

“WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ISRAEL?”

Part 1: Israel – Historically and Prophetically (Gen. 12:1-3)

INTRO: The story of the nation of Israel and the Jewish people is one of the most compelling and important in human history. Few actually know and understand that story. Today, we will explore that story. Next lesson, how America and the church intersect with the story of Israel. READ Gen. 12:1-3 . . . the Abrahamic Covenant (12:7; 13:14-17; Chs. 15:7, 18; 17:1-9; 18; 21:12; 22:16-18) – and renewed with Isaac (26:3) and Jacob (28:13; 35:12). What’s so special about Israel?

I. GOD’S PROVIDENCE IN CHOOSING ABRAM & ISRAEL

- A. God Providentially Chose a Person – Man, Abram (Gen. 11:26-32). Haran and Ur were ancient pagan cities that worshipped false gods and idols. God’s only requirement was for Abram to trust and obey Him. He providentially chose a Gentile, idolatrous, polygamist to birth a people.
- B. God Miraculously Provided a Son (11:30; 16:1; 17:15-21; 21:1-7) – Proving the only true God was with him. God did a miracle for all the world to see!

II. GOD’S PROMISES TO ABRAM (ISRAEL) – 12: 1-3 (3-fold)

- A. Promised a LAND (vv. 1, 7, 15) – Gen. 13:15, 17; 15:7, 18; Josh. 1:2-4 (Map – 300,000 sq. miles!). It was God’s land to give as He chose (Ez. 36:5). He commanded them to take full possession of it and “utterly destroy” the inhabitants (never did). The Jewish people have never been occupiers. It is their land gifted from God. Still unfulfilled! Banished twice and restored (586-516) + (70 AD-1948) – Deut. 30:4-5.
- B. Promised a NATION (people) – Gen. 12:2 (13:16; 17:6) – confirmed to Isaac and Jacob (26:4; 35:11).
- C. Promised a SEED (12:3; 15:2-3; 17:16; 22:18) confirmed to Isaac (26:4) – Who/What is the seed? Messiah Jesus Christ (Jn. 4:22; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:8, 16). Both the promise of the nation and the seed are fulfilled. Promise of the land still unfulfilled. All because of God (Deut. 7:6-11).

III. GOD’S PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL & THE NATIONS

- A. Of ISRAEL – Largely unfaithful and disobedient in taking the land and being a witness. The message of the prophets. God judged their unfaithfulness (Ezek. 36:16-24). Ever since Babylonian captivity (587 BC) and later the Romans (70 AD). They have essentially been without a homeland and under the rule of foreign powers (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Romans, . . . British 1917 – May 14, 1948, when declared statehood, attacked from all sides, but prevailed – 1967 6 day war, 1973 Yom Kippur War, Oct. 7, 2023).
Timeline – Abraham to present . . .
- B. Of the NATIONS (Enemies) – Gen. 12:3 started in Gen. 15 and continues today (Gen. 15:8; Ez. 36:1-15). The prosperity and future of a nation (USA) is connected on how they treat Israel (bless or curse).

IV. GOD’S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NATION ISRAEL – RESTORATION (Ezek. 33-48).

- A. God Defends Israel for His Name’s Sake (36:22-32; Deut. 7:6-11)
- B. God Declares Himself to all the Nations through the reestablishment of Israel (36:33-36) – Their contributions . . .
- C. God Demonstrates His Faithfulness and Power through the Restoration of Israel as a Nation (37:1-28)
 - 1. Resurrection from the dead (vv. 1-14) – Reborn
 - 2. Reunion of NK & SK kingdoms (vv. 15-28) – Reunited

CONC: Gen. 12:1-4 Promises of a people and a Messiah are fulfilled. The land promise remains for now. But God has given it to them “as an everlasting possession” – and to no one else. They are not occupiers or squatters. They were there hundreds of years before anyone else, including the Palestinians. God’s eye is still on the people of Israel and the land He promised them.

ILL - Theater seat . . .

God has promised to judge all who come against His people, including America. Next time, we’ll examine the relationship between Israel, America, and the Church.