

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS  
"The Future of Israel"  
Leviticus 26:40-46

Introduction

1. This is one of the most amazing chapters in the Bible. The entire history of Israel from its inception is outlined. As a statement to the validity of the Word of God, there is none finer in the whole Bible!

2. That God offered to Israel blessings for obedience is patent. Their failure to receive the blessing of God and to land up in world-wide dispersion is a fact of history. None can doubt the truth of the Scriptures. They may deny the Word, but it still stands!

3. The point of the verses in our text is that despite all, Israel has endured; God is not finished with the nation. Her future still holds. This is noted by:--

1. The DISTINCTION of the nation. v. 46

The Bible clearly and plainly teaches the national identity of the Jews (1 Cor. 10:32). This is a strategic verse in Biblical studies. The nation is a physical entity (Isa. 41:8). Even after the formation of the church (Acts 2) through the baptism with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13), the existence of Israel is supported and her future predicted (Rom. 9-11). There is no reasonable doubt about these matters for the Bible-believing Christian. The text affirms this in unquestioned force. The verbs "cast away, abhor, destroy, and break" (v. 44) stand as divine testimonies to Israel's future and standing before God. Indeed, God Himself puts His own person on the line in support for it is recorded "I am the Lord their God". (v. 44)

2. The INTERPRETATION of the Bible. vv. 42, 44, 45.

In each of these texts, the term "covenant" is employed. This is NOT a reference to the single conditional covenant which God made with Israel; namely, the Mosaic (Ex. 19ff.). Rather, it is the one made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (note how this order is inverted in the text, v. 42 and how they are called "ancestors" v. 44) This "covenant" is basic to the study of the Word of God. It obviously is a Biblical covenant in opposition to the unBiblical covenant concepts of the Covenant Theologian. The major Biblical covenants are:

- a. Abrahamic (Gen. 12:1-3). This assures Israel that she will have her identity forever.
- b. Palestinian (Deut. 30). This guarantees the possession of the land of Palestine to Israel when obedient. It does not touch on the ownership of the land.
- c. Davidic (2 Sam. 7:4-17). This points to a king for the nation forever.
- d. New (Jer. 31:31-40). This one shows that the nation will ultimately bow its knees to the Lord and confess the Messiah and be redeemed.

NOTE: It is absolutely basic to an understanding of the Word to get settled on these Biblical covenants. They give the ground to the understanding of the O. T. and how the literalism of the O. T. is to be understood in the light of the revelation of the N. T.

3. The CONFESSION of the people vv. 40, 41

The truth taught here is that confession precedes the possession of the land and the restoration to the Lord. Big words summarize the situation: "iniquity, trespass, walk contrary, humbled, and accept the punishment." These words express the deep contrition which shall yet come to the hearts of the nation. Elsewhere in the O.T. this is predicted with great vividness (Zech. 12:10-14). This will come at the end of the Tribulation Period.

4. The RESTORATION of the nation. vv. 42, 45.

The amazing truth is that God "remembers" what He has said. Note that He remembers what He has said about the people (v. 42) and the land (v. 42). Hence, there is dual restoration: people and land. The earthly kingdom of 1000 years is not explicit in this passage, but implicit. It will come (Ezek. 36:26-38)

Conclusion--The dispensational scheme of Bible study is completely supported by this chapter. Furthermore, Israel's future is evident. Just as God can be trusted to fulfill all this, so He can be trusted with your soul and the forgiveness of sin for your heart. Trust Him today and make confession of it now! Amen.