

SHE'S HOME!!!

Sunday morning was a very special experience for all attending Trinity MBC. Mariah Yanes & family showed up; late, of course - to heighten suspense and add to the surprise.

And, did it work! From Grandmother Audrey's fibs about not knowing anything, to everyone who did, the lid didn't come off and the rest of us received a wonderful shocked!

The Song Leader, Dan Ford, became choked up. I didn't know why until we finished the song and he explained. I flipped my head around and started waving. It made the service...well, more complete. It was a great!

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA

Mariah **didn't come** just for a visit. Mariah has been discharged from Stanford Children's Hospital and returned to her home. That's "**discharged,**" with a capital "**D.**" She will only need to go to Stanford twice a month for check-ups.

All this after months (Feb. to June) in the hospital and receiving a new heart to pump blood to every part of her beautiful and precious body.

The **Yanes family** is in awe of God for His miracle. They are indebted to the doctors and staff, as well. And, of course, the family is very much appreciative to all helping out, financially.

A letter, with "beginning-to-end" hospital photos, is coming, soon.

Most of all, to God be the glory!

GOODNEWS LETTER

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GOD'S PROMISES, NOT MAN'S PROPHECIES

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways...For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout...so shall MY WORD BE WHICH GOES FORTH FROM MY MOUTH; IT SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY (void)," Isa. 55:8, 10 & 11.

Although, written over 2000 years, the Bible has said much about the future - especially, about events within Israel during the past 1900 years.

The Word of God is true and sure; it will not return unto Him void. His Word records His **PROMISES**, not man's prophecies. **PROMISES** that were made to Abraham and to his descendants, the Jews.

1) **Exile of the Jews** - (Micah 3:11-12).

Their city and all important Temple was destroyed over **2700 years ago**. Micah said Jerusalem would be destroyed and Zion (a central part of Jerusalem) would be "**plowed like a field,**" Micah 3:12.

According to Jewish writing - the Romans ran a plow over Zion on the 9th day of the Jewish month of Ab. Rufus, a Roman officer, plowed the area of the Temple. A Roman coin was minted during the era of Hadrian - the Roman general who destroyed Jerusalem in 135 AD - that shows an image of a man riding a plow over the site of Jerusalem.

2) **Jews were scattered, worldwide** (Dt. 4:25-30, Hos. 9:17).

The Assyrians and Babylonians were involved in the 26th and 27th centuries. Hosea records, "**...the prophet is a fool, the inspired man is demented**" (9:7). "**They shall be wanderers among the nations,**" 9:17.

Exiled by the Romans about 1900 years ago, the Jews are still banned from living in Jerusalem. The majority of Jews live outside of their ancient homeland.

3) **Persecution** - the last 1900 years (Dt. 29:23, Isa. 51:3, Le. 26:31-32).

American writer Mark Twain, in 1867, wrote: "*Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes... the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies... Palestine is desolate and unlovely... It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land.*" - from Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad*.

4) **Yet, God preserves His people** (Isa. 66:22, Jer. 30:11, Lev. 26:3-8).

The Jews have survived many centuries of worldwide dispersion and managed to preserve their ancient culture, ancient religion and language.

After enduring 19 centuries of exile, large numbers have returned to their ancient homeland. God continually watches over His people, the Jews. Today, the homeland has been reclaimed.

5) **Homeland, Once Again** - (Isaiah 66:7-8)

The **re-birth of Israel** is described as a woman giving birth *before* going into labor. Isaiah speaks of a country being born in one day. While, May 14, 1948, the Jews declared independence for Israel as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in 2900 years, it's not the time of fulfillment of Isaiah's words.

There was a movement called Zionism in the 1800s to encourage Jews worldwide to move to Israel, which at that time was called Palestine; but, it is weak to cite Isaiah's prophecy as proof of the birth of Israel in 1948.

Isaiah refers to the birth of Jesus; as well as, Israel's recognition and her deliverance. This promise of Isaiah is of a deliverance that is yet to occur.

Thus, the true understanding goes back, way back. First, to over 2000 years ago. "Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before Her pain came, She gave birth to a boy," Isaiah 6:7. That boy - that child, was Jesus, Israel's Messiah.

But, when we combine John's Revelation with Isaiah 66, we see the birth of Jesus much clearer. First, Isaiah writes of a time when Jesus was born naturally - of His Mother-of-the-flesh, Israel. Isaiah speaks of a physical birth.

Then, secondly, when we add in the light that John presents, we see the date isn't 1948; but, rather, it's the end of this age - at the Second Coming.

It's a time when we see Israel described as, "...a woman...on Her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth," Rev 12:1, 2. That did not happen in 1948.

This is the time when Jesus returns to earth; a time when Israel is having Her birth pains and fully knows that she needs deliverance.

Johns says Israel is hurting in this deliverance. Her back is against the wall. Israel is in such dire need that She is very glad, this time, to accept the One that came to deliver Her, over 2000 years ago.

This time, Israel recognizes; not only that She is with birth pains and having a child but She also looks to this child with hope in Her heart for the future.

At the end of Isaiah's message, Israel is very glad to deliver, **AND elated to be delivered** - a time when Her **delivery becomes Her deliverance**.

Isaiah 66:11 & 12 sums up the glorious deliverance for Israel. "Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Lo, your salvation comes; Behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before him.'

"And they will call them, 'The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD'; and you will be called, '**SOUGHT OUT, A CITY NOT FORSAKEN.**'"