

**Text: Lev 26.27-34**

We are going to turn from the ancient nations surrounding Israel to a prophecy about Israel itself. Here is how Urquhart opens his chapter on this point:

“From the sea-coast of Palestine we now pass over to the land of Israel. We have some remarkable prophecies regarding Judea, as well as regarding the Jews, in the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. They are predictions the fulfilment of which was to be contingent on the prolonged disobedience, the persistent rebellion, of the Israelites.”<sup>1</sup>

For this prophecy we will survey Leviticus 26.

**I. The positive promises**

What does God call Israel to do in vv. 1-2?

God calls Israel to keep the Law

What does God promise in vv. 3-5?

Abundant harvests and security

What does God promise in vv. 6-10?

Peace, victory over enemies, much abundance

What does God promise in vv. 11-12?

God's personal presence among them, a personal relationship with him

What declaration ought to motivate Israel? (13)

God's deliverance of the nation from Egypt

**II. The negative promises**

In vv. 14-15, God projects a disobedient Israel. What is the first consequence of disobedience? (16)

Terror and pestilence

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<sup>1</sup> John Urquhart, *The Wonders of Prophecy: Or, What Are We to Believe?* (New York: Gospel Publishing House, n.d.), 111.

What is the negative promise in v. 17?

### Subjugation by enemies

What period of Hebrew history does that seem to point go?

### The days of the judges

God says if they persist in disobedience, he will punish them “seven times more.” (18) What is the consequence for persistent rebellion? (19-20)

### Failing harvests

What warnings are found in vv. 21-26?

### Plague, wild beasts, hostility, the sword, meager food supplies

## III. The final drastic warning

Lev 26.27-38 ¶ ‘Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me,<sup>28</sup> then I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you seven times for your sins.<sup>29</sup> ‘Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.<sup>30</sup> ‘I then will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you.<sup>31</sup> ‘I will lay waste your cities as well and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your soothing aromas.<sup>32</sup> ‘I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.<sup>33</sup> ‘You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.<sup>34</sup> ¶ ‘Then the land will enjoy its sabbaths all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths.<sup>35</sup> ‘All the days of *its* desolation it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your sabbaths, while you were living on it.<sup>36</sup> ‘As for those of you who may be left, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall.<sup>37</sup> ‘They will therefore stumble over each other as if *running* from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have *no strength* to stand up before your enemies.<sup>38</sup> ‘But you will perish among the nations, and your enemies’ land will consume you.

List the judgements mentioned in these verses:

1. (29) **Cannibalism**
2. (30) **destroy high places (idol worship)**
3. (31-32) **lay waste your cities**
4. (33) **Scatter you among the nations**

What does, “I will not smell your soothing aromas” in v. 31 mean?

**The end of temple worship**

What does God say the land will enjoy when these judgements occur? (34)

**The land will enjoy its sabbaths (the every seven year sabbatical, plus the year of Jubilee)**

#### IV. The “so what” of the prophecies

A. Preliminary fulfilments: the Judges period

B. Major fulfillment: the removal to Babylon

Why do these fulfilments not fill to the full the prophecies of vv. 27-39?

**They persisted in the land (despite the exile) until the first century**

What historical event brought vv. 30-31 in complete fulfillment?

**The destruction of the temple in AD 70 by the Romans**

What happened to the people after this event? (33)

**The people were scattered among the nations after the Bar Kochba rebellion in AD 135**

C. But all is not lost: see vv. 40-45

Zech 12.10 ¶ “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.