

## BEULAH LAND

Ponder: Where is Beulah Land?

Scripture: “You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate’ But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married” (Isaiah 62:4, NKJV).

“Oh Beulah Land, sweet Beulah land!” So go the first lines in the chorus of Edgar Page’s hymn from 1876. Have you ever sung the song and wondered what or where “Beulah Land” is?

During Isaiah’s time, God’s chosen people had sinned so grossly and persistently that captivity lay in store for them. Their land would be desolate, and the Lord would, indeed, forsake them (see Jeremiah 12:7).

But better times would follow! The Lord would bring His people back to the promised land; rather than being deserted, the land would be, in a manner of speaking, married. That’s what “Buelah” means. “Hephzibah,” in the same verse from Isaiah, means “My delight is in her.” What a wonderful thought, that after having sent His people into captivity for their wickedness, God would once again delight in them.

Why, though, would we sing a song about captive Israelites being restored to God’s favor over two millennia ago? In short, we do so because of the Messianic fulfillment of this prophecy. The return of the Israelites to their homeland did not exhaust the meaning of this text! Peter quotes the words of Isaiah’s contemporary prophet, Hosea, as follows: “who once were not a people, but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:10, see Hosea 1:9, 10 and 2:23). Hosea and Isaiah were on the same wavelength. God’s “wife” (Israel) had been unfaithful to Him; He would put her away; but He still loved her, and when she repented, He would restore her.

Peter applies the promise beyond ancient Israel – whether from a Jewish or Gentile background, Christians are now the people of God who have obtained mercy. Regardless of geography, being in Christ is being in the Beulah (married) land. We have access to every spiritual blessing in Christ. And we have the hope of even greater things in Heaven. Remember this when you sing about Beulah Land!