

Christ in Prophecy

Israel 32: The Birth of Israel

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Opening

Dr. Reagan: The greatest miracle of the 20th Century was one that clearly signaled that we are living in the season of the Lord's return when He will reign over this world for a thousand years from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. What was that great miracle? Stay tuned.

Part 1

Dr. Reagan: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Blessed Hope, and welcome to Christ in Prophecy. I want to talk with you about the greatest miracle of the 20th Century. It was a miracle that had been prophesied over 2,600 years ago in the Hebrew Scriptures. Can you guess what it was? There were a lot of very important events that occurred in the 20th Century, and a number of them could be considered miraculous in nature. A few that come to mind are: The first flight of a powered airplane in December of 1903. The First World War, fought from 1914 to 1918. The first trans-Atlantic flight in May of 1927. The discovery in 1928 of penicillin, the first antibiotic. The Great Depression from 1929 to 1939. The development of the first electronic computer in 1940. The Second World War from 1939 to 1945. The explosion of the first atomic bomb in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. The launch of television broadcasting in the 1950's. The launch of the first space satellite in October 1957. The first manned space flight in April 1961. The first man to land on the moon in July 1969. The collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991. The formation of the European Union in November of 1993. Public access to the Internet in 1995. And finally, the Resurgence of Islam as an international threat. Which of these events would you select as the greatest miracle of the 20th Century? Well, I personally would not select any of them. I believe there was an event in the 20th Century that was more miraculous than all of these events put together. It occurred on May the 14th 1948, and I am referring, of course, to the re-establishment of the nation of Israel.

Part 2

Dr. Reagan: In 1948 I was only 10 years old, and I had grown up in a church that never taught Bible prophecy, so I had no idea of the importance of the event that occurred on May 14th of that year, nor did anyone in my family. But there were many Evangelical Christians who did recognize its importance. The event I am talking about is, of course, the re-establishment of the nation of Israel. Think for a moment about how impossible this event seemed to be. For over 2,000 years the Jewish people had been scattered from their homeland, living in nations all over the world, and being severely persecuted wherever they lived. And even though the Bible clearly prophesied that in the end times the Jewish people would be regathered to their homeland and their state would be reestablished, Christians tended to spiritualize these prophecies and claim that they did not mean what they said.

One of these prophecies can be found in Ezekiel 37. The Lord put Ezekiel in the middle of a valley of dry bones and then told him to preach to the bones. As he did so, the bones began to

come alive and start moving and flesh started growing on the bones. Before long, Ezekiel had a great army of people standing before him. Needless to say, Ezekiel was absolutely astonished by this vision, and wanted to know what it meant. Here's how the Lord explained it to him, "The Lord said, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say," the Jewish people "'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.'" So, what is the Lord saying here? He is telling Ezekiel that although the Jewish people may feel like they have been cut off from God, that is not true. The Lord still cares for them and one day He intends to open the nations, their graves, where they have been scattered and bring them back to their homeland. And notice that he specifically identifies the homeland. He doesn't call it Canaan Land, He doesn't call it Palestine or Zion. No, in verse 12 He calls it the land of Israel, which is the name the Jews gave the land when they re-established their nation on May 14th 1948. Another prophecy about the re-establishment of Israel, and one of my favorites is a symbolic prophecy that is found in Isaiah 66 verses 7&8. It reads as follows: Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?

This prophecy says that the nation of Israel would one day be re-established, and like a woman who gives birth before she has any pains, the nation's birth pains will occur after it comes back into being. And folks that is exactly what happened. The modern state of Israel came into existence on May 14th, 1948, and the very next day, the birth pains began as five Arab nations attacked. And the birth pains have continued to this day with war after war. The War of Independence of 1948 & 49 was followed by The Suez War of 1956. Then came The Six Day War of 1967, The Yom Kippur War in 1973, The Lebanese War in 1982, The First Intifada or Arab Uprising from 1987 to 1993, The First Gulf War of 1990 & 1991, The Second Intifada from 2000 to 2005, The Hezbollah War of 2006, The First Gaza War with Hamas in 2009, The Second Gaza War in 2012, And the Third Gaza War in 2014. War, after war, after war and Israel has miraculously survived all of them, and it will continue to do so because of a promise in God's Word found in Zechariah 12:6 it reads, "In that day [the end times] I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples."

Part 3

Dr. Reagan: Now, with that background, let's take a closer look at how the state of Israel actually came into being. And for that story, let's go to Independence Hall in Tel Aviv.

Presentation at Independence Hall in Tel Aviv

Dr. Reagan: I would like to begin by looking at a Bible verse that is in Isaiah 66 that has to do with what happened here in this room. Isaiah chapter 66 there are many, many prophecies in the Bible concerning the re-gathering of the Jewish people and the reestablishment of the state. In fact there are more prophecies in the Old Testament about the regathering of the people and the reestablishment of the state than any other topic. It is the most prolific prophecies in the Old Testament. Just over, and over, and over, God is going to regather the Jewish people in the end times in unbelief and their state will be reestablished.

The reason I'm going to read you this one is because it's really my favorite. It's a symbolic prophecy, its put in symbolic terms but those terms are very, very descriptive. Isaiah 66 beginning with verse 7, "Before she was in labor, she gave birth. Before her pain came, she delivered a male child. Who has ever heard of such a thing?" You ever hear of somebody give birth to a child and then have the labor pains afterwards? "Who has seen such a thing? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Shall a nation be born all at once?" Well that's what happened. In one day the nation was reborn here in the city of Tel Aviv in this place right her, and the birth pains began the next day when five Arab nations attacked. And the birth pains have continued to this day. First was the War of Independence in '48 and '49. Then came the Suez War in 1956. Then came the Six Day War in 1967. Then came the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Then came the two Arab Intifadas, the first Gulf War. It's just been war, after war, after war, the most recent one being the War with Hezbollah and then the War with Hamas.

And now everything is gathering for the great war. The next one's probably going to be the great one as the Arab nations close in and try to take Jerusalem. So, and it's going to be the most destructive war for Israel because in the past I would even bring groups over here during wars because it was very safe. But that would not be true in the future because the future war is going to be a missile war. Thousands of missiles are going to come in here. They are going to come from Iraq, Iran, they are going to come from the north, Hezbollah, they are going to come from the south, from Hamas and there just going to be raining down like rain. And so it's going to be a very, very serious time and the people here in Tel Aviv are the ones that are most subject. This is the focal point; this is where they're going to focus the missiles because they are afraid if they shoot into Jerusalem they may end up with a missile hitting the Dome of the Rock. Which I think would be very appropriate, but nonetheless they don't want that to happen.

So anyway with that Scripture in mind let's talk a moment about what happened here. When we get to Jerusalem we're going to go to Mt. Herzl Cemetery and we're going to see the centerpiece of that cemetery is the tomb of this man Theodore Herzl. And we'll talk more about him when we get there. All I want to say right now about him is that he was a Hungarian Jew who lived in Austria. He wanted to be a playwright but never made it, but he was a writer, and he was a great intellectual, he was an egomaniac in fact hardly anybody could get along with him. But he was a man who had a vision for the Jewish people to go back to their homeland. And in 1896 he wrote a book called, "The Jewish State." It wasn't really a book, it was a booklet in which he said, "It's time to go back home." He had a--I'll talk about this more at his tomb it had premonition of the Holocaust coming. He said, "It's time to go back home. We must go back to our homeland."

There were only two people in the entire US government who favored the creation of the State of Israel. One was the President, Harry Truman, the other was his right-hand man, his counselor, his private lawyer rather his personal lawyer and that was Clark Clifford. Clark Clifford favored it because he was a Bible student and he believed that the Jewish people needed to come back to their homeland. Harry Truman favored it because he was a Bible student. I don't know how much you know about Harry Truman he was a remarkable person. You can look at this and see God's hand orchestrating Harry Truman into this position because prior to Harry Truman the Vice President of the United States had been Henry Wallace who FDR just dropped summarily and said I want Harry Truman to be the next Vice President. Henry Wallace turned out to be an extreme Socialist, a Communist sympathizer, an extreme liberal.

So anyway God orchestrated that. Harry Truman comes in FDR doesn't even know Harry Truman they met maybe one time. Harry Truman was not informed of anything when he

became President, he didn't even know there was an atomic bomb, they had to call him in and tell him that because FDR had never shared that with him. So Harry Truman is in the position. Now here's an interesting thing about Harry watch how God orchestrates this, first He orchestrates for Harry Truman to be President. Second, Harry Truman was a child prodigy; he was reading at age three. By the time he started school at age six he had already read the Bible two times. He was a member of a family that was devote Christians they were Baptists. And he knew the Bible backwards and forwards by the time he started school. He was a guy who almost had a photographic memory. I used to teach a course on the presidency and every year when the course was over we would go to Independence, Missouri and we would meet with President Truman. We did this many times this was after he was President. And you could ask him about any President of the United States, any President anything, "How many children did he have?" "What was his wife's name?" It was like a--it was just unbelievable he was a walking encyclopedia of the history of the Presidents of the United States.

So God's orchestrating this, He puts him in as Vice President, He has a man who knows the Bible. But they were the only two, everybody else in the US Government was not only opposed they were overwhelmingly opposed to the establishment of the State of Israel. The Joint Chiefs of Staff had a special meeting they came to the President and said, "Mr. President, we voted unanimously, no Jewish State." And you know what the argument was? It was the same argument you hear today, very same one, if you recognize a Jewish State it will cut off our access to Arab oil. The most important thing in the Middle East is access to Arab oil we must have access, we must placate the Arabs. Don't worry about the Jews, the Arabs will destroy them overnight any way. But Truman wouldn't make any commitment, he wouldn't say one way or another he just listened.

Now more important than the Joint Chiefs of Staff were two other people, one was the Secretary of Defense who was a very renowned man and he was totally opposed and he was telling the President, "Do not recognize Israel." But the most important person was General Marshall, George C. Marshall, Truman worshiped at his feet, He idolized the man. He was the leader of the United States Forces in World War II. Most people think it was Eisenhower. No, Eisenhower was a field commander. The person who was in charge of all US Military Forces and all US strategy in World War II was General George C. Marshall. So valuable to FDR that FDR would never allow him to go into the field for fear he might be killed. General Marshall had become Secretary of State and he gave a famous speech I believe it was at Harvard University right after he became Secretary of State and said, "We must rebuild Europe it's lying in ruins. The Communist will take over, all kinds of radical groups unless we go in and rebuild. We've got to provide them aid to rebuild." And the Marshall Plan was born. And that Marshall Plan rebuilt Europe. And as a result of that he was given the Noble Peace Prize. He was given the Man of the Year in 1947 on the front of "Time Magazine." The Man of the Year, this was the man that Harry Truman idolized. And General Marshall came to Truman and he said, "Under no condition are you to recognize Israel." And he was Secretary of State at that time. Truman hated the State Department if you've ever read his writings he always referred to them as the "guys in fancy stripped pants." "The guys in the fancy stripped pants," that's how he referred to the State Department, they're a bunch of intellectuals who don't have any common sense is the way he referred to them. But he really idolized General Marshall and General Marshall said, "You will not recognize the State of Israel."

So there's tremendous debate going on but God was preparing Harry Truman's heart. Not only had he put him in that position. Not only had he given him this ability to read and he knew the Bible backwards and forwards. But something else happened, this is really amazing you can see God's hand in this.

When Harry Truman became a soldier in World War I and went to Europe guess who became his very best bosom buddy? A guy by the name of Eddie Jacobs a Jewish man from Independence, Missouri. This was a time when Jews were spit upon and hated in the United States like blacks were. And yet he became Harry Truman's best friend and was his best friend for the rest of his life. In fact when World War I was over they came back and the two of them opened a haberdashery shop and sold men's clothing together. And for the rest of his life that was his best friend. So God puts as his best friend a Jewish man. He gives him as his right hand council Clark Clifford who believed in the Jewish destiny. So He is just surrounding him with these people like it's a fence around him while the rest of the US Government is saying, "No, no, no, no."

On May the 12th, 1948 the Jews were going to make their declaration on the 14th. On May the 12th there was a meeting at the White House, incredible meeting, George Marshall said I want to bring my staff and we want to meet with you Mr. President and we're going to tell you all the reasons why you should not recognize the State of Israel. He came with a large staff and one of them was appointed to present the argument to the President. This fellow got up he presented this long argument to the President about all the reasons why the President should not recognize the State of Israel. And then when he sat down the President said, "Ok, Mr. Clifford would you speak." And Clark Clifford got up and started speaking and General Marshall stood up and said, "Why is this political hack speaking at this meeting?" Because that is what he considered Clark Clifford to be nothing but a political hack. He said, "This is the State Department I want to ask you Mr. President why is this man even at this meeting?" And the President said, "Because I invited him." And Marshall sat down. Clark Clifford continued, he gave his entire talk why it should be recognized. George Marshall was sitting there steaming and when he finished his speech Marshall said something that absolutely astounded everyone in the room. I mean to this day it's hard to believe that he said this. He said, "Mr. President I won't argue about this anymore I have only one thing to say." Now this is in front of a lot of witnesses, "If you recognize the State of Israel I will vote for your opponent on Election Day." The people over there said they just were so astounded they just sat in absolute silence, nobody could believe that he spoke to the President that way. You see the election was coming up in November of 1948. Finally they said it seemed like an eternity and the President said, "You know I think the best thing for all of us to do is to go home and get a good night's rest, and think about this," and they all left.

The next morning May 13, the Secretary of State called the President he said, "Mr. President I thought about it." And he said, "Here's where I am. I am still totally opposed to it, but if you recognize the State of Israel I will not speak one contrary word. I will be silent and I will not speak out against your decision, the decision is yours." Still nobody knew for sure how he was going to decide. Meanwhile while all that was going on Eddie Jacobson called the President and he said, "Mr. President you've been in office since 1945 and I've never once asked anything of you. I want to come to Washington, D.C. and meet with you personally." He had never done that. He came to Washington, D.C. he meet with the President he said, "Mr. President I believe that when you were in your father's loins that God anointed you to recognize the State of Israel. I've never asked anything of you I want to ask you to recognize the State of Israel." He said, "I think this is of God," and he left. Well there was Truman in the midst of all this. The next day on May the 14th, 1948, David Ben-Gurion stood up here and he read the Declaration of Independence and 11 minutes later Harry Truman signed the short document saying that he recognized the State of Israel, and armaments began to flow to Israel. And that is the reason that Harry Truman is considered such a great person here in the State of Israel, with statues of him all over the place, because he is considered to be the Savior of Israel on that day because

the next morning they were attacked by five Arab nations. I want us to pause here for a moment and I'll come back and I want to ask Gary Fisher to come up. And I want to ask Gary to read from the Declaration of Independence.

Gary Fisher: In the land of Israel the Jewish people came into being. In this Land would shape their spiritual, religious, and national character. Here they lived in sovereign independence. Here they created a culture of national and universal import, and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books. Exiled by force, still the Jewish people kept faith with their Land, in all the countries of their dispersion, steadfast in their prayer and hope to return and here revive their political freedom. Fired by this attachment of history and tradition, the Jews in every generation strove to renew their roots in the ancient Homeland, and in recent generations they came home in their multitudes. Veteran pioneers and defenders, and new comers braving blockades, they made the wilderness bloom, revived their Hebrew tongue, and built villages and towns. They founded a thriving society, of its own economy and culture, pursuing peace but able to defend itself, bringing the blessing of progress to all the inhabitants of the Land, dedicated to the attainment of sovereign independence. In 1897 the first Zionist Congress met the call of Theodore Herzl, seer of the vision of the Jewish State gave public voice to the right of the Jewish people to national restoration of their land. The right was acknowledged in the Balfour Declaration on 2nd of November 1917, and confirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations, which accorded international validity to the historical connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, and to their right to re-establish their National Home. The holocaust that in time destroyed millions of Jews in Europe again proved beyond doubt the compelling need to solve the problem of Jewish homelessness and dependence by the renewal of the Jewish State in the Land of Israel, which would happen wide the gates, open wide the gates of the Homeland to every Jew and endow the Jewish people with the status of a nation with the equality of rights within the family of nations. It is the natural right of the Jewish people, like any other people, to control their own destiny in their sovereign State. Accordingly, we, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in the land of Israel and the Zionist Movement, have assembled in the day of the termination of the British mandate for Palestine and, by virtue of our natural and historic right, and the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, do hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in the land of Israel- the State of Israel.

Part 4

Dr. Reagan: So the State was established, Harry Truman recognized it, arms began to flow, five Arab nations attack and the Israeli's were able to survive until this day. But that doesn't end the story following that was a national election coming up in November of 1948. Harry Truman had no chance of winning the election, none whatsoever. The Democrat Party split three ways, Harry Truman received the nomination of the Democrats. Strom Thurmond pulled out of the party and formed what was called the Dixiecrat Party which composed all the southern states; a party that was in charge of favor of state's rights and segregation. And Henry Wallace the Socialist formed the Progressive Party and all of the Socialist Democrats and Liberal Democrats pulled out and they supported him. The Democrat Party split three ways. The Republicans united under the very handsome and charismatic Governor of New York, Tom Dewey. Truman had so little chance of being elected that many newspapers printed their headlines in advance, "Dewey Defeats Truman." You've probably seen the famous picture of Truman holding up one of those papers. Through the astonishment of everyone including Harry Truman he was re-elected. It was the greatest upset in the history of American politics, no Presidential Election like it since then or before. And how he won nobody knows. But God says in His word, to those who bless Israel I will bless them and to those who curse Israel I will curse them. And He blessed Harry Truman for the decision he made. Why should this be of any significance to us? Simply because God fulfilled a promise that He made thousands of years ago in this room. And He's

made a lot of promises to His Church, a lot of promises. And every time I see Him fulfilling a promise to the Jewish people; the regathering from the four corners of the earth, the re-establishment of their State, the revival of their language, the re-occupation of the City of Jerusalem. When I see all these things happening I know God is going to be faithful to fulfill every promise He has made to you and me, and we can praise Him for that.

Closing

Dr. Reagan: And so you have it the miraculous story of how God fulfilled His ancient promise to one day re-establish the nation of Israel. Well folks, I hope this program has been a blessing to you, and I hope you will be back with us again next week. Until then, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb & Lion Ministries, saying, "Look up, be watchful, for our Redemption is drawing near."

End of Program