

# Remnant of Jacob Among the Gentiles

Roald Peterson, 15 May 2016

I have been watching with great interest the waves of immigration that have been overrunning the United States and Europe, especially in the last several months, and have sought to understand the real significance of these events in light of last days prophecy. I believe we are seeing the beginning of a prophesied sign that will herald the destruction of the Gentile nations.

## Micah 5

In the Old Testament, fifth chapter of Micah, we find a prophecy that a “remnant of Jacob” will be among the Gentiles and will begin to tread them down and tear them in pieces. This action begins the destruction of the Gentiles which is then described in further detail.

7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

9 Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots:

11 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds:

12 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:

13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

14 And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities.

15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard. (**Micah 5:7–15**)

Verse 8 uses the word "if", making the destruction conditional – it doesn't say upon what. Nor does the prophecy say that the remnant of Jacob is responsible for the destructions described in verses 10 through 15; the Lord simply says that he will do all those things.

Verse 10 tells us these things will happen in "that day", a scriptural term often used to refer to the last days. Knowing that the times of the Gentiles will eventually come to an end (Luke 21:24), this attack by the remnant of Israel among the Gentiles appears to mark the beginning of Gentile destruction and the end of their supremacy over the earth. But who are the Gentiles? Who is the remnant of Jacob? Who are the heathen in verse 15? And where will this destruction take place?

We need some background information to understand what's going on here. When Christ came in the meridian of time he ministered to the house of Israel. It was part of their birthright to receive the gospel first. (Matt 15:21-28) There were some who received the message of the Messiah and became his disciples. However, the great majority of Israelites rejected the Savior and were destroyed or scattered throughout the nations of the world. Following the crucifixion, disciples were sent into all the world to teach everyone (Mark 16:14-16). Ironically, the Gentiles seemed to be more receptive to the Savior's message than the people of Israel who claimed to be waiting for the Messiah. But even the Gentiles would eventually lose the fullness of the gospel and sink into apostasy (Amos 8:11-12, etc.)

One of the most repeated prophecies in the Bible is that of the gathering and restoration of the house of Israel in the last days. However, in the last days the gospel would be restored not to the Israelites, but instead to the Gentiles, who would eventually take it to the house of Israel.

And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and

also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the last shall be first, and the first shall be last. **(1 Nephi 13:42)**

### 3 Nephi 16

It is not the Lord's pattern to utter prophecies and not provide a way to understand them. However, the key to understanding is given in the Lord's time, not man's. For example, Nebuchadnezzar, a nonbeliever in the God of Israel, had a dream which prophesied events on the Earth for thousands of years. It was a locked revelation until the prophet Daniel received a revelation to interpret symbols of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Thus it is with many prophecies; further revelation is needed to understand revelation. The Savior repeated Micah's prophecy when he visited the Americas after his resurrection. He also provides additional details not found in Micah. These are found in chapters 16, 20, and 21 of Third Nephi in the Book of Mormon. Let's look first at chapter 16.

7 Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fulness of these things shall be made known unto them.

8 But wo, saith the Father, unto the unbelieving of the Gentiles—for notwithstanding they have come forth upon the face of this land, and have scattered my people who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel have been cast out from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them;

...

10 And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them.

11 And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

12 And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

13 But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.

14 And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.

15 But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel. **(3 Nephi 16:7–15)**

First of all we need to understand that Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, was given the name Israel by God (Genesis 35:10), so a remnant of Jacob is a remnant, or portion of, Israel. From these verses we learn that the native people of the Americas were largely of the blood of Israel – so much so that Jesus refers to them as “my people who are of the house of Israel” (verse 8). The Gentiles were those people who came into the land and conquered the people who were here. History tells us that those people were primarily Europeans, from so-called Christian nations. We need to remember that not all non-Israelite people are considered Gentiles. Both Micah (5:15) and the Savior (3 Nephi 21:21) speak of Israel, Gentiles, and a third group referred as heathen. The heathen are peoples from non-Christian nations. Their part in colonizing America and oppressing the Native Americans has been

relatively small.

We learn that there will be a restoration of the fullness of the gospel in the last days (v7) which will come through the Gentiles. Eventually, the Gentiles will be divided into two groups, the unbelieving (v8) and those who repent (v13). At some point, God says, "Enough!" And the destruction of the Gentiles begins. That point is defined in verse 10 as the time when the majority of the Gentiles reject the fullness of the gospel that is offered, and sin against the lesser gospel that they have already received. When that time comes, God will take the fullness of the gospel from among the Gentiles and give it to the house of Israel (v11, 12).

Because the Gentiles lose their favored status before God, they will be considered as salt that has lost its savor, and good for nothing but to be trodden down. Those that tread them down are identified as "my people, O house of Israel". It isn't likely that they will know they are descendants of Israel. Neither will they be members of the Church of Christ because church members don't go around destroying other people. The remnant will be among the Gentiles and will turn upon them and tread them down (v15).

It should be noted however, that the repentant Gentiles will be spared. And as we shall see, they will join with those Israelites who come into the church of Christ and build the New Jerusalem on this continent.

The latter-day mentioned in verse 7 is also known as the "last days", referring to the last days of the reign of wickedness over the earth. This is a time that will see a great dispensation and distribution of truths throughout the world. But it is also a time that will see wickedness, abominations, wars, and destructions without parallel in history as God and Satan strive to establish their respective kingdoms in preparation for or fighting against the second coming of Christ and his millennial reign.

### **3 Nephi 20**

The Savior returns to this subject in chapter 20 of 3 Nephi and identifies at least part of the remnant of Jacob as the people he is speaking to. Obviously, it is not those people who would be among the Gentiles, but their descendants.

15 And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people—

16 Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

17 Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

18 And I will gather my people together as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor.

19 For I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. And thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. And behold, I am he who doeth it.

20 And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.

21 And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel.

22 And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you. (3 Nephi 20:15–22)

In this passage the Savior adds more information about the uprising of the remnant of Jacob. Their destruction of the Gentiles will not be a small skirmish, nor will it be a local event. The Lord likens their attack upon the Gentiles to him that of a lion attacking sheep; it will be vicious (v16, 17, 19). The

remnant will also take possession of the Gentiles' property and riches (v19). Finally, this uprising of the remnant and the destruction of the Gentiles will not be confined to the Americas, but will happen across the Earth and affect all the nations of the Gentiles (v19, 20).

Just as chapter 16 speaks of mercy for those Gentiles who repent, chapter 20 introduces the establishment of the New Jerusalem among both the Israelites and Gentiles who repent. It should be remembered that even most of the Gentiles have at least some blood of Israel in them. If they respond to the Lord's call to gather to the gospel of the Messiah they will be numbered among Israel and be heirs to all the promised blessings of the faithful members of the house of Israel.

### 3 Nephi 21

In 3 Nephi 21 we find the parallel to Micah 5. But it also adds that the gospel will be restored first, as a sign that Israel is about to be gathered and Zion (New Jerusalem) established (vs 1-9).

1 And verily I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place—that I shall gather in, from their long dispersion, my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion;

2 And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign—for verily I say unto you that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;

3 Verily, verily, I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;

4 For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;

5 Therefore, when these works and the works which shall be wrought among you hereafter shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity;

6 For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may show forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me and be baptized in my name and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel;

7 And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. (3 Nephi 21:1-7)

Notice that the words Christ is speaking to his audience, as well as other "things" (vs 2) and "works" (vs 5), will be given to the Gentiles (vs 2), and will then come from the Gentiles to the descendants (seed) of the people Christ is speaking to (vs 3, 5). Verse 6 tells the Gentiles that if they accept the restored gospel they will be considered by the Lord as part of the house of Israel. Verse 7 tells us that when the descendants, those with "Native American" blood, begin to receive the restored gospel, that the final gathering of Israel (covenant) has already begun.

The people will eventually be divided into believers and nonbelievers (vs 11 & 22), and then the destruction of the nation will begin with the uprising of the remnant of Jacob (vs 12, 13).

11 Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto

him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant.

12 And my people who are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

13 Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.

14 Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles except they repent; for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots;

15 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds;

16 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy land, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;

17 Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee, and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;

18 And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.

19 And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, shall be done away.

20 For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day whosoever will not repent and come unto my Beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel;

21 And I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem. **(3 Nephi 21:11–23)**

I will discuss the destruction described in verses 14 – 21 in another paper. I am including it here to show the parallel with Micah 5.

Verses 22 – 23 offer the Gentiles a way to escape destruction; they must become covenant people of the Lord by joining his church. Then the remnant of Jacob and the repentant Gentiles will build the New Jerusalem. Because the New Jerusalem is Zion (vs 1), the people who build it will have to be Zion people. This means that the remnant of Jacob and repentant Gentiles will not only have to join the restored church, but will have to progress spiritually to where they become fully sanctified. All others will eventually be swept off land.

Continuing on with the rest of the prophecy, we read that many of the house of Israel will be gathered into the New Jerusalem, and that there will be so many that they will expand to inherit and occupy the desolate cities of the Gentiles who have been destroyed.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

26 And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

27 Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name.

28 Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

29 And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight,

for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward. **(3 Nephi 21:24-29)**

1 And then shall that which is written come to pass: Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes;

3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. **(3 Nephi 22:1-3)**

The gathering to the Lord's church from among the Gentiles, marvelous as it has been, is miniscule compared to the gathering of Israel that will take place during and following the destruction of the Gentiles.

## **D&C 87**

The Doctrine and Covenants Section 87, known as the Prophecy on War, also includes the remnant of Jacob prophecy. Notice that the remnant becomes very angry and that they marshal themselves, acting like a disciplined army and not just participating in random acts of violence.

5 And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation. **(D&C 87:5)**

## **Other Scriptures**

There are other passages of scripture that speak of the uprising of the remnant of Jacob in ways that are not so easily identifiable. However, careful reading shows that the key words and ideas are still there. The following verses in Isaiah should be sufficient to give us an example.

26 ¶ And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

27 None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:

28 Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:

29 Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.

30 And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof. **(Isaiah 5:26–30)**

## **Who Are the Gentiles**

The scriptures we have discussed refer to the Gentiles as those people who would overrun the remnants of the house of Israel who were in the land of America. But they also speak of other Gentile nations over the whole Earth. The book of 1 Nephi in the Book of Mormon refers to the Gentile nations as the mother nations for the early colonists of the Americas (chap 13, 14). These nations, which came out of the Roman Empire—were once known as the Christian nations. These would include Eastern and Western Europe, some of Asia, and the nations of America and Australia that were colonized by Europeans. The Heathen nations would be all those other nations which historically have not been classified as Christian nations.

## **Who Are the Remnant?**

In America the remnant would be the descendants of the Nephites and Lamanites that Jesus was speaking to above (see 3 Nephi 20:15–22). This would include the American Indians and those with

significant Indian blood, i.e., many of the people from Mexico, Central America, and South America. In addition to these, it might include some people from the Eastern Hemisphere who have immigrated to America. These are the people who comprise the current great wave of American immigration.

But what about the Gentile nations of Europe? The immigrants coming there are primarily from the Middle East, Africa, and southern Asia. Could these people also be remnants of Israel? Consider the following:

- The tribes of Israel spent their first 400 years in the nation of Egypt. What was the likelihood of intermarriage? What was the likelihood of assimilation into Egyptian society? What percentage followed Moses out of the land of Egypt during the Exodus?
- Following the Exodus the tribes of Israel settled in Palestine but eventually split into two kingdoms, the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. During the eighth century BC the northern kingdom was attacked and carried away captive into Assyria. Eventually, some of the captive Israelites escaped into the North countries but there was no mass return to their homeland. Again, what is the likelihood of intermarriage and assimilation? What percentage left Assyria?
- During the sixth century BC the kingdom of Judah was overrun and taken captive into Babylon. Babylon was later conquered by Persia and eventually King Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Palestine 70 years after they were taken captive. Only a minority of the Israelites returned to Israel. It would seem that the probability of intermarriage and assimilation was high. The only people who would have remembered the kingdom of Judah would be very old; anyone under the age of 70 would know of Israel only as a story told by old people.
- There were other scatterings of Israelites. The book of Mormon speaks of two such groups (Lehites and Mulekites) leaving in the sixth century BC. Apocryphal scriptures and historical records speak of, or at least hint, that there were other peoples who left and made their home in other lands.

What this means is that nations of the Middle East, Africa, and southern Asia are likely filled with the blood of Israel and many of their people could be considered remnants of Israel. This is confirmed in the prophecies of Isaiah, concerning the gathering of Israel:

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (*Isaiah 11:11–12*)

Cush is thought to be the nations surrounding the Red Sea. Pathros is thought to be southern Egypt. Elam is thought to be western Iran. Shinar is used in the Bible to refer to Babylonia. Hamath is located in west central Syria. Assyria was an empire that included much of Egypt, the lands on the western Mediterranean Sea, northern Iraq, northeastern Syria, southeastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. In short, the blood of Israel is scattered throughout these regions.

### **Signs of the Prophecy's Fulfillment**

Since the uprising of the remnant of Jacob is a key sign of the beginning of the destruction of the Gentile nations, we should be looking for indications that this is happening or getting ready to happen. In the United States and Canada there has been a huge influx over the last several years of people with native and mixed native blood. The last few years this influx has become a seemingly unstoppable torrent. Their numbers are such that they are becoming a significant political force. In other words, the remnant of Jacob in America is getting in place and gaining power.

Europe has invited peoples from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—many of whom likely have the blood of Israel—to immigrate for several decades. Now they are being overrun by a flood of people. It appears

that many of the immigrants are not assimilating but instead are seeking to establish areas for their own people, governed by their laws within the nations of Europe. Rebellion has broken out and they are becoming a vexation to these Gentile nations.

So the remnant of Jacob is getting in place among the nations of the Gentiles to fulfill its destiny. The nations of the Gentiles are losing control of their borders, their culture, their laws, and their economies. Can they do anything to stop the prophesied treading down of the people and destruction of their nations? Yes. We have read that there are two possibilities: turn back to God and begin to live our lives in accordance with his laws, or continue down the path of disobedience and destruction. Both paths are available to individuals as well as nations. Those who truly turn unto God and seek his help and protection will find themselves guided in their preparations and search for places of safety.

## **Conclusion**

The current "invasion" of Gentile nations by foreigners appears to be the beginning of the sore vexation the remnants of Jacob will bring against the Gentiles. At the very least, it is setting the stage for the prophesied uprising of a people who will be as a lion among the beasts of the forest. This uprising will begin the destruction of the Gentile nations.

Most of the remnants of Jacob who tread down the Gentiles will probably not realize that they possess the blood of Israel and can become heirs of the covenant and promised blessings on condition of their faithfulness. They will be used to do the Lord's work of removing the wicked Gentiles from the land and then will be given the opportunity to learn and follow the gospel of the Messiah. If they do not respond to the call to gather to the Lord's gospel, they too will find themselves swept off the land. However, the scriptures seem to indicate that a great many, if not a majority, will embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What can be done? We must remember that God is preparing the world and a people for the second coming of Christ and his millennial reign of peace. The Earth is being changed and a loving God is calling his children to repentance so they might meet their Savior when he comes. The only way for Gentiles and remnants of Israel to not be cleansed from the land is to fully turn to the Lord and truly become his people in the way they think, speak, and act.