

Biblical Example of Areas of Refuge and Prophetic Encouragement

March 9th 2023

I. Biblical Foundation

- A. We are instructed to test prophetic utterances by the Word, by the witness of the Spirit, as well as the testimony of the three-fold witness. I believe that we have an extreme abundance of the latter two tests of the validity of prophetic utterance. With this in mind, I would like to submit what I believe to be clear scriptural truths concerning the Lord's leadership in raising up areas of refuge as well as caring for persecuted Jews in times of crisis, culminating at the end of the age.
- B. Major Themes - There is a five-fold strategy laid out in the scriptures concerning how God restores His chosen people back to Himself when they go astray. This is the historical narrative in scripture as well as the prophesied future strategy that will cause all of Israel to be saved and culminate in a cry for the return of Jesus.
 - 1. Stirs up or allows Persecution - Historically and prophetically, God brings the persecution to His people in their land and in the city of Jerusalem. From there, He scatters them into the wilderness. (Scattered by Assyria and Babylon; Intertestamental and 70 AD Roman scattering)
 - 2. Causes them to go into the Wilderness - Biblically, the wilderness is always a foreign land belonging to the Gentile nations. It is through this uprooting and instability that He is able to speak to them and draw them back to Himself. (Exodus to the Promised Land; Military Scattering referenced above)
 - 3. Brings Supernatural Provision/Protection - The difficulty of the wilderness demands leaning upon Him supernaturally to provide. He does this through two primary means. Supernatural love and provision by Gentile individuals, and dynamic heavenly wonders of nourishment and protection. (Wilderness Care; Protection and provision in Egypt, Babylon, Maccabean History; Preservation of the Jews as a culture and people from AD 70 until 1948)
 - 4. Causes them to Turn - Through the shaking there is a corresponding turning as revelation of His truth activity is seen through supernatural provision. This process restores the internal identity and heart and then proves and refines it. This turning process is both initiated and completed in the wilderness of the gentile nations that they are driven into. (40 Years in the Wilderness; 70 Years in Babylon)

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5. Stops the Persecution and Restores Them to Their Land - Once this process is complete, God wages war upon the enemies of His people that are brought the persecution and restores them back to their land. This final piece of the process is always a supernatural sign and wonder that goes forth to the Gentile nations to declare who God is and who His people are. (Cyrus Decree; Macabean Restoration; Truman Decree)

C. Last days Indications - Not only do we have an extremely clear pattern of Gods past dealings with His people, I believe we have just as much clarity concerning his future and ultimate eschatological dealing of His people that will cause the entire nation of Israel to be saved and dwell in their land in peace and safety forever.

1. Persecution - There are multiple passages that speak clearly of a coming future time of worldwide persecution for the Jewish people. We have seen, and will continue to see, partial fulfillment through the “spirit of the antichrist”. Complete fulfillment will happen at the hands of the embodied antichrist at the end of the age as he strikes at the heart of the city of Jerusalem and stirs up world-wide Satanic rage against God's people and anyone who stands with or supports them. (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 11-12:1; Mat. 24:15-21; Rev. 12-13)
2. Flee into the Wilderness - The scriptures speak of a fleeing that will be supernaturally aided to hide God's people from the world-wide persecution. This preserves a remnant through the entirety of the ultimate time of persecution that will come upon them. (Rev. 12:5-17; Mat. 23:15-22; Jer. 29:14, 46:28)
3. Supernatural Provision/Protection - God promises that He will supernaturally care for and protect His people in the wilderness of the Gentile nations. This provision preserves a remnant through the entirety of ultimate time of persecution that will come upon them. (Rev. 12:5-17; Eze. 20:35-41; Hos. 2:13-18; Ps. 107)
4. Causes them to Turn - During the wilderness season, God will speak comfort to them and cause them to turn through the forerunner voices who will provide for them and lay down their lives in love for them. This is a provocation of the Gentiles who will serve as the primary instruments of God's protection and provision. (Is. 40:3; Rom. 11:11-36)

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5. Stops Persecution and Restores them to their Land - The prophetic scriptures clearly speak of the ending of the season of persecution that is initiated by Jesus Himself as He returns to the earth, wages war upon the Antichrist, and supernaturally brings back all of Israel to the city of Jerusalem, and allots their land back to them in peace and safety forever. (Jer. 16:14-21, 23:5-8)

II. Prophetic History of Restoration Fellowship and Pagosa Springs (Short List)

1992 - A friend of a member of the church family went to Israel and was told by many people there (mostly Messianic Jews) that they had been receiving words, dreams, and visions from the Lord regarding “escape routes” around the world. She saw some of these maps of routes that had been drawn up. She said before this she had never heard of Pagosa Springs, but on one of the maps she saw the name. There is coming a time a great upheaval in this nation and around the world and many will seek refuge in “cities of refuge” established by the Lord to protect his people. She was told there would be children, young people, Jews, and peoples from every nation taking refuge in cities set apart by God. Pagosa Springs will be one of those cities.

2004 - Name changed to Restoration Fellowship (All that was lost, neglected, forgotten, or stolen). First Cleansing Stream retreat in Pagosa. Really strong sense to pray for the “Peace of Jerusalem” and we displayed the Palestinian and Israeli flag next to each other as a prophetic symbol of the promise of God, Isaac and Ishmael coming together.

2009 - “Vision of Angel Army”. God has anointed Restoration Fellowship to be a hub over this city and Pagosa the hub between the San Luis Valley and Cortez. God has placed you to be a "safe place," a "place of refuge," and as an "underground railroad" depot or weigh station. The Lord stressed how important it is to prepare for tough times ahead. The Lord is going to raise R.F. up as forerunners, a strong and fervent Zionist friend of Israel and Jews to help lead the church in their city into its destiny.

2012 - City of Refuge for Israel week (July 27th)— The Lord uses the prayer room leadership and 3 different Individuals from different places and ministries to speak to us and confirm that Pagosa is to be a city of Refuge for Israel.

July 30th 2012 - The Lord is preparing an underground railroad for persecuted Jews. Pagosa Springs will be part of this network of areas of Refuge. At the center of every area of refuge must be a Prayer Room, a place dedicated to personal intimacy with Jesus. The prayer room will be the place where the city receives insight from the Lord during the time of great crisis that is coming. People will be in great need of emotional, spiritual, and physical healing and Rest.

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2018 July - Dan Juster - This church is uniquely called to be mature in their understanding of standing with Israel. God told us to come here because you are going to hold forth something in this city and in this state of Colorado that is mature and balanced about having a connection to Israel in a way that will be helpful to many people.

2018 September - Local Youth Pastor in Pagosa - "In the dream I was on a bus somewhere on the coast of South America and the bus was filled with Jews who were being trafficked as slaves. I was overwhelmed with grief in knowing the certain suffering and violence that awaited them upon arriving at our destination. I started to contend with the bus driver for their freedom and was willing to sell all I had in order to buy them from him. I knew that if only I could get them to Pagosa they would be safe."

2019 March - A member of our city government came to my office recently to share with me some emails he had received from random individuals that he was struggling to understand. He told me he knew that we believe in prophecies and wanted to know what I thought of them. The emails all were telling him that God had shown them that Pagosa was to be an area of refuge and healing for lost, broken, and hurting people in need of rest. They were encouraging him and other city officials to be ready to receive such people.

2019 June – Allen Hood He gave me a three-part answer. First – for a season of waiting on God. Second – To bring the message of the return of Jesus for His bride to the mission's movement. Third – Colorado has some kind of unique assignment to stand with Israel in the last days.

2019 July - Jonathan from Texas – Two weeks ago we finished up a 6 part teaching series entitled "Upholding a Culture of Freedom". In the final session of the series I exhorted us to uphold a culture of freedom because of the prophetic destiny of the city to be an area of refuge for hurting people. The next day we had a visitor at the church who asked to meet with me. He told me his name was Jonathan and that he believed the Lord had shown him some things concerning our church and our city. He told me that starting in 2015 the Lord began to call him to the place of corporate prayer and worship and started to show him things concerning a great time of crisis and persecution for Jews and Christians that would stand with them that was coming to America. The Lord started showing him various zones of sanctuary that He was raising up to shelter His people during this great time of persecution.