

Dear Sr. Tracey,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You told us that you have always wondered why God allowed the Holocaust since the Jewish time of "disfavor" was over. You wondered if the Holocaust was the main reason for World War Two.

The period of time when Israel was first called a nation at the death of Jacob in 1813 B.C. until Jesus pronounced the house of Israel "desolate" (Matthew 23:38) was 1845 years. It was during that time period that Israel was "favored" by God. However, God's relationship with Israel was not always favorable. God chastised her many times during the periods of the judges and the kings due to her disobedience and idol worship. Nonetheless, God dealt with the nation and instructed her, as a father would a rebellious child. It was also during this period of "favor" that God allowed the idolatrous ten-tribe nation of Israel to be overtaken by Assyria and her people scattered throughout foreign lands. Shortly thereafter God allowed the less idolatrous nation of Judah to be led into captivity by Babylon. Then 70 years later God made provision for the Jews to return to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the temple at and resettle in the land. By the time Jesus appeared on the scene approximately 400 years later the Jewish nation had been occupied and ruled by many empires, the last being Rome. All these events happened during Israel's period of favor.

An equal period of time, (1845 years) a "double," was Israel's period of disfavor. During the period of disfavor the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and the remaining two tribes of Judah were scattered throughout the world. Israel as a nation ceased to exist. Since the terrible Diaspora or dispersion, Jews were barred from owning real property in their cherished land and could only live there under adverse conditions. For 1845 years God neither protected nor disciplined Israel as He had in the past. Although many Jews prospered in the countries in which they lived, their ancient nation was barren with few inhabitants. This period of God's disfavor ended in 1878 when the Berlin Congress of Nations reestablished the right of Jews to own land in Palestine. Thus the village of Petach Tikvah was established, which began the colonization of the modern state of Israel. We believe that since 1878 God began to once again "favor" Israel, although the process would be long and arduous.

Isaiah 43:5-6 is one of many prophecies that foretells the re-gathering of the Jewish people to the promised land. "Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north: Give up, and to the south: Keep not back, bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the end of the earth." For God said: "As the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the countries whither He had driven them; and I will bring them back into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks." (Jeremiah 16:15-16)

The Zionist movement compares to the fishing method of gathering. The Zionist activities provided the land with a vital nucleus of people that enabled it to become the new state of Israel. The "many hunters" would be those persecuting forces that led the Jews to face the necessity of return to Palestine. In that the fishing and hunting referred to by Jeremiah was with the view to bringing the children of Israel home, did the later Nazi persecution also fit this purpose? The Holocaust was a diabolical attempt to destroy the "seed of Abraham" and to make void the promise of God. The Adversary's plan was thwarted when thousands of Jews that managed to escape the Holocaust found a refuge in Palestine. This occurrence opened the door for the next step in the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, "to thee will I give it and to thy seed forever." (Genesis 22:16-18) That step was the reestablishment of Israel as an independent nation in 1948. Israel was further blessed with God's favor in the "six day war" of 1967. Her victory was nothing short of miraculous and insured that Jerusalem belonged to Israel.

As we know Jacob's trouble still awaits Israel and the world. At that time God will "fight" for Israel as in the days of old. The Ancient Worthies will then come forth from their graves to lead and instruct the nation. Then the hearts of the Jewish people will be turned to their God. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep Mine ordinances, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God." (Ezekiel 36:26-28)

Why did God permit the Holocaust since the Jewish time of "disfavor" was over? Was the Holocaust the main reason for World War Two? In retrospect we can see that WW2 was the second phase of the Great War (WW1). In WW1, the monarchies were toppled, thus ending the times of the Gentiles. After WW2 many new nations were established, which we believe refers to the scripture, "Behold the fig tree [Israel] and all the trees [other new independent nations]" (Luke 21:29). We believe that one reason God permitted the Holocaust was in order to gain world sympathy for the Jews and facilitate the legal process needed to establish their statehood. It is important to remember that God is in control. He allowed the Holocaust for a purpose. The good news is that He has a wonderful divine plan for Israel and the world. All who were exterminated in the Holocaust will soon be awakened from the sleep of death and receive new bodies free from pain and starvation. Our job is to trust in God and his promises knowing that He cannot lie and that in His time all that He has promised will come to pass.

We hope we have answered your question regarding the meaning of God's "favor" to Israel and why God permitted the Holocaust during this time of favor. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio