

# Church of Christ at Red Hill

Ralph Hart- Minister Office: (931-728-2859) PO Box 144 Manchester, TN 37349

KAOHSIUNG — 1 February 2024

## CHINA MISSION NEWSLETTER

### MISSIONARY

Eugene F. Brzozowski  
P O Box 1006  
Kaohsiung 800  
TAIWAN  
Telephone  
011-886-929-561-777

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%Red Hill Church of Christ  
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### Questions:

Please email  
Chuck Taylor  
redhillchurch@benloland.net

Dear brethren:

As long as the Middle East remains in the news, present-day Israel will continue to be on the minds of many. Many here reflect upon passages of Bible prophecy concerning Israel and wonder what bearing, if any, these passages have on the nation as it exists today. Unfortunately, much of what one hears about these passages is nothing more than misinterpretations and distortions of the text. Misapplications abound. January's letter manifested several instances of misapplying prophecy to modern-day Israel, prophecy that already has its fulfillment in the Old Testament. That letter ended with Jeremiah's visual aid, as recounted in Jeremiah 19:10–11. As a symbol of God's forthcoming wrath, he was to "break the jar" and declare, "Just so will I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot again be repaired." Note the words, "cannot again be repaired" (Lit. *healed*). Israel will never be restored as God's chosen nation.

Today, Israel is no longer the kingdom of God; that distinction has been given to another.

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God [i.e., their distinction as God's chosen people] will be taken away from you and given to a people [Lit. *nation*], producing the fruit of it.

—Matthew 21:43

These words were spoken by Jesus in His parable of the landowner. The actions of the wicked husbandmen in the parable are analogous to the despicable treatment toward God's prophets by the Jews, which culminated in their rejection and crucifixion of God's holy son. Understandably, their status as "the kingdom of God" [i.e., God's chosen nation] has been taken away from them and given to another. But the distinction as God's chosen has been bestowed upon what people [Lit. *nation*]? The apostle Peter, by inspiration, declares that *nation*, that *people*, is the church.

<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

"The stone which the builders rejected,  
This became the very corner stone,"

<sup>8</sup> and,

"A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

—1 Peter 2:7–10

Notice how Peter describes the church as: "a holy nation, a people for God's own possession". The church is God's holy nation. The church is the kingdom of Christ, which is already here (cf. Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13). Christians are the chosen ones who are a people for God's own possession. Christians are the *spiritual* seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:26–29), and the Israel of God (6:16). The kingdom of God is no longer physical but spiritual. "[N]or will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.'" (Luke 17:21).

So where does this leave the present-day national Israel? It is not the Israel of the O.T., not God's chosen nation, but an ordinary nation, a modern construct, whose appointed times and boundaries, as with all nations, have been determined by God, "that they would seek God" (Acts 17:26–27).

Your servant in Christ,

Eugene F. Brzozowski

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*(Those making spreading the Gospel in Taiwan possible)*

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### **CONGREGATIONS: TOTAL: \$50**

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#### **Mission Supporters & Christian Friends:**

**FYI: Be assured that 100% of your contributions go to the Brzozowski Mission activity.**

Red Hill is funding all costs of the administration and mailing fees associated with the Mission.

To help with our bookkeeping, **please be sure to mark your donations for Eugene or Natasha or both.** If they are not marked, then they will be logged as support for Eugene.

We are grateful for your continued support to Eugene and his efforts to spread God's word in Taiwan. He always expresses his appreciation to you.

We are grateful to be a part of this effort to spread God's word to the world and to help Eugene keep you informed concerning his efforts.

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Email:

redhillchurch@benlomand.net

Phone: 931-728-7086

I would appreciate your input.

*Chuck Taylor*

(for the Red Hill elders)