

Israel's 70th Birthday

By T.W. Tramm

TODAY, May 14, marks Israel's 70th birthday.

Biblically, no anniversary is more important, as the number 70 is vitally connected to Israel's history and destiny.

For instance...

The number 70 is associated with Israel's founding and rulership:

- Terah, the father of Abraham, was 70 years old when Abraham was born (Gen. 11:26).
- The Nation of Israel began with 70 Hebrews who migrated to Egypt (Ex. 1:1-5).
- Moses appointed 70 elders at Mount Sinai (Num. 11:16).
- Israel's greatest ruler, King David, died at the age of 70 (2 Sam. 5:4).

Typologically, the number 70 is linked to Israel's redemption:

- The Jews were redeemed from captivity in Babylon in the 70th year (Jer. 29:10).
- God's plan of redemption for Israel is comprised of 70 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27).

Even pivotal events in Israel's history tend to occur at a 70-year interval:

- From the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BC to the completion of the Second Temple in 516 BC is 70 years.
- From the completion of the Second Temple in 516 BC to the completion of the wall around Jerusalem in 445 BC is 71 years. (Is it possible the wall was actually completed a year earlier?)
- From the beginning of the first major Jewish war against Rome in 66 AD to the end of the last war against Rome in 136 AD is 70 years.
- From the first modern Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel (Petah Tikvah) in 1878 to the birth of the Nation in 1948 is 70 years.

- From the first major step in reestablishing the State of Israel (First Zionist Congress) in 1897 to the final step (restoration of Jerusalem) in 1967 is 70 years.

From its inception four millennia ago to its redemption in the last days, the number 70 is inextricably linked to the Nation of Israel. By way of type and pattern, it denotes “completion,” an “endpoint,” and “redemption” for God’s people.

Speaking of an endpoint, another important occurrence of the number 70 is in the Psalms where a typical human lifespan is said to be 70 years (Ps. 90:10). This is crucial pertaining to Israel’s 70th birthday because Jesus says the generation who sees Israel reborn will also see His return:

“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened” (Matt. 24:34).

70 years ago, on May 14, the Jewish State was miraculously reborn in a day.

“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?” (Isa. 66:8).

Unlike a typical birth, however, Isaiah specifies that Israel’s pain and travail would come *afterward*:

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she gave birth...” (v. 7).

Since 1948, the world has seen a steady increase of “birth pains” such as earthquakes, storms, wars, and pestilence.

Today, on Israel’s 70th birthday, there is no sign of a deceleration. In fact, we’re seeing a dramatic acceleration in the frequency and intensity of events:

- On May 15 a 300-foot diameter rock (2010 WC9) will skim by the earth at half a moon distance, just a month after a similar close pass-by of Asteroid 2018 GE3.
- Scientists are anticipating more eruptions from Hawaii’s Kilauea volcano, with some predicting the ejection of 12-ton boulders as far as half a mile and smaller rocks much further. Additionally, it’s believed Kilauea’s flare up may signal ring-of-fire eruptions along the west coast.
- The World Health Organization is predicting the worst in the Ebola outbreak in the Congo.
- Iran and Israel, backed by respective allies Russia and the US, are on the brink of war, as tensions rise to unprecedented levels.

- Anomalous meteorological events such as freak storms and record temperatures continue. Just this week, the largest wave ever in the Southern Hemisphere—78 feet-tall—was recorded.

Where is all this heading?

Considering the convergence of labor pains and timeline, it would appear a soon culmination.

“Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says the LORD. “Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?” says your God” (Isa. 66:9).