

Appendix C - Restoration to the Land in Unbelief

The first captivity is the most well known, since it ended with Moses leading his people out of Egypt. The Jews were slaves in Egypt for 430 years and were led across the parted Red Sea on the exact day that the 430 years of captivity ended. God operates with precision.

“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:40-41)

Nebuchadnezzar took the Jews captive in 608 B.C. This was predicted in Jeremiah 25:11, often called the 2nd captivity.

“And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

The land of Israel became desolate after the Jews were relocated to Babylon. The next time we hear about the land is in Ezra 1:1-3. King Cyrus defeated Babylon and freed the Jews exactly **70 years** after they had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. The majority of them remained in Babylon, rejecting God’s command to return to Jerusalem; a few returned to the land of Israel, but were not repentant in spite of 70 years in captivity. This is important later, because *not hearkening unto Him* is a sin.

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him *go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah*, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.”

There was a 3rd captivity, as prophesied in Ezekiel 4:3-6.

“This shall be a sign to the house of Israel. Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, **three hundred and ninety days**: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah **forty days**: I have appointed thee **each day for a year**.”

390 days + 40 days = 430 days

608 B.C.	
<u>– 70</u>	Years in Babylonian captivity
538 B.C.	

But nothing happened 430 days after this prophecy was given by Ezekiel. The reason why is explained in the last sentence: “each day for a year.” The 430 days really meant 430 years; the Lord predicted 430 years of captivity for the Jews.

430 Years of Promised Captivity
– 70 Years Babylonian captivity
360 Years of Captivity left

But there is an important passage in Leviticus 26:18, which we need for this lesson. They had 360 years of captivity remaining, but that assumed they would repent and *hearken unto Him* – which they didn’t. Approximately 95% of them remained in Babylon and refused to return to Israel. Since they didn’t heed His warning, He multiplied the years of captivity they had left times seven.

“And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.”

360 Remaining years
x 7
2,520 Biblical years

Now 2,520 biblical years is not the same as our years today. The Jewish calendar had 360-days on it as opposed to our 365-days.

2,520 Biblical years
x 360 Days per Jewish calendar year
907,200 Days remaining captivity

Now we convert this to our common calendar:

907,200 / 365 days per year = 2,485.5
Or ... 2,485 years and 5 months

538 B.C. + 2,485 years = 1947

There is no year 0 as we reckon time. The end of 1 B.C. was the beginning of 1 A.D. So we have to add one year to our result.

1947 + 1 year = 1948
1948 + 5 months = May 1948

Accounting for the exact day and month they were released from Babylonian captivity to return to the land of Israel ... 907,200 days from 538 B.C. gives you **May 1948**.

The United Nations declared Israel a nation on May 15, 1948.¹ The Jews were back in the land; a nation was born in a day. This should give you a comfort level that the current nation of Israel is the re-gathered one referred to in Ezekiel 37. It also ends any false speculation that “the Palestinians” have a right to Jewish land.

A legitimate argument is sometimes levied upon these dates due to the Roman exile of the Jews in 70 A.D. But this exile was initiated upon a small remnant, not an entire nation. There has always been a remnant of Jews living in the Land - during the rule of Rome after 70 A.D., under the Byzantine Empire, even while the Land was controlled by an Islamic caliphate. The vast majority of Jews, however, did not return to Israel after the Babylonian captivity. A small percentage of Jews may give them a legitimate *claim* to the land today, but it does not mean they possessed the land in numbers sufficient to satisfy God’s command to return.

War On Terror: Unfolding Bible Prophecy, Grant R. Jeffrey, 2002, Frontier Research Publications (mathematics were heard on radio program by this author, but are not in this book).

¹ Using other Scripture passages, *this can be calculated to the very day on May 15*.