

But men have very short memories; like children, they must be told the same things over and over again. And the great and merciful Father of mankind, knowing our feeble frame—remembering that we are but dust—in compassion to our weakness, has repeated the same promises over and over—and other and greater promises of mercy and favour have been added. Since the Ten Tribes went into captivity, God in His tender pity has renewed all the promises given to their fathers. It was necessary to punish them in order to bring them into that condition or state in which the blessings could be bestowed by God and received by His chosen people—chosen to be a SPECIAL people unto Him—not for one generation, but for *all generations*: they were chosen, not for a limited period of time, but for all time. God has said it and it must come to pass! “This people have I formed for Myself; they *shall* show forth My praise.” It is only the Infidel or Atheist who would say, “God has tried His hand with Israel and *failed*; Moses has tried his hand with Israel and *failed*; and Jesus Christ has tried His hand with Israel, and even died for their redemption, and *failed*.” Blasphemy! daring impiety! God cannot fail! He is perfect and can make no false experiments. That the punishment of Israel should only be for a season, and then terminate, is the whole tenor of the Word of God. That Israel is the prodigal son (spoken of in the parable of our Lord; who is again to be restored to favour, and ready to obey all the commands of God, I have not the slightest doubt. The punishment of God’s people, both of the House of Judah and also of the House of Israel, must be of limited duration. “God will not be angry with them for ever,” and “in the midst of wrath He will remember mercy.” Isaiah saith of Israel, “Except the Lord had left us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isaiah i. 9). David truly says, “He sheweth His Word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any Nation” (Psalm cxlvii. 19, 20). Other Nations have been annihilated for their sins; but God hath not, and will not, utterly make an end of Israel, for He remembereth “His covenant,” confirmed with an oath to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. God says to Judah, “If his children forsake My law, and walk not in My judgments: if they break My statutes, and keep not My commandments; then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer My faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter [? spiritualise] the thing that is gone out of My lips. Once have I sworn by My holiness that *I will not lie* unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, his throne as the sun before Me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven.”

Now what God has so emphatically sworn with regard to Judah, and the perpetuity of David’s seed, is just as solemnly and as faithfully promised as to the succession and increase of all the Tribes of Israel. Notwithstanding their many transgressions, God’s promises to their fathers concerning them are certain of fulfilment. At the restoration of Israel all the Tribes are to be represented by their legitimate descendants, and the land of their inheritance is to be portioned out to each Tribe in strict accordance with God’s holy will, as recorded in the last chapter of Ezekiel. Already there are indications of the approach of that time. Our engineers have just returned from Palestine after taking the most accurate and patient survey and measurement of the country, and the Government survey maps are now in hand, and will shortly be published. Another indication is the returning fruitfulness of the Promised Land, caused by the restoration of the “letter rain;” and a third indication is God’s judgment on Mount Seir (or Turkey), plainly depicted in Ezekiel xxxv., and is now being fulfilled. “Therefore,