



## Is the Jewish Nation Really God's Chosen People?

**Jeremiah 31:33: (NASB) *But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My Law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.***



Israel. Just say the name and likely if anyone listening follows anything about events on the world stage, they will have a strong opinion one way or another. This is fascinating because the nations of Togo and Honduras, while not well recognized in world events, have about the same population as Israel. What is it about this tiny nation on this tiny sliver of land that draws such attention? Biblically, there are thousands of years of history and events that keep Israel in the forefront of world events. From a Christian perspective we know God had cast them off as a result of rejecting Jesus as their Messiah. So, what's the story with that consequence? Did Israel lose their standing with God on a permanent basis or is there hope for their future? If there is hope, what does it look like?

Israel had its beginning as a highly favored people of God long before Moses and the Ten Commandments. Abram was a unique man who was sincerely dedicated to obeying the God of heaven, even though his father's house was entangled in Pagan beliefs.

**God literally called him out of that environment and promised that if he would follow, God would bless him:**

**Genesis 12:1-3: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you;***



**First step of faith: Leave and go someplace. I'm not telling you where, but there is land picked out for you.**

***<sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;***

**This will involve the receiving and giving of blessings.**

***<sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.***

### Genesis 12:1-13

- Obedience to God's direction would yield a homeland and family heritage that would become a great nation.
- All the families on earth would be blessed by it.
- This promise of God foreshadows His entire plan for all of humanity.



Sometime after that initial promise, God reiterated His promise to Abram again. This time it was after he and his nephew Lot separated their camps. He did leave his father's house and took Lot with him. They had so many belongings, like herds of cattle, that they settled in different areas.

**Notice the focus:**

Genesis 13:14-16: (NASB) <sup>14</sup>The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; <sup>15</sup>for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. <sup>16</sup>I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.



Abram is still childless at this point. The first promise was given when he was already 75 years old.

*This rendering of God's promise foreshadows the earthly nation of Israel. Abram's descendants will be great in number, pictured by the dust of the earth, and they will inherit the land forever.*

Twenty-five years after the first promise, his son Isaac was born. Several years later, because of Abraham's faith, he was willing to offer his son as a sacrifice to God.

**God intervenes and then restates His original promise, but He refocuses and expands its meaning:**

Genesis 22:15-18: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said, by Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son...

This was over 40 years from the original promise about having offspring. He is well over 100 years old at this point. His faith was clearly something special.

**Isaac, as his long-awaited offspring, ended up being a testing ground for Abraham's profound faith:**

<sup>17</sup>indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.



This was a growing promise. Forty years later, it is an even greater description of what this nation would become – as the stars AND sand, including a complete victory of some kind.

<sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.




Abram left his father's house, and his obedience is an important part of understanding the faithfulness of God and the faithfulness of Abram, known as Abraham at this point.



*This rendering of God's promise reveals the stars of heaven detail but does NOT mention the land like He did in Genesis 13. Since Isaac was a clear picture of Jesus, God is foreshadowing the heavenly offspring, as well as the earthly offspring of Abraham, and the blessing of all humanity.*

Regarding the promise made to Abraham, God changes the focus depending on:

- who He is speaking with, and
- what He is looking for them to understand.



The *stars of heaven* were introduced because of Isaac. Let's go further now. God's clearly emphatic promise to Abraham continued to be revealed to both Isaac and then to Isaac's son, Jacob.

**There was another famine in the land, and Isaac was looking for food:**

Genesis 26:2-4: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>The LORD appeared to him (Isaac) and said, Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. <sup>3</sup>Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.



God is a god of promise. If He says something once, that's all we need. But here He is repeating it again and again, now to the next generation.

<sup>4</sup>I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;


*This rendering of God's promise reiterates the stars of heaven and the land.*

Why isn't the sand included this time? Because Isaac represented Jesus as the spiritual offspring. There's a subtlety in seeing how God's promises are meant to unfold. We watch the details: who is being spoken to and in what context?

Galatians 3:16: (NASB) Now, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, and to seeds as referring to many, but rather to one, and to your seed, that is Christ.

Ultimately, Jesus is this promised seed. When the promise was reiterated to Isaac, God was showing them, yes, it is going to be about the land, but it is also about the spiritual seed as the most important part of the promise.

The promise to Abraham was reiterated to Isaac, but God did not stop there. He also spoke the promise to Jacob.



Jacob  
(whose name was changed to ISRAEL) *represents* the physical nation of ISRAEL

**Jacob's dream of the stairway to heaven:**

Genesis 28:13-14: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. <sup>14</sup>Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.



*This rendering of God's promise reiterates the land and the dust of the earth, but no stars.*

Each time the promise was repeated, it was restated in a customized fashion so that the one hearing it understood He was talking specifically to them.



**God's Promise to Israel is Real**

Long before the nation of Israel was even recognized as a nation, they were chosen to be a people for God.

This privilege came from obedience which led to a promise that would include their nation as well as all of humanity.

1 Samuel 15:22: (NASB) *...to obey is better than sacrifice...*

Obedience is the key to be blessed and then to be able to bless others. It is both startling and inspiring to see how firmly God planted His promise into the lives of those who obeyed His direction.

**To be God's chosen people sounds like you have just won the lottery!  
To be blessed of God - what could possibly go wrong?**

God's blessings right from the creation of Adam were and always are bountiful in their results. However, God's blessings always require one tiny little detail called obedience. Many of us have likely heard some form of the saying, "With great privilege comes great responsibility."

**Israel was blessed and would need to be obedient to be able to give blessing. This is an eternal equation in God's plan:**

Amos 3:1-2: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

It does not sound like it is easy to be favored by God! No, but everything is blessed when we are favored by God.

(Source: bible.knowing-jesus.com) "Brought you out of the land of Egypt" –this phrase is found over 80 times in the Bible. This shows God living up to His promise.

This was the greatest deliverance the world had ever seen. This will come into play later.









As a nation, Israel right from the start was always in a position of choice: Follow God's leading and have His blessing and protection, or do what you feel like doing and reap the results of sinful choices.

**When the nation was young and just becoming established, Joshua said this just before he died:**

**Joshua 24:14-15:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

When we are favored by God, we are not suddenly pre-programmed to only do God's will. We are given God's will and the choice to do God's will.

-  We saw Abraham do God's will by leaving his father's house.
-  We saw Isaac learn to follow God's will.
-  Jacob learned to follow God's will.
-  Now the nation of Israel has to continue with such obedience as a chosen nation, as the blessed ones.

*Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve* - Joshua is sending them off, saying they have to choose. Once established for generations, Israel became weary. They became tired and almost bored with God's ways.

**Sadly, they wanted to be like other nations:**

**1 Samuel 8:4-7,9:** (NASB) <sup>4</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup>and they said to him, Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations. <sup>6</sup>...And Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them <sup>9</sup>Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.

The prophet Samuel gave the people a long laundry list of what would happen if they had a king – none of it was positive. The king will take away your sons and daughters and put them into servitude. He will take some of your land and animals, just to name a few of the points.

They had clear warning of the results of having a king like everyone else!

**1 Samuel 8:19-20:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup>that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.

Who was it who led their battles up to this point? (God!) They wanted a king to deliver them in battle instead of God Almighty?

Being God's chosen people does not mean sin and self-will goes away.





They were given choices to stay in the blessings of God or face the consequences of poor choices. The people were warned and they suffered mightily under these desired kings.

God let them have kings. They got what they asked for, for generations and generations.

Idolatry – putting something else before God - seemed to ALWAYS be a problem for Israel.

### **Another choice came in the time of Elijah when Ahab and the prophets of Baal faced Elijah:**

1 Kings 18:21-22: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>Elijah came near to all the people and said, how long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people did not answer him a word. <sup>22</sup>Then Elijah said to the people, I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

It was 850 to 1, including the 400 prophets of Asherah!

Elijah set up the challenge of having fire from heaven consume the sacrifice to show the true God. Elijah had the prophets go first and then would take his turn. Of course, God heard Elijah's prayer.

Remember, these are the chosen people of God worshipping other gods! God made that promise to Abraham, but Israel had problems being faithful throughout most generations. God still did not abandon them.

The prophets were yelling, screaming and cutting themselves, with their blood going on the altars. Elijah taunted them by suggesting Baal must be sleeping, or maybe he was on a trip.

### **Then it was Elijah's turn:**

1 Kings 18:39: (NASB) *When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.*

Not only was the sacrifice consumed, as was the challenge, but so was everything around it - the wood, stone, water and dirt were all consumed by the fire!

With so much drama, one would think they would never stray again! But that is not human nature.

Sometimes, in spite of the people's lack of faith, God delivered them due to the faith and obedience of an individual. Here was Elijah standing up for the people, and because of him, God continued giving hope and opportunity.





Like Elijah, in our Christian walk, we share the same choice: Listen to God's word, or listen to the noise coming from all different directions. Our loyalty is being tested.



Israel ran hot and cold with their obedience, but God never changed His promise. A promise from God is just a fact that has not yet been discovered.

Israel's choices continued in the New Testament. John the Baptist directly pointed to Jesus as their Messiah, and therefore provoked yet another choice.

### **The priests and Levites were sent to question John the Baptist to find out who he was:**

John 1:24-27,29-30: (NASB) <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, and said to him, Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet? <sup>26</sup>John answered them saying, I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup>It is he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie. <sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he on behalf of whom I said, after me comes a man who has a higher rank than I, for he existed before me.

Are you him, the promised Messiah? No, but the one coming after me is! *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* John made it plain, showing the people who their Messiah was.

### **Many of the average people loved and followed Jesus, but not the rulers:**

Matthew 23:37-39: (NASB) <sup>37</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup>Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup>For I say to you, from now on you will not see me until you say, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

The nation was rejected and desolation soon would follow. But there is a hint of a promise of the future because God makes a promise and it stays intact.

To the Pharisees, and therefore to Israel as a nation, Jesus warned, *your house is left desolate.* This was a dramatic statement of disfavor, but with a small thread of hope of a future blessing, even though it was small compared to the national desolation that followed.



### **God's Promise to Israel is Real**

Choices matter! Israel had been God's chosen.

They had God's Law, they had the land God gave to them,  
and they had a history of blessings through obedience  
and trouble through defiance.

Their national rejection of Jesus and his casting them off was the beginning of Israel's greatest national trial since their Egyptian enslavement.

History can always help us understand the present and even see into the future, but only if we perceive it in the context of God's plan.



## Does Jesus having cast off Israel from God's favor bury them as a nation? Does Israel have any hope at all?

The answer to this question is a resounding, emphatic, unequivocal, undeniable YES! While we see Israel's disfavor as a tragic result of choosing darkness over light, we know Jesus himself showed us the hope that they would have. Why have hope after such a rejection? Because this was all in the capable hands of God's plans and purposes. God had promised, and He would deliver!

### Parable of the Fig Tree

**Jesus himself prophesied that Israel would be cut off:**

Luke 13:6-9: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>And he began telling this parable: a man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vineyard-keeper, Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?<sup>8</sup>And he answered and said to him, Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; <sup>9</sup>and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.

This is a dramatic picture of Israel being on trial and not "bearing fruit" for the three years of Jesus' ministry. There were six months left of Jesus' ministry before God would begin casting Israel off. This parable was told about a week before his crucifixion.

**After riding into Jerusalem and cleansing the Temple, Jesus shows what is about to happen through his treatment of a fig tree:**

Matthew 21:18-19: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>Now in the morning, when he was returning to the city, he became hungry. <sup>19</sup>Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, he came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and he said to it, No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you. And at once the fig tree withered.

### The fig tree symbolically pictures Israel

Jesus will also use that same symbol of the fig tree to show Israel's hope. The symbol of the fig tree shows the problem with Israel, its hope and the fulfillment of promise.

The fig tree withered because Jesus knew what was coming.

**Jesus' actions were a result of what he saw and what he knew was prophesied long before he said the words that caused the tree to wither:**

Jeremiah 16:9: (NASB) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am going to eliminate from this place, before your eyes and in your time, the voice of rejoicing and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride.

*I am going to eliminate...the voice of rejoicing and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride. This is sad. Joy is taken away.*

**The prophecy continues to say, the people will demand an explanation for such harsh treatment:**

Jeremiah 16:11-13: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>Then you are to say to them, It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me, declares the LORD, and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them;...<sup>12</sup>You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me.





<sup>13</sup>So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will grant you no favor.

Putting this into context with the [Amos 3:1-2](#) texts we read earlier, it is harsh and sad. They are demanding an explanation of what is happening. The explanation is that their forefathers were bad. They did not stay faithful. There is a pause, and then he says, “Wait! You were even worse!”

The reason they were worse is because they had the Messiah in front of them. They saw his miracles, they heard his teaching, they observed his character through his life, they saw his perfect example, and yet they rejected him.

*I will hurl you out of this land* – this is such a dramatic sadness for Israel, the Jewish nation, God's chosen people.

While it is heartbreaking, it was a necessary heartbreak because God's promises are bigger than the moment. We must never forget that.

**His warning to them was his last public statement before he died, as he spoke this warning while carrying his cross to Calvary:**



*Just before his crucifixion, Jesus plainly warned Israel of this awful time.*

**Luke 23:28-30:** (NASB) <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turning to them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed. <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, fall on us, and to the hills, cover us.

This was the last public statement of Jesus: *Weep for yourselves and for your children* - how could he have given a statement while carrying his cross in agony? His focus was on what was happening to natural Israel. “This is what is coming because you rejected me as your Messiah.”

It is hard to imagine not weeping while watching this man who has been beaten to a pulp, now carrying this cross, because it is the most tragic, sad thing. He stops as he is carrying his cross with all these people around watching. He makes this public proclamation that they are to weep for themselves – that what they are observing is the beginning of something that will be tragic for them.

This gives us a sense of his character, the insight, focus, clarity and especially the determination of Jesus even hours before his death. It is remarkable.

This sounds like a path from which there is no return; we are not building up a good case for the promise to be fulfilled, but this isn't the end of the story!

We paused where Jeremiah is quoting God saying, *I will hurl you out of this land.*

**Let's read on:**

**Jeremiah 16:14-15:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>Therefore behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, as the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt, <sup>15</sup>but, as the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them. For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.



This statement is far more dramatic than we may realize. The entire Bible uses the deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egyptian slavery as a marker of the absolute greatness of God and His power. This deliverance will be recognized as exponentially larger than that from Egypt!

This regathering of Israel started in 1878, 70 years before they became a nation again in 1948. And 70 years later, Jerusalem was recognized as the capital of Israel.

This shows us an unfolding process. We cannot deny that Israel is an actual nation in the world. They were not a nation for all those preceding generations before Jesus. How did that happen? This is God's promise beginning to show itself as a guaranteed fact that others did not see happening yet.

*It will no longer be said, as the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Remember, the phrase, Brought you out of the land of Egypt appears over 80 times in the Bible. One of the big markers of all of Scripture is the delivering of Israel out of the land of Egypt, out of slavery.*

But these Jeremiah 16 scriptures tell us that Egyptian deliverance was a small sampling of what THIS deliverance is going to accomplish. This is God's promise. We will see something bigger.

### **The prophecy continues with harsh sayings about the sending of fishers and hunters that bring Israel back home. But THEN:**

Jeremiah 16:17-18: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. <sup>18</sup>I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols and with their abominations.

In other words: "I know how bad they are, and yet, My deliverance for them this time will be the marker that unfolds the door to eternity."

This marker is Israel being regathered from the four corners of the world. We are actually seeing that piece of prophecy in play right this very minute. What most of us do not realize is that it is the beginning of the marker that shows God's eternal plan. This is how big it is! It is bigger than deliverance from Egyptian slavery mentioned many times in the Bible.

And yet that deliverance is nothing compared to this.



### **The Apostle Paul knew of - and looked forward to - the restoring of Israel to godly favor before the disfavor really took effect:**

Romans 11:11-12: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. <sup>12</sup>Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!



Paul knew Israel would be restored. He understood the faithfulness of a promise of God. However, because of the failure of Israel, the call to discipleship to Christ went out to the Gentile nations. Without Israel's failure, few Gentiles would have become Christians. There is a tremendous blessing to many as a result of Israel's failure.

**This shows us consequences for wrong actions, and also shows us blessings for godly obedience. All things in time as God unfolds His plan:**

Romans 11:15: (NASB) *For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

We must just pause and read scriptures like this slowly to let ourselves absorb what is being said about the physical nation of Israel.

Soon, the regathering and restoring of Israel back to full favor with God will be recognized as one of the most powerful proofs of God's power and plan throughout all the world, according to prophecy.



## **God's Promise to Israel is Real**

**As we observe the fall of Israel from God's favor,  
we can clearly see that sin and choices for evil cannot stifle the plan of God.  
He allows all of humanity - which includes His chosen people Israel -  
to walk away from Him so when all is said and done,  
they will never want to leave Him again!**

This is the key to God's plan. He allows sin and degradation so the experience can give us the clarity to know we never want to go back there. Mankind will have had enough and will want to move on to something bigger and better.

As we see these things being put in order, it is hard to wrap our minds around the depth, forethought and power of God's plan!

**When does this amazing regathering take place?  
What will be the end result of God's chosen people being fully restored?**

The short answer to these questions was revealed right when we began. God's promise to Abraham explicitly and repeatedly described the blessings of all the families of the earth. While we know this blessing comes from Jesus as THE "seed of blessing," we will also see many prophecies unmistakably show us the physical nation of Israel will play a major role in this blessing as well.

Many Christians think the nation of Israel is no longer a part of God's plan. They believe "spiritual Israel" (Christians) is the replacement for the physical nation of Israel. But the prophecies and scriptures show us God's plan is bigger than that. God gave a promise; He verified the physical part of His plan as well as the spiritual part. One part doesn't replace the other; the two parts will work together in perfect harmony because that is God's promise.



### **When Jesus prophesied the signs of his return, he quietly told us Israel's regathering and beginning stages of favor would be one of those signs:**

**Luke 21:29-31:** (NASB) <sup>29</sup>*Then he told them a parable: Behold the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup>So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.*

This began in 1878 in the town called Petah Tikva, which means “Doorway of Hope.” Petah Tikva was a fulfillment of prophecy.

God is eternal. His promises may not come to fruition for thousands of years after humanity has lost sight of them. But when the time comes for a promise to be fulfilled, the fulfillment is unmistakable.

In [Luke 21:29-31](#), Jesus is talking about his return. He is saying that his return is tied to the restoration of Israel. This is a big hint as to how God's plan is unfolding.

### **The Apostle Paul sets us on a path of prophecy as he continues describing Israel's regathering and restoration:**

**Romans 11:25-27:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup>and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, the deliverer will come from Zion, he will remove ungodliness from Jacob. <sup>27</sup>This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, is talking about the physical nation of Israel. Is the Jewish nation really God's chosen people? The answer is unequivocally YES. *All Israel will be saved..when I take away their sins.*

When we tie Scripture together, we see a harmonious message. Paul is quoting an Old Testament prophecy. Some Christians look at these prophecies and believe a limited application was only to the Jews of that time. But because Paul brings it forward to the time of the New Testament, we know it applies to both the Jews in the Old Testament and to the future.

### **Paul quotes from Isaiah, so we know this prophecy has a future fulfillment:**

**Isaiah 59:20-21:** (NASB) <sup>20</sup>*A redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>As for Me, this is My covenant with them, says the LORD: My spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring, says the LORD, from now and forever.*



**But didn't Jesus come to Zion 2,000 years ago? But none of this came true at that time.**



This is why he returns. Jesus' return accomplishes this, as Israel rejected him at his first advent. How do we know this? Because God promised it, and the return of Jesus is proof of His promise.

There are many reasons why Jesus returns: to gather the true saints to heaven, to tear down the kingdoms (governments and societies) of this earth and to fully restore the nation of Israel. There will be a New Covenant established with Israel, spoken of in Jeremiah.





## **Jeremiah further helps us to see the power of this New Covenant with Israel:**

Jeremiah 31:31-34: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>*Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.*

The Old (Law) Covenant came as a result of Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

## **The New Covenant comes as a result of Israel's deliverance from being scattered throughout the world and nearly destroyed:**

<sup>33</sup>*But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

How beautiful it is that the Old Law Covenant was written on stone tablets, but the New Covenant will be written on their hearts.

<sup>34</sup>*They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*

This compares the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. The New Covenant will be different, more comprehensive and written on the hearts of the people. It will not be imposed on them from the outside; instead, they will have an inside, heart understanding of God.

We see the incredible depth of God's promises. This is not about a theoretical nation full of theoretical people at some theoretical time. This is about real human beings having this covenant written on their hearts, one at a time. How beautiful!

## **How long will this new favor and this New Covenant last? Jeremiah described it:**

Jeremiah 31:35-36: (NASB) <sup>35</sup>*Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: <sup>36</sup>If this fixed order departs from before Me, declares the LORD, then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever.*

This is an earthly prophecy for an earthly nation. Some Christians believe the physical earth will be burned up, but this prophecy disproves that thought.

It is saying as long as the fixed order of God's creation is intact, His promises will endure. We are looking into eternity when we read this prophecy.

*...in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed* –the magnitude of this promise is eternity!

## **What will this eternal covenant with Israel accomplish for the rest of resurrected humanity?**

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD (God's government) will be established as the chief of the mountains.*



## Mountains symbolically picture governments

## Peoples symbolically picture all humanity who ever lived

*It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup>Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob (Israel), that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

All will be educated based on the truth. All the nations will be flocking to the God of Israel to learn God's laws coming from Jerusalem, the capital of the world in the future kingdom.

God made a little, short promise to Abraham thousands of years ago. We see it magnified and dramatized throughout the Bible.

<sup>3</sup>*And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations...*

Judgment will be part of this. The Day of Judgment is a time of reconciliation and reckoning, a time of growing into the righteousness of God through Christ, as shown by Israel.

*...Then (as a result) they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. <sup>4</sup>Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

After God's government is put in place, there will be no more war. World peace at last! *The mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken - when God makes a promise, NOTHING can change it.*

*Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree – a fig tree? Coincidental? Humanity will dwell in peace, safety and righteousness under the vine, which symbolizes Jesus and his faithful church, and the fig tree symbolizes the nation of Israel, as we have discussed. The true Christians and the nation of Israel will be watching over all of resurrected humanity.*

**John 15:5:** (NASB) I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Billions in real time will witness Israel's deliverance from their final battle prophesied in Ezekiel 39:6-8. After this battle, Zechariah 12:9-10 prophesies that the nation of Israel accepts Jesus as their Messiah and deliverer. Everyone will witness it! They will see God's promised protection and deliverance unfold before them. This is why this second deliverance is so much bigger than the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This deliverance introduces eternity.

### All of God's highly favored will be watching over all of God's favored:

Romans 11:33-36: (NASB) <sup>33</sup>*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!* <sup>34</sup>*For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became his counselor?* <sup>35</sup>*Or who has first given to him that it might be paid back to him again?* <sup>36</sup>*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*



What a powerful depiction of the glory of God through the physical nation of Israel! God's favor to His chosen people is going to be bigger than we can fathom. This is what He has promised.



### God's Promise to Israel is Real

The account of Abraham's faith and obedience and God's promise to him introduced the breathtaking account of the nation of Israel. God favored them, and then when they rejected Jesus, He cast them off, not only for their own good, but for the good of every human being who ever lived. Let us see these things for what they are: **JUST, LOVING, WISE and POWERFUL!**

We need to see God's word for what it is - a well-thought-out reconciliation process that includes every human being who has ever lived being raised and given an opportunity for life.

Genesis 22:17-18: (NASB) *17indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

This is the promise of God. This is the word that establishes the future of humanity for eternity. We need to take God at His word and realize He has a plan and has promised us a future beyond our imagination. Yes, Israel IS God's chosen people!

***So, is the Jewish nation really God's chosen people?  
For Jonathan, Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it..!***

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



## Next episode

Join us next week on July 24, 2023

Episode 1291:

Does Biblical Truth Really Make Us Free? (Part I)



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Text CQREWIND to 22828

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## Bonus Material and Study Questions

### Recommended Additional Study:

#### ***Abraham and Lot:***

##### **Ep. 1064: Is He Who Hesitates Really Lost? The Story of Lot**

*Learning the importance of having faith AND conviction*

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1064-indecision-hesitates-lot/>

#### ***Abraham, Sarah and Isaac:***

##### **Ep. 1253: How Do I Let Go and Let God?**

*The value of God's timing, not ours. Lessons from Abraham and Sarah*

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1253-let-go-and-let-god/>

#### ***Judgment Day:***

##### **Ep. 1074: Does God Judge Everyone the Same Way?**

*The complexity, equity and utility of God's eternal judgments*

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1074-judgment/>

#### ***Israel:***

##### **Ep. 1023: Is Israel a Thorn in the Side of the World?**

*Israel's unique role in the world and in God's plan*

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1023-israel-thorn-world/>



***Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at [ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube](https://christianquestions.com/YouTube):***

- **Why did God tell Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdBWPbKUAKU>
- **What is idolatry?** <https://youtu.be/8i1BrBbeY9Y>
- **When will God's kingdom be here?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWTh5Bq4kXE>

### **Several other prophecies that foretell the regathering and restoration of Israel:**

**Ezekiel 11:16-20:** (NASB) <sup>16</sup>Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD, though I had removed them far away among the nations and though I had scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary for them a little while in the countries where they had gone. <sup>17</sup>Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD, I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. <sup>18</sup>When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. <sup>19</sup>And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup>that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.





**Ezekiel 20:33-42:** (NASB) <sup>33</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. <sup>34</sup>I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; <sup>35</sup>and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. <sup>36</sup>As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>37</sup>I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; <sup>38</sup>and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>39</sup>As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD, Go, serve everyone his idols; but later you will surely listen to Me, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols. <sup>40</sup>For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. <sup>41</sup>As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. <sup>42</sup>And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers.

**Isaiah 2:2-4:** (NASB) <sup>2</sup>Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup>And many peoples will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

**Jeremiah 3:15-18:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. <sup>16</sup>It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land, declares the LORD, they will no longer say, the ark of the covenant of the LORD. And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss it, nor will it be made again. <sup>17</sup>At that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD, and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. <sup>18</sup>In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance.

**Jeremiah 32:36-42:** (NASB) <sup>36</sup>Now therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning this city of which you say, It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine and by pestilence. <sup>37</sup>Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger, in My wrath and in great indignation; and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety. <sup>38</sup>They shall be My people, and I will be their God; <sup>39</sup>and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. <sup>40</sup>I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. <sup>41</sup>I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul. <sup>42</sup>For thus says the LORD, Just as I brought all this great disaster on this people, so I am going to bring on them all the good that I am promising them.



**Amos 9:11-15:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>*In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old; <sup>12</sup>that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name, declares the LORD who does this. <sup>13</sup>Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. <sup>14</sup>Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup>I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them, says the LORD your God.*

**Zechariah 8:20-23:** (NASB) <sup>20</sup>*Thus says the LORD of hosts, It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. <sup>21</sup>The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go. <sup>22</sup>So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.*

# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1290: Is the Jewish Nation Really God's Chosen People?

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1290-gods-chosen-people/>

See:  CQ Rewind  
SHOW NOTES

1. What did God promise Abram in Genesis 12:1-3? What were the conditions to receive the promise? How did the promise change in Genesis 13:14-16? How did it grow in Genesis 22:15-18? What does it now foreshadow?
2. How does God change the promise when He reiterates it to Isaac? How did He customize it for Jacob? What is the key to being blessed? (See Genesis 26:2-4, 28:13-14, Galatians 3:16, 4:24-26, 1 Samuel 15:22)
3. Once Israel became the chosen nation, what were its choices? What was Joshua's stirring speech to Israel just before he died? Did Israel heed his warning? What was always a problem for Israel? What happened as a result of Elijah's faith and obedience? (See Amos 3:1-2, Joshua 24:14-15, 1 Samuel 8:19-20, 1 Kings 18:21-22, 39)
4. What is your choice in this life? How can you make sure to choose to listen to God's word instead of listening to the noise and distractions of the world around you?
5. What did Israel do in Jesus' time to follow their Messiah? What was Jesus' denouncement in Matthew 23:37-39? What happened to Israel after this? Can you find the hint of a small thread of hope of a future blessing in these verses? (See John 1:24-30)
6. Explain how Jesus uses the symbol of the fig tree to show the problems in Israel during his ministry and for future prophecy. How does Jeremiah 16:9-13 predict that the Jews of Jesus' time were worse than their forefathers? How do verses 14-15 contrast the deliverance from Egypt with their future deliverance from all countries? When did this regathering begin for the Jewish people? (See Matthew 21:18-19)
7. What did Israel fail at during the life of Jesus? How did this failure greatly benefit the Gentiles? How did this failure bring a blessing to you? (See Romans 11:11-15)
8. How does the restoration of the fig tree (and all the trees) indicate Jesus' return? Why do we know this Old Testament prophecy applies to the Jews in the past and in the future? (See Luke 21:29-31, Romans 11:25-27, Isaiah 59:20-21)
9. Why does Jesus return? Contrast the Old (Law) Covenant with the New Covenant. (See Jeremiah 31:31-36) Describe what this eternal New Covenant between God and Israel will do for all resurrected humanity. What is the Day of Judgment? What do the vine and fig tree represent? (See Micah 4:1-4, Romans 11:33-36)
10. In your own words, what does the Abrahamic promise say? (See Genesis 22:17-18)