

The Place Of Israel In God's Purposes 4381

Psalm 33:8–12

Israel: the nation descended through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—also called Jews

The name “Israel/Israelite” occurs:

In the Old Testament: more than 2,500 times

In the New Testament: 79 times—never to describe the church

If America or Britain was mentioned that many times in the Scripture, we would acknowledge that we could not fully understand the Bible until we understood the significance of these nations

The word “Jew” occurs in the Old Testament 84 times; in the New Testament 192 times

On the other hand, “Christian” occurs only 3 times in the New Testament

I. Israel: Biblical Perspective

A. A unique nation (1 Chron. 17:21)

B. Three purposes—not yet finally fulfilled (Exodus 19:5–6)

1. Special treasure
2. Kingdom of priests
3. Holy nation

C. Stewards of God's Word (Rom. 3:1–2)

Without them there would be no written revelation of God

D. Paul's sense of obligation (Rom 1:14–15)

E. Eight features (Rom. 9:4–5):

1. Adoption
2. Glory
3. Covenants
4. Giving of the law
5. Priestly service
6. Promises of God
7. The patriarchs
8. The Messiah

F. *The lion of the tribe of Judah* = Jesus (Rev. 5:5)—in eternity Jesus retains His identification with Judah (= the Jews)

G. Jesus to Samaritan woman: “*Salvation is from the Jews*” (John 4:22)

Everything comprehended in salvation comes through the Jews

H. Anti-Semitism

1. From 4th century to this time propagated by many sections of the church
2. One of the leading anti-Semites was Martin Luther

II. Whole History Foretold In Prophecy

A. Already fulfilled

1. Enslavement in Egypt (Gen. 15:14)
2. Deliverance with wealth from Egypt (Gen. 15:14)
3. Possession of the land of Canaan (Gen. 15:18–20)
4. Turning to idolatry there (Deut. 32:15–21)

5. Center of worship in Jerusalem (Deut. 12:5–6; Psalm 132:13–14)
 6. Assyrian captivity (Amos 5:27; 6:14; 7:17)
 7. Babylonian captivity (Jer. 16:13; 21:10)
 8. Destruction of the first temple (2 Chr. 7:19–22)
 9. Return from Babylon (Is. 6:11–13; 48:20)
 10. Destruction of the second temple (Matt. 24:2; Luke 19:43–44)
 11. Scattering among all nations (Lev. 26:33–34; Ezek. 12:15)
 12. Persecution and oppression among all nations (Lev. 26:36–39)
 13. Regathering from all nations (Is. 11:11–12; Zech. 10:9–10)
- B. Not yet fulfilled**
14. All nations against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2–3; 14:1–2)
 15. Supernatural revelation of Messiah (Zech. 12:10–14)
 16. Messiah comes in glory (Zech. 14:3–5)
- Already 81% fulfilled

III. God's Plan For The Land Of Israel

- A.** Given to Israel by an everlasting covenant (Gen. 17:7–8)
- B.** Reaffirmed six ways (Ps. 105:6–11)
 1. Covenant
 2. Word
 3. Commandment
 4. Oath
 5. Statute
 6. Everlasting covenant

Satan opposes this because it signals the end of his reign
- C.** Return of Jews to land predicted (Jer. 30:3–7)
 1. Originally known as the land of Canaan (Palestine = land of the Philistines)
 2. Men will behave like women in labor—the time of Jacob's trouble
 3. *But*—he will be saved *out of* it (not *from* it)
 4. In the last days you will see it (Jer. 30:24b)
- D.** Successive steps of restoration predicted in Ezekiel 36
 1. v. 16–18—Sinned in their own land: shed blood, idols
 2. v. 19–20—Scattered by God's judgment—God dishonored
 3. v. 21–23—God will intervene for the honor of His name (God lists Israel's sins—Is. 59:1–8)
 4. v. 24—God will regather them still in unbelief
 5. v. 25—Then God will sprinkle clean water on them
 6. v. 26—New heart and spirit—flesh in place of stone
 7. v. 27—My (God's) Spirit—to produce obedience
 8. v. 28—Climax: Dwell—My people—your God
 9. v. 23–30—God says “I will” 18 times (in Hebrew)
- E.** The remnant appointed for salvation (Rom. 9:27–28)
- F.** First, all the Gentiles—finally, all Israel (Rom. 11:25–26)

“The first shall be last and the last shall be first” (Matt. 20:16)

V. Sign Of The Regathering Of Israel

- A.** Regathering from all over the world (Is. 11:11–12) (has been and is being fulfilled)

1. Regathered Israel is God's banner to the nations
 - a. Banner: Held up to be seen by all
 - b. The message: "God keeps His covenants"
2. Our relationship with God depends on a covenant, too
- B.** God requires all nations to submit to His purposes (Is. 60:12)
 1. Nations not serving Israel will be utterly ruined
 2. America reneged on its commitment to Israel
- C.** God will judge all nations (Joel 3:1-2)
 1. By their treatment of Israel
 2. Regarding God's land given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- D.** "Sheep" vs. "goat" nations (Matt. 25:32-46)
 1. The New Testament outworking of Joel 3:1-3
 2. Everlasting fire
 - a. Prepared for devil and his angels
 - b. Not prepared for people, but people will be assigned there if they reject God's mercy

The dividing line: Their treatment of the brothers of Jesus = the Jews