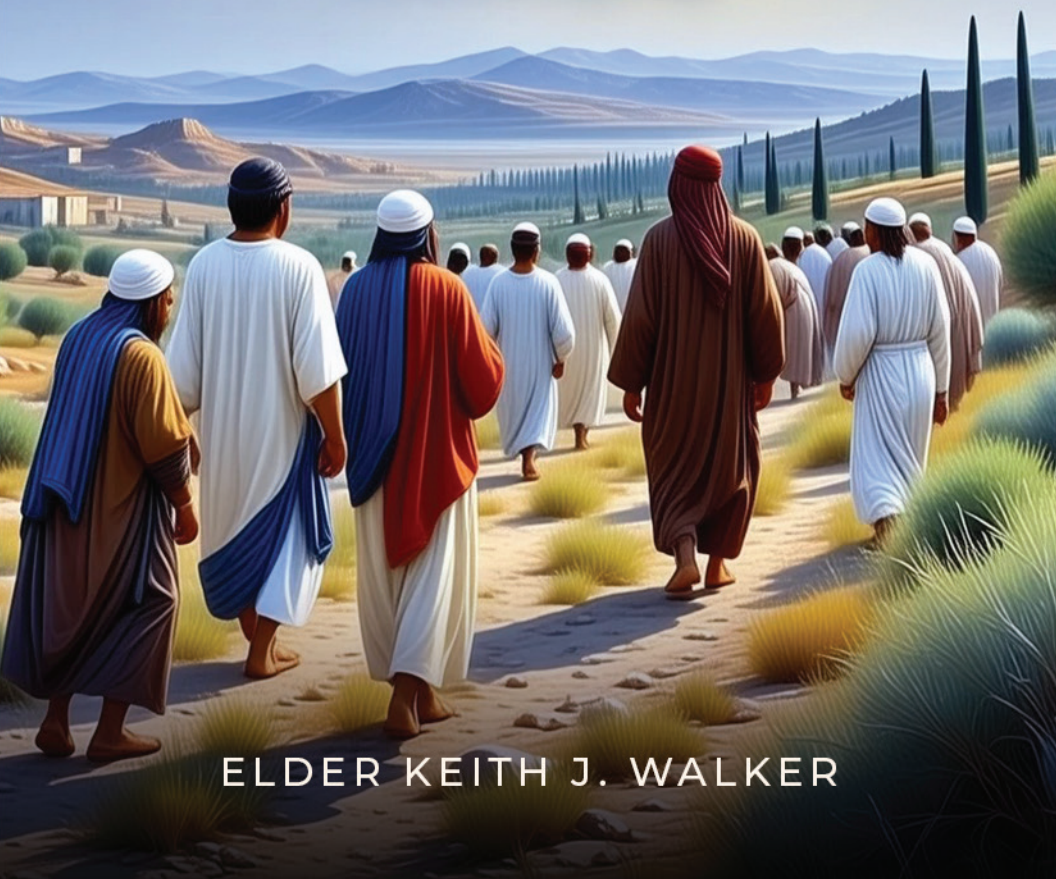


RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND

*The Modern Aliyah and
Biblical Prophecy*



ELDER KEITH J. WALKER



RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND

*The Modern Aliyah
and Biblical Prophecy*

Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker

whpctuttle.com

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. The Historical Context of Aliyah
3. Major Groups of Jews Who Have Returned to Israel Since 1948
 - Ashkenazi Jews
 - Sephardic Jews
 - Mizrahi Jews
 - Yemenite Jews
 - Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel)
 - Russian Jews
 - Indian Jews (Bene Israel and Cochin Jews)
 - Latin American Jews
4. Key Scriptures Related to the Return of Israel
 - Old Testament
 - New Testament
5. The Apostolic Pentecostal Perspective
 - Born Again of Water and Spirit
 - The Completed Children of Abraham Covenant
 - The Longing for the Homeland and the Second Coming
6. Recent Trends and Statistics in Aliyah
7. Conclusion: A Tapestry of Heritage and Hope
8. References and Further Reading

1. Introduction

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, there has been a significant return of Jewish people from various parts of the world, often referred to as “Aliyah.” This booklet explores the diverse communities that have made Aliyah, the biblical context surrounding this significant event, and the fulfillment of ancient prophecies. Moreover, it highlights the beliefs of those who are born again of water and spirit, emphasizing their connection to the covenant of Abraham and their anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Hebrew word “Aliyah” (היילע) translates to “ascent” or “going up.” In a Jewish context, it has several significant meanings:

1. Immigration to Israel: “Aliyah” is commonly used to refer to the act of Jewish people immigrating to Israel. This is a central concept in Jewish life and identity, representing a return to the ancestral homeland.

2. Torah Reading: In synagogue services, “Aliyah” refers to the honor of being called up to the Torah to recite a portion of it during a service. Each person who is called up is said to have received an “Aliyah.”

3. Spiritual Ascent: The term can also signify

a spiritual ascent or elevation, representing a person's growth and development in their faith and relationship with God.

Overall, "Aliyah" embodies themes of elevation, both physically and spiritually, in Jewish tradition.

2. The Historical Context of Aliyah

The return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland has deep historical roots, tracing back to ancient promises made by God. The modern era of Aliyah began in earnest following World War II, as Jews sought refuge from persecution and aimed to reclaim their heritage in the land of Israel.

3. Major Groups of Jews Who Have Returned to Israel Since 1948

Ashkenazi Jews

Jews of Central and Eastern European descent who constituted a large portion of the early population in Israel.

Sephardic Jews

Descendants of Jews from Spain and Portugal, many of whom immigrated from North Africa and the

Middle East.

Mizrahi Jews

Jews originating from Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, Iran, Yemen, and Syria, who began immigrating in significant numbers during the 1950s and 1960s.

Yemenite Jews

Thousands of Yemenite Jews were brought to Israel through “Operation Magic Carpet” in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel)

This community immigrated in several waves, particularly during Operations Moses (1984) and Solomon (1991), bringing thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Russian Jews

A large influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union occurred in the 1990s, particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Indian Jews (Bene Israel and Cochin Jews)

Smaller communities of Indian Jews who have made Aliyah, particularly from the Bene Israel and Cochin Jewish communities.

Latin American Jews

Increasing numbers of Jews from countries like Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico making Aliyah in recent years.

4. Key Scriptures Related to the Return of Israel

Old Testament

1. Deuteronomy 30:3-5 - God's promise to restore and gather His people.
2. Zephaniah 3:19-20 - The restoration of the afflicted and gathering of outcasts.
3. Isaiah 43:5-6 - God's assurance of gathering His people from all directions.
4. Ezekiel 36:24-26 - Gathering from the nations and spiritual renewal.
5. Hosea 1:10-11 - The restoration of Israel and unity of the tribes.

6. Isaiah 49:22 - The Lord's promise to bring His people back.

New Testament

1. Luke 21:24 - Reference to Jerusalem and the times of the Gentiles.

2. Romans 11:25-26 - Discussion of Israel's partial hardening and future salvation.

3. Hebrews 8:8-12 - The establishment of a new covenant with Israel and Judah.

4. Revelation 21:12-14 - The New Jerusalem and the names of the twelve tribes.

5. The Apostolic Pentecostal Perspective

Born Again of Water and Spirit

Apostolic Pentecostals emphasize the necessity of being "born again" as described in John 3:5, which states, "Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'" This experience is foundational for believers, marking their entry into the covenant community of God.

The Completed Children of Abraham Covenant

Apostolic Pentecostals view themselves as part of the “completed” covenant of Abraham, as articulated in Acts 2:38, which emphasizes repentance, baptism in Jesus’ name, and receiving the Holy Spirit. This covenant extends beyond ethnic Israel to include all who are born again, fulfilling the promise of God to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.

The Longing for the Homeland and the Second Coming

Believers are encouraged to have a deep longing for their true homeland, which is not only a physical place but also a spiritual reality. This longing is coupled with the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Many Apostolic Pentecostals believe in a pre-millennial return of Christ, with the rapture occurring after the tribulation and the battle of Armageddon. They look forward to ruling and reigning with Christ in Jerusalem for a thousand years, as described in Revelation 20:4-6.

6. Recent Trends and Statistics in Aliyah

- **Statistics:** Over 3 million Jews have immigrated to Israel since 1948, with peaks during significant

geopolitical events.

- Modern Aliyah: Recent increases from France, the U.S., and other countries driven by rising anti-Semitism and the desire for a Jewish homeland.

7. Conclusion: A Tapestry of Heritage and Hope

The modern Jewish population in Israel is a rich tapestry woven from diverse historical backgrounds, many of which can trace their roots back to the ancient tribes of Israel. The ongoing return and restoration of these communities fulfill biblical prophecies and reflect a significant aspect of Jewish identity and continuity. For those who are born again of water and spirit, there is a profound connection to the promises of God, a longing for the homeland, and an anticipation of the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

8. References and Further Reading

- Jewish Agency for Israel
- The Bible (various translations)
- Historical studies on Jewish immigration and Aliyah
- Contemporary reports on Jewish communities worldwide
- Apostolic Pentecostal literature on salvation and eschatology

Compiled By Elder Keith Joel Walker