

A People Who Were Not a People

I want to begin today with a consideration of our calling as Christians ----

--as people who have been called by God the Father, and

given a special HOPE---an expectation of becoming something

greater than we would probably ever imagine on our own

I use the term “hope” largely because I want to begin with the writing of Peter, in the New Testament book of I Peter

Peter is sometimes called “The Apostle of Hope” –and for two good reasons:

One, is that he wrote of hope in his messages to the Church of God, and secondly

He was a person who lived a life focused on his hope---

hope of becoming a spirit-born son of God, living in the K.O.G.

And that focus must have been a great comfort for a man who had been personally told by Jesus Christ, that he was going to die a horrible death by crucifixion. The story of that is at the end of the Gospel of John, and in II Pet 1: 14, Peter said the time was near for that to happen

Peter didn't focus on the hope of the Kingdom of God for himself alone, though, he worked to teach God's people about that hope and to encourage them in it!

Even when they were suffering **persecution** for living God's way of life and worshipping the True God in the way He commanded, Peter reminded those people-*reminded US*—that they were a special people, called out for a special destiny.

Let's begin near the start of I Peter:

I Pet 1: 3 Peter early gives God thanks and praises Him

“**according to His mercy**” –reinforces the fact that we don’t *deserve* or *earn* God’s calling
It is granted solely at His discretion---by *His mercy*

“**begotten us again**” = *anagennao* --from *gennao* = “to procreate” “to bear” “to conceive”

Most people mistakenly interpret this as “born again”
---but that contradicts Jesus’ direct statement in Jn 3: 6 *what is born of spirit IS spirit*

We understand that I Cor 2: 11-14 and Rom 8: 16 show that when the holy spirit joins with the “spirit-in-man” we become a **newly conceived** embryonic child of God

II Cor 5: 17 *any man in Christ is a new creation, all things become new*

Col 3: 10 *put on the new man*

“**living hope**” –Peter is called the “apostle of hope”

What do we know about Hope—what is our hope?

---**Our hope** is to be born as spiritual sons of God

That hope is as secure as Jesus Christ is alive: Rom 5: 10 *justified by death,
saved by His life*

I Cor 15: 14-20 *if Christ isn’t risen, our preaching & faith is in vain; if the dead don’t rise, Christ isn’t risen, & you’re in your sins; if in this life only we have hope, we’re most pitiful, BUT Christ IS risen, and is first fruits of all he have died*

Rom 8: 11 *if the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ, will also give life to your mortal body, through His spirit in you*

Rom 8: 24 *we’re saved in this hope*

---*As we’ve said, Peter knew that a horrible death awaited him, BUT, his **hope** was resurrection & eternal life---That is our hope too!*

I Pet 1: 4 “**inheritance**” = *kleronomia* = “a secure possession

–the same word that in Greek was used to refer to the **Promised Land** for Israel

“**incorruptible**”= *aphthartos*”= “imperishable
 –can mean “un-ravaged by an invading army” as the promised land had been, many times

The Christian inheritance is much superior to that of Physical Israel

“**undefiled**” = *amiantos* = undefileable

“**not fade away**” –compared to 1: 24 all flesh is as grass, withers like flowers

The primary thing that we inherit is Eternal Life. BUT, it is worth understanding that God is incorruptible and undefileable ----**He is our reward/ inheritance, also:**

Ps 16: 5; 73: 26; Lam 3: 24 The LORD is my portion . .

Gen 15: 1 fear not Abram, I am your shield AND *exceeding great reward*

We can put these two ideas together to understand that our inheritance is to become an immortal spirit-born son of God: **more than on-going life, being a part of the God family!**

“**reserved in heaven for you**”

Col 1: 5 the hope is laid up for you in heaven

a place where it can't be destroyed, polluted, or stolen

BUT, that does not mean it will STAY in heaven:

I Pet 1: 13 says the grace will “be brought to you”

Rev 22: 12 I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me”

“**for you**” –directed to “the elect” He had said, “us” in 1: 3

I Pet 1: 5 “Kept” = *phrourein* = “protected” --a military word, implying a sentinel standing guard, or a defended in a castle

God **has** that power—we merely need to exercise faith to trust in it

This addresses the potential question, “what good is it to have a reward kept safe in heaven, while we are persecuted and suffering here on earth, now?”

“salvation” = *soteria* = reserve for safety-- from physical danger, as well as spiritual disease or condemnation

--God is keeping us safe in the way that matters most!--*spiritually!*

And, that salvation will come at the “last time”--when Christ returns, the Day of the LORD

Notice that Peter has been talking about the reward for Christians using terms that were appropriate for the Promised Land given to Israel

Let's skip ahead and read

I Pet 1: 9 “Salvation of your souls” This does NOT teach the immortality of the soul!

“end” = *telios* = result, goal, or outcome

The Jews had expected Messiah to bring physical salvation from foreign rule & oppression --but Christians understand that he brings salvation from eternal death

I Pet 1: 10-12 Old testament prophets didn't fully understand God's plan
[I Cor 10: 11 [these things written for our examples](#)]

YET, they obeyed and sacrificed to serve others

Just as WE should to, even when WE lack understanding at times

This tells us some important things about how God worked with/through O.T. prophets

- 1** They DID have the holy spirit “in” them --*few people before Christ's crucifixion did*
II Pet 1: 21 [holy men spoke, as moved by the holy spirit](#)
- 2** God revealed different parts of His plan at different times, and sometimes to different men
Isa 28: 10 [precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little](#)

For example:

Prophecies of Christ coming in power to rule:

Isa 2: 2-4 Mt. of LORD's house established, swords into plowshares

Jer 31: 31-34 make a new covenant, write laws on heart

Zech 14: 1-4 day coming, will gather nations to battle, Mt. Olives split in two

Prophecies of Christ coming as a sacrifice

Isa 53: 1-3 behold My Servant . . will be despised, rejected of men

Ps 22: 1- My God, . . why have You forsaken Me . . .

Zech 9: 9 your king is coming . . . lowly riding on a donkey, a colt . . .

Jews in Christ's time focused on prophecies of coming in power, didn't know 2 advents

- 3** At least some of the prophets *wanted* to know (*and didn't*) meaning of prophecies
Dan 12: 8-9 I heard & didn't understand; what shall be end of these things?
 "go your way, the words are sealed up 'till the time of the end"

It seems that even the angels do not know or understand all of God's plan
Mrk 13: 32 of that day & hour no one knows, not even angels in heaven . . .

"look into" ---the Greek means, "bend over to see to the bottom of something"
that indicates that angels are paying close attention!

Is it any wonder that WE do not know or yet understand
 all aspects of God's plan & prophecies? –[as it says in Mrk 13: 32]

This lesson is exemplified in the example of the 7 Thunders of Rev 10: 3-4;
God let us know that we don't know what they said

I Pet 1: 13 “**Therefore**” ---*because of all Peter just explained,*
 ----including the service of the prophets, and attention of angels,

“**gird up the loins**” –*in that culture, people wore long robes, and when they needed to move freely or quickly, would tuck the end of the robe into their belt*

So WE need to keep our minds ready for quick or strenuous work

Our full reward comes when Christ **returns**, and brings it *with* Him,
from heaven, where it is reserved (I Pet 1: 4)

I Pet 2: 5 The Greek words for “household” and “house” are very similar:

Thus, an analogy of us as *sons and daughters* of God, forming a **household**,
 can portray us as *stones*, forming the **house** of God

Which matches:

Eph 2: 19-22 *members of the household of God, built on the foundation of apostles & prophets, Christ the chief cornerstone. Whole building forms a temple, . . . you built together as a habitation for God in spirit*

This reinforces the idea that we cannot be individual Christians any more than a brick is of value sitting by itself. It is most useful when combined with others in order to build a structure.

We are ALSO to be **priests** (*subordinate to Christ, the High Priest*)
 (Rev 1: 6; Rev 5: 10; Rev 20: 6; I Pet 2: 9)

“**Spiritual sacrifices**” – because Levitical priesthood has been replaced by that of Melchizedek (Heb 7: 12)

Spiritual sacrifices are first: SELF

Rom 12: 1 *present your bodies a living sacrifice*

Then, PRAISE—in word and song:

Hos 14: 2 we'll offer the sacrifice of our lips

Ps 50: 14 offer to God thanksgiving

Heb 13: 5 sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips

Also, ATTITUDE

Ps 4: 5 sacrifices of righteousness

Ps 50: 14 sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, broken & contrite heart

Finally, support for His work

Phlp 4: 18 [gift to Paul] a sweet smelling aroma, acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God

“**through Jesus Christ**” –He is the High Priest (Heb 3: 1; 4: 14), so our sacrifices go through Him to the Father

I Pet 2: 6 “**Therefore**” = because –cites Isa 28: 16

“**Zion**” can mean not only Jerusalem, but is often a type or symbol of the Church

Heb 12: 22-23 you're come to Mt. Zion city of God, heavenly Jerusalem, to the general assembly and Church of the 1st born. . .

That matches Eph 1: 22 Christ head over all to the Church, which is His body

“**Elect**” = chosen “**precious**” –can mean “honorable”

2: 7-8 Peter makes the understanding of Isa 28: 16 & Ps 118: 22-23 show that Jesus was/is the precious cornerstone [*which can be in the foundation or a capstone or keystone of an arch*]

To those NOT called, Jesus (and the Truth He preached) is not accepted;

I Cor 1: 22-24 Jews request a sign, Greeks seek wisdom; We preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block** to Greeks foolishness, but to those called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power and wisdom of God

**This demonstrates God's plan of calling SOME now,
but MOST later—after Christ's return, when KOG set up & ruling the earth**

2: 9-10 Peter here adapts specific terms & phrases that God had formerly used to describe Israel, and now applies them to the Church, which Paul calls “The Israel of God” in Gal 6: 16

“**chosen generation**” *for Israel* Deut 7: 6 you’re a holy people, the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure

for Christians Col 3: 12 the elect Jn 6: 44 none come but **called** by the Father

“**royal priesthood**” *for Israel* Ex 19: 6 you shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation

for Christians Rev 20: 6 he in 1st resurrection, to be priests & reign with Him 1000 yrs

“**holy nation**” *for Israel* Ex 19: 6; Deut 7: 6

“**special people**” [KJV, “peculiar people”] = “acquired” or “purchased”
---as in, the personal property of God

In all this, Israel had to uphold its part of the covenant: obedience to God
---but they did NOT obey, and thus they broke that covenant

Peter then quotes Hos 1: 6-7; 1: 9-10 –NOT referring to physical Israel. By that time, Israel *had been* a people or a nation

This is intriguing because Peter here quotes a very old prophecy that was certainly about the physical people of Israel

--but he seems to be saying that it is about Christians

Is it then NOT about Israelites?

Is it saying that only Israelites can be Christians?

What did Peter mean? (and by the way, we'll notice that the Apostle Paul also quoted this prophecy from Hosea)

I think it will be worthwhile to turn to Hosea to look for answers

First, a bit about the Book of Hosea:

Who The book was written by the man, Hosea
 ---Little is known about him, aside from what is found in this book

When Hosea was written during the reigns of these kings of Judah:
 ---Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah

It is dated by the Jewish kings, rather than those of Israel because they were of the Davidic dynasty and thus more legitimate rulers

The writing occurred during the reigns of Jereboam II of Israel and some subsequent kings, though they're not mentioned

This was during one of Israel's greatest periods of prosperity

Hosea would have been prophesying up to *and perhaps during* the fall and captivity of Israel (*certainly during the first wave of captivity by Tiglath-Pileser*)

Where Hosea's prophecy is primarily against (*and to*) Israel (**The Northern Kingdom**)

Why The book is largely an indictment of Israel's unfaithfulness to God
--and a description of punishment to come ---*and of eventual redemption!!*

In contrast to some other books, Hosea purposely demonstrates God's love
(*Amos may have already preached, and emphasized the need for repentance*)
- Hosea demonstrates God's unfailing love!!

What The 1st and 3rd chapters are written in prose: all the rest is in poetry

Some have called Hosea “a tragic love story, with a happy ending”

The Book begins with Hose's family as an allegory of Israel's unfaithfulness to God and God's undying love

Hos 1: 1-2 General time frame: references primarily Judah's kings (*David's line*)

1: 2-3 whole point of this is to typify Israel committing “whoredom” with false gods
Idolatry symbolized by adultery

Was Gomer previously married to someone else, or was she a prostitute?

Most scholars believe she already was a prostitute (*not previously married*)
She probably was quite surprised when a prophet asked her to marry him!!

The whole analogy matches Ezek 16, *except*,
saying that Israel was chaste when it married God

Hos 1: 3 “Dibblaim” = Hebrew for “double cake of figs”
may symbolize sensual pleasure

1: 4 “Jezreel” = “God scatters” OR “God sows” (*as in broadcast planting*)
 God can sow destruction OR restoration, here, He sows destruction first

Literally, Jezreel was a valley in Israel where Jehu killed King Ahab and his family
 (*as prophesied by God*) BUT, he went *way beyond* what God had intended, and shed
 A LOT of innocent blood in Jezreel (II Ki 9: 26-38)

It would be sometime after *that*, that Israel would completely fall,
 but it *began* soon afterward

The kingdom of the House of Israel *did* cease: but the *people* of Israel did NOT cease
 ---*and they stayed together and would become other “nations”*

Unlike Judah, they were NOT brought back to Palestine

1: 6 “Lo Ruhamma” = “not pitied” OR “not beloved” OR “not having obtained mercy”

No portion of Israel was left behind

Hos 1: 7 This is a parenthetical statement, showing God would treat Judah differently:

Ways God did have mercy on Judah

- 1 allowed them to survived Assyria’s attack and to continue as a nation while Israel was taken captive
- 2 Judah would be restored (*partially, that is—after 70 years captivity*)
- 3 Christians are considered to be “spiritual jews”
- 4 In the millennium, Judah will again be joined to Israel & established by God

this will be by *God’s power*---NOT by man’s military might:

Zech 4: 6 *Not by might, nor power, but by My spirit, says the LORD*

1: 8 “**Lo Ami**” = “not my people

When they went into captivity, they ceased being the people God was working with
BUT, that didn't change God's overall plan that DOES still include all Israel

1: 10 This shows that God has not finished working with Israel
*But we understand that several other prophecies show that Israel will be restored
 and will multiply during the millennium, after the 2nd Exodus*
 (See Isa 49: 14-23; Isa 10: 22-23; Jer 31: 7-9; Jer 31: 31-34)

For now, Rom 9-11 shows *how to become “Ami”—God's people*

Rom 9: 6-25 shows that a remnant of Israel ARE God's people,
 by *being in the Church* (God's people by **calling** (*election*) rather than by inheritance

Those who are *called* and repentant NOW, are the “Israel of God” (Gal 6: 16)

Gal 3: 7, *Those of faith are sons of Abraham*

Gal 3: 26-29 *If you're Christ's then you're Abraham's seed and heirs of the promise*

See also, Rom 10: 19, “those not a nation” = miscellaneous people called
 by God and formed into a *spiritual* nation

This includes “Jew & Gentile” (Rom 10, 12)

Rom 11 Shows that Israel is NOT excluded (*in fact, most members of the Church
 ARE physical Israelites*)

--But, they are part of the Church by being *called* and by accepting Christ's sacrifice,
 --*NOT by being born an Israelites!*

They are “grafted in” (Rom 11: 18-24)

---*but grafted to Jesus Christ*, rather than to physical Israel
(Jn 15: 1-8 –*Jesus is the vine and we are all branches*)

THUS, Israelites must become Christians, NOT the other way around!

The Lesser fulfillment of Hos 1: 10 is in Israel’s physical restoration in the millennium

The greater fulfillment is explained by Paul in

Rom 9: 24-26 where he explains that before being called and baptized, members of the Church were NOT a nation, *BUT*, one grafted to the vine that is Christ, we then *ARE* a nation, a *spiritual nation!!*---God’s people, His sons, The Church

I Pet 2: 9-12 *you’re a chosen generation, a royal priesthood; once not a people now are the people of God, as sojourners* [philp 3: 20 our citizenship is in heaven] *abstain from fleshly lusts*

Hos 1: 11 This shows the ultimate fulfillment of the physical covenant with Israel
--It will happen when Christ rules and they are converted!

[Ezek 37: 16-25, *2 sticks, one for Judah & one for Israel, to become one and David to rule over them* (Ps 132: 11)

Of course, Jesus Christ will be the ultimate head and ruler—even over David
----David was a *type* of Christ: Acts 2: 30-36 (*cites Ps 110: 1*)

“**Great the day of Jezreel**” -where this prophecy began,---only *now* God will sow restoration, instead of destruction!

Hos 2: 1 *continues from the previous verse*

In the time of restoration—*when Christ returns*—Israel will be God’s people
and will gain His favor and mercy (Hos 2:23)

Right now, this only applies to the Church---*and the next verse explains why*

Hos 2: 2 “Your mother” = Israel, as a whole

Jer 3: 8; Isa 50: 1 refer to God “divorcing” Israel/Judah because of “adultery”--Idolatry

“between her breasts” – very close/intimate ---*showing a love of the idolatry*

2: 3-4 strong parallel to Ezek 16; Ezek 39-41

2: 5 Israel didn’t realize that God had given all those blessings

2: 6-7 hedge wall = cut off from contact with the real God
(*only those called by the Father have that, Jn 6: 44*)

“lovers” = allies and/or false gods & false religion

“first husband” = Christ [Hosea will later prophesy of a restored relationship (5: 12; 6: 2)]

2: 8-9 After Israel entered the Promised Land and manna ceased, they had to rely on God to give rain and to cause the crops to grow (Josh 5: 11-12; Jn 6: 31-55)
Christ is bread of life

silver & gold made *into* baals/ false gods, idols

[--*also, I Cor 3: 12 indicates these can represent differing degrees of spiritual development*]

Hos 2: 10 “lewdness” = sin/depravity

“none shall deliver” ---no power is greater than God
(Heb 10: 31, *fearful thing to fall into hands of living God*)

Hos 2: 11 this is “her” feast days, Sabbaths, ect---*parallels Isa 1: 13-14*
 [remember, in Israel, Jereboam established his *own* feast days, I Ki 12: 26-33]

2: 12 vine & fig tree ---used symbolically in the Bible:

All of these privileges have come to God’s church,
 bound together (Rom 11: 17, *grafted in*)

“Beasts of the field” = nations of the earth, that took away Israel’s blessings & privileges

2: 13 “baalim” = plural of baal---*false gods*

God will punish for false religion and for trusting in foreign alliances

2: 14 “**therefore**” –better translated as “*nevertheless*” God WILL redeem Israel,
 BUT, “wilderness” indicates it will be after testing and trial:
 --*coming through the Great Tribulation*
 [Jer 30: 7 Time of Jacob’s Trouble, *but he’ll be saved out of it!*]

There is a parallel to God bringing Israel out of Egypt (*which symbolizes sin*) and into
 the wilderness-----They had to trust Him for everything [*manna & water*]

-----Just as Christians have to learn to trust God for everything that matters

Hos 2: 15 “Achor” = “trouble” (see Josh 7: 24-26 Achan was executed for taking spoil in
 battle of Jericho; he “troubled” Israel, and he was “troubled”
 by being executed in the Valley of Achor)

BUT, God will transform the “valley of trouble” into a Door of Hope!

[Ex 15 records how Israel sang for joy, coming out of Egypt]

Hos 2: 16-17 “ishi” = “my husband” “baali” = “my master”

*God wants to have a loving, interactive relationship
with Israel & His people, NOT, just a dominating one*

He will take away reference to false baals & masters and will not be called that Himself

*Notice, when Jesus taught the disciples to pray, He said to say “Our Father” (Lk 11: 1-2)
---NOT, “our master”*

2: 18 peace with wild animal ---see Isa 11: 6-8
end to implements of war, Isa 2: 4

2: 19-20 WILL betroth---*this is a future marriage covenant:*

see Jer 31: 31-34 *Israel can join in the covenant that is made available to the church*

Isa 62: 4-5 *you’ll be called, “Beulah” = “married”*

Isa 54: 1-5 *barren to have many children*

II cor 11: 1 *I espoused you to one Husband, that I may present you a chaste
virgin to Christ*

Rev 19: 7 *Marriage of the Lamb & wife has made herself ready*

“loving kindness” = *Hesed* = covenant love

2: 23 “I will sow” = “*Jezreel*” God will plant His people, and WILL have mercy
 ---they will be His people

Hos 3 New Prophetic Utterance

BUT, this chapter shows Hosea acting out what God just prophesied

3: 1 Hosea symbolizes God, who loved US, while yet in our sins

“friend” = “lover” or “*husband*” showing Hosea *still* loved her, even though she was committing adultery

Just as God still loved Israel, even when they apostocized

3: 2-3 “15 pieces of silver” --apparently he had to buy her out of sex-slavery

A healthy, valuable slave would cost 30 pieces of silver.
 --apparently, Gomer wasn't worth much to her owner (or pimp)

2 ways to look at this: 1 God put Israel away, but still plans to redeem her
 2 God loved us while we were sinners, and Christ
 paid with His life to buy us from the slavery of sin

3: 4 “many days without” *without these things as given from God*

To reconcile this with God's promise to maintain David's dynasty,
 --seems to refer to a *united* Israel. David's lineage ruled over one or
 a few of the tribes of Israel

Hos 3: 5 in the millennium, David will rule Israel (*under Christ, as King of Kings of course! Ezek 37: 24*)

“The LORD” *can* mean the Father

“This Goodness = “gracious one” –or *Christ!*

it may be that God inspired Hosea to mention both the Father and Christ to end this very important prophecy

All this is very good----*for people descended from Israel!!*

That cannot be all there is to it, though,

Because, as we’ve seen, The Apostles, both Peter and Paul, used this prophecy From Hosea to describe The Church of God

Let’s go back to

I Pet 2: 9-10 (Read) Peter here quotes what we just covered in Hosea,
But he is saying this is addressed to ***Christians***
---apparently whether Jews OR Gentiles

We noted that Paul ***also*** quotes Hos 1 , in Rom 9: 24-26 to specifically show that God is now calling Gentiles *along with* Jews into what is now a **spiritual nation**.

--Before God’s calling, *those people* were NOT part of a holy people and had not obtained mercy

Thus, we can describe a Progression of God's dealing with Israel

Progression (Thread) of Israel:

- 1 Nation –(Ex 1: 9; Ex 12: 40) 2 Married/ covenant –(Ex 24: 8)
- 3 Holy nation/priesthood –(Ex 19: 5-6) 4 committed “adultery” –(Hos 1:2;
Jer 3: 9; Ezek 16)
- 5 Divorced –(Jer 3: 8) I put her away, and given her a certificate of divorce
thus, becoming Lo Ruhamma, and Lo Ammi

6 Missing Step

- 7 Restored –(Hos 1: 10 *where said you are not my people, will be called sons of God*
*: Jer 30: 11 *I'll make an end of nations . . yet I will not make full end of you**

The Church of God IS the missing step!

Hos 2: 23 I'll have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy: I'll say to those who weren't My people, you ARE my people, and they'll say , you're MY God

Rom 9: 24-16 God's church consists of Jews AND Gentiles

Gal 3: 26-29 you're all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus; neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free, all one in Christ If Christ's then Abraham's seed

Rom 11: 1-2 God has not cast away His people

Rom 11: 19-24 natural branches broken off, wild grafted in; natural branches may also be grafted in

We need to realize that the stem/vine to grafted onto is NOT nation Israel, but Jesus Christ

Jn 15: 1-2 I'm the true vine, you're the branches, any not bearing fruit cut off & burned

Isa 11: 1; Jer 23: 5; Jer 33: 15; Zech 3:8; Zech 6: 12 –Jesus is the Branch/Stem

This fits with prophecies of Christ's return and of the Millennium,

BUT, it is worth noting that **prominent** among those prophecies are promises that God will **restore Israel**—both to its land (2nd Exodus) and to a special relationship

Many Israelites through the ages probably did not understand the idea of a 2nd coming of Messiah, or of the millennium, but they could read and see these promises to the **physical nation of Israel!**

Isa 14: 1-3 God will “*still* choose Israel”

. . . will “bring them to their own place”

This was NOT fulfilled by *some* Jews returning to Judea under the Medes, nor in modern times

This is called the “2nd Exodus” *after* Christ’s return,

That name is derived largely from the wording of

Jer 16: 14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, says the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers

There are *many* prophecies of that event *throughout* the Prophets

Let’s consider a particular phrase God uses in prophecy to make a special point

Isa 49: 14-17 God compares Himself and the love He has for the people of Israel to a mother’s love---and says *plainly that His is greater!!*

“They may forget, **Yet I** will not forget you”

The Phrase, “**yet, I . . .**” appears a few places in prophecy where God makes the case that *no matter what*, He never completely gives up on Israel [*and I think that shows how He thinks of and deals with us!*]

I like to think of this as being symbolized by a creature, (*sort of*) as animals can symbolize people, concepts or nations.

---in this case, the creature is mythical, the Yeti. It can stand for the alternate pronunciation:
“yet, I . . .”

The Great “. . . Yet, I . . .” in my mind stands for God’s unfailing mercy & love!

This supports the idea that God will again have mercy [*ruhamma*] on Israel
Israel will again be His people [*ammi*]

The understanding of Jesus Christ and His Church being at the center of this plan explains how God can work through a physical nation, work with a special group of called-out Christians, and yet eventually offer salvation to **ALL people**.