

“WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ISRAEL?”

Part 2: Israel, America, and the Church

INTRO: Read Gen. 12:1-3 . . . The prosperity of any nation depends on how they treat the Jewish people and the nation of Israel (bless . . . curse”). God judges and punishes all who mistreat His people (including America) (Matt. 25:31-46). In last lesson we looked at Israel from both an historical and prophetic perspective:

I. GOD’S PROVIDENCE IN CHOOSING ABRAM AND ISRAEL

- A. Chose a Gentile Abram, an idolater and polygamist, along with wife, Sarah, birthed a people that never existed.
- B. Miraculously gave them a son, Isaac . . . Jacob . . . sons of Jacob . . .

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

- A. LAND (unfulfilled) – 300,000 sq miles promised (Gen. 15:18) Map/PPT
- B. PEOPLE / NATION (fulfilled) – Jewish land and people are special . . . (Deut. 1:8)
- C. SEED (fulfilled) – Salvation through the Jews (Jn. 4:22)

III. GOD’S PUNISHMENT for . . .

- A. Israel’s apostasy – defeated, exiled, despised, but always preserved – Their inheritance is secure no matter their spiritual condition (Rom. 11:1-2, 11). For God to forsake Israel? (Jer. 31:31-38).
- B. Nations aggression – God “curses” all who mistreat Israel. Anti-Semitism since Abraham!

IV. GOD’S PLAN FOR ISRAEL (Ezek. 33-48)

Resurrect (37:1-14) – Reunite (37:15-28) – Restore (38-48)

V. GOD’S PRESERVATION OF AMERICA because of its treatment of Israel

- A. Strong beginning in Colonial America and continued next 350 plus years (1654-1992). Example from our battle for independence– Washington and his army struggled . . . Jewish shipping magnate Heim Solomon, funded a lot to the war and success. Washington honored Solomon when printed the dollar bill (PPT) . . . BTW look at Great Britain . . .
- B. Since early 90’s, under G. H. W. Bush, our commitment has waned, still strongest ally. He has blessed America because of its relationship to Israel (Savior, Bible, government, etc.). Like G.B., I fear America is at risk. Our weakening commitment to Israel is

largely about oil and Arab nations. Israel has NO oil. US continues to pressure Israel to trade land for peace. Look at Egypt, Syria, Babylon, Greece, Rome, etc. Let Great Britain, Germany, etc. serve as a warning to America! Zech. 2:8 . . .

- C. America in Prophecy? No clear reference. Cease to exist? Doubtful. Become irrelevant, like Britain, Germany, etc. because we failed to treat Israel well!

VI. GOD’S PROGRAM FOR HIS CHURCH & ISRAEL

- A. For His CHURCH – I believe some Bible teachers are contributing to America’s lack of faithfulness to Israel by teaching a view called “REPLACEMENT Theology”. This view holds that all unfulfilled prophecies related to Israel are now spiritually fulfilled in the church (since Israel failed in its mission and largely rejected the Messiah). This denies any future role for Israel and for the land promised. NT clearly teaches us that the church and Israel are different. God created the church on the day of Pentecost and she will remain until the Rapture prior to the Tribulation on earth.
- B. For ISRAEL–Because of Israel’s failure they have been temporarily set aside (mostly) during last 2500 years. God’s Program for Israel resumes after the church is raptured and a 7-year tribulation ensues (PPT on End Times). After 7 years of hell on earth Christ and His church will return to earth destroying all the enemies of Israel and Israel as a whole will receive Him as Messiah. Christ will establish His rule on earth for 1000 years with Israel and His church. God is not finished with the nation of Israel (Jer. 31:31-38; Rom. 11:25-26).

VII. GOD’S PLAN FOR THE PEACE OF ISRAEL

1. We as Christians and Americans should support Israel (though not always agree with their methodology). We should use our influence to call, write, and vote for leaders who support Israel’s right to exist.
2. We should stand with Israel and pray for the peace of Israel (Psa. 122:6)
3. Kindle jealousy for God in Jewish people (Rom. 11:11-14).

CONC: Return to Gen. 12:1-3 . . . This is a spiritual issue at the core, not political. God’s favor on His church and this nation is inseparable from how we treat the nation, Israel. Again, look at God’s track record in dealing with nations who turned their back on Israel or overtly attacked them. Is it possible that what’s happened to America in the last 25 years is because of our failure to support God’s chosen people Israel?