

Section One: Kingdom of God on Earth (Past)

Category C: Israel – Kingdom Intelligence Report #1

Topic: Fresh Start 3.0

As we enter into the third phase of God’s Kingdom on earth in the past, we have significant progress being made in the furtherance of Plan B, for the purpose of eventually restoring Plan A. For the parameters of this study, we will limit our focus on the history of Israel and how God used His chosen people and nation, as a means to that end. So when did this theocratic nation of God have its origination? Was it with the call of Abram in Genesis 12:1-3? Perhaps it was when God gave Jacob a name change in Genesis 35:10. In the most formal sense, the starting point for the nation would have occurred in the context of the Exodus from Egypt and the ministry of Moses, who not only led them out of their bondage, but formalized the conditional covenant with them, designed to govern their obedience, in Exodus 24:1-8. All of the above would be valid viewpoints for how the descendants of Abraham became a nation and initiated God’s Fresh Start 3.0.

In retrospect, who would deny that the nation of Israel, under the Mosaic Covenant, was a “high maintenance” nation? The precursor of just how troublesome a people they would be to God occurs at Kadesh-Barnea. There the people as a whole are unwilling to trust God. They doubt the positive report of Joshua and Caleb, disobey Moses and refuse to enter into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:25-14:10). From a strictly human standpoint, this would have been a devastating setback for the furtherance of Plan B. Even God saw it as such; indicated by what He tells Moses in response to the rebellion of the people, recorded in Numbers 14:11-12 –

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.’”

Instead of taking God up on His offer, Moses pleads with Him on behalf of the people. God listens and relents, to a point; in that He doesn’t destroy the people immediately but gradually, by means of their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. It would be the children of the Exodus generation, who enter and conquer the Promised Land, under the leadership of Joshua and Caleb, the only ones who followed God fully during this time of crisis. Most important of all, Plan B would continue on track, in spite of being temporarily sidetracked; not just this once, but throughout the long and checkered history of God’s chosen nation. Psalm 78:34-39 serves as the most comprehensive indictment of Israel, found anywhere in the Word of God –

“When He killed them, then they sought Him, and returned and searched diligently for God; and they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. But they deceived Him with their mouth and lied to Him with their tongue. For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; and often He restrained His anger and did not arouse all His wrath. Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and does not return.”