

baths. And upon them that are left alive of you, I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall, when none pursueth. And ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly and to break my covenants with them: for I am the Lord their God." Lev. 26; 33-44.

"The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them; and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee. The fruit of thy land, and all thy labors, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up: and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed away. And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee. All these curses shall come upon thee, because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee. And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed forever." Deut. 28 24-46.

Through Jeremiah the Lord says:

"I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth. I will cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, where I will not show you favor." Jer. xv., 4, 11, 13.

Ezekiel predicts:

"They shall cast their silver in their streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord." Ez. vii., 19.

Isaiah has the following remarkable passage:

"Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and convert and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. Isa. vi., 10-12.

One more prediction:

"The children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim." Hos. iii:4

The meaning of this passage is that although the exiled Jews should have no government of their own and no temple services, yet they should be preserved against

idolatry. The ephod was part of the robe of the priest, and the teraphim are considered to refer to the images used for domestic worship, as among the Catholics, for instance. And the contrast is all the more striking in Russia, where every orthodox house-owner has at least one corner dedicated to a saint, before whose image lamps are kept burning day and night.

It is not necessary to point out how remarkably every word here quoted has been fulfilled. The whole world can testify to it. "What seest thou?" was the question put to Ezeiel, as these incidents, then future, passed before his view. It was, indeed, a woeful sight: A nation, once favored before all the nations of the earth, wandering in exile, bearing the curse of disloyalty to their Divine Ruler, enduring sufferings untold, prolonged for ages and not yet passed out of view: A people sustained in misery as a token and a testimony to the whole world.

The country of the Jews was once the leading country of the world. Both the Greeks and the Romans considered Judea among their finest provinces. Ancient authors frequently referred to its large number of towns and villages, the excellence of the climate, the fertility of the soil and the high degree of cultivation it had reached, facts which are sustained today by the countless ruins which meet the eyes of the traveler wherever he goes. Yet, it became devastated. The most fertile plains have been untilled. The country has been overrun with wild hordes and sprinkled with blood in innumerable battles. Where formerly were luxuriant gardens and vineyards are now only thistles. Many hills are inaccessible on account of briars and cactus. Where once numerous roads led from city to city are now only paths almost impassable. Only a few years ago, there was in the whole country not a road, not a bridge, not even a wagon or a cart. So literally has the word of God been fulfilled upon that country and nation.

There is a great lesson in this. If the threats have been so terribly carried out, that not one iota has failed, may we not rest assured that the blessings which have been promised will also surely come? It is stated that the curses shall be taken away and that the Holy Land shall again be consecrated as of old. The following promises are as sure as were the divine threats:

"If their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land."—Lev. xxvi, 41, 42.

"I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them."—Jer. xxxiii, 26.

"Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days."—Hos. iii, 5.

Here are promises of a glorious restoration. There is no room for doubting that these will be fulfilled, for the first rays of a glorious day have already dawned upon the Holy Land. The blessings of heaven smile upon it. The rains are regular and abundant. The soil is being gradually cleared and cultivated by diligent hands and yields abundantly. Means of communication are being established. The Turkish government has relaxed its iron grip upon the country and tolerates strangers of all nationalities. The wealthy Jews are investing capital in various enterprises there. And the commotions among the nations drive many of the Jews to seek a refuge in that country, to escape the hand of the oppressor. Who cannot see that that the Almighty is working in order to bring about a speedy consummation of His plans and purposes?

#### THE IRON HORSE IN PALESTINE.

Look at a map of Palestine and you will see that Acca is a town on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean. At the present time a railroad from this town to Mejdol or Magdala is being built. The road proceeds along the shore of Lake Tiberias to where the Jordan enters the lake. From here it follows the western bank of the Jordan to Jacob's Bridge, where it crosses the river to the east bank, and thence northward by Lake Hoolah to Banias, thence along the old Roman road to Damascus, the fulcrum terminus of the road.

The length of the main line from Acca to Damascus will be about 120 miles. There will be branches to important points along the way.

The work is in the hands of English capitalists, who will expend \$6,000,000 on it. In Damascus a system of street cars will be established. Owing to the narrowness of the streets the work will be difficult, but that it is practicable and will be profitable has been demonstrated.

An extension from Banias to Beyroot is also projected. Beyroot,