blessings.

And to say, as believed by many Christians, that Christ, at the time of His return, will deal with the Jewish people while still in the land relative to repentance and belief — allowing them to then fulfill their calling — is completely contrary to any Scripture dealing with the subject.

The type from the book of Jonah alone would quickly dispel any thoughts along these lines. The setting for the type is the coming Tribulation and beyond, with Jonah cast into the sea during the great storm (ch. 1), where God then deals with him, effecting correction (ch. 2a), with a repentant and restored Jonah then fulfilling his calling (chs. 2b, 3).

Accordingly, the antitype *CAN ONLY* have to do with the Jewish people during the Tribulation, during the great storm, being uprooted from their land and driven out among the Gentile nations with the remainder of world Jewry, where God will then deal with the whole house of Israel together. And, with Israel out among the Gentile nations, God will effect correction, with a repentant Jewish nation then fulfilling her calling.

God was not going to deal with Jonah on the ship, even though Gentiles were present, individuals who could provide the necessary persecution to allow matters to remain within God's previously established way that He brings about correction for disobedience of the Jewish people (Gentile persecution, either in or out of the land).

But, God couldn't deal with Jonah in this manner, for Jonah forms a type of Israel during the Tribulation. And *God has revealed (both in the O.T. and the N.T.) that He WILL NOT deal with Israel in this manner during the Tribulation* (if for no other reason, because of the type [*i.e.*, because of this one type alone God *CAN'T* allow the Gentiles to come into the land, subjugate and persecute the Jewish people after such a fashion that they are ultimately driven to the place of repentance while still in the land]).

*It WON'T happen for the simple reason that it CAN'T happen. God's Word is quite clear on the matter.*

According to Scripture, the Jewish people will be uprooted from their land in the middle of the Tribulation and driven back out among the nations, as Jonah in the type was cast from the ship into the sea.

*The type simply CAN'T show one thing in this respect and the antitype occur after another fashion.*

Types and antitypes must agree in all respects. The whole of the matter is really as simple as the type in Jonah allows it to be, which, in reality, is quite simple.

Stay with the type here, the types elsewhere, and you won't go wrong in the antitype(s). But depart from the type here, the types elsewhere, and...

### A Problem Confronting Christians Today

A nation has existed in the land of Israel since May 14, 1948 — *a nation and land which Christ left "desolate"* (Matt. 23:38); or, in the words of Matt. 12:44, *a house which Christ left "empty, swept, and garnished [i.e., put in order relative to its vacated state]"* — with the nation awaiting the man (*Antichrist*) whom God will use to bring all of it to AN APEX, and then to AN END.

And Israel's current status in this respect could only present a problem for Christians relative to Israel.

#### 1) The Problem

The problem surrounding the whole of the matter has to do with something which few Christians seem to understand at all. In fact, as previously seen, the vast majority of Christians have matters completely turned around, understanding the situation in an opposite respect to the way that it actually exists.

*As a result, many Christians today, unknowingly, actually find themselves more attuned to what can only form Antichrist's future "covenant with death" and "agreement with Sheol" than not.*

And this whole matter centers around how some 6,000,000 Jews, presently in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through an everlasting covenant — forming the present nation of Israel — are to be viewed.

That is, are the Jewish people which have progressively been streaming back into the land from all parts of the earth since May 14, 1948 (when Israel declared statehood) *a work of God, fulfilling either ALL or PART of His numerous Old Testament promises to one day bring this to pass?*

Or, is this *a work of man in a Zionist movement, completely apart from the fulfillment of ANY of God's Old Testament promises to one day bring this to pass* (though allowed by God and brought to pass under His sovereign control of all things in order to subsequently bring certain O.T. events to pass, which necessitate a nation existing in the land during the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week)?

#### 2) That Causing the Problem

*The Jewish people, through Zionistic efforts, have re-entered a house left desolate. The Jewish people, apart from repentance, apart from their Messiah, and apart from allowing Him to effect their restoration, have sought to emancipate themselves from exile, return to their homeland in this manner, and resume Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel.*

*And, as previously seen, they have done this while ignoring the fact that the complete house has been left "desolate," "empty, swept, and garnished" (the people, their city [Jerusalem, which would include the Temple Mount], and their land).*

And by doing this, through man's efforts, before the time, *the Jewish people have guaranteed that God's reaction to that which has been done, resulting in His impending actions, will be multiplied SEVENFOLD.*

*The furnace will be heated SEVEN times hotter than it would have been — in this case, judgments during the coming Tribulation will be multiplied SEVENFOLD above what they would have been — had the Jewish people remained out among the nations where God had driven them (cf. Lev. 26:18-31; Dan. 3:17-25; Matt. 12:43-45).*

Resultingly, *coupled with untold sufferings, two-thirds of the earth's Jewish population will perish during this time* (some 9,000,000 by today's count).

#### 3) The Only Possible Answer to the Problem

That which has been occurring in the Middle East since May 14, 1948 *CANNOT possibly be God restoring His people to their land in accordance with ANY Old Testament prophecy bearing on the subject,*

and showing this is *a very simple matter* if one remains solely within Scriptural guidelines.

And, with an open Bible, in one respect, it is amazing that any Christian would miss it; but, in another respect, because of the manner in which the vast majority of Christians view Scripture these days, particularly the types, the status quo in this respect is quite understandable.

There are a number of clearly delineated reasons *why it would be quite impossible for God to presently be restoring the Jewish people to their land in fulfillment of ANY of His numerous promises to do so.* Or, to state that another way, there are a number of clearly delineated reasons *why God would be acting completely contrary to His Word — an impossibility — if He is presently restoring the Jewish people in accordance with ANY of His Old Testament promises to do so.*

#### 4) Befriending the Jewish People Today

How can Christians and others presently befriend the Jewish people but yet not give credence to that which they have done, *i.e., befriend the Jewish people but, at the same time, not have a part in helping Israel continue attempting to circumnavigate God's plans and purposes for the nation?*

Answering the question should be simple enough for anyone, bearing in mind that God is not going to promise a blessing for proper treatment of the Jewish people (Gen. 12:1-3; Matt. 25:31ff) — not only those Jews in the Middle East but also those scattered among the nations (*the WHOLE house of Israel*) — and then place these individuals, or even nations, in a position where they cannot do so.

How does a person befriend anyone, yet remain separate from their actions, whether right or wrong? The answer regarding befriending the Jewish people is the same.

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