



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



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July 2014

Understanding The Aliyah (Part Two)

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Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;
(Isaiah 49:22)

In part one of "Understanding the Aliyah" I posed the all-important question following the words of above. Who do you suppose Isaiah was speaking about? In other words, who from the nations loves God and the Jewish people enough to lend a hand and be willing to participate in the aliyah and why?

I believe the answer can be found in the life of Jesus. Paul said in his letter to the Romans that Jesus ***...has become a servant to the circumcision (the Jewish people) for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the gentiles might glorify God for His mercy...*** (Romans 15:8-9a) For most of church history the idea of humbly becoming a servant to the Jewish people has been a foreign concept. Yet in context this is the very thing that Jesus' was referring to when he said, ***"inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren"***. (Matthew 25:40)



Paul also references the promises God made to the fathers.

"The covenant, which He made to Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant. (Psalm 105:9-10)

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:7-8)

It is written that God established an eternal covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants. Intrinsicly linked to this relationship is the land of Israel. Therefore, to be vessels of service and to help His people back to this land today is indeed a holy work.

Also, to effectively serve means realizing what Paul meant when he referred to the Jewish people as the natural branches and to the gentiles as the wild branches. He said: ***do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*** He also warns them: ***Do not be haughty but fear.*** (Romans 11:18-20)

In the account of the Canaanite woman found in Matthew 15, Jesus uses even stronger language than Paul when He compares the gentiles to dogs. Yet rather than getting angry, the woman in this narrative humbly accepts this lowly

position and is grateful for any residual blessing that might come her way. Jesus then replied, “ **Oh woman, great is your faith!** (Matthew 15:26-28)

Today our humility, faith and God’s word all collide in the final re-gathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth. So in summary, let’s answer the question: Why should anyone from the nations lend a hand and be willing to participate in the aliyah?

Firstly, by serving His brethren in the aliyah we become more like Jesus.

Secondly, hundreds of scriptures were written thousands of years ago point to this day. Therefore serving in the aliyah is participating in bible prophecy and thus the perfect will of God

Finally, the aliyah is a holy work. As I have previously written, through the final re-gathering of the Jewish people God’s holy name is sanctified. (Ezekiel 36:20-23) Therefore by humbly serving the Jewish people in their efforts to make aliyah we also have the awesome privilege to be about sanctifying the name of God.

These are compelling reasons to be involved in aliyah, don’t you think? May the Holy One Of Israel bless you abundantly!

Yours in Him,

Rev. Gary Cristofaro