

Q&A question:

Concerning Deuteronomy 30:1-10 –

In the last days, the LORD will gather the remnant of Israel from all the nations, and circumcise their hearts to love the LORD with all their heart and soul.

Given that the remnant of Israel consists of Jews who believe, (1) Why would they need to have their hearts circumcised; and (2) How can it be said that the nation of Israel will be gathered in unbelief?

ANSWER:

Let's read **Deuteronomy 30:1-10**.

First of all, we need to keep in mind that the LORD deals with *Israel as a nation*. He elected the nation.

But that does not mean that all Jews receive the blessings of that election. The blessings are given to believing Israel only, or what the Bible calls the remnant. See **Romans 9:6-8, 27; Isaiah 10:20-22**.

But who will the remnant of Israel be when Christ returns?

At the start of Daniel's 70 week, millions of Jewish (and Gentile) unbelievers are on the earth. What happens to them?

1. Most of them die during the great Tribulation.

This includes both Jewish martyrs and apostate Jews.

- a. *Martyrs* come to believe in Jesus as their Messiah during the Tribulation. They are killed for their belief. They will be resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ. **Isaiah 26:19, Revelation 12:10-12, Revelation 14:13, and Revelation 20:4-5.**
- b. *Apostate Jews* enter the seven-year covenant that will begin Daniel's 70th week. They are the "many" of **Daniel 9:27**. They will comprise about 2/3 of the nation, and will die in the worldwide persecution of the Great Tribulation, **Zechariah 13:8-9.**
2. There will be a special group of *144,000 Jewish bondservants*. They will be sealed to protect them from the wrath of the trumpet and bowl judgments. They are not said to be evangelists. They are purchased or redeemed from the earth as first-fruits to God and to the Lamb (Jesus) . This means that they are believers. They appear on Mount Zion with the Lamb. **Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5.**
3. Some Jews will remain alive and be on the earth when Christ returns. The Lord will *regather* them from the 4 corners of the earth. See **Isaiah 11:11-12:6. Jeremiah 23:3-6; Ezekiel 11:14-21.**
4. At that time, the Lord Jesus Christ will enter into *judgement* with the nation. See **Ezekiel 20:33-38; Zechariah 13:8-9; Amos 9:8-12.**
5. Those who are judged as *rebels* will not enter the kingdom.

6. The remaining Jews make up the *faithful remnant*. This is who Paul was referring to in **Romans 11:26**, “all Israel will be saved”.

Important! At this time, they have been faithful to the God of Israel. But they do not yet believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Messiah.

The Lord must perform two mighty works in this nation before they can enter the Messianic kingdom. There is the work of *repentance* and the work of *regeneration*.

We will now turn our attention to these two works of the Lord. They occur after Christ has returned, regathered the Jews from all the nations of the world, and entered into judgement to remove the rebels.

1. *Repentance*:

This is something that Israel as a nation must do. They must return to the Lord – **Hosea 5:15-6:3; Isaiah 10:20-22; Jeremiah 3:11-18**. They will finally recognize Jesus is their Savior and Messiah – **Zechariah 12:10-13:2**. Then they will mourn for Him and cry out to Him. Gentiles cannot and need not return to the Lord, because they were never part of the covenant with the Lord to begin with. Israel - the surviving remnant – must repent for one iniquity in particular: the nation rejected Jesus as their Messiah when He came the first time. See **Matthew 23:37-39**. The content of their confession is given in **Isaiah 53:1-9**.

2. Regeneration

Israel as a nation will be saved and redeemed. **Isaiah 45:17; Romans 11:25-27**. The Lord will forgive all their iniquities. **Isaiah 44:21-23**. He will give them a new heart **Ezekiel 11:19-20**. He will circumcise their hearts. **Deuteronomy 30:6, Ezekiel 36:22-32**. He will pour His Spirit upon them, **Isaiah 44:1-5, 59:20-21**.

The regenerated remnant of Israel will then enter the Messianic Kingdom in the promised land. The Lord will bless this Israel when He fulfills His promises in the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants, **Jeremiah 31:31-34**.