

## Why Should America Support Israel?

Pastor Kelly Sensenig



Should the United States and other nations continue to support Israel? The answer is a resounding yes and there are clearly stated Biblical reasons for supporting the nation of Israel. But sadly, we have an alarming rise of antisemitism across the world today. We even have an increase of antisemitic demonstrations here in the United States in our universities which have been overtaken by Leftist Marxist professors who have been brainwashing the younger generation. Our leaders have left this fester in our colleges for decades. We are now paying the price. We are reaping what we have allowed to be sown.

This uptick of antisemitic rhetoric is occurring on the heels of the recent attack on innocent Jewish people in their homeland of Israel where 1200 were butchered and killed. Some people in the United States are flying the Palestinian flag to support Hamas (the terrorist group). Hamas sympathizers in the halls of congress are overlooking the terrible attack on Israel and supporting Hamas while at the same time promoting antisemitic slurs without consequence from their fellow congressmen and congresswomen.

The recent attack on Israel was the worst since the Holocaust. Women were assaulted and babies were beheaded and kidnapped to be used as human shields

and bargaining chips. And yet students on our college campuses are holding rallies in support of Hamas, the very organization that did this. It's absolutely shocking to see this. We have colleges like Harvard marching in step with the false narrative that Israel does not have right to the land she lives on for it was stolen from the Arabs and therefore the Jewish people should be deposed from their land permanently. Protesters in New York and Washington D.C. have even been calling for the "end of Israel." Some of the groups of demonstrators in our country are paid by Goerge Soros and are simply parroting this false narrative.

On the whole, antisemitism is up 300 percent in the world since the Hamas attack on Israel. It's well known that Israel is called the "little Satan" and America the "great Satan" by Hamas and other terror groups. Terrorist groups do not just hate Israel but all those who support Israel, who embrace freedom, and who do not embrace their ideological and Satanic beliefs.

What does the Bible say about supporting Israel? Should the United States and other nations on the present world scene back Israel and continue to support the Jewish people? Should we be promoters of what some have termed Zionism? In general, the international movement of Zionism can be defined as support for the Zionist cause — the return of the Jewish people to its Biblical homeland in Israel. It is essentially Jewish patriotism. Even though this is not necessarily a spiritual movement that emphasizes the salvation of Israel, it is important to support Israel's occupation of the land. Now let's get to our main study so we can develop a Biblical viewpoint of Israel. The study of Israelology is important and has become a missing link in Systematic Theology.

The Bible teaches that America and other nations in the world should support Israel.

There are six reasons why America should support Israel.

### **1. Israel is chosen by God.**

God wants us to remain friends with Israel and there are many good reasons stated in the Bible for continuing to support the Jewish people as a country. The first and most obvious reason is because Israel is God's chosen people.



In speaking about Israel, Deuteronomy 7:6-9 records these words of Moses:

“For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people. But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”

The Jewish people were to be a “holy people” meaning they have been set apart by God to represent Him and His ways on earth (Exodus 19:6). He did not want them to be like the other pagan nations that surrounded them. The Jews from a Biblical perspective are the “chosen people of God” and dearly loved by Him. From eternity past God chose Abraham and His Jewish ancestors to be His special treasured possession and people who He would honor and bless above all other peoples on the earth. It should be noted here that God did not choose the Jewish people because of their superior numbers (they were the fewest of all peoples). He chose them simply because He loved them and singled them out above other people living on earth.

How long will God’s love and loyalty last in relation to the nation of Israel? The Bible says it will last “to a thousand generations” (Deut. 7:9) which is a proverbial expression that means endlessly or forever. Israel’s promised blessings given to the “fathers” (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) came through His “oath” (vs. 8) in the Abrahamic Covenant and are built upon His faithfulness (“the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments” (vs. 9). This means the promises of the Abaraham Covenant given to Israel are ultimately unconditional in the sense that God will fulfill them and bring them to pass and bless Israel.

It should be noted that God’s grace and faithfulness is the foundation of this covenant and the basis of its fulfillment, but belief and obedience is how the Jews could receive the benefits of the covenant. Of course, the national election of Israel does not mean every Jew is saved (Rom. 9:6-7) but it does guarantee that God’s

purposes for choosing this nation will come to pass or be accomplished. It means that this elect national people will always exist and God's bringing to pass of His promises will be experienced by the Jews that believe in Him and obey Him. So the promises related to the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled by God based upon His faithfulness but the enjoyment of these promises for individual Jews depends upon their belief and obedience.

These promises also foresee that one day the Jewish nation will receive the full promises given to her in the Abrahamic Covenant (Deut. 10:15-16; 14:2; 26:18-19). The Abrahamic Covenant promise was that when the people in the line of blessing would repent to God and return to the land of blessing (Deut. 30:1-10). In other words, God will one day place Israel in the Promised Land forever. He only needs a believing and obedient nation to fulfill this unconditional promise. How will God get a generation to be forever obedient and eligible to possess the land eternally? Israel will one day repent as a nation (Rom. 11:26), be spiritually forgiven, cleansed, regenerated, and given a new heart of obedience (Deut. 30:6; Zech. 12:10-14; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:22-32).

So the actual enjoyment and blessing of the covenant promises would be dependent upon Israel's obedience (Gen. 17:1-2; 22:16-18; 26:3-5). An individual could deprive himself of immediate personal blessings through gross disobedience. On the other hand, great blessings would come to the Jews through their obedience to God. But the actual bringing to pass (fulfillment) of this covenant is wholly based upon God's promise and grace. Faith and obedience were necessary for participation in the benefits of the unconditional promises of the covenant. In other words, the conditionality (conditional nature of obedience) does not relate to the actual fulfilling of the divine promise but to the participants who seek to benefit from the covenant blessings.

This is evident in the early experience of Israel under the covenant whose first generation would wonder in the wilderness and die. The first generation at Kadesh-Barnea would not believe God and the Lord refused to let them enter the land. He kept them wandering in the wilderness for forty years until that generation passed away (Numb. 14:20). God then took their sons into the Promised Land, but the sons also were warned about the consequences of disobedience. They too could forfeit the blessings in the land if they did not obey. Continued disobedience would result in exile from the land itself and eventually captivity in foreign lands (Lev. 26; Deut. 28-30).

A puppeteer shares this story. "Whenever I go to camps, Sunday Schools, or Vacation Bible Schools, I always bring my puppet Jeffrey with me. Jeffrey is a timberwolf, and although he claims to be fierce and ferocious, he's really cute and cuddly. And children love to pet him. He's the only one of my puppets that I will not let anyone touch. But of course, the children absolutely love being able to pet him!

"Two weeks ago I was teaching a Vacation Bible School, and I had a group of young children (mostly under the age of six years old). As I got to know this group of children, I realized that for several of the children, if I brought Jeffrey out, it would be simply an opportunity to pull his tail, squish his head, and other things that I didn't want happening to Jeffrey. And that if I told them not to, this particular group of children might see it as an invitation to do so! So Jeffrey, although he made several visits to the VBS, never came out where the children could touch and pet him. They missed out on a very simple pleasure that would have made their evening very special, and they never even realized what they were missing out on.

"I was thinking about this in relation to the Israelites going to the promised land -- God told them to go in and take it, and they said "No!" And because they would not listen to God (as Psalms 95:8 says, they "hardened their hearts") they never got to even see the land God had promised them. And I wonder how often I'm like that group of children, that missed out on a simple pleasure and never knew what they missed. I wonder how often I'm like the Israelites, who missed out on an extraordinary blessing, and never knew what they missed."

I wonder how many times I've said "No" to God, said "No" to what is right, and I never even realized what blessing I was saying "No" to. How much better for us, when God speaks, to say "Yes" to Him. To not risk missing out on the things God has in store for us. Grace says "I am going to give this to you" but to enjoy it you must be obedient. This is one way to understand the Jewish blessings under the Abrahamic Covenant.

Genesis 15:12 again reminds us of the gracious nature of this covenant:

"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him."

Abraham was under divine anesthesia when the unilateral (not bilateral) covenant was ratified by God which means that God would bring the covenant to pass in accordance with His own faithfulness and oath.

Genesis 15:17-18 goes on to say:

“And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace (a fire pot), and a burning lamp (torch) that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The only time that both parties of a covenant would pass between the pieces of animals was when the fulfillment of the covenant was dependent upon both parties keeping commitments. But God alone obligated Himself to fulfill the terms of the covenant since it was only God who walked between the pieces of animal sacrifices. Abraham was sleeping and God was walking and doing the talking! He made an oath to Himself that He cannot break.

Hebrews 6:13-14:

“For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.”

Since Israel was God’s chosen people, He gives to them promises through the ratification of the Abrahamic Covenant. As we will see in another point in our study, there were the promises concerning the land that Israel would inherit, how a great nation would stem from Abram’s loins, that Abram’s name would be made great throughout the earth, that he would be a blessing to others, that those who bless Israel would be blessed and those who do not would be cursed, and that the whole earth would be blessed through Abram’s seed which would be the Messiah (Gen. 12:1-3).

Here is the point of all this. The promises of the Abrahamic Covenant were based on God’s grace and faithfulness to His elect or chosen people. These promises were not based upon Abram’s obedience or the nation’s faithfulness to God. God says I have promises that I have given to the nation of Israel that will be fulfilled eternally and no theological system (Covenant or Reformed Theology), no individual people (Hitler or Stalin), not even Satan himself, will stop God’s promises from being fulfilled in relation to the nation of Israel. Why is this? It’s because they are God’s beloved people which He has chosen to bless based upon His own gracious choice and faithfulness to them.

So under this first point we see that America should support Israel for the simple reason that they are God's chosen people. We should choose what God chooses! We should support who God supports. Even though Israel is presently in unbelief and under the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24), when Gentile nations are persecuting Israel, these covenant promises remain intact because they are based upon God's faithfulness and oath (Rom. 11:20, 23, 25).

God's elective choice of Israel has not been undone or abrogated in any way. The fact that the Church is also chosen by God (Eph. 1:3) does not replace the Jews as the unique and specially chosen people of God and the covenant promises given to them. God has a special future for the nation of Israel (Zech. 12:18; 14; Luke 1:33). What God began He will finish with Israel since the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenant promises were based upon God's own Grace and faithfulness.

Romans 11:26-27 prophetically declares:

*"And so all Israel shall be saved (all the Jews that come to faith in Christ will result in a believing nation at the Second Coming): as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them (the New Covenant), when I shall take away their sins."*

God will reverse the fortunes of Israel in a tremendous way. As someone said, "It isn't over till it's over!" My little league baseball coach put it another way. He said, "Boys, you can be up ten points, but I want to tell you that it ain't over till it's over." This is true with Israel's future destiny. A glorious climax of Israel's blessings lie ahead. Israel has a tremendous future when she will be brought back into the eternal blessings of the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants.

Old Faithful is one of the most famous geysers in Yellowstone National Park. While its eruptions are predicted on a daily basis (you can even check online to see when the next one is expected) they vary in the exact timing. In the 1960's it erupted an average of every 64 minutes. Now it kicks up about every 80 minutes, and often waits 90 minutes.

By way of application, we learn that God is always faithful to His promises. He is the eternal and faithful God. He will not abandon His chosen people, and neither should the United States abandon God's ancient people.



In Jeremiah 31:31-37 God gives us an illustration of His unending faithfulness to Israel and the promises He gave to the Jews: “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: If those ordinances (*prescribed*

*patterns of the sun and moon in the heavens*) depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.”

To underscore Israel’s permanence in relation to the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31) that God gave to Israel, the Lord compared Israel’s existence to that of the heavens and the earth. As God had appointed the sun to shine by day and the moon and stars to shine by night (Gen. 1:14–19), so He had appointed Israel as His chosen nation. It would take the natural decrees (the sun and moon) to vanish from nature for Israel to cease as a nation. In other words, it’s not going to happen! The power God displayed in creating and preserving the universe was the power that He exercises in preserving Israel’s existence as a people.

In addition, God challenges the people of the world to measure the vastness of the universe. He stated, “If you can accurately measure the size of the universe then Israel will cease to exist. But since you cannot measure the universe I created, neither will Israel cease to exist as my chosen people” Throughout history people have tried in vain to destroy Israel, but none have succeeded-and none ever will. Why? Because God has declared they will not be destroyed and cease from being His chosen people.

Arno Gaebelein said:

“This Word of Jehovah is a complete answer to those in Christendom who think that God has cast away Israel, that they are no longer the chosen people.”



This is an amazing revelation in Scripture. Future Israel would only cease from being a special nation in God's sight if the fixed order of nature would cease to exist or if man could calculate with exactness and perfection the vastness of the universe. In other words, God will never give up on His ancient people Israel. This is strong testimony that the Church has not replaced Israel in God's plans as Reformed and Replacement Theology errantly teaches.

Those who correctly take the literal approach to the promises of the Old Testament believe that the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be restored to a right relationship with God and receive the fulfillment of the covenants (Luke 1:32-33; Isa. 9:6-7; 60:21; Ezek. 36:26; Rom. 11:26-27). However, those who are advocates of Replacement Theology basically conclude that the Church has completely replaced Israel in the plan of God and will inherit God's covenant promises to Israel in a spiritual sense. In other words, the Old Covenant promises given to Israel are somehow allegorically and magically transferred to the Church and are fulfilled in a spiritual way today in the lives of God's people.

This means Replacement Theology teaches that Israel will not inherit the actual land forever; the Church is the "new Israel," and ethnic Israel is forever excluded from the promises—the Jews will not inherit the Promised Land as physical Jews. Of course, this kind of allegorical false teaching denies God's Word which clearly teaches the preservation of the Jews and their rule in the God-given land through the unconditional covenant blessings (Deut. 4:27-31; 30:3-5; Isaiah 11:11-16; Jer. 3:17-18; 16:14-16; 23:5-8; Ezek. 11:17-21; 20:33-38; 34:11-16; 37:1-4; 13-14, 21, 24-25; 39:25-29; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:4-7; 7:20; Zech. 8:4-8; Matt. 24:31; Rom. 11:25-27).



Here is the point of all this. Since God has not ditched Israel and never will turn His back on His chosen people, neither should the United States and other nations of the world. We must stand with Israel for they are God's chosen people. Again, God's choice should be our choice. We should not veer away from supporting Israel financially, militarily, and prayerfully as a nation.

Below is a letter written to a Jewish congregation meeting in Middletown Connecticut. It was sent by Middletown Bible Church. My friend George Zeller sent a copy to me. It was written to encourage the Jewish congregation in light of the recent antisemitism and reinforce the support the church has for Israel, God's chosen people.

To the Congregants of Adath Israel  
8 Broad Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
November 6, 2023

Dear Friends of Adath Israel,

In light of the horrific terrorist attack on Oct. 7 when Hamas killed over 1300 people of Israel and took hostage about 200 Israeli citizens, we want you to know of our prayerful concern for the situation over There and the war that has resulted. We have also been following the news about the many anti-Israel protests taking place around our nation and the increased number of antisemitic incidents taking place all around our country. We want you to know of our love for the Jewish people around the world and for our unending support for the nation Israel.

We believe, based on the Tanach, that God is committed to the nation Israel based on the covenants that He has made with His people: the covenant to Abraham (Genesis 12), the covenant to David (2 Samuel 7) and the new covenant made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah found in Jeremiah 31. God's awesome presence can be counted on for His mercy and grace and His commitment to Israel: "For Israel My glory" (Isaiah 46:13). "I create Jerusalem a rejoicing and her people a joy" (Isaiah 65:18).

Furthermore, we recognize that Israel has a right to their land (Genesis 15:18). We hear the enemies of Israel claiming that the Jews are the unlawful "occupiers" of the land. This is a lie. Abraham, the father of the Jews, occupied the land around 2000 B.C. until a famine forced their family to go to Egypt. From the time of Joshua, Israel occupied the land for about 1400 years until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. After the horrors of World War II, Israel was rightfully given a homeland, and all they have done since then is to bravely defend their land against surrounding nations that want to destroy them.

In these difficult and troublesome days, we just want you to know that the people here at the Middletown Bible Church are true "friends of Israel," and we want you to know of our support and concern at this time. May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob encourage your hearts in these perilous times. "The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7).

## 2. Israel is uniquely loved by God.

This parallels somewhat with the first point on Israel's election but is an important note to bring out. The nation of Israel (the Jewish people) is not only uniquely chosen by God but uniquely loved by God.

Jeremiah 31:1-3 prophetically anticipates Israel's return to the land and God's love for His chosen people: "At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the LORD, The people *which were* left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; *even* Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

God declares based upon His own sovereign purposes that "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." It was this love that birthed God's plan with Israel (Deuteronomy 7:7; Hos. 11:1) and this love will be lavishly expressed to the Jewish people in the glorious climax at the Second Coming when Israel as a nation turns to faith in the Messiah and enters into the eternal nature of Her covenant promises (Romans 11:25-28).

Deuteronomy 32:8-10 is another way God expresses love to Israel: "When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance (*based on Genesis 10 and the table of nations*), when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste



howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple (*pupil*) of his eye.”

The writer graphically described God’s choice and care of Israel in these verses even as God cares for the pupil of His eye. This is a figure of speech implying God’s loving protection, preservation, and personal blessing of Israel. Of all the nations of the earth God has established in His sovereignty, Israel had experienced the greatest blessing. That Canaan was Israel’s inheritance (vs. 8) by the Lord’s decree, based on the promise to Abraham, is of major importance in the developing doctrine of the Lord’s relationship to Israel, his redemption for them, and providence extended toward them in blessing them above all nations of the earth.

In Zechariah 2:8 God uses the same imagery regarding Israel:

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple (*pupil*) of his eye.”

On two occasions, Israel (the Jewish people) is declared to be the apple of God’s eye. This is a unique expression that means God cares for Israel as a person cherishes and guards the apple or pupil of his own eye. The phrase “apple of the eye” became an English idiom meaning anything that one holds very dear or cherishes greatly. In Zechariah 2:8 God prophetically declares that those Gentile nations who seek to harm and destroy Israel are actually trying to poke our His own eye! They are going after Him when going after Israel.

This is how much God identifies with His chosen and beloved people Israel. They are like the pupil of His own eye that He cares for and loves with an everlasting love. In the future, God will graciously and lovingly protect Israel from annihilation and save His people as He cares for His own eye. In fact, we see this occurring in our own day. Many have predicted Israel’s annihilation but God someone miraculously protects Israel from extinction and extermination.

The Holocaust was Nazi Germany’s deliberate, organized, state-sponsored persecution and machinelike murder of approximately six million European Jews. Holocaust is a word of Greek origin. It means “burnt offering.” Antisemitism was a centuries-long phenomenon in Europe, but it reached its height in Germany during the Nazi era (1933–1945).

On assuming power as absolute ruler of the German state, Hitler began a systematic campaign to strip Jews of their property and their jobs in academia, the judiciary, the military, and the civil service. Synagogues were defiled and burned. Jewish businesses were boycotted or shut down. Jews became scapegoats for everything awful that had happened to Germany over the previous several decades: inflation, economic depression, and the loss of World War I. “No salvation is possible,” Hitler had told his followers in 1922, “until the bearer of disunion, the Jew, has been rendered powerless to harm.”

When the Allies began to close in on Germany in late 1944 and early 1945, the Nazis forced the surviving prisoners on long marches to camps believed to be out of the way of the advancing enemy armies. Hundreds of thousands died of exposure, violence, and starvation on these death marches. As the Allied armies moved into Germany and Poland, they liberated the concentration and extermination camps, and witnesses to these scenes—war reporters and military personnel—were horrified by what they found.

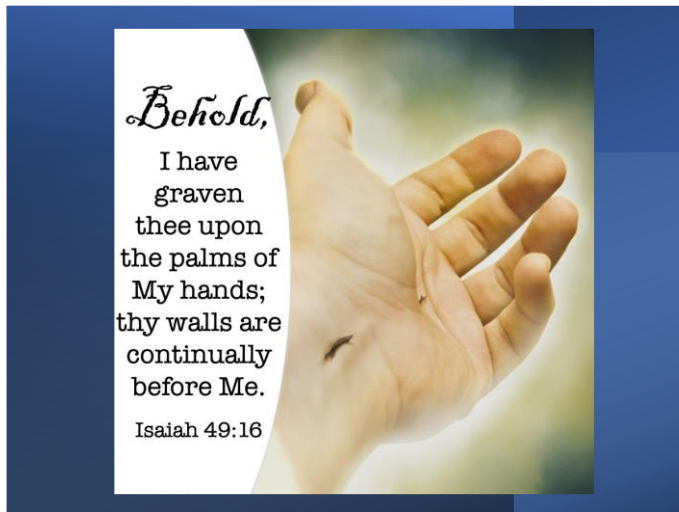
The world already knew the Germans were gassing, or working to death, Jews and other ethnic victims in these concentration camps. And yet, despite all of these evil atrocities against the Jewish people, they could not be eliminated from the earth. Why? It’s because they are God’s chosen people, beloved by Him with an everlasting love. He has not forgotten His ancient Jewish people even though He allowed the enemy to brutalize them in the past and even in the present with the Hamas uprising against the Jews in Israel.

Dunn remarked:

“Whatever is happening to Israel now, Paul has been given the divinely revealed assurance that all will come out right for Israel in the end, that God’s faithfulness to his first love will be demonstrated for all to see.”

Isaiah 49:15-16 gives yet another expression of love to Israel: “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.”

Some servants inscribed the names of their masters on their hands in Isaiah’s day, but masters would never write the names of their servants on their hands. Yet



Yahweh has written (engraved) the city of Zion (representing the Jewish people) on His palms so that He would never forget His ancient city and people but be reminded of Israel frequently.

Think of it, Israel (the Jewish people) is also said be written in the palms of hands. This figurative and anthropomorphic expression of God that means that the Lord is

always looking down on Israel, loving them with an everlasting love, never forgetting His covenants He made with them, and wanting to save and help them.

How can God love a sinful nation like Israel? The answer is simple: By the same unconditional love that the Lord has towards the Church. Indeed, “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

So here is a simple rule for all believers: We should love and cherish what God loves. Since God loves Israel, we should express love toward the nation of Jewish people. How deep is our love for Israel? Perhaps we need to ask God to give us a greater love for the Jewish people today. In what ways can we show greater love toward God’s chosen people? We certainly can be a supporter of Jewish missions. We can individually share the Gospel with Jewish people who live nearby us. We can support them financially. There are many ways we can show loving support for Israel as a country and on an individual basis.

#### ISRAEL ON MY MIND

(By Raymond Naviglia and George Zeller)

Israel is on my mind, a God-given land,  
And always protected by His almighty hand!  
Attacked by violent terrorists who claim the land is theirs,  
When in reality, Israelites are the rightful heirs!

Given to the Jews thousands of years before (Gen. 15:18),  
A land that’s theirs forever, a fact the world tries to ignore.

Always having to defend the borders they've been given,  
From terrorizing Jihadists whose mindset is to kill them.  
Why is Israel the oppressor when she was the one attacked?  
It makes no sense, Satanic deception perverts real true facts.  
Antisemitism abounding at protests and on campus,  
"Let's cheer Hamas and vilify Jews," doing harmful damage.

But the LORD has not forgotten His chosen ones,  
He'll preserve them for the sake of His dear Son!  
God will curse those who curse Israel and truly bless her friends;  
The "apple of His eye" the Lord will certainly defend (Zech. 2:8).

Israel's Messiah is coming, the promised Prince of Peace,  
What a glorious time is coming when warfare finally will cease!  
The Jews, for the most part, are in unbelief today;  
Yet before long they will embrace Him, never again to stray! (Matt. 23:39).

About 300 years ago, the King of Sweden was having personal doubts about God's existence and the Bible's divine nature. He called for Count Von Zinzendorf, who was the bishop of the Moravian Church, to provide evidence about God's existence and Divine authorship of the Bible. When the Count arrived, the King told him he had set aside 10 hours to be enlightened on these matters. Zinzendorf said that much time would not be necessary because all he needed to do was to say two words. The King, skeptical, asked, "What words might those be?" Count Von Zinzendorf replied, "The Jews."

How true! One look at the history of the nation of Israel would convince even a hard-core atheist/agnostic about the existence of the Almighty and authenticity of the Bible. The Bible speaks about the birth and future of the nation of Israel through God's covenant program. Israel is the confirmation of the Bible's truthfulness and reality.

### **3. Israel is given unconditional covenants by God.**

The unconditional covenants given to Israel are very important. God has not rescinded or revoked them. They are still intact awaiting their final and eternal fulfillment. When studying these covenants, and in particular the Abrahamic Covenant, we discover why Israel is blessed above all other nations, what caused

other nations to perish or be severely punished when fighting against Israel, how Jesus came into the world, and why there is great conflict in the Middle East today.

## Israel's Unconditional Covenant Promises

- ✓ **A seed and nation forever** (Abrahamic and Davidic Covenant) – Gen. 12:2; 2 Sam. 7:16; 2 Chron. 7:18; Jer. 33:20-21
- ✓ **A land forever** (Abrahamic and Palestinian/Land Covenant) – Gen. 12:1; Gen. 13:15 and 17:7-8; Deut. 30:3-5)
- ✓ **A king forever** (Davidic Covenant) – 2 Sam. 7:16
- ✓ **A throne forever** (Davidic Covenant) – 2 Sam. 7:16; Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33
- ✓ **A kingdom forever** (Davidic Covenant) – 2 Sam. 7:16
- ✓ **A new life forever** (New Covenant and Palestinian Covenant) – Ezek. 11:19; 36:26; Deut. 30:6, 8)

The covenants ultimately promise that Israel will be preserved as a people which would bring forth a ruler (the Messiah) who is linked to David. In other words, there will always be royal seed alive that can produce a king to rule over Israel. Eventually, David's greater Son (Jesus Christ) was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and someday will literally and bodily return to earth in order to reign over David's covenanted kingdom. Jesus Christ will become the fulfillment of the seed promise, the king who reigns on David's throne, and whose kingdom will exist forever with Israel (the Jewish nation) blessed in the land of Canaan.

Isaiah 9:6-7 prophetically declares:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given (CHRISTMAS): and the government shall be upon his shoulder (MILLENNIUM): and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end (ETERNAL STATE), upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever (DAVIDIC COVENANT). The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”



David's covenant promises that Jesus Christ would one day reign as King over Israel during the Millennium and into the Eternal State.

Luke 1:32-33 also contains the main promises of the Davidic covenant.

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

The expressions "the throne of his father David," "he shall reign" and "his kingdom" all have roots in the Davidic Covenant. It is certain that Paul believed in the literal fulfillment of the covenant promises when concluding in Acts 26:6-7: "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

The fact that God can raise the Jews to participate in this earthly covenant promise, to possess an everlasting reign over the earth under the Messiah (Isa. 9:6-7) is nothing incredible for God to perform!

Now reflect on this. If God is not faithful to His covenant promises to Israel, then how can we be sure that He will be faithful to fulfill the promises He has given to us today (Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Pet. 1:3-4)? The faithfulness of God to Israel is necessary to vindicate God's character and to reassure us of His own faithfulness to the Church. You cannot have one without the other. God is faithful to both Israel and to the Church (1 Cor. 1:9).

A few years ago there was an ad on TV that started like this. There was a woman sitting in a car. She's minding her own business, and suddenly this man comes out of the blue, rips the door open, grabs her, and pulls her out of the car roughly. It looks like he's attacking her, and we look on in horror. Then the camera pulls back, and we see that the car is actually on fire, but the woman didn't know it. The man wasn't assaulting the woman; he was rescuing her. The ad finishes by saying, "You need the bigger picture. Channel 10 News gives you the bigger picture."

The ad makes a good point. We need to have the bigger picture regarding Israel in the plan of God. God has given to the Jews unconditional covenants that will one

day be fully realized and fulfilled. All the covenant promises that are given to Israel (Abrahamic, Palestinian/Land, Davidic, New) have four characteristics.

First, they are literal and should be interpreted as such in both Old and New Testaments.

Second, they are eternal in nature.

Third, they depend entirely on the integrity of God.

Fourth, they are made with a distinct covenant people called Israel.

To change the nature of these covenants is to commit intellectual defiance against God's truth and to also commit perversion and exegetical fraud toward God's Word. It means we must twist the Scriptures to get our own preconceived conclusions and ideas regarding Israel and the End Times. Since God through His covenant promises is not finished with Israel, neither should we be finished with Israel. We should support Israel realizing God's special plan for this nation.

For this study, I want to focus on the importance of the Abrahamic Covenant and several important features of this unilateral covenant that God made with Israel.

The contents of the Abrahamic Covenant are given in Genesis 12:1-3:

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

The original covenant given to Abram consisted of seven promises. We need to be familiar with what God promised Israel several thousand years ago. When studying this covenant, we will learn why Israel is blessed above all other nations, what caused other nations to perish or be severely punished when fighting against Israel, how Jesus came into the world, and why there is great conflict in the Middle East today. The Abrahamic Covenant sheds light on all these things.

## Abrahamic Covenant Promises

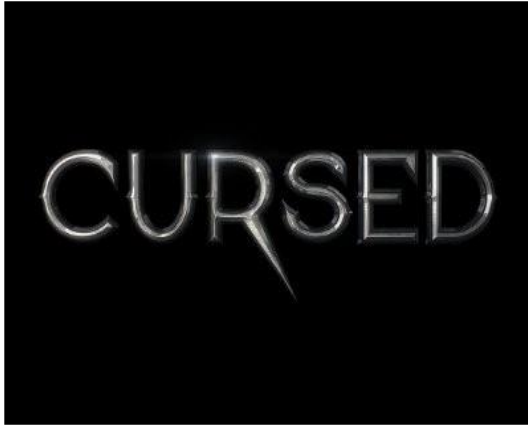
- The promise of land (“unto a land that I will shew thee”)
- The promise of a national people (“I will make of thee a great nation”)
- The promise of personal prosperity (“I will bless thee”)
- The promise of Abram’s popularity (“and make thy name great”)
- The promise of Abram blessing others (“thou shalt be a blessing”)
- The promise of God’s favor and disfavor (“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”)
- The promise of universal blessing through Messiah (“and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”).

God made a marvelous covenant with Abram which included the following significant promises: a land – ownership of the land of Canaan; a nation was to be forever - the Jewish people (Abraham’s biological descendants – the Jewish people); prosperity - material and spiritual prosperity for Abram and his seed; a great name for Abram and his posterity; a channel of blessing to others; friends of Israel would be blessed and anti-Semites would be cursed; and all the families of the earth would be blessed in Abram which points forward to the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), who would be a descendant of Abram. This covenant was renewed in Genesis 13:14–17; 15:4–6; 17:10–14; and 22:15–18.

So why should the United States support Israel? According to the Abrahamic Covenant, one important reason is because God promises to send His favor upon those who support Israel and curse (judge) the nations who don’t support Israel (“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”). I believe that America’s future depends in large part on one



simple factor: our relationship to the tiny nation of Israel. And given the political trends in recent years, I believe that America is putting her future at risk.



The fact that God curses those who seek to harm his chosen people has been historically true. Ultimately, those nations who sought to attack, punish, and enslave Israel such as Egypt and other pagan nations during the days of Israel's ancient history (the Canaanites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Amalekites, Hittites, Hivites, Philistines, Babylonians, Assyrians) were punished by God because of their evil dealings with the Jews.

One of the United States' most worthwhile accomplishments has been its consistent regard for the plight of the Jewish nation. No nation in the history of the world has a better record of treating individual Jews with respect than does America. The same can be said for our befriending Israel as a nation. America has committed many sins for which we may well deserve judgment, but as a nation, we have been a consistent friend of the Jews and the nation of Israel, as well as a benefactor. In 1948, President Harry Truman helped persuade the United Nations to recognize Israel as a nation. Since then, the United States has contributed billions of dollars in aid to Israel.

But lately, America has tolerated and even financially supported some of Israel's neighbors who have openly declared that their goal is to drive the Jewish people from their homeland and scatter them back into their pre-1948 homes around the world, if not to exterminate them altogether from the face of the earth. No nation should take lightly the promise of God in Genesis 12:3, if for no other reason than self-preservation. And this includes America! Even if American leaders don't fully understand or agree with the Judeo-Christian teachings of the Bible, matching up Genesis 12:3 with the thousands of years of history involving Israel should be convincing enough not to mess with Israel. Bless Israel and you will be blessed. Curse Israel and you will be cursed.

Israel remains to this day, the apple of God's eye and woe to any nation including the United States that tries to deny that fact for the sake of politics, preference, or popularity! We should not think that the promises of God in the Abrahamic Covenant can be compromised or renegotiated at the bargaining table. God has spoken about Israel and his words never fail to accomplish the purpose for which

they were sent. God's preservation of America may very well be based upon our treatment of Israel.

Today those who are seeking to destroy Israel (the so-called little Satan) such as Hamas and Hezbollah are being struck down as we speak. In the end, nations who attack Israel don't win! They might hurt and cause the Jews great turmoil during the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).



This phrase in Scriptures refers to the period of time from Israel's Babylonian captivity until the Second Coming. Jesus mentions a time in which Jerusalem and the Jews are under the dominion of Gentile authority. Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Jerusalem in 588 BC began this period, and it has continued through the present time up until the Second Coming of Christ to earth when He defeats Israel's enemies. It's a time period when Gentiles according to God's sovereign purpose are allowed to persecute national Israel who is presently out of the place of blessing under the Abrahamic Covenant (Rom. 11:12-27) until the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom over planet earth (Rev. 20:1-7).

Here is an up-to-date question. Why did God allow Hamas to attack Israel, rape their women, behead babies, putting them in ovens, and commit other unconscionable atrocities with the Jews. The answer is that the Jewish people are living during "the times of the Gentiles" where Israel's enemies are given an open season to persecute Israel. God is allowing the persecution of His people to eventually bring them back to Himself, so they might accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah and have their hearts and lives transformed by His grace (2 Cor. 3:15-16; Luke 13:35; Hosea 5:15-6:1-3). However, even during the time when Israel is being persecuted by her enemies, we discover that the enemies of Israel eventually are judged and do not prosper against them. They experience certain forms of God's wrath and judgment. God is not happy with those nations who seek to harm and destroy His chosen people.

So, one good reason why the United States should continue to support Israel is because of the promise of Israel's enemies receiving God's curse and judgment. World leaders are blind to this reality but over and over again they discover that

fighting Israel means they are actually fighting with God and therefore come under the scrutiny and hand of God's judgment.

God Himself spoke in Leviticus 25:23 making the bold claim that the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people are owned by Him: "The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is* mine; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with me." The city of Jerusalem is also the city of the Jews given to them by God.

In 2 Chronicles 6:5-6 God said through Solomon:

"Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel."

The land is given to the Jews and Jerusalem is the city of Jews. This is what the Bible teaches. Sadly, the lines are being drawn today like never before regarding the treatment of the Jewish people and their Jewish rights and heritage. What if America turns our back on the nation that God promised would bless us if we bless them? We are quickly moving down the road of passivity and neutrality toward Israel and in doing so we create our own destruction as a nation.

Dr. David Jeremiah has well-stated:

"One would think that America is the key to Israel's survival, not the other way around. Given our history of vast military and economic aid packages to Israel over the years, it would seem that America could use the threat of withdrawn aid to leverage her influence over Israel and get that tiny nation to do whatever we want. Surely, a larger benefactor nation holds in her hand the survival of a smaller dependent nation? But I am saying the opposite is true, that Israel is the key to America's survival and here's why.

"It is clear that America's leaders, at least in recent administrations, have not been looking at Israel with spiritual or biblical eyes. Had they done so, one small verse would have guided all of their policy decisions and that verse is Genesis 12:3 which says, 'I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' And God has a perfect track record, men and women, for keeping his promises, a fact that is demonstrated by

several thousand years of history. Yet, in spite of God's well-demonstrated trustworthiness, American leaders in recent years have rationalized and justified their way into denying Israel the free expression of her sovereignty as a nation."

If America's leaders continue down a path of not blessing Israel, we should not expect God's blessing in return. That's exactly what Genesis 12:3 says and I'm bold enough to believe this promise!

Another important reason to support Israel based upon the Abrahamic Covenant relates to Israel's occupation of the land. We should support Israel's right to possess the land that God has given to the Jews and not try to make Israel give up her God-given inheritance to the Arab people who want to annihilate them from the face of the land and earth. Interestingly, in the book of Joshua, the tribes of Israel took possession of the land as an inheritance from God Himself. The word "inheritance" is found 50 times in the early chapters of Joshua, reminding us that the Jewish people inherited their land.

Genesis 13:15

"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever."

Genesis 17:7-8

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

The key question is who rightfully owns the land where Israel now exists? Is it the Jewish people or the Muslims? The Bible clearly reveals that it is Israel's land. And who gave it to Israel? God did. Israel has a God-given right to possess their land no matter what the Arabs or any other country might say who is against Israel's occupation of the land. It's what God says that matters! There can be no question about who should occupy the land. Israel has every right to fight for the land that God gave to her.

Genesis 15:18 gives the original dimensions of the land: "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates."

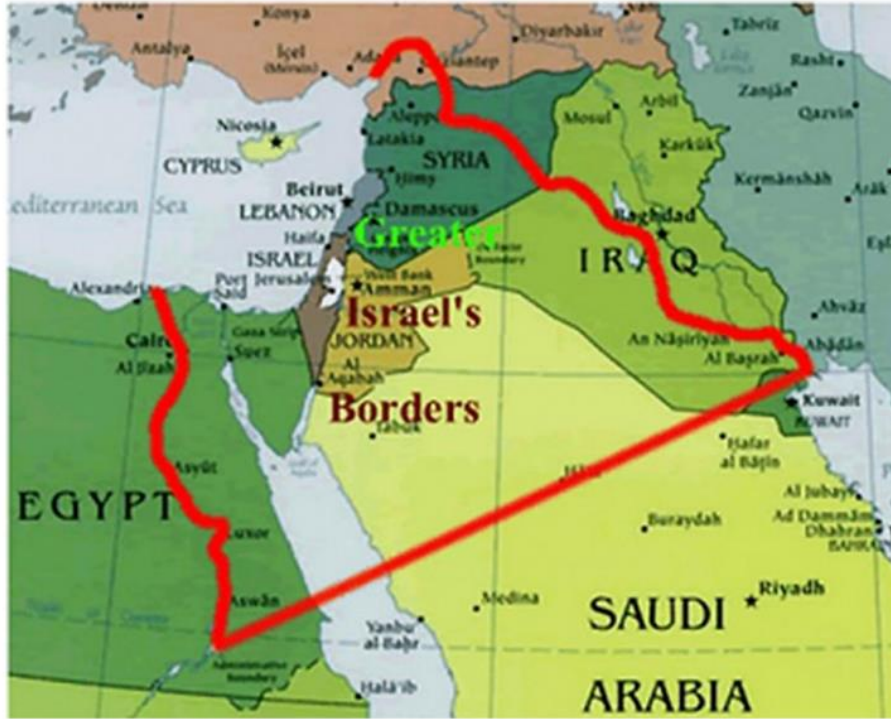
Israel's present-day occupation of the land does not match God's original promise of land that was allotted to them. They have much less.



We must remember that it was God who chose the boundaries for the ancient land of Israel – not the United Nations! The map of ancient Israel's Biblical borders is interesting. What are the God-given and true borders of Israel? Once again, the original dimensions of the land of Canaan (Promised Land) which were given to Abram are vastly larger than what Israel occupies today.



## Israel's Original Borders



**(Genesis 15:18)**

Scripture records both general (Ex. 23:31; Num. 13:21; Deut. 11:24; 1 Kin. 8:65; 2 Kin. 14:25; Is. 27:12) and more specific details and descriptions of the Promised Land (Gen. 12:18, Num 14:1–12; Josh. 15:1,2; Ezek. 47:15–20 cf. Ezek. 48:1,28), centering on the ancient land of Canaan, which we call Israel today.

The river of Egypt most likely refers to one of the finger body of waters such as Wadi-el-Arish (Joshus 15:1-4) that feeds off the Nile River. During the rainy season it flows from the middle of the Sinai Peninsula into the Mediterranean ninety miles east of the Suez Canal (Numb. 34:5; Josh, 15:4, 47; 1 Kings 8:56; 2 Kings 24:7; 2 Chron, 7:8; Isa. 27:12; Ezek. 47:19; 48:28). Another view identifies the river of Egypt as the Nile, specifically its eastern channel of water, which is a continuous flowing body of water. This means Israel's southern boundary is to extend down to the area where the Suez Canal is located today. The northern border is the river of

Euphrates. The western border is the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern border according to Ezekiel 47 extends from Kadesh Barnea in the South up past the Dead Sea through Gilead winding up to the Orontes River in the north.

If you were to superimpose Israel's land occupation today compared to God's original land promise, the Jewish people possess much less land than God originally promised them. But some day during the Millennial Kingdom they will possess the exact dimensions of the land promised to them by God (Ezekiel 47-48).

In the Abrahamic Covenant God promised that the Jews would remain a nation and that they would possess the full dimensions of the land forever. This promise will be literally fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom (1,000-year reign of Christ) and when Christ delivers up the kingdom to God the Father and the eternal kingdom and eternal state on earth begins (1 Cor. 15:25-28). It is on the basis of this covenant that final restoration will occur when a believing remnant accepts the Messiah and returns to the land in belief and obedience (Ezek. 37-38; Lev. 26:40-42).



The Arabs want to possess the entire land of Israel since Islam teaches that the Bible has been corrupted by Jews and that the land of Israel was actually given to Arabs. Muslims (Arabic people who follow the religion of Islam) claim that they are the true recipients and rightful heirs to the promises made to Abraham, through Ishmael, who gave rise to the Arab nations. Of course, this is an incredible hoax and deception since the Bible

clearly teaches that the Biblical promises of land inheritance were given only to the Jews through Isaac.

Genesis 17:19

“And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him (not Ishmael) for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.”

Genesis 17:21

“But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, (not Ishmael) which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”

Genesis 28:13

“And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac (*not Ishmael*): the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.”

Genesis 35:12

“And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac (*not Ishmael*), to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.”

Hebrews 11:18

“Of whom it was said, That in Isaac (*not Ishmael*) shall thy seed be called.”

It’s very clear that God did not promise the land to Ishmael and the Arab peoples that stemmed from him but to Isaac and His seed (the Jews).

Renald Showers states:

“The Ishmaelites are the Arab people. In light of this fact, God’s statement that He would not establish the Abrahamic Covenant with Ishmael indicates that He did not establish it with the Arab people. God designated Isaac and his descendants - the Jewish people – to be parties of the Abrahamic Covenant, and He refused to include Ishmael and the Arab people.”

The result of this has caused hatred and constant bickering and fighting in the Middle East even though Ishmael was allotted much land and blessing from God.

The historical record of God’s choice must again be reiterated in Genesis 17:19-21:

“And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”

God drew a clear distinction among Abraham’s two sons and their biological descendants. The distinction is significant because it relates to the issue of who rightfully owns the land where modern State of Israel is located. Today Arabs own

more than 99.9 percent of the land across northern Africa and the Middle East. By contrast, the State of Israel owns and occupies less than one tenth of one percent of this land area. But the Arabs want to control all of the land in the Middle East and eliminate Israel out of hatred for the Jews by claiming they have stolen their once inhabited land which was ruled under Allah.

Victor Buksbazen remarked:

“It’s not in Ishmael’s nature to dwell peacefully with Isaac.”

The Arabs make the outlandish claim that the Jews changed the Bible for personal gain, concocting a story that Isaac became Abraham’s heir of the land promises when it should have been Ishmael. According to the Jewish distorted version of the story, Ishmael and his descendants became the outcasts and therefore have no right to the land. In other words, the Muslims claim that they are the rightful heirs (through Ishmael) to the entire land which they call Palestine because the Jews flipfopped the true story of what happened. However, the Bible has not been corrupted as Muslims teach. In fact, by Mohammed’s time (A.D. 570-632) and the birth of Islam, thousands of copies of the Bible were already dispersed over a large part of the world. The Muslims attempt to rewrite history cannot overturn God’s land promises given to Israel.

Dr. Richard Booker, writing in “Christians, Jews and Israel” (page 81) correctly asserts: “Please tell me when in history was there ever a distinct people called Palestinians? Who were they and when did they rule? What and who did they rule over? What was the name of their country and what was the capital of their country? What were the boundaries of their country? Who were their presidents and prime ministers? What language did they speak? What literature did they leave behind? What was their currency? What historical records do we have of a Palestinian civilization? Where is the archaeological evidence of their existence or any other information that we have about an historical Palestinian people? The truth is there have never been a distinct people called Palestinians; there has never been a sovereign land called Palestine, Jerusalem has never in history been the capital of any Arab or Palestinian state; there is no Palestinian language or culture, because there is no Palestinian people. It is a myth created after the Jews liberated Jerusalem in 1967.”

Today we repeatedly hear the enemies of Israel claiming that the Jews are the unlawful "occupiers" of the land. But again, this is a lie. Abraham, the father of the Jews, occupied the land around 2000 B.C. until a famine forced their family to go to Egypt. From the time of Joshua, Israel occupied the land for about 1400 years until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. After the horrors of World War II, Israel was rightfully given a homeland, and all they have done since then is to bravely defend their land against surrounding nations that want to destroy them.

But Islam teaches that when Muslims have subjugated an area of the world to Islam rule, that area belongs irrevocably to Allah forever. If Muslims are removed from the area Allah is dishonored. This means for the sake of Allah, the non-Muslims must be eliminated, and Islamic rule restored at any cost, even if it requires killing many innocent people. Jihad (holy war) must be declared on the intruders.

During the Middle Ages and later, Muslim forces on several occasions ruled the land of Israel and owned and inhabited it for many centuries. The last of these forces was the Turkish Ottoman Empire that ruled the land for 400 years until Great Britain defeated Turkey during World War 1. According to Islamic teaching, "infidel" Great Britain's removal of Islamic rule from a land that, in the eyes of Muslims, belongs to Allah should not be allowed to continue indefinitely. When Great Britain withdrew from this area and Israel was born as a nation in the land in 1948 by the decree of the General Assembly of Nations, Muslim nations saw this event as their moment to retake their land for Allah.

Almost immediately five Muslim nations jointly attacked Israel with massive forces. But amazingly, against overwhelming odds, Israel won its War of Independence in 1949. Ever since this time Muslim nations have sought eradicate Israel who is considered to be a cancer that must be removed from an area of the world they once ruled. Israel will never be recognized as a Jewish state by the Muslims. Ownership of the land is the key issue that drives and motives the conflict concerning Israel's existence in the Middle East. It's why the Middle East is always a powder keg waiting to explode. Who is the rightful owner to the land where Israel presently exists? The answer is found in the Biblical revelation of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1; 12:15; Isa. 60:21).

We must recognize that Israel has a God-given right to their land (Genesis 15:18). The United States and other nations should support Israel's occupation of the land and their right to protect themselves from being annihilated by Arab neighbors and enemies. This is because God has given the Land to the Jewish people through the Abrahamic Covenant promises. Israel has a God-given inheritance and right to possess the land. The United Nations likes to dictate how Israel should respond to terrorist attacks and protect herself. It gives Israel plenty of advice. But Israel knows her land heritage and will not give up any more land to the Arab nations. In fact, they may soon be reclaiming more land once again in the Gaza strip. This is land that is rightfully Israel's according to the original God-given dimensions of the land.

Today only a portion of the promised land is under Israeli control. From 1948 to the present, the Israelis have fought 5 national wars, winning all five, which is a miraculous feat. Between June 5 to 10, 1967, Israel won the "shortest war in history." All three "confrontation states" of Egypt, Syria and Jordan were defeated. Israel ended up occupying the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. From the beginning, the United States sought a ceasefire in order to prevent an Arab defeat bad enough to force the Soviet Union to intervene. But Israeli troops captured over \$1 billion worth of Soviet-supplied armaments and extended their land ownership.

Mark Twain, though not a great friend of Christianity, cultivated an affinity for the Jews. Twain had a Jewish son-in-law. He once wrote: "All things are mortal but the Jews, all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?" The secret is God's blessing upon the Jewish people. It's very clear that God has an unending plan and purpose for Israel. As we have seen, God's ancient people are the apple of His eye and they are written on the palms of His hands. Even while they are still in unbelief as a nation, not having received the Messiah (John 1:11), God still deeply loves His people. Even though Israel has been temporarily removed from the place of full blessing and privilege through the working of God's dispensational plan (Romans 11:15-27), He still has a special love for His people and is seen working on Israel's behalf.

God is not finished with Israel. Romans 11:1-2 states: "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew." Since God has not cast away His people and forgotten His covenant promises with them,

neither should the United States. We should support Israel in every way and seek Israel's peace, wellbeing, and safety.



In Psalm 122:6 David instructed the Jews to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” This is something every nation should consider. Yes, pray for Israel – don’t persecute them! Instead of turning against the Jews and receiving the curse that God promised in the Abrahamic Covenant, Christians within the United States need to be supporters of Israel, praying for their peace and safety.

Yes, we need to pray for Israel. We can pray for Israel’s leaders, and we can pray for the peace of Israel. As the spiritual children of Abraham through faith in Christ (Gal. 3:7), we can enter into the spirit of Psalm 122 and pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of the Jewish people today.

Romans 10:1

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

Where is our heart? Do we long to see people saved? Like Paul, we should also desire to see Jewish people come to salvation in Christ? The Jewish people need salvation for they have not acknowledged Jesus to be their Messiah (John 1:11). In fact, some of them are atheistic and God-defying people. But one day they will as a nation believe in the returning Christ and embrace as their Savior.

Isaiah 53:4-5 prophetically records the Jewish remnant's repentant response in conjunction with the Second Coming and the return of her Messiah: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Zechariah 13:1 says:

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

Yes, someday Israel will be saved and as a nation they will become a believing people who will experience the fulfillment of their unconditional covenants. The important thing is that we have a burden like Paul did for people to be saved and remain committed to sharing the Gospel with lost people who are headed toward hell.

The Times-Reporter of New Philadelphia, Ohio, reported in September 1985 a celebration of a New Orleans municipal pool. The party around the pool was held to celebrate the first summer in memory without a drowning at the New Orleans city pool. In honor of the occasion, 200 people gathered, including 100 certified lifeguards. As the party was breaking up and the four lifeguards on duty began to clear the pool, and they found a fully dressed body in the deep end. They tried to revive Jerome Moody, 31, but it was too late. He had drowned surrounded by lifeguards celebrating their successful season.

This reminds us that we cannot close our eyes to the condition of those around us who are going down to hell while we are celebrating and enjoying life. There is too much at stake. The eternal destiny of people is very important. We must remember the Great Commission and reach out to Gentile and Jewish people who need Christ. We cannot ignore them. Or can we? May God give us the same burden Paul had to



see people saved before they die in their sins and pass into the judgment of the next life.

#### 4. Israel has given us the Scriptures of God.

George Muller, who was known for his strong faith, confided. "The first 3 years after conversion, I neglected the Word of God. Since I began to search it diligently, the blessing has been wonderful. I have read the Bible through one hundred times and always with increasing delight!" John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, testified, "Read the Bible, and read it again, and do not despair of help to understand something of the will and mind of God, though you think they are fast locked up from you. Neither trouble yourself, though you may not have commentaries and expositions; pray and read, and read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from man."

In our next point, we need to realize that we also have been given the Scriptures (the Bible) through the Jewish race. What a tremendous treasure we have today because of Israel.

Romans 3:1-2

"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God."

The term "oracles" (*logeeon*) is a form of the common New Testament word "logos" (meaning word). The term "oracles" speaks of the utterances of God, the divine words and Scriptures which came from the very breath of God (2 Tim. 3:16). The Jews have had many special privileges. The most important is that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.



Paul has in mind the Old Testament Scriptures which were given to Jews to write and to preserve. The Jews received the very words of the true God and recorded

them for us today (Deut. 4:1, 2; 6:1, 2; Mark 12:24; Luke 16:29; John 5:39). Through the Jewish authors of Scripture and the meticulous preservation of Scriptures by the Jews we have the Old Testament teachings of God's Word.

But what about the New Testament Scriptures? We must also recognize that the New Testament Scriptures came through Jewish writers and the Church was responsible to preserve these Jewish Scriptures (2 Tim. 4:14). Of course, some will argue that Luke was a Gentile and that the Jews alone did not give us the Scriptures. This is highly speculative and is not based upon the clear revelation of Scripture itself which declares how the Jews are the writers and responsible for giving us God's revelation. I believe Luke's non-Jewishness would contradict a Biblical maxim from Romans 3:1–2 which concludes that all the other canonical texts which are inspired by the Holy Spirit were penned by those who have Jewish roots in Jacob. It would be a real challenge for Jewish people to consider the New Testament's witness about Messiah if one of its most important authors (Luke) was a non-Israelite.

Luke's non-Jewishness is sometimes inferred from Colossians 4:10–14:

"Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only [are my] fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. Epaphras, who is [one] of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them [that are] in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."

It's assumed by some that since Luke is separated from those of "the circumcision" that Paul's intent is to not make him Jewish. In other words, since Luke was not mentioned with those three men "of the circumcision," many suspect he was a Gentile. It's interesting that not one of the Church Fathers identified Luke as a Gentile. A stronger case exists that Luke was a Hellenistic Jew. It's also interesting that Paul refers to Lucius as a fellow Jew in Romans 16:21. Lucius (perhaps the same man mentioned in Acts 13:1) was likely Luke, the writer of Luke and Acts. In Greek Luke and Lucias are almost one and the same name, Lucias being his more formal name.

The Biblical data supports that Luke was writing to a larger Jewish audience. First, he mentions Theophilus (Luke 1:3). According to Bock, this was a name “used by both Greeks and Jews” making it difficult to establish the person’s ethnic identity. He could have been a Jew or Gentile. Luke’s Gospel begins and ends with talking about the Temple. He’s the only writer to mention that “a great company (number) of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7). A Gentile writing to convince Gentiles would hardly take interest in Jewish details like Luke does (Luke 4:31; 8:26; 21:37; 23:51; 24:13). But Luke (the Jew) was writing to convince his own Jewish people that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

Carmon Joyner, writing for Friends of Israel, has stated:

“Hypothetically, if it were to be settled in court that Luke was a Gentile, one would need a kangaroo court—a biased, unreliable, agenda-driven court that predetermines cases without evidence. The case is that weak. Luke’s profile as the New Testament’s only Gentile author was emboldened by centuries of tradition in which people parroted the idea without question.”

The truth always matters, and traditional narratives concerning Luke (that he was a Gentile) can have negative consequences. My old doctor once told me that Luke was a Gentile. But since the “oracles” came from the Jews (Rom. 3:1-2), it’s better to follow through with this important Scriptural truth and therefore conclude Luke was a Jew.

Dr. Thomas S. McCall of Zola Levitt Ministries accurately concludes:

“The main advantage that Paul recognizes in the Jewish people was that when God gave revelation to the human race, He gave it to and through the Jews. He did not utilize the Gentile people for this purpose. This was the rule: that Jews were the vehicle for revelation. If Luke was an exception, the burden of proof is on those who would claim that he is an exception.

“Thus, one has to prove conclusively that Luke was a Gentile before one should abandon the clear rule about the Jewish writing of Scripture. We must assume that Luke is a Jew unless the evidence is so overwhelming that we must conclude he is a Gentile. As we have seen above, the evidence from the lists in Colossians is so weak that it does not meet that criterion. Gentiles are blessed in many ways, especially during this Church Age, but God has never indicated that He has changed His rule of using only Jews to record His revelation.

“My conclusion is, then, that we must infer that Luke was a Jew. The idea that he was a Gentile appears to be based on nothing more than wishful thinking and tradition. The biblical evidence strongly supports the position that Luke was a Jew, and we should always believe the Scriptures over tradition, when there is a conflict between the two.”

Here is our main point. We are indebted to the Jews for the Holy Scriptures that God gave to us for “unto them (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God.” Romans 3:2). To move away from this axiom would be to move away from what is said in the Scriptures. God used Jewish authors to give the world His inspired words as they were “moved (born along) by the Holy Ghost” they not only spoke but recorded God’s holy words (2 Pet. 1:20-21). In some way which we cannot fully understand, God directed these Jewish men to write down and record the very words of God. Today we have the Bible which is inspired in every word (verbal inspiration) and equally inspired or given by God (plenary inspiration). The Bible is not only inspired but inerrant which means that the Word of God is totally without error, not only in doctrine, but in history, science, chronology, and all other areas.

In one sense, the Bible is a gift from God to the human race which came specifically through the Jewish race.

“Holy Bible, book divine,  
Precious treasure, thou art mine;  
Mine to tell me whence I came,  
Mine to teach me what I am.”

The Jewish people gave us the treasures of the Scriptures which we read, believe, obey, and use to share the Gospel with the unsaved. Yes, we are truly indebted to the Jews. This is another reason why we should support them and not turn against them.

John Bunyan said:

“I was never out of my Bible.”

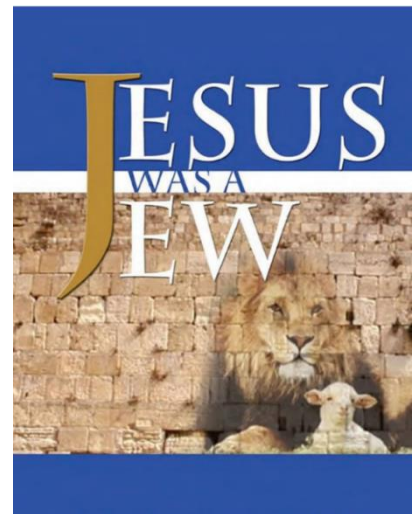
Thank God for the Scriptures. The Scriptures came from the Jews! Every day we read the Bible we can thank God for using the Jews to bring us the wonderful words of life!

## 5. Israel is the progenitor of the Son of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ entered this world through the nation of Israel. Israel is in one sense the progenitor, originator, or ancestor of God's Son Jesus Christ. In relation to humanity, they produced or gave us the Son of God. This is another reason why we should support Israel. It's because the Jewish people gave us Jesus!

Romans 1:3 declares: "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed (*a descendant*) of David according to the flesh" (*His humanity*).

Romans 9:4-5 adds this: "Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."



Who are the Israelites? They certainly are not the Church! They are ethnic Jews and the originally chosen and adopted people of God (Ex. 4:22) who were given the Mosaic Law, covenants, promises, and whose history is rooted in their ancestral fathers of Judaism. But noticed what Paul says at the end of this listing – "of whom are concerning the flesh Christ came." Yes, Israel gave us Jesus! He came through the Jewish race, and we are deeply indebted to them for this!

Revelation 12:1-2 also reminds us that Jesus entered the world through the Jewish race: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."

The woman is not Mary but symbolizes Israel in this prophetic context (Rev. 12:6, 13-14). John is looking back to Genesis 37:9–11 where the sun and the moon referred to Jacob and Rachel. The stars in the woman's crown clearly related to the 12 sons of Jacob and identified the woman as Israel fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant. Using the Old Testament imagery, it is certain that John makes the identification of this woman to be Israel. Again, the symbolism is not specifically

referring to Mary, the mother of Christ, but points to Israel as the source or progenitor of Jesus Christ. This symbolic woman can be none other than the nation of Israel for it was through Israel that Jesus Christ came into the world.

The woman (Israel) was said to be pregnant and about to give birth (Rev. 12:2). There are many figurative references to Israel as a travailing woman (pregnant and in labor) in the Old Testament (Isa. 26:17–18; 66:7–9; Jer. 4:31; 13:21; Mic. 4:10; 5:3). Here in John’s vision the woman (Israel) was about to give birth and cried out in labor pains. In this prophetic context, we have seen that the woman represents the nation of Israel (Rev. 12:6, 13-14) who in the past gave birth to Christ and who will one day suffer during the Tribulation Period for bringing Christ into the world. During the Tribulation Period for Satan will attempt to persecute and destroy Israel who birthed the Messiah. This is because Satan hates both the Jews and Jesus Christ. So, Israel is responsible for bringing forth the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and she has in the past and will in future suffer for this since Satan hates both the Jews and Jesus Christ.

Here is the point. We owe our gratitude to Israel for being the nation and race that gave us Jesus Christ. Satan today through antisemitism wants to persecute and destroy the Jews but God’s people should support the Jewish race for they were given the privilege to bring forth the Son of God. Antisemitism is anti-godly living.

One preacher shares this story:

“I spoke about this years ago in a church in Bavaria. A brother came to me after the service saying: ‘Yes, it is true, Jesus was born to a Jewish mother. But you forgot one thing. When Jesus rose from the dead, he received a glorified body. He stopped being Jewish and now he is the universal brother of all mankind.’ It sounded amazing! But in my Bible, I read in Revelation that Jesus in his glorified body is still the ‘Lion of the tribe of Judah’ (Revelation 5:5).

“And the very last words of Jesus in the Bible, often standing out in red letters, are: ‘I, Jesus ... am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star’ (Revelation 22:16). So, even in the very last chapter of the New Testament, Jesus reminds us that his great, great, great... grandfather is a Jewish king from Jerusalem. By serving the Jewish people, we serve the earthly family of Jesus. And I truly believe He takes notice when we do so.”

Jesus was a Jew and He came through the Jewish race. It is true, in defending the Jewish race we are in one sense helping the people who brought Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "And the King (Jesus) shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." This means supporting the Jews is a worthy cause!

The sweetest name upon our lips as Christians is Jesus! His name to us means salvation, hope, eternal life, a new way of life, and fellowship with God.

"There have been names that I have loved to hear,  
But never has there been a name so dear  
To this heart of mine, as the name divine,  
The precious, precious name of Jesus.

Jesus is the sweetest name I know,  
And He's just the same as His lovely name,  
And that's the reason why I love Him so;  
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know."

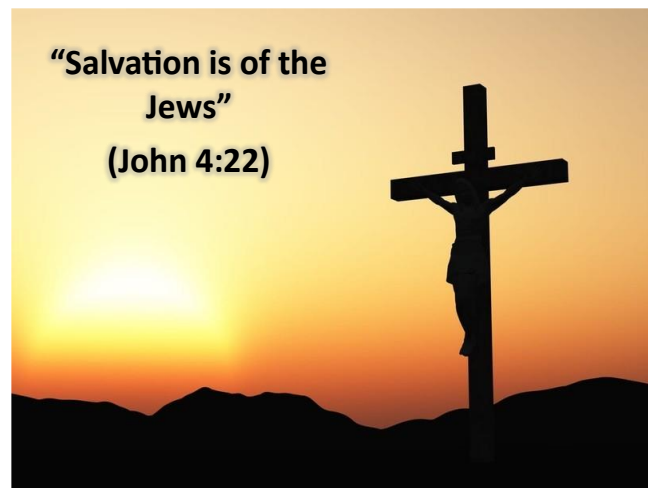
The Jews gave us Jesus. We are deeply indebted to them for this reason. This brings us to our final reason to support Israel.

## **6. Israel is the link to our salvation from God.**

In John 4:22 Jesus said in a point-blank fashion:

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews."

Jesus condemned the Samaritan mode of worship. The Samaritans did not know who to worship, where to worship, or how to worship! Jesus made it clear that all religions are not equally acceptable before God, that some worshipers act in ignorance and unbelief. Many conclude today that all religions are good and in the end they



all lead to Heaven. Jesus does not agree with this philosophy of syncretism. The Lord Jesus informed this woman that the pagan worship of the Samaritans was not authorized and approved by God. It had been invented by man and carried on without the sanction of the Word of God. The only worship that God will accept is that which came through the Jews which consisted of revelation from the Scriptures and the specific revelation of salvation through the Messiah.

The Samaritans had absolutely and completely missed what constitutes true worship. This is true today of so many in world religions who think they are sincerely worshipping God, but who are sincerely wrong for they have missed the true revelation of salvation through Christ alone (Acts 4:12). So what did Jesus mean when He stated, "Salvation is of the Jews."

First, He was teaching that the *revelation of salvation* came first to the Jews and then to the rest of the world (Rom. 3:1–2; 9:3–5). In other words, the truth and authority of revelation resided in the Jewish people (not the pagan Samaritans).

Second, Jesus was teaching that the *source of salvation* (the Messiah) was Himself a Jew (Rom. 9:5) who had entered the world through Israel. When saying that "salvation is of the Jews," the Lord was teaching that the Jewish people were appointed by God to be His true messengers of divine revelation (Rom. 3:2) and it was through the Jewish nation that the Messiah and salvation was introduced to the world of lost mankind. "Salvation is of the Jews" in the sense that the revelation of salvation has been made available through the Jews and Jesus who was born of the seed of Abraham was the content of this saving revelation. If you miss this, you don't know how to worship.

Jesus summarizes that all Old Testament revelation as being essentially soteriological (having to do with salvation). God intended His revelation to result in the revelation of Jesus Christ and salvation for humanity (John 3:16-17).

Think about it. Salvation has come into the world through the Jewish nation. We are truly indebted to the Jews for introducing Christ and salvation into the world. God's choice was to use the nation of Israel as the beacon of hope for the world of mankind because Christ entered this world through the Jewish lineage.



1 Timothy 1:15 states that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” and Galatians 4:4 reminds us of the Jewishness of Christ who came into the world to be the Savior: “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman (*the Jewish woman Mary*), made under the law.” Jesus was “made” (*ginomai - to be born or come into existence*) through the Jewish race and specifically the Jewish woman Mary. Of course, this is referring to the physical birth and existence of Jesus Christ – not His eternal existence.

Micah 5:2 prophetically states something about Christ’s eternal existence: “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah (about 5 miles from Jerusalem), though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee (the Jewish city of Judah) shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old (from long ago), from everlasting” (from immeasurable time).

The word “Bethlehem” means “house of bread” or food and Ephratah means “fruitful.” I live in a town called Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Yes, I picked a Biblical place to live! Bethlehem was the birthplace of David (1 Sam. 16:1, 18-19; 17:12) and David’s greater son (Jesus Christ). The Bible also states that Bethlehem was “little among the thousands of Judah” which means that Judah had 1,000 family towns. Bethlehem was a town that was almost too small to be included among the others.

“One small child in a land of a thousand  
One small dream of a savior tonight  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight  
One small savior of life.”

It’s interesting that the most insignificant place would bring forth the most significant person. This messianic prophecy not only gives the birthplace of Messiah, assuring us of Christ’s humanity, it also asserts His deity for He comes out of eternity. No mere human could be said to have been carrying out the will of Yahweh eternally. It is very clear that the Jews gave us Messiah and Messiah gave us salvation.

Matthew 1:21

“And she (*Mary who was Jewish*) shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Jesus entered the world through the Jewish nation so not only the Jewish people (“his people) but all of mankind might be saved from the penalty of sin or the wrath of God. We need to remember that Jesus was Jewish, the authors of the Bible were all Jews, and everything that defines our faith today – even the sacrifice of Jesus took place in Israel through Jews. So, we have seen that the Bible is of Jewish origin, and our Saviour was a Jew.

A religious worker in an airport shared with Dr. Wiersbe that the world’s deliverer came from Korea, but Jesus said, “Salvation is of the Jews.” Salvation is not of the Gentiles but of the Jews. The Bible is very clear about this. Again, we are indebted to the Jewish race for its through Israel that we have been given the greatest gift of all – salvation from hell through Jesus Christ. When we see Jews and meet with them our minds should automatically go back to Christ and the so-great salvation He provides for us through the Jewish people. Amazingly the Jews have been the brunt of jokes and persecution throughout the years, but they should be respected as a people and nation who brought to us the greatest blessing the world has ever known – salvation through the Son of God.

Jesus also taught that the Church is blessed through the salvation promises of Israel’s New Covenant. This brings up the question. What is the Church’s relationship to the New Covenant? Paul in applying the New Covenant to the Corinthians and this Church epistle (1 Cor. 11:24-25) teaches that the Church enters the spiritual promise of salvation and forgiveness of sins through the New Covenant, the very covenant that came to us and was made available to us through Israel.



We must understand that the Church was not given any or Israel’s covenants. We as Gentiles were outside the Jewish blessings of God. But God decided to bless the Gentiles through Israel’s New Covenant. Again, salvation is of the Jews!

Ephesians 2:12-13 declares:

“That at that time (prior to the cross and God turning to the Gentiles) ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

The phrase “in time past” indicates that during Israel’s Biblical history and before God officially and in a dispensational way turned to the Gentiles incorporating them into his saving plan called the Church (Body of Christ), we were as a large group of people outside the reach of salvation and spiritual blessings of God. We were outside God’s favor until He decided to move and form the Church which is the time when Gentiles would be spiritually blessed with salvation and new life (Acts 15:14; 13:46).

If God had not decided to turn to the Gentiles, we would be on the highway to hell! Great masses of Gentiles would NOT be saved and there would be no hope for us. Paul explains this.

- a. Gentiles were without Christ - “That at that time ye were without Christ” - 12a.

The Gentiles had no Messiah or Savior. This means that in a dispensational way the Gentiles were without the promise of the Messiah and Savior which was specifically given to the nation of Israel. The great masses of Gentile humanity could not cling to the promise of a coming Deliverer and Redeemer from their sins. The Gentiles had no messianic hope of a Savior and Deliverer. Their history had no purpose, no plan, and no salvation destiny—except the ultimate judgment of God.

I cannot think of any sadder words in all the Bible then these words - “Without Christ!” What a horrible soul damning state of condemnation this is! To be without Christ is to be without His life and salvation. It is to be separated from His indwelling presence and life.

- b. Gentiles were without God’s covenant promises - 12b.

The Bible goes on to say that Gentiles were “aliens (alienated) from the commonwealth of Israel (the citizenship of Israel), and strangers (estranged from

Israel and the Jews never let them forget this!) from the covenants of promise” (a non-participant in the Abrahamic, Palestinian/Land, Davidic and New Covenants).

The word “aliens” does not refer to those little green fellows who get in spaceships. It means to be estranged and a non-participant in Israel’s spiritual blessings. The Gentiles were historically out of God’s blessing because from a dispensational standpoint. We were not linked to the Jewish race of covenant blessings. Though some Gentiles were admitted into Judaism as proselytes, Gentiles as a whole were excluded; they were thus alienated. A Gentile could enter the nation as a proselyte, but he was not born into the special nation of Jewish citizens. Israel was God's nation, in a way that was not true of any Gentile nation. His blessings were upon His chosen people. When Jesus was born as a Jew, He originally came to minister “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 15:24).

The massive numbers within the Gentile race were deprived of direct participation in God’s Old Testament “covenants of promise” and therefore had no hope of future salvation, glory, and blessing as Israel did. Israel’s “covenants” such as the Abrahamic (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:18-21; 17:1-8), Davidic (2 Sam. 7:16; Ps. 89:1-4), and New (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:24-30) were all pointing to “the promise” of the Messiah and the blessings through Him. Other promises assured Israel of a national existence, a land, a King, and above all else the spiritual blessing of salvation through the coming Messiah.

The Gentiles were “strangers from the covenants of promise” which means that they were not able to partake of God’s divine covenants that He promised to the Jews which consisted of a land, a priesthood, a people, a nation, a kingdom, and a King and most of all – salvation and eternal life. In one sense, the Gentiles were left outside to play in the rain while the Jews were sitting inside eating a candlelit Turkey and mashed potato dinner. Gentiles were not in the plans of God in the Old Testament era.

- c. Gentiles were without hope – “having no hope, and without God in the world.”

These are also very sad words. To have no hope for salvation from hell and the enjoying and bliss of Heaven was the condition of Gentile humanity before Christ arrived on the world scene.



**“having no hope, and without God”**

**Ephesians 2:12**

Gentiles were outside the realm of God’s salvation and spiritual blessing. The Gentiles were in a desperate situation. They had no blessing from God, they had no promises through God, they had no meaning, hope, purpose, or direction by God. Gentiles were without hope both nationally and individually. Nationally, they had no assurance that their land, their government, or their people

would survive. And individually their outlook was bleak for they had no hope beyond the grave. They did not have the promise of salvation. Someone has said that their future was a night without a star.

Historians tell us that a great cloud of hopelessness covered the ancient world. Philosophies were empty; traditions were disappearing; pagan religions were powerless to help men face either life or death. People longed to pierce the veil of hopelessness and get some message of hope from the other side, but there was none. The popular Stoic philosophers taught that history repeated itself in three-thousand-year cycles. At the end of each cycle the universe is burned up and then reborn to repeat the same futile pattern. The Gentiles had no hope.

Most Gentiles of Paul’s day either thought that death ended all existence or that it released the spirit to wander aimlessly in some nether world throughout the rest of eternity. Death result in nothing or a state of everlasting despair. The Greek philosopher Diogenes said, “I rejoice in sport in my youth. Long enough will I lie beneath the earth bereft of life, voiceless as a stone, and shall leave the sunlight which I love, good man though I am. Then shall I see nothing more. Rejoice, O my soul, in thy youth.”

This is the basic philosophy of many people in our own day, reflected in such sayings as, “Grab all the gusto you can” and “You only go around once.” These people lived without any hope. And the vast majority of people in the world are like this today!

Without Christ, without promises, without hope, and without God! This is about as lost and abandoned as you can be! But something wonderful happened. God in His eternal, gracious, and all-wise plan chose to bless the Gentiles through the Jewish promise of the New Covenant. He looked down upon the lost human race and provided the blood sacrifice of His Son on the cross for the salvation of the entire human race – not just the Jewish race.

Ephesians 2:13 reveals to us the good news:

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off (from God’s promises) are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

Through Christ’s sacrifice in the Jewish New Covenant and the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we as Gentiles have been given a Savior! And it’s all because of the New Covenant He made with the Jewish people which in return would bless the Gentile masses.

Jesus said in Matthew 26:28:

“For this is my blood of the new testament (covenant), which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Luke 22:20

“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood, which is shed for you.:

My wife and I were in Lebanon Pennsylvania. We had stopped at a Rutters convenience store. Before I could get in the store a man on a bike rode up to me and was asking me for some gas money. I thought to myself, “a man on a bike asking for gas money.” It did not add up. Anyway, I listened to his story and began to talk to Him about Christ and salvation. The man said his mother always talks to him about salvation and the blood of Christ. He said to me that the mention of Christ’s blood scares him. But I said to him that “Christ’s blood should not scare him for it was the only thing that can save him.”

Today, those of us who are Gentiles can look back upon the New Covenant promise which was given to the Jewish race and thank God that through this Jewish Covenant (the shedding of Christ’s blood) we have been given the promise of the forgiveness of sins, salvation from hell, and the hope of eternal life.

Of course, it should again be noted that the Church in receiving the blessings of salvation through the Jewish New Covenant does not make the Church the “new Israel” (replacing ethnic Israel) resulting in God abandoning Israel forever. What Paul is teaching is that through the plan of God’s salvation which is related to the Jewish New Covenant, multitudes (untold millions) of people would be saved and become part of the body of Christ called the Church (1 Cor. 12:13). Amazingly and graciously, the Church receives the saving benefits of this covenant even before the nation of Israel who will only enter into its national blessings at the Second Coming (Jer. 31:31).

The New Covenant will be literally fulfilled with God’s chosen people (the Jewish nation) in the future. Romand 11:27 says, “For this is my covenant unto them (*the Jewish people*), when I shall take away their sin.” However, the good news is that the spiritual benefits of this covenant are given to Gentiles and the Church today. We are recipients of the Jewish blessings of salvation (the soteriological benefits) through the promised Messiah and the blood of Christ. The Church is blessed through Israel’s New Covenant but does not replace ethnic Israel in the plan of God.

To summarize, although the New Covenant was given to Israel (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:8), in the outworking of God’s saving purposes the Church receives the spiritual blessings of this New Covenant with the promise of finding forgiveness in Christ’s sacrificial death on behalf of the world (1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 12:24). The promised seed and salvation blessings through both the Abrahamic and New Covenants which were given to Israel touch the lives of those outside the promises of Israel since Christ’s death impacts Gentiles providing them with the spiritual benefits of His sacrifice on the cross. This again reminds us that “salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22).

God’s grace is still amazing! Were it not for grace, where would we be? We would be wandering down some pointless road to nowhere. We would be without any hope and possess no real meaning in life. Sir Francis Newport, head of an English infidel club, on his deathbed remarked: “You need not tell me there is no hell, for I already feel my soul slipping into its fires! Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever.”

Thank God that through the Jewish people hope sprang up! This hope was in the promised Redeemer and Savior Jesus Christ. As a result of placing our faith in Christ,

we can die with tremendous hope and the blessed assurance that Christ is our Savior who has given to us eternal life in Heaven. We must look at the Jews through the lens of Scripture and remember that Christ and salvation came through the Jewish race and her covenant promises.

In Luke 2:32 Simeon declared that the child Jesus entered the world to be: “A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

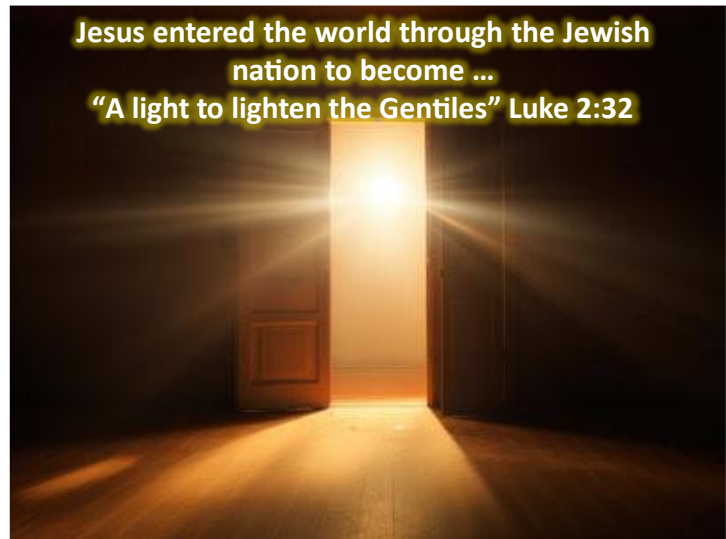
This is a Christmas, salvation, and missionary hymn all in one. Simeon acknowledged that Messiah had come. He equated the Messiah with God’s salvation. He also viewed the salvation that Jesus would provide as being worldwide, not just for Israel for “all the ends of the earth shall see

the salvation of our God” (Ps. 98:3; Isa. 52:10). In Christ’s First Advent into the world Jesus would be a light to the Gentiles but in His Second Advent He would be “the glory of thy people Israel.” The obvious point is that the Gentiles were to be blessed through Israel’s covenants which promised a Messiah, Redeemer, and Savior. The compassion of Christ for the whole world is one of Luke’s major themes and this salvation came through Israel.

Luke 2:11

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David (*Bethlehem*) a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

The Samaritans had come to know that Jesus entered the world to be the Savior of all mankind by exclaiming: “And that Christ, the Saviour of the world” (John 4:42). From Mary’s cradle to the cross. This was the ordained destiny of Jesus. Salvation is of the Jews! Since salvation has come through the Jewish race, we should continue support the Jewish people out of appreciation for giving us the Christ (Messiah) and opening the door for Gentile salvation. Thank God that today Jesus is still the door or the way to enter into salvation.





Jesus said in John 10:9:

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in (*through Christ the door*), he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.:

Christianity is not a creed, or a church. Rather it is a Person, and this Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. The expression “by me if any man enter in” is similar to John 14:6 where Jesus said: “I am the way...” A person can only enter into the blessing of salvation through Christ. Baptism will not do; neither will the Lord’s Supper. We must enter in by Christ and Christ alone. The invitation is for anyone. Christ is the Savior of both Jew and Gentile alike. But to be saved, a person must enter in. He must receive Christ by expressing faith in Him alone for salvation. Placing faith in Christ is a personal act, and without it there is no salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).

The recent anti-Israel rhetoric as a result of Israel counter-attacking Hamas and defending her homeland is nothing new. As a result of the Israel-Hamas conflict in May of 2021, representatives from the far-left group known as “The Squad,” tried to denounce our closest ally Israel, calling it an “apartheid state,” which means a racist state. Within days, the same anti-Israel sentiment spilled into several major U.S. cities. For example, college students were at Times Square for a pro-Israel demonstration when a Jewish man heading to the same rally was beaten and kicked while anti-Semitic slurs were hurled at him.

A Brooklyn man was charged with arson after attempting to set a synagogue and Jewish school on fire. In Boca Raton, Florida, a van drove through a pro-Israel rally with the words “Hitler was right” written across the window, as those inside waved a Palestinian flag and one wore a shirt with a Nazi symbol on it. In Los Angeles, people got out of a car outside a restaurant and began asking who was Jewish. The words “Dirty Jew” were heard, and then glass bottles were thrown at the table.

It seems that Israel is always at center stage in the world scene, and this is because God is at center stage, and Israel is backed by God; and throughout history people have hated the Lord and His Jewish people.

In Romans 11:11-28, Paul openly declares that even though Israel is no longer in the place of national blessing as they once were when living under the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant, God has not abandoned them, but will one day save and restore them under the New Covenant and bring them into the full blessing of all their covenant promises (Rom. 11:26-28). Here is an overview of these Scriptures.



In this section of Scripture (Romans chapter 11) Paul clearly reveals that he is talking about ethnic Jewish people. “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...” (Rom. 11:1-2a). He then goes on to explain that temporarily removing Israel from the prominent place of blessing which they once held under the Abrahamic Covenant would result in the salvation of great multitudes of Gentile people.

Paul is using the imagery of the world of agriculture and grafting. The cultivated olive tree with its natural branches or shoots was a symbol of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament (Jer. 11:16–17; Hos. 14:4–6). The wild olive tree shoots represents the Gentile people which entered into the salvation blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant. The “root and fatness” (rich root) of the olive tree (Israel) probably corresponds to the Abrahamic Covenant (or Abraham and the patriarchs) from which all of God’s blessings and the very life of the nation sprang.

Paul begins explaining this in Romans 11:11:

**“I say then, Have they** *(the unbelieving Jews)* **stumbled that they should fall?** *(that they should fall finally and forever and no longer be God’s people and possess future blessings)* **God forbid** *(certainly not - perish the thought):* **but rather through their fall** *(a temporary fall or deviation from God’s special blessings and spiritual privileges related to the Abrahamic Covenant)* **salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.”**

Paul vigorously opposes the idea that God is through with Israel forever. Israel is not cut off forever. They are not beyond recovery. There is a regrafting day coming (Rom. 11:26-27). Israel’s lost blessing and their blindness “in part” as a nation under the Abrahamic Covenant has only happened temporarily “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11:25) or until the completed number of Gentiles have come to salvation during the age of Jewish rejection (Acts 15:14). However, in the eternal plan of God, because of Israel’s rejection of the Messiah and her spiritual blindness, God turned to the entire human race and provided salvation to the Gentile masses in the world through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Israel became blinded and we became saved. What an amazing turn of events!

This reminds us that God can bring triumph out of tragedy! He can turn the tables on what seems to be an utter loss. Such is the case with Israel’s fall which resulted in Gentile salvation. There is a chain of blessing that comes to Gentiles through Israel’s fall. We are saved today because of Israel’s failures and falling into unbelief.

Romans 11:12

**“Now if the fall of them** *(the Jewish people who rejected the Messiah and His offer of salvation and the kingdom)* **be the riches of the world** *(referring to the riches of salvation through Christ’s sacrifice for everyone in the world – John 3:16), and the diminishing* *(loss – lost blessing)* **of them** *(not the replacement of them)* **the riches of the Gentiles** *(the Gentiles being brought into the prominent place of salvation and blessing within the Church);* **how much more their fulness?”** *(a reference to Israel’s salvation and restoration which will result in the Jews becoming a channel of blessing to the world – Rom. 11:26-27).*

Romans 11:17 goes on to say:

**“And if some of the branches be broken off** *(unbelieving Israel as a nation temporarily removed from the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant – vs. 20), and*

**thou, being a wild olive tree (the Gentiles), wert grafted in among them (the believing Jewish descendants of Abraham), and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree” (the Abrahamic Covenant blessing of salvation through Christ).**

Paul is not teaching that the Gentiles were grafted into the New Testament Church (Gal. 3:28) or somehow grafted into all of Israel’s covenant promises, the covenants taking on an allegorical or spiritual meaning today, resulting in the people of God (the Church) allegedly replacing the original Israel or chosen people (the Jews) which God has forever abandoned.

This kind of interpretation is huckstering the Word of God (2 Cor. 2:17). What Paul is teaching is that the Gentiles are grafted into the program of Israel (and specifically among the believing Jews) in the sense that they receive the saving benefits of the seed promises of the Abrahamic Covenant and upon receiving it they become the spiritual children and spiritual descendants of Abraham (Gal. 3:7-8, 14). No identities or people are changed when receiving the spiritual and universal blessing of salvation through Israel’s covenants. Jews are still Jews and Gentiles are still Gentiles. But the Gentiles become blessed through the salvific promise given to the Jews.



The King James Version Bible Commentary has a helpful note on Romans 11:17: “Israel is not only the firstfruits in God’s program of salvation, but also the nation in which that salvation is rooted. However, some of the branches of Israel have been broken off through unbelief. The Gentiles, being wild olive trees, have been grafted into the life of the Abrahamic root in place of those dead Jewish branches which have been discarded. Gentiles must remember, however, that not all branches of Israel have been discarded. Just unrepentant Israel is broken off. The life of the tree of Abraham has not been removed. The wild branches gain sustenance from the root which still bears a remnant of Jewish believers.”

Romans 11:19-21 concludes by saying:

**“Thou (a Gentile) wilt say then, The branches (the natural branches representative of Israel) were broken off (a symbol of lost blessing), that I might be grafted in (as a Gentile). Well; because of unbelief (Israel’s unbelief) they were broken off (because of their unbelief, the Jews are temporarily removed from the blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant promises), and thou standest by faith (the saved Gentiles). Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee”** (remove the Gentiles from the place of prominent blessing).

Israel is temporarily removed from the place of special privilege and blessing until later during the Kingdom Age. Until then, God has chosen to bless the Gentiles beyond measure in His new program called the Church. The church is primarily composed of Gentiles and is a Gentile outreach, but it does not exclude the Jews who come to faith in Christ. There still is a Jewish “remnant according to the election of grace” (Rom. 11:5) who are the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16) - Jewish brethren who are saved and now part of the Church. Paul elsewhere referred to two kinds of Israelites - believing Jews and unbelieving Jews (Rom. 9:6).

Galatians 6:16 says, “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them (*the saved Gentiles*), and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (*the saved Jews*). Replacement Theologians understand this phrase (“the Israel of God”) as referring to all believers in the Church (the new Israel) which has replaced the old Israel. However, the preposition (“upon” or “to”) indicates that there are two groups in view (Gentiles and Jews). It’s very clear that this title “Israel of God” describes a second group in the verse, not the same Gentile group that is previously mentioned. In other words, “the Israel of God” is referring to a group of people other than the

Gentiles and therefore can only logically and linguistically refer to the Jewish people.

George Zeller comments on this:

“In Galatians 6:16, what is ‘the Israel of God’? Why not simply take the phrase for exactly what it says. It is referring to the Israel ‘of God.’ ‘Of God’ is possessive. It is referring to the Israel that belongs to God. The Israel of God refers to Israelites who belong to God, who are believers in Jesus Christ. Unbelieving Jews would not be considered the Israel of God because they do not belong to God. Our Lord once spoke to unbelieving Jews and said, ‘Ye are of your father the devil’ (John 8:44). They did not belong to God; they were unsaved Jews. Likewise, believing Gentiles must not be identified as the Israel of God because even though they are saved and belong to God, they are not Israelites! The Bible never uses the word ‘Israel’ when it is referring to Gentiles.”

All the other occurrences of the term “Israel” in the New Testament (no less than 70) refer to Jews as the physical descendants of Abraham. It would therefore be strange for Paul to use the term “Israel” in this one instance as referring to Gentile Christians.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum gives an important note:

“The conclusion is that the church is never called a ‘spiritual Israel’ or a ‘new Israel.’ The term Israel is either used of the nation or the people as a whole, or of the believing remnant within. It is never used of the church in general or of Gentile believers in particular. In fact, even after the Cross there remains a threefold distinction. First, there is a distinction between Israel and the Gentiles as in 1 Corinthians 10:32 and Ephesians 2:11–12. Second, there is a distinction between Israel and the church in 1 Corinthians 10:32. Third, there is a distinction between Jewish believers (the Israel of God) and Gentile believers in Romans 9:6 and Galatians 6:16.”

Israel has not been abandoned and replaced by the Church. Romans 11:23 envisions the day when ethnic and national Israel is grafted back into the olive tree: **“And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief (*Israel placing faith in the returning Messiah at the Second Coming – Rom. 11:26-27*), shall be grafted in (*into the olive tree of the Abrahamic Covenant blessings once again*): for God is able to graff them in again”** (*so Israel can receive the everlasting promises of the covenant, a saved and obedient nation living forever in the original land God promised them*).

The other day I was mixing some fish peptides (the skin and bones of fish!) into yogurt. I poured the powder into the yogurt and began stirring it up with a spoon. Eventually it was mixed into the yogurt, and you could no longer detect it. It disappeared. In a similar way, some Bible teachers mix the people of Israel with the Church and do away with the original Israel God has chosen to bless. In fact, according to their teaching the original Israel of the Old Testament can no longer be detected in the New Testament. The old Israel simply disappeared, and a new, spiritual, or allegorical Israel called the Church has forever replaced the original Israel. However, the Bible does not teach this anywhere and Paul is not teaching this in Romans chapter 11.

You will notice that Paul did not say that the Gentiles became part of Israel and created some kind of New Testament Israel which is now called the Church. The Gentiles were not absorbed into Israel in any sense but only shared with Israel the blessings of the root (the Abrahamic Covenant blessings through Christ). The branches from the wild olive tree retain their own identity as wild branches (Gentiles), even though they receive blessings (the Savior, Salvation, Scriptures) that come through Israel. This is a very important point of distinction. Paul concluded in some sense that God grafted Gentiles into the blessings of believing Jews so they could as Gentiles share the promise of salvation through the seed (Messiah) that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16).

In other words, the Gentiles became partakers with the Jews of the blessings of Messiah and salvation (Gal. 3:29) that came through the root (the Abrahamic Covenant). Gentiles become the spiritual heirs and children of Abraham (Rom. 4:11-12). We become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26) and when placing faith in Christ, who stems from the physical seed of Abraham, this makes us spiritual descendants and children of Abraham and co-heirs of the promised blessing of salvation (Gal. 3:7-8). The children's song captures this thought.

“Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham.  
I am one of them and so are you,  
So let's all praise the Lord.”

Again, it should be understood that the olive tree is not the Church, or the so-called “new Israel” which results from uniting Jewish and Gentile believers in one body

(Eph. 3:6). This is the view of many amillennialists and covenant/replacement theologians. The olive tree analogy is a picture of the Gentiles being blessed by the Jewish people who brought forth the Messiah.

To summarize, the olive tree illustrates the relationship between Jew and Gentile in the program of God (not the Church). What Paul is saying here is that God has grafted us into Israel's program. Israel was not grafted into the Church program of Gentile salvation, but Gentiles were grafted into Israel's program through the promise of salvation contained in the Abrahamic Covenant. It's important to understand that the Gentiles are not being joined to the Church (the body of Christ) as in 1 Corinthians 12:13 but being grafted into the blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant which is related to God's purpose for the Jews.

The breaking or cutting off the branches is not a reference to individual salvation but to national purposes in the program of God with Israel. The "breaking off of the branches" (Rom. 11:17) is the equivalent of "the fall" (Rom. 11:11), "the diminishing" (Rom. 11:12), and "the casting away" (Rom. 11:15) which are referencing unbelieving Israel as a nation who has been temporarily removed from the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant. However, as a result of Israel's rejection of Christ and the Gospel, and the nations removal from the original blessings given to them, the Gospel has gone out to the Gentiles (Mark 16:15). In this sense the fall of the Jews has meant the spiritual riches of salvation extended to the world, and Israel's loss has been the Gentile's gain.

Romans 11:30 explains it like this:

"For as ye (*Gentiles*) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (*Israel's*) unbelief."

Again, what a turn of events! God knows how to take failure and turn it into great gain! If it had not been for the grace of God, Gentiles would never have been grafted into the blessing of salvation promised through the Abrahamic Covenant. Were it not for grace, where would we be? We would be walking down some dark alley with no salvation or real significance attached to our life.

"O the love that drew salvation's plan!  
O the grace that brought it down to man!  
O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!"



Mercy there was great, and grace was free;  
Pardon there was multiplied to me;  
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.”

Israel’s fall into unbelief resulted in Christ’s sacrifice and salvation being extended to all mankind whereupon millions upon millions of Gentiles have come to personal faith in Jesus Christ and this very day untold millions of them are before the throne of God in Heaven.

Romans 11:33-34 declares:

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (*they are unsearchable, you cannot plummet the depths of them*). For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counseller?”

Israel’s fall and our salvation as Gentiles is part of the unsearchable ways of God which cannot be totally fathomed with our finite minds. His grace and ways are unsearchable, but they have resulted in our so great salvation!

“His grace has planned it all, 'Tis mine but to believe  
And recognize His work of love and Christ receive.  
For me He died; For me He lives,  
And everlasting life and light He freely gives.”

Romans 11:15 speaks of the same truth of God blessing the Gentiles through Israel fall: **“For if the casting away (*setting aside and loss*) of them (*the unbelieving Jews*) be the reconciling of the world (*through Christ’s sacrifice*), what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?”** (*Israel’s salvation at the Second Coming*).

Paul again confirms that although Israel is temporarily cast away (set aside) from the place of God’s religious blessing and have encountered lost privileges in the Abrahamic Covenant, Israel is not permanently rejected as His people for there is coming a day of “receiving of them” again (Rom. 11:23) at the Second Coming where they will be brought back into the place of prominent blessing when entering into her covenant blessings.

Despite the present attitude of Israel toward the Gospel, Paul looks forward to the day when the nation will be converted. But in the meantime, through Israel’s rejection and falling from the place of blessing came the Gentiles reconciliation to

God! In the plan of God, Israel rejected her Messiah and salvation (John 1:11) and this brought God's purpose of reconciliation into the world where Gentile sinners can be reconciled to God and be prepared to live with God for eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:18

"And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

W. E. Vine remarks:

"The reconciling of the world does not mean that all men will be reconciled, but that all who will may be reconciled. The scope of reconciliation is the whole world and the instrument is the Gospel."

Yes, salvation is of the Jews! The Scriptures are of the Jews, our Savior Jesus Christ came from the Jews, and salvation is of the Jews! For this reason, we owe our gratitude to Israel and should support the Jews even though they are living largely in unbelief. All the spiritual blessings we have in Christ are rooted in the Jewish race for Christ came out of the Jewish nation.

To summarize, God has not revoked His covenants with Israel nor has the Church replaced Israel. God still has a glorious future for His national people Israel.

Romans 11:29 declares:

"For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance."



In other words, God will not change His mind about His people and promises that He gave to them. The Jews were given the special gifts or privileges listed in Romans 9:4-5 (adoption, law, promises, covenant). Israel was called by God to be His specially chosen people (Isa. 48:12). In short, the covenant promises are not rescinded. God's people will continue despite Satanic attacks,

and He will someday give them the full blessings of His covenant promises. Once God has given these unconditional promises, He will never go back on them. They are irrevocable.

The same should be true for every country and Christian. We should not turn our backs on God's chosen people. And yet, today many church leaders, pastors, professors, Bible teachers, and others are contributing to America's lack of faithfulness to Israel. As previously mentioned, they are preaching and teaching the Reformed theory of Replacement Theology but not true Biblical Theology about Israel and her future.

Replacement Theology which is also called Covenant Theology began to be developed as a system of theology in the Reformed Churches of Switzerland and Germany in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was passed to the Netherlands, Scotland, and England and was introduced into America primarily through the Puritans. This view holds that the state of Israel today has no modern relevance, that Israel of the Old Testament has been replaced and superseded by the Church of the New Testament, that any unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies pertaining to the nation of Israel have been transferred to the Church and find spiritual fulfillment in the blessings of the Church through Jesus Christ.



Generally speaking, Replacement Theology denies a present and future role for Israel and the land promised to her and totally denies anything relevant about the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-7). This is not only an anti-Bible and anti-literal view but also an anti-Israel view. The Bible promises that in the future He will regather Israel to her own land who are still scattered among the nations; and He will plan them in their own land forever (Ezek. 37:21-28; Amos 9:14-15).

There are at least ten reasons for rejecting Replacement Theology or the teaching that concludes the Church has replaced Israel in the plan of God.

- Because God gave Israel unconditional covenants (Abrahamic, Davidic, and New) that He said would come to pass based upon His own faithfulness (Heb.

6:13) and that they would be “everlasting” in nature (Gen. 17:7-8; 17:8, 13, 19; 48:4; 1 Chron. 16:17; 2 Sam. 7:13, 16; Isa. 55:3; 61:8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 16:60; 37:26; Heb. 13:20).

Replacement Theologians question the integrity of God if He does not keep the promises of His everlasting covenants with Israel. We can be assured that God does not lie (Titus 1:2). Therefore, He can be trusted in fulfilling His eternal covenants with national Israel. If God is not faithful to His promises to Israel, then why should we think He be faithful to His promises to the Church?

- Because the Bible repeatedly and prophetically teaches that national Israel will be saved in conjunction with the Second Coming and come into the full realization and blessing of her covenants (Deut. 4:27-31; 30:3-5; Isaiah 11:11-16; 14:1-3; 27:12-13; 43:5-7; 48:8-16; 60:20-21; 66:20-22; Jer. 3:17-18; 16:14-16; 23:5-8; 30:3, 10-11; 31:8, 31-37; Ezek. 11:17-21; 20:33-38; 34:11-16; 37:1-4; 13-14, 21, 24-25; 39:25-29; Hosea 1:10-11; 3:4-5; Joel 3:17-21; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:4-7; 7:20; Zeph. 3:14-20; Zech. 8:4-8; Matt. 24:31; Rom. 11:25-27).
- Because the New Testament always uses the term “Israel” as referring to ethnic or ancestral Israel – not some kind of new spiritual or allegorized Israel of the Church which has allegedly supplanted or taken the place of Israel (Matt. 19:28; Acts 1:6; 2:22; Rom. 9:3-5; 10:19; 11:26; 1 Cor. 10:18; Phil. 3:5; Heb. 8:8; Rev. 7:4; 21:12). There are no less than 70 occurrences of the term “Israel” in the New Testament and in every instance they all refer to Jews who are the physical descendants of Abraham.

Replacement Theology teaches that the Church begins with Abraham in Genesis 12, not at Pentecost in Acts 2. Old Testament Israel (not physical Israel, but only those who put their faith in God) are defined as the Old Testament Church. Old Testament Law still applies to the Church today because if the church began with Abraham and continues today, then everything in the Old Testament still relates to the church. Except the curses of course! However, we are not to read the New Testament back into the Old Testament to understand the meaning of Israel but read into the New Testament what the Old Testament has already revealed about Israel.

James Showers correctly remarks:

“If you take God’s Word progressively, in its literal and historical context, as God revealed it to us, you will not believe in Replacement Theology.”

- Because the Bible unambiguously teaches that God has not cast away His ancient, ethnic, Jewish people (Romans 11:1-2).
- Because the Bible categorically teaches God will never repent of His calling and covenants that are related to national Israel (Romans 11:29; Rom. 9:4-5). They are immutable and irrevocable (Heb. 6:18).
- Because God promises were not historically fulfilled during the days of Joshua when the Israel was dwelling in the land (Joshua 21:43-45).

Joshua 21:43-45 states: “And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”

These specific verses are used as pretexts and justification for some to promote historical fulfillment of the Jewish covenants and promises during the days of Joshua. Some Replacement Theologians will conclude that Israel already experienced everything God intended for them to experience in His covenant program with them. And since Israel eventually rejected the Messiah, she is now abandoned by God and replaced by the Church. Of course, this is vain and unscriptural reasoning.

The statement that says, “the LORD gave unto Israel all the land” (Joshua 21:43) emphasizes God’s sovereign action and the fact that “they possessed it” which refers to all the land that they conquered – not the entire land promised to them in the Abrahamic Covenant. This statement is an indication of God’s blessing upon their lives as they went through the land and defeated their enemies (Joshua 21:44). The “LORD gave unto Israel all the land” means that they were given the authority and power to conquer and take the land from their enemies because of the Abrahamic covenant promise. The land was God’s gift to Israel by promise but

all of Canaan was not yet in Israel's possession, at the time of Joshua, nor were all the enemies destroyed. However, God did give them "all the land" that they possessed as they moved throughout Canaan and claimed their inheritance.

It's very clear that God's Word was not teaching that during Joshua's days Israel exhausted the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant blessings. This cannot possibly be true since later the Bible gives additional predictions about Israel possessing the land after the time of Joshua (Amos 9:14–15), and since Israel did not actually possess and conquer all of the land (Judges 1:19, 21, 27-36; 2:1-3), nor did the Jews possess it forever as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 13:15; 17:7-8). This means it will take eternity to literally fulfill these promises and not a temporary control that Israel has over part of the land.

- Because both Old and New Testament prophecies speak of Israel being blessed eternally in the earthly messianic kingdom in answer to David's covenant (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33).
- Because the New Testament speaks of the same kingdom offered to Israel (Acts 1:6) and the same Israel being saved to experience her covenant promises (Rom. 11:25-27).
- Because when the Bible is interpreted historically, literally, and grammatically there is only one way to view Israel in the New Testament. They are the physical Jewish descendants of Abraham. Any other conclusion is committing eisegesis (reading into Bible texts) – not exegesis (getting the truth out of Bible texts).
- Because it's being intellectually dishonest with Scripture to support the literal fulfillment of Bible prophecy concerning Christ but reject the literal fulfillment of Bible prophecies regarding Israel.

Isaiah 7:14 predicted the Messiah would be born of a virgin. Micah 5:2 predicted that He would be born in Bethlehem. Psalm 22:7-8 and Isaiah 53:1 predicted He would face the ridicule and unbelief of the people. Psalm 22:16-18 predicted that His hands and feet would be pierced and that His clothing would be divided, and lots cast for them. Isaiah 53:9-10 predicted He would be put to death with wicked

men yet buried with the rich, and that He would prolong His days (resurrection) afterward.

If prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah were fulfilled literally in the New Testament, shouldn't the logical expectation be that Bible prophecy concerning Israel and the Jewish people will also be literally fulfilled? To deny this is to create an affront and offense on the clear understanding of Bible prophecies.

Romans 9:5 declares:

"Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."

God says Israel is blessed forever, but Reformed and Replacement Theologians say Israel, or the Jewish people are no longer blessed but forsaken and abandoned by God forever. Who will you believe? The Bible or the bashers of Israel God's chosen people?

It's interesting that replacement theologians often side with the Palestinians while dispensational theologians who believe in the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy and a future for Israel side with Israel. This is because replacing the Jews with the Church can spawn hatred toward the Jewish people for their disobedience to God and rejection of the Gospel. In fact, historically the Reformers who bought into the concept of the Church replacing Israel (allegorizing Israel's covenant promises) were not friends with Israel, the Jewish people.

Martin Luther recommended in his book, "On the Jews and Their Lies" that Christians should: "Set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians."

"I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed. For they pursue in them the same aims as in their synagogues. Instead they might be lodged under a roof or in a barn, like the gypsies."

Although some suggest that Luther may have attacked Jews primarily for theological rather than ethnic reasons, many others have understandably accused

him of antisemitism because of his errant and anti-Biblical view on the Jewish people. Calvin's rejection of Israel as a people can be seen when he calls the Jews "mad dogs," "beasts," and "animals." But Calvin did not go to the lengths that Luther did in condemning the Jews. However, there seems to be a protestant version of antisemitism because of the debunked philosophy of Reformed/Replacement Theology which taught that God was finished with the Jewish people and drove them off into dispersion forever.

Covenant Theologians who replace Israel with the Church promote a "one people of God" concept and ignore the eternal nature of the covenants given to Israel (the descendants of Abraham). They sidestep the different programs that God has for Israel and the Church attempting to blend Israel and the Church together as the same people throughout all of history and prophecy. However, dispensational truth emphasizes the literal-historical-grammatical interpretation of the text of Scripture in all areas which would include people, places, and events. Its key facet is seeing a clear difference in the Bible between Gentiles, Israel, and the Church without allegorizing the identity of people (1 Cor. 10:32).

Dispensationalism takes the literal approach of the Protestant Reformers and applies it to all areas, including Israelology, Eschatology, and Ecclesiology. The result has been a further reformation in the study of Bible prophecy. And yet, many still reject Israel's future by espousing the philosophical, allegorical, and non-Biblical approach to Israel and her covenant promises.

Despite the objectors, Israel is still part of God's eternal plan. Nothing less than the hand of God can explain today's existence of the nation of Israel among so many hostile enemies. Even in Israel's unbelief, prior to them being grafted back into the olive tree (Rom. 11:24), God in some measure still fights for Israel (Exodus 14:14) to accomplish His sovereign purposes with His beloved people.



The rebirth of Israel as an official nation took place in 1948 when Jews from all over the world returned to the land. The Romans devastated the land in 70 A.D. and not until 1948 did the Jews once again occupy the land. All of this seems to be rather miraculous and is an act of God's providence



which is certainly setting the stage for End Time events related to Israel and the nations. It can be certain that God has special plans for Israel! The Jewish people are part of God's eternal covenant plans and promises which are immutable (Heb. 6:18). Since God will not give up on Israel neither should America.

David Jeremiah concludes:

"I firmly believe God has blessed America because America has blessed the Jew. If this nation wants her fields to remain white with grain, her scientific achievements to remain notable, and her freedom to remain intact, America must continue to stand with Israel."

He is right. America may be declining for many ethical reasons but when we stop supporting Israel we are headed for total disaster. God cannot truly bless those who do not bless Israel.

America and specifically Christians in America should prayerfully support and stand up for the Jewish people in midst of rising antisemitism. We should be the friends of Israel desiring the safety (Psalm 122:6) and salvation of the Jews (Romans 10:1).

Why? It's because ...

- Israel is chosen by God;
- Israel is uniquely loved by God;
- Israel is given unconditional covenants by God;
- Israel has given us the Scriptures of God;
- Israel is the progenitor of the Son of God;
- Israel is the link to our salvation from God.

God referred to the redeemed Jews as "Israel my glory" (Isaiah 46:13) – displaying His splendor before the nations of the world. Isaiah 44:23 says, "for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel." Since redeemed Israel will once again manifest God's glory on earth this means He has not given up on His ancient people



and neither should we. God is not finished with Israel (Zech. 13:8-9; Rom. 11:26-27), and neither should America be finished with Israel.