

## Why Israel? 4414

Proclamation: Psalm 124

### I. Facts About Israel

- A. Israel is the name for the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- B. *Israel* or *Israelite* occurs more than 2,500 times in the Old Testament
- C. In the New Testament 79 times—**never once** is it a description of the Church
- D. The word *Jew* occurs 84 times in the Old Testament; 192 times in the New
- E. The word *Christian* occurs only 3 times in the New Testament

### II. Uniqueness Of Israel

- A. David says it is the only nation called out by God for redemption (1 Chron. 17:21)
- B. A kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex. 19:6)
- C. Distinctive features that apply only to Israel (Rom. 9:4–5)
  - 1. God adopted them as a nation
  - 2. The glory = the manifest supernatural presence of God
  - 3. The covenants were all made with Israel
  - 4. The giving of the Law
  - 5. The priestly service of God
  - 6. The promises
  - 7. All the patriarchs are from that stock
  - 8. Messiah came from it
- D. Lion of the tribe of Judah = Jesus—Eternally identified with the Jews (Rev. 5:5)
- E. Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)
- F. Their whole history is foretold in prophecy
  - 1. Enslavement in Egypt
  - 2. Their deliverance with wealth from Egypt
  - 3. Their possession of the land of Canaan
  - 4. That they would turn to idolatry in the Promised Land
  - 5. That God would establish a center of worship in Jerusalem
  - 6. Northern kingdom would be taken into captivity in Assyria
  - 7. Southern kingdom would be taken into captivity in Babylon
  - 8. Destruction of the first temple (built by Solomon)
  - 9. Return of a remnant from Babylon
  - 10. Destruction of the second temple (from time of Jesus)
  - 11. They would be scattered amongst the Gentile nations
  - 12. Endure persecution and oppression among the Gentiles
  - 13. Re-gathered from all nations
- G. Three still unfulfilled
  - 1. The gathering of all nations against Jerusalem in war
  - 2. The supernatural revelation of Messiah to His people
  - 3. The coming of Messiah in glory and power

### III. God's Plan For The Land Of Israel

- A. Biblically, the land of Canaan; New Testament, the land of Israel
- B. God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:7–8)

1. Everlasting covenant
2. Abraham and his descendants
- C. God's plan for the land
  1. Total, authoritative commitment: *covenant, word, command, oath, statute, everlasting covenant*—giving of the land of Canaan as an inheritance (Ps. 105:7–10)
  2. Israel shall possess the land—through tremendous terror and opposition (Jer. 30:3)
  3. Not for the sake of Israel, but because of the glory of His name (Ezek. 36:16–28)
  4. “I will” 18 times in 6 verses

#### **IV. Prophecies Currently Being Fulfilled**

- A. A second re-gathering of His people (Is. 11:11–12)
  1. Worldwide ingathering
  2. A banner for the nations: “God keeps His covenants”
- B. Nations judged for partitioning the land (Joel 3:1–2)

#### **V. What Is The Real Issue Behind It All?**

- A. Re-establishment of Jewish people in Israel and Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37–39)
- B. Supernatural revelation of Jesus (Zech. 12:10)
- C. End of Satan as “god” of this age