



And He will lift up a standard for the nations,
and will assemble the banished ones of Israel,
and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the
four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:12

RESCUE | RETURN | RESTORE



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Sanctify His Holy Name

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

The events unfolding in Ukraine this past year have been tumultuous, violent and deadly. At first glance everything appears to be spinning out of control. Yet in the midst of it all I'm quite certain that Vladimir Putin believes he is calling the shots. In reality the conflict in Ukraine has only served to highlight the sovereignty of our God. Front and center is the covenant relationship that God has with His people and the intrinsic connection to the land of Israel.

Careful study of last week's Torah portion reveals the supernatural nature of this relationship. In Leviticus chapter 25 God's instructs Moses and the people of Israel to allow the land of Israel to rest once every seven years. No sowing or harvesting was to be done for that entire year known as Shemittah. For God's part He would provide a harvest in the 6th year that provided for three years. So what does this have to do with Ukraine or any other country where Jewish people are residing? In a recent Torah commentary by Moshe Kempinski's, He observed that Jewish people could keep the Sabbath and observe God's dietary instructions in any country they might live. Yet the Shemittah instructions can **only** be fulfilled in the land of Israel.



Now let's examine the words of Ezekiel:

When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.' But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. (Ezekiel 36:20-22)

Ezekiel tells us that the people of the nations **desecrate the name** of The Holy One Of Israel when Jewish people are in their midst. Anti-Semitism is not just an attack on Jewish people. It is a direct affront to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is in essence a mocking of His faithfulness and ability to fulfill His promises.

You see the turmoil in Ukraine is further evidence of God's faithfulness as through it He is stirring the hearts of His people to return to Israel once more. Thus by entering the land they are actually **sanctifying His Holy name**. Just as the supernatural benefits of the Shemittah are dependent on Jewish domicile in the land of Israel, so too God's name will not be fully sanctified in the eyes of the nations until He has re-gathered all of His children back to His land.

May The Holy One Of Israel Bless You Abundantly!

Yours in Him,

Rev. Gary Cristofaro