

Dear Jim,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked why God let six million Jews (his own people) die during World War Two.

This is a very good question and requires some scriptural background in order to answer it adequately.

God said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples of the earth will be blessed." This promise was given to Abraham in Genesis 22:18 and again to his son Isaac in Genesis 26:4. In Genesis 22:17 God tells Abraham that he will make his descendants (his seed) as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. The "seed as the stars" we believe refers to the heavenly seed of Abraham (Christ and the Church). However, we believe that Abraham's earthly seed (the nation of Israel [the sand]), will be the channel through which all the nations of the earth will be blessed. This was a unilateral promise of God, meaning that God swore on himself that his promise would come to pass, and, as we know, it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2). Therefore, even though the nation of Israel was temporarily cast off from God's favor and her land left desolate (Matthew 23:38-39), God promised that the nation of Israel would again be restored. How was this restoration to take place?

Isaiah 43:5-6 is one of many prophecies that foretells the re-gathering of the Jewish people to the Promised Land. "Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north: Give up, and to the south: Keep not back, bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the end of the earth." For God said: "As the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the countries whither He had driven them; and I will bring them back into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks." (Jeremiah 16:15-16)

The Zionist movement compares to the fishing method of gathering. The Zionist activities provided the land with a vital nucleus of people that enabled it to become the new state of Israel. The "many hunters" would be those persecuting forces that led the Jews to face the necessity of return to Palestine. The Holocaust was a diabolical attempt to destroy the "seed of Abraham" and to make void the promise of God. Satan's plan was thwarted when thousands of Jews who managed to escape the Holocaust found a refuge in Palestine. This occurrence opened the door for the next step in the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, "to thee will I give it and to thy seed forever." (Genesis 22:16-18) That step was the reestablishment of Israel as an independent nation in 1948. Israel was further blessed with God's favor in the "six day war" of 1967. Her victory was nothing short of miraculous and insured that Jerusalem belonged to Israel.

“Jacob’s trouble” still awaits Israel and the world. At that time God will “fight” for Israel as in the days of old. The Ancient faithful ones (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.) will then come forth from their graves to lead and instruct the nation. Then the hearts of the Jewish people will be turned to their God. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep Mine ordinances, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:26-28)

Why did God permit the Holocaust? We believe that one reason God permitted the Holocaust was in order to gain world sympathy for the Jews and facilitate the legal process needed to establish their statehood. It is important to remember that God is in control. He allowed the Holocaust for a purpose. The good news is that He has a wonderful divine plan for Israel and the world. All who were exterminated in the Holocaust will soon be awakened from the sleep of death and receive new bodies free from pain and starvation. Our job is to trust in God and his promises knowing that he cannot lie and that in his time all that he has promised will come to pass.

The Bible plainly states that God gave the Land to the Jewish people as an everlasting possession. The Lord has declared that all efforts to remove Israel from her Land will fail. “And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.” (Amos 9:15) “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people around about . . . in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: All that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.” (Zechariah 12:2-3) As students of the Bible we are watching with great interest as the events in the Middle East continue to unfold and prophecy is fulfilled.

We hope we have shed some light on your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio