

**Study 43: The Song of Moses, Part 6 Deuteronomy 28-32**

We studied the beginning of Israel as a nation, and now we're looking at what Scripture calls the "last days," or "time of the end." What do you think these terms mean?

Because of the unfortunate translation of the King James Version, many people assume they are speaking of the end of the physical universe. However, the Greek word that the KJV rendered "world" is *αιων* (pronounced like "I own"), and means "age."

So, what made Israel "Israel"? How did it become a nation? To be an "Israelite," was it necessary that a person be a descendant of Abraham? We know this was not the case, as it was a "mixed multitude" that came out of Egypt (Ex 12:38). Toward the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry:

...he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham [Matt 3:7-9; also Luke 3:7-8].

John was saying that descent from Abraham was *not* what was important. What made Israel a nation was the *covenant* they had with God. When the Bible speaks of the "end times," or "last days," it is referring not to the physical universe, but to the *covenant*. The **Mosaic** covenant, that is. God had promised through the prophet Jeremiah to provide a "new covenant" for His people:

**Jer 31** 31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord,  
 "when I will make a new covenant  
 with the people of Israel  
 and with the people of Judah.  
 32 It will not be like the covenant  
 I made with their ancestors  
 when I took them by the hand  
 to lead them out of Egypt,  
 because they broke my covenant,  
 though I was a husband to them,"  
 declares the Lord.  
 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
 after that time," declares the Lord.  
 "I will put my law in their minds  
 and write it on their hearts.  
 I will be their God,  
 and they will be my people.  
 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
 or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'  
 because they will all know me,  
 from the least of them to the greatest,"  
 declares the Lord.  
 "For I will forgive their wickedness  
 and will remember their sins no more."

So, it is covenant that makes Israel, Israel. And since the Old (Mosaic) Covenant has *ended*, Israel is now founded on the *New* Covenant. The apostle Paul wrote:

**Rom 9** 6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. 7 Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 8 In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. [...] 30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way

of righteousness, have not attained their goal. 32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. 33 As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall,  
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame. ”

We left off at:

**Deut 32 42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood,  
while my sword devours flesh:  
the blood of the slain and the captives,  
the heads of the enemy leaders.”**

**Luke 21:22-24** “For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”<sup>1</sup>

**Deut 32 43** Rejoice, you nations, with his people  
[and let all the angels worship him],<sup>2</sup>  
for he will **avenge the blood of his servants;**  
**he will take vengeance on his enemies**  
**and make atonement for his land and people.**

**Rev 6:10** [The martyred saints] called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

---

<sup>1</sup> **Rev 11:2** But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

<sup>2</sup> Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint).