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Regathering Israel

# By Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian)

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In this [study](study.html) I would like to examine the scriptural basis for the gathering of the righteous to the [land of Israel](city.html).

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:1-6*** *When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to* [*heart*](body.html) *wherever* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God disperses you among the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, And when you and your children return to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God and obey him with all your* [*heart*](body.html) *and with all your soul according to everything I* [*command*](cmds613.html) *you today, Then* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God will restore your fortunes and have* [*compassion*](file:///D:\Word\TERUAH\jonah.html) *on you and gather you again from all the* [*nations*](nations.html) *where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the* [*heavens*](heaven.html)*, from there* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your* [*fathers*](fathers.html)*, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your* [*fathers*](fathers.html)*.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God will* [*circumcise*](circumcz.html) *your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your* [*heart*](body.html) *and with all your soul, and live.*

***Ezra-Nechemiah 1:5-11*** *Then I said: "*[*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, God of* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, the great and* [*awesome*](awesome.html) *God, who keeps his* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of love with those who love him and obey his* [*commands*](cmds613.html)*, Let your ear be attentive and your* [*eyes*](body.html) *open to hear the* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *your servant is* [*praying*](prayer.html) *before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the* [*sins*](sin.html) *we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the* [*commands*](cmds613.html)*, decrees and* [*laws*](law.html) *you gave your servant Moses. "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, But if you return to me and obey my* [*commands*](cmds613.html)*, then even if your* [*exiled*](galuyot.html) *people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *for my* [*Name*](name.html)*.' "They are your servants and your people, whom you* [*redeemed*](redemption.html) *by your great strength and your mighty* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *of this your servant and to the* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *of your servants who delight in revering your* [*name*](name.html)*. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 106:40-48*** *Therefore* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *was angry with his people and abhorred his* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*. He handed them over to the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, and their foes ruled over them. Their enemies oppressed them and subjected them to their power. Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion and they wasted away in their* [*sin*](sin.html)*. But he took note of their distress when he heard their* [*cry*](mashal.html)*; For their sake he remembered his* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *and out of his great love he relented. He caused them to be pitied by all who held them captive.* [*Save*](salvation.html) *us,* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *our God, and gather us from the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, that we may give thanks to your holy* [*name*](name.html) *and glory in your praise. Praise be to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 11:1-16*** *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of* [*knowledge*](knowledge.html) *and of the* [*fear*](fear.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*-- And he will delight in the* [*fear*](fear.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. He will not judge by what he sees with his* [*eyes*](body.html)*, or decide by what he hears with his* [*ears*](body.html)*; But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the* [*rod*](staff.html) *of his* [*mouth*](body.html)*; with the breath of his lips he will slay the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will* [*eat*](eating.html) *straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the* [*knowledge*](knowledge.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the* [*nations*](nations.html) *will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *a second* [*time*](time.html) *to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and gather the* [*exiles*](galuyot.html) *of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the* [*four*](four.html) *quarters of the earth. Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim. They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the* [*east*](east.html)*. They will lay* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *on* [*Edom*](edom.html) *and* [*Moab*](stages.html)*, and the Ammonites will be subject to them.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with a scorching wind he will sweep his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *over the Euphrates River. He will break it up into* [*seven*](seven.html) *streams so that men can cross over in sandals. There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up* [*from Egypt*](thebirth.html)*.*

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 43:1-8*** *But now, this is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says--he who created you, O* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*, he who formed you, O Israel: "*[*Fear*](fear.html) *not, for I have* [*redeemed*](redemption.html) *you; I have summoned you by* [*name*](name.html)*; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you* [*walk*](walking.html) *through the* [*fire*](fire.html)*, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, your God, the Holy* [*One*](one.html) *of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the* [*east*](east.html) *and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- Everyone who is called by my* [*name*](name.html)*, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Lead out those who have* [*eyes*](body.html) *but are blind, who have* [*ears*](body.html) *but are deaf.*

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 49:1-6*** *Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant* [*nations*](nations.html)*: Before I was born* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *called me; from my* [*birth*](birth.html) *he has made mention of my* [*name*](name.html)*. He made my* [*mouth*](body.html) *like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*’s* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*, and my reward is with my God." And now* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says--he who formed me in the* [*womb*](thebirth.html) *to be his servant to bring* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the* [*eyes*](body.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *and my God has been my strength-- He says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the* [*tribes*](tribes.html) *of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the* [*Gentiles*](gen-jew.html)*, that you may bring my* [*salvation*](salvation.html) *to the ends of the earth."*

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 56:4-8*** *For this is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my* [*covenant*](covenant.html)*-- To them I will give within my* [*temple*](temple.html) *and its walls a memorial and a* [*name*](name.html) *better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting* [*name*](name.html) *that will not be cut off. And foreigners who bind themselves to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *to serve him, to love the* [*name*](name.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, and to worship him, all who keep the* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html) *without desecrating it and who hold fast to my* [*covenant*](covenant.html)*-- These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of* [*prayer*](prayer.html)*. Their* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*s and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *for all* [*nations*](nations.html)*." The Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *declares--he who gathers the* [*exiles*](galuyot.html) *of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."*

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 3:14-18*** *"Return, faithless people," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "for I am your husband. I will choose you--*[*one*](one.html) *from a town and* [*two*](two.html) *from a clan--and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own* [*heart*](body.html)*, who will lead you with* [*knowledge*](knowledge.html) *and understanding. In those days, when your* [*numbers*](nchart.html) *have increased greatly in the land," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "men will no longer say, 'The* [*ark*](ark.html) *of the* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another* [*one*](one.html) *be made. At that* [*time*](time.html) *they will call* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *The Throne of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, and all* [*nations*](nations.html) *will gather in* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *to honor the* [*name*](name.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*.*

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 22:28 - 23:8*** *Is this man Jehoiachin a despised, broken pot, an object no* [*one*](one.html)[*wants*](needs.html)*? Why will he and his children be hurled out, cast into a land they do not* [*know*](daat.html)*? O land, land, land, hear the word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*! This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "Record this man as if childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah." "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Therefore this is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in* [*number*](nchart.html)*. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. "The days are* [*coming*](coming.html)*," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the* [*name*](name.html) *by which he will be called:* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Our Righteousness. "So then, the days are* [*coming*](coming.html)*," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives, who brought the Israelites up* [*out of Egypt*](thebirth.html)*,' But they will say, 'As surely as* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land."*

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 29:10-14*** *This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "When* [*seventy*](seventy.html) *years are completed for* [*Babylon*](bavel.html)*, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I* [*know*](daat.html) *the plans I have for you," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a* [*future*](future.html)*. Then you will call upon me and come and* [*pray*](prayer.html) *to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your* [*heart*](body.html)*. I will be found by you," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and places where I have banished you," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into* [*exile*](galuyot.html)*."*

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 31:1-14*** *"At that* [*time*](time.html)*," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they will be my people." This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "The people who survive the sword will find favor in the desert; I will come to give rest to Israel."* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O* [*Virgin*](virgin.html) *Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful. Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit. There will be a day when watchmen* [*cry*](mashal.html) *out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *our God.'" This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "Sing with joy for* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*; shout for the foremost of the* [*nations*](nations.html)*. Make your praises heard, and say, '*[*HaShem*](hashem.html)*,* [*save*](salvation.html) *your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with* [*weeping*](mashal.html)*; they will* [*pray*](prayer.html) *as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. "Hear the word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, O* [*nations*](nations.html)*; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' For* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will ransom* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *and* [*redeem*](redemption.html) *them from the* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--the grain, the* [*new*](new.html)[*wine*](wine.html) *and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their* [*mourning*](mourning.html) *into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the* [*priests*](priests.html) *with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 32:36-41*** *"You are saying about this* [*city*](city.html)*, 'By the sword,* [*famine*](famine.html) *and* [*plague*](plagues.html) *it will be handed over to the king of* [*Babylon*](bavel.html)*'; but this is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of Israel, says: I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of* [*heart*](body.html) *and action, so that they will always* [*fear*](fear.html) *me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to* [*fear*](fear.html) *me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my* [*heart*](body.html) *and soul.*

***Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 11:13-20*** *Now as I was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I fell facedown and cried out in a loud* [*voice*](voice.html)*, "Ah, Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*! Will you completely destroy the remnant of Israel?" The word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *came to me: "Son of man, your brothers--your brothers who are your* [*blood*](body.html) *relatives and the whole house of Israel--are those of whom the people of* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *have said, 'They are far away from* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*; this land was given to us as our possession.' "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: Although I sent them far away among the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a* [*sanctuary*](mikdash.html) *for them in the countries where they have gone.' "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: I will gather you from the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the* [*land of Israel*](city.html) *again.' "They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided* [*heart*](body.html) *and put a* [*new*](new.html) *spirit in them; I will remove from them their* [*heart*](body.html) *of stone and give them a* [*heart*](body.html) *of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my* [*laws*](law.html)*. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

***Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 20:30-44*** *"Therefore say to the house of Israel: 'This is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: Will you defile yourselves the way your* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *did and lust after their vile images? When you offer your gifts--the* [*sacrifice*](korbanot.html) *of your sons in the* [*fire*](fire.html)*--you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. Am I to let you inquire of me, O house of Israel? As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, I will not let you inquire of me. "'You say, "We want to be like the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, like the peoples of the* [*world*](worlds.html)*, who serve wood and stone." But what you have in mind will never happen. As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, I will rule over you with a mighty* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. I will bring you from the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered--with a mighty* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. I will bring you into the desert of the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and there,* [*face*](body.html) *to* [*face*](body.html)*, I will execute judgment upon you. As I judged your* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. I will take note of you as you pass under my* [*rod*](staff.html)*, and I will bring you into the bond of the* [*covenant*](covenant.html)*. I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the* [*land of Israel*](city.html)*. Then you will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I am* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. "'As for you, O house of Israel, this is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: Go and serve your idols, every* [*one*](one.html) *of you! But afterward you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy* [*name*](name.html) *with your gifts and idols. For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them. There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices. I will accept you as fragrant* [*incense*](ketoret.html) *when I bring you out from the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will show myself holy among you in the sight of the* [*nations*](nations.html)*. Then you will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I am* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, when I bring you into the* [*land of Israel*](city.html)*, the land I had sworn with uplifted* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *to give to your* [*fathers*](fathers.html)*. There you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done. You will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I am* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, when I deal with you for my* [*name*](name.html)*'s sake and not according to your evil ways and your corrupt practices, O house of Israel, declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.'"*

***Micah 2:12*** *"I will surely gather all of you, O* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people.*

***Micah 4:6-7*** *"In that day," declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the* [*exiles*](galuyot.html) *and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong* [*nation*](nations.html)*.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.*

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