

**Vicarious Sacrifice: The Jewish Diaspora: Hooker's "Ancient Jewish History: The Diaspora"; the Lord's Regathering of Israel Occurs in the Millennium: Isa 5:26; 11:11–16; 14:1–2; Joel 2:18–29; Zech 12, 14; Sons of Hagar Will Always Persecute Sons of Abraham; Zionophobia: Definition; the Balfour Declaration; the Tanakh Contains Prophecies that Inform Israelites about the Future Regathering in the Millennium; the Pauline Prophecy of the Rapture of the Church, 1 Cor 15:51**

- (8) In August of A.D. 70, the Jewish nation suffered its last fifth cycle of discipline. All that survived the siege of Jerusalem by Titus and his army were dispersed throughout the Roman Empire.
- (9) This dispersion is referred to by the Greek verb **διασπείρω (diaspeirō)**: "to be scattered, spread about, dispersed."
- (10) The English term is Diaspora \dī-as'-pa-ra\ and with this definition:

**Diaspora: the dispersion of Jews beyond Israel. The main diaspora began in the 8th–6th centuries BC, and even before the sack of Jerusalem in AD 70, the number of Jews dispersed by the diaspora was greater than that living in Israel. Thereafter Jews were dispersed even more widely throughout the Roman world and beyond.**

**Origin: Greek from *día* 'across' + *speirein* 'scatter.' The term originated in the Septuagint (Deuteronomy 28:25) in the phrase [ ἔση διασπορά ἐν πάσαις βασιλείαις τῆς γῆς ] *esē diaspora en pasais basileias tēs gēs* 'thou shalt be a dispersion in all kingdoms of the earth.'<sup>1</sup>**

### **Ancient Jewish History: The Diaspora<sup>2</sup>**

The Jewish state comes to an end in 70 AD, when the Romans begin to actively drive Jews from the home they had lived in for over a millennium. But the Jewish Diaspora ("diaspora" = "dispersion, scattering") had begun long before the Romans had even dreamed of Judaea. When the Assyrians conquered Israel in 722, the Hebrew inhabitants were scattered all over the Middle East; these early victims of the dispersion disappeared utterly from the pages of history. However, when Nebuchadnezzar deported the Judaeans in 597 and 586 BC, he allowed them to remain in a unified community in Babylon. Another group of Judaeans fled to Egypt, where they settled in the Nile delta. So from 597 onwards, there were three distinct groups of Hebrews: a group in Babylon and other parts of the Middle East, a group in Judaea, and another group in Egypt. Thus, 597 is considered the beginning date of the Jewish Diaspora. While Cyrus the Persian allowed the Judaeans to return to their homeland in 538 BC, most chose to remain in Babylon. A large number of Jews in Egypt became mercenaries in Upper Egypt on

<sup>1</sup> *The New Oxford American Dictionary*, s.v. "diaspora."

<sup>2</sup> The Hebrews: A Learning Module from Washington State University, ©Richard Hooker, reprinted by permission.

an island called the Elephantine.<sup>3</sup> All of these Jews retained their religion, identity, and social customs; both under the Persians and the Greeks, they were allowed to run their lives under their own laws. Some converted to other religions; still others combined the Yahweh cult with local cults; but the majority clung to the Hebraic religion and its new-found core document, the Torah.

In 63 BC, Judaea became a protectorate of Rome. Coming under the administration of a governor, Judaea was allowed a king; the governor's business was to regulate trade and maximize tax revenue. While the Jews despised the Greeks, the Romans were a nightmare. Governorships were bought at high prices; the governors would attempt to squeeze as much revenue as possible from their regions and pocket as much as they could. Even with a Jewish king, the Judaeans revolted in 70 AD, a desperate revolt that ended tragically. In 73 AD, the last of the revolutionaries were holed up in a mountain fort called Masada; the Romans had besieged the fort for two years, and the 1,000 men, women, and children inside were beginning to starve. In desperation, the Jewish revolutionaries killed themselves rather than surrender to the Romans. The Romans then destroyed Jerusalem, annexed Judaea as a Roman province, and systematically drove the Jews from Palestine. After 73 AD, Hebrew history would only be the history of the Diaspora as the Jews and their world view spread over Africa, Asia, and Europe.<sup>4</sup>

- (11) At the Second Advent, Jesus will bring all living Jews back to the new client nation Israel. Until then, there is no biblically ordained restoration of the Diaspora to the land.
- (12) This regathering is indicated by several passages from the Tanakh: Isaiah 5:26, 11:11–16, 14:1–2; Joel 2:18–29; Zechariah 12, 14. Here's an example from:

**Isaiah 11:11** - Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathos, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

**v. 12** - And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> “Elephantine \e-le-fan-tī-nē\; Island in Nile River, in Upper Egypt; site of discovery 1903 of the *Elephantine papyri*, dating from end of 5th century B.C. and containing varied information about the Jewish people” (*Merriam-Webster’s Geographical Dictionary*, 3d ed., s.v. “Elephantine”).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/Diaspora.html>

- (13) The final Diaspora will last from A.D. 70 until the Second Advent of Christ. Any other regathering of the Jews to the land is out of God's timing and therefore causes those regathering in Israel to place themselves in harm's way and at the mercy of Hagar's children:

**Galatians 4:29** - But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh [ **the sons of Ishmael** ] persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit [ **the sons of Isaac** ], so it is now also. (NASB)

- (14) It is in response to these passages that I have coined the term, Zionophobia \ Zi'-an-a-phō'-bē-ah\ : "Fear for the Jews who have returned to the land ahead of the Lord's perfect timing."
- (15) This does not mean that I am opposed to Zionism: "an international movement originated for the establishment of a Jewish national or religious community in Palestine and later for the support of modern Israel."<sup>5</sup>
- (16) A person that is anti-Zionist is also anti-Semitic which is a logical assumption. A person opposed to the Jews being in Palestine would most likely also be anti-Semitic, e.g., the Palestinians.
- (17) On the other hand, a person who is Zionophobic would also be pro-Semitic since he recognizes the *danger* of the Jews being in the land, but *not opposed* to them being there.
- (18) The ones who truly do not belong in the land are those who refer to themselves as Palestinians, a group of nomadic Arabs that claims to be natives of present-day Israel, but instead are simply interlopers.
- (19) Nevertheless, this group will be at constant warfare with the Jews until they run the Israelites into the Mediterranean Sea or Jesus deals with them at the Second Advent. I subscribe to the latter.

<sup>5</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v. "Zionism."

- (20) For a detailed study of the conflict between the “Palestinians” and the Jews, refer to my study *Palestine: Islamic Duplicity* (CWL-657–CWL-662), which can be accessed at [www.joegriffin.org](http://www.joegriffin.org) under Bible Class Archive: Class Catalog: Special Studies.<sup>6</sup>
- (21) The Jews are informed about their eternal future in the eschatology of the Tanakh. They are going to be restored to the land in due time.
- (22) When that day arrives, the entire roster of believing Jews from every dispensation will be resurrected while those alive at the Second Advent will be ushered into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- (23) But because the Church Age was a mystery to the writers of the Old Testament, the Jews of today are still looking for the coming of Messiah.
- (24) Before that may occur, prophecy informs us that the Church must be resurrected and raptured and the Tribulation must be endured before the Lord’s scheduled return.

**1 Corinthians 15:51** - Behold, I am going to communicate to you a mystery; we will not all experience physical death, but we all will be changed, (EXT)