

Chapter 4

WHY DIDN'T ALL THE JEWS
in BABYLONIA WHO WERE
EXILED AT THE TIME OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE FIRST
TEMPLE RETURN WITH EZRA
AND NECHEMIA WHEN GIVEN
PERMISSION BY CYRUS
EMPEROR OF PERSIA ? ONLY
43,360 JEWS RETURNED. Isaiah
44:28; Isaiah 45:1,13 EZRA 1:-6
Ezra 2:64 The obvious meaning is

that only 42,360 Jews made aliya at the time of Ezra. However Rashi Ibid states that 30,000 Jews from the tribes of Judea and Benjamin made aliya. Plus 13,000 Jews from the other ten tribes came.

Response

The Jews did not want to put all their eggs in one basket.

This was Divine Providence . Jews were too weak to establish an independent Jewish State that could accommodate all the Jews. They would have to wait until Messiah comes.

Of course the Jews who came started to build the holy Temple with the permission of Cyrus . The building was interrupted because of protests of the Samaritans who were rebuffed by the Jews in participating in a joint effort to build the Temple. The Samaritans had a belief in God plus they also believed that God has a Son who also was a God . They believed in Shutfos the Middle Eastern Mystery religions as we described earlier.

Following the reign of Emperor Koresh or Cyrus

Emperor Ahasuerus did not restore permission for the Jews to build the Temple. Not until Emperor Darius the son of Queen Esther and Ahasuerus were the Jews granted permission to complete the Temple. Darius provided financing for the completion of the Temple . In addition he authorized and financed the building of a wall to surround Jerusalem to protect the residents against attack. He also authorized

and financed ,as well as, all Temple expenses for the running and maintenance of the Temple -costs of the animals brought as sacrifices and stipends for the priests and levites.

The Jews in Judea became a protectorate of Persia.

The Greeks defeated Persia and imposed its rule and religion on the Jews. The Jews led by the Macabees resisted fought and after

many years defeated the Greeks and established an independent Commonwealth led by the Priests .

Many years later after infighting by two rival brothers Rome in 64 BCE was invited by one of the warring parties.

Now Judea became a protectorate of Rome. Rome imposed its rule upon the Jews. In 70 ACE the Jews revolted. The revolt was crushed and the Temple was burned. In 130 ACE the Jews again revolted led by Bar Kochbo and supported by Rav Akiva and other Rabbis of the

Talmud who thought Bar Kochbo was the Messiah. Again the Jews were crushed. Rome killed one million Jews in the two rebellions. Rav Akiva and nine other Rabbis who supported the rebellion were killed by having their skin torn out or were burned alive. Hundreds of thousands of the rebels were crucified or used as gladiators or sold into slavery.

All the other Jews were exiled, although many Jews remained in Judea for the last two thousand years.

After this tragedy Jews were dispersed all over the world for their own survival .

Who messiah is remains a mystery. Rambam Melochim 11:1 ,2 states that only when Jews will be returned to Israel an independent Jewish state will be

established and this state will survive will one know that this is the era of the Messiah . No Biblical writing or traditions in the Talmud or Medroshim exists that clearly spell out the coming of the Messiah. Only when these historical events will unfold will one know.

In the mean time they were living thanks to the good graces of

their host countries. They were not sure what the morrow would bring. As it is stated in the Bible Exodus 1 and a new king arose in Egypt who did not remember or was not interested in continuing the policies of the old King regarding the children of Israel. Instead of granting the Jews citizenship and equal rights he turned them into slaves.

Jews if they were to survive would have to be dispersed all over the world. If one nation would

persecute them they could find refuge in an other nation. What would keep the Jews together was the study and practice of the Torah. The Oral Torah was transcribed and the Mishne Tosephta Beraisus and Gemorah were written from 100 ACE - 400 ACE

The practice of a common religion even though some customs are different in various locations kept the Jews together. This strategy enabled the Jewish people to survive for 2000 years.

Millions of Jews were forced to convert or were killed.

Chapter 5

According to Josephus the Jewish historian at the time of the first rebellion in 70 ACE the Jewish population at the time of Solomon was 60 million.