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CAN YOU SEE THE RESTORED CROWN?

by Rabbi Joseph Radinsky

When I was in Israel last month I heard a brilliant lecture by Rabbi Rabinowitz, the head of Jews College in England. This lecture had basically as it's theme, "What is the metaphysical meaning of the State of Israel or Why does the State of Israel mean so much to each of us"? He then quoted from the Talmud (Yoma 69 b) which questions why the leaders of the Jewish people who returned to Israel after the Babylonian Captivity and who were grouped together in an Assembly were called the Men of the Great Assembly. What was so great about them? They had all the problems which we have today if not more so, assimilation, intermarriage, religious apathy and scorn for their heritage. Yet they and not other leaders of more pious generations were called the Men of the Great Assembly. The Talmud answers this question by saying that Moshe when he prayed referred to God as the great, the mighty and awesome. Jeremiah on the other hand could not bring himself to refer to God as awesome. "Strangers are occupying His Temple where then are His awesome deeds"? Daniel who lieved after Jeremiah could not bring himself to refer to God as mighty. "Strangers are oppressing His people where then are His mighty deeds"? The leaders of the Jewish people at the time of the return from the Babylonian captivity were called Great because they returned the crown to its ancient estate, they permitted us once more to pray to the great, the mighty and the awesome God. They by their actions allowed

us to see that "in the face of fierce persecution by the nations His people had through His power survived". And not only had they survived but before them was a brilliant future. In our day too the rebirth of the State of Israel has caused the crown to be restored to its ancient estate, we too can now believe. Each of us now can if we want to see God's providence in history. We can now all have a brilliant future. Ha-Tikva, the Hope, is not just a song; it gives hope to Jews throughout the whole world.