

States and others in 1945 was rejected by the British. They suggested that the League of Nations' successor, the United Nations organization, cope with the problem.

¹⁹ The United Nations continued the League's recognition of the British mandate over Palestine. This mandate was due to expire at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 1948. So the nationally minded Jews decided to set up their own political state and declare their independence. They did so, and on Friday, May 14, 1948, at 4 p.m. Palestine time, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the National Council and the first premier of the new state, declared the State of Israel at Tel Aviv, the temporary capital. Britain's mandate expiring, Israel's foes in that area began attacking violently at once. After the national election in January of 1949, the first Jewish Parliament (Knesset) was formed on February 14, 1949, to draw up a constitution. On February 17 this Constituent Assembly at the new city of Jerusalem elected as Israel's first president Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who had till then been serving as provisional president. After that the heavy Jewish immigration into the new republic put a heavy strain upon the economies of the government.

²⁰ Did Israel heed Jehovah's warning at Isaiah 30:1-7 not to "go down into Egypt" for help? No! In proclaiming the new state the Israeli government appealed to the United Nations "to assist the Jewish people in the building of its state and to admit Israel into the family of nations". Early that

19. When and how was the new republic of Israel set up?

20. How has modern Israel 'gone down to Egypt for help'?

same Friday night the American president announced the recognition by the United States of the new Jewish state. Guatemala and other nations followed suit, Britain first granting de facto recognition January 29, 1949, as thirty-third in line to recognize the new state. The new Israel welcomed such worldly advances of friendship. When just two days old it applied to the United Nations for membership, on May 16, 1948, and also addressed itself to the United States for financial help. But it was first on May 11, 1949, after repeated applications by the new republic, that the General Assembly of the United Nations by a vote of 37 to 12, with nine members including Britain abstaining, admitted Israel to membership. By this Israel became the 59th member of the United Nations.

THE PROPER COURSE FOR INDIVIDUAL JEWS

²¹ **Nothing in the modern return of the Jews to Palestine and the setting up of the Israeli republic corresponds with Bible prophecies concerning the restoration of Jehovah's name-people to his favor and organization.** In no way does it correspond with the restoration of the faithful, repentant Jewish remnant who forsook Babylon and returned to the land of Judah in 537 B.C. Their return set a historic pattern of how the major or final fulfillment of the prophecies of restoration would take place down here in this "time of the end" of this world. That ancient Jewish remnant returned to a land left desolate for seventy years and they returned primarily to rebuild Jehovah's temple at Jerusalem and to restore his pure theocratic worship there under his anointed high priest. But not

21. Why can modern Israel's return to Palestine not be construed as the fulfillment of the prophecies?

so the modern Israelis. They immigrated into a Palestine not lying desolate, but they bought up lands from the inhabitants and also induced the flight of other inhabitants from their lands under pressure of Israel's wars with neighbors. Neither was it their prime object to rebuild the temple on the temple site now occupied by the Mohammedan mosque of Omar. Neither have they restored Jehovah's worship with his accepted priesthood, that of the Greater Melchizedek. Hence the regathering of unbelieving natural Israelites to Palestine cannot be construed as fulfillment of prophecies.

²² Israel's applying for admission into the United Nations and her accepting membership in that worldly body which assumes to take the place of Messiah's rule is a flat rejection of God's kingdom of the heavens. **The remnant of spiritual Israelites, as Jehovah's witnesses, have proclaimed world-wide the establishment of God's kingdom in 1914.** But again, as natural Israel did nineteen centuries ago, it has rejected its true Messiah, Jesus Christ, and has declared it has no king but Caesar. So again Jesus the King will refuse to give them a special sign for their mass conversion in Palestine to him. Therefore let individual Jews open their eyes of understanding to behold the great composite sign which Jesus foretold betokening this world's end, and let them join the great flock of "other sheep" which now seeks refuge under his kingdom. That way they will be gathered into "one flock" under "one shepherd" and be restored to divine favor and gain eternal life in the new world.—John 10:16; Revelation 7:9-17.

22. How has modern Israel rejected Jehovah's King, and what course remains for individual Jews to gain divine favor?

CHAPTER XIX

WHO ARE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES?

EVERYWHERE Jehovah's witnesses are spoken against. (Acts 28:22) Why? Misinformed and prejudiced persons are the cause. There are two sides to every question. Honest persons who are fair desire to hear the truth. Accordingly they ask: "Who are these witnesses of Jehovah?" On this question everyone is entitled to hear the side of Jehovah's witnesses themselves. Any fair person can agree that Jehovah's witnesses are better qualified to state the facts from the record than is one who opposes them. In order that unbiased judgment can be exercised the evidence is given here from the record available to all.

² These Christians constitute a body or group of persons dedicated to do God's will under the leadership of his Chief Witness, Jesus Christ. They have drawn together for the purpose of declaring that he whose name alone is Jehovah is the universal sovereign and that he is the author and creator of the heavenly government of righteousness for the coming of which Jesus taught his disciples to pray. To everyone they point out the only way to that Kingdom which will permanently

1. (a) What does every honest person want to know about Jehovah's witnesses? (b) Who are best qualified to give the facts about them?
2. Who are they? For what purposes have they drawn together?