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Historically, the Jews are a people without parallel in the annals of human history. No other nation on Earth has experienced

The presence and mighty hand of God as has Israel; no other nation of Earth has survived oppression, captivity, and dispersion like that of Israel. From its origin, the Hebrew race has been at center of God's dealing with mankind: read Deuteronomy 32:8 ⁸*When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.*

Israel is special to God:

- The Lord calls Israel THE APPLE OF HIS EYE.
 - Read: Deuteronomy 32:10 ¹⁰*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 of his eye.* ["He" was Jacob, son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham, and younger brother of Esau. (Jacob is renamed "Israel" by God)]
 - Lamentations 2:18 ¹⁸*Their heart cried unto the LORD, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.*
 - Zechariah 2:8 ⁸*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 of his eye.*
- The Lord calls Israel His peculiar treasure. Read Psalm 135:4b ⁴*For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.*
- The Lord calls Israel "my glory." Read Isaiah 46:13 ¹³*I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.*

The Bible promises a special blessing to those who love His chosen people – Read Psalm 122:6 ⁶*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.* Prophetically, one cannot properly understand God's plan for the ages to come without first understanding the Jew. The nation of Israel figures at the very heart of the coming world events. Current world events should be considered in the light of Israel and Jerusalem. **This Bible lesson studies Israel's past, then looks ahead to see God's future plans for His people.**

I Israel: A Chosen Nation

Up until Genesis 11:9, God dealt with the human race in general. After man's wicked rebellion at Babel however, God "gave them [the nations] up." *⁹Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

Turning aside from the great river of humanity, God drew off one small 'tributary' through which He would later bless the whole of mankind. Read Genesis 12:1-3 *¹Now 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: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Thus God entered into a special relationship with Israel. Read Amos 3:2 *²You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.*

The Bible refers to Israel as God's "chosen people." Read Deuteronomy 10:15 *¹⁵Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.*

A. The Ancestry of Israel

1. From Adam to the flood – Genesis 5

- a. ADAM - *³And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image;*
- b. Seth - *... and called his name Seth:*
- c. ENOS - *⁶And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos:*
- d. Cainan - *⁹And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan:*
- e. MAHALALEEL - *¹²And Cainan lived seventy years and begat Mahalaleel:*
- f. JARED - *¹⁵And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared:*
- g. ENOCH - *¹⁸And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:*
- h. METHUSELAH - *²¹And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:*

- i. *LAMECH - ²⁵And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech.*
- j. *NOAH - ²⁸And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: ²⁹And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.*

2. From the flood to Ur Genesis 10,11

- a. *NOAH and SONS – 10:1 Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.*
- b. *Shem – 11:10 ¹⁰These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:*
- c. *ARPHAXAD - ¹²And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah:*
- d. *SALAH - ¹⁴And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:*
- e. *EBER - ¹⁶And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg:*
- f. *PELEG - ¹⁸And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:*
- g. *REU - ²⁰And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug:*
- h. *SERUG - ²²And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor:*
- i. *NAHOR - ²⁴And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah:*
- j. *TERAH - ²⁶And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.*

3. From Ur to Peniel

- a. *ABRAM (Abraham) – Genesis 17:5 (verses 17:1 – 7) ¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ²And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. ⁵Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. ⁶And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷And 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.*
- b. *ISAAC - Genesis 21:3 ³And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.*

- c. JACOB - Genesis 25:26 ²⁶And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Name changed by God to ISRAEL in Genesis 32:28 (from verse 24) 32:24 ²⁴And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. ²⁶And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. ²⁷And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. ²⁸And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. ²⁹And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. ³⁰And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. ³¹And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. ³²Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Visit: <http://www.gospelweb.net/ronsermons/jacobwrestleswithgod.htm> for an excellent discussion of the causes/meaning of Jacob's wrestling with God.

4. The children of Israel – I Chronicles 2:12 ¹*These are the sons of Israel; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, ²Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.*

Special Notes Concerning the Twelve Tribes of Israel:

- The descendants of Joseph are represented by his two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh. Read Genesis 48:5 ⁵*And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.*
- The tribe of Levi received no inheritance of land, but was the priestly tribe. Read

- Deuteronomy 10:8, 9 *⁸At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. ⁹Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.*
- Deuteronomy 18:1, 2 *¹The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and his inheritance. ²Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the LORD is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them.*
- Reuben forfeited his birthright to the sons of Joseph. Read I Chronicles 5:1 *¹Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.[While Jacob was mourning Rachel, Reuben slept with Jacob's concubine Bilhah.]*
- The first tribe to go into idolatry was Dan.
 - Read Judges 18:30 *³⁰And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.*
 - The tribe DAN is also omitted from the list in Revelation 7:4-8 *⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. ⁵Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. ⁶Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. ⁷Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. ⁸Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the*

tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

- Also read Deuteronomy 29:18, 21 *¹⁸Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;... ²¹And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:*
- The royal tribe is: Read Genesis 49:10 *¹⁰The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh [Jesus – man of peace] come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

B. The Names of Israel

The Bible uses several names for God's chosen people: Read Hosea 4:15-17
*¹⁵Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.
¹⁶For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place. ¹⁷Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.*

1. Judah

- a. One of the TRIBES of Israel. Read Joshua 7:16 *¹⁶So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken:*
- b. The tribe independently loyal to the house of David during the united monarchy. Read II Samuel 2:4 *⁴And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.*
- c. The name applied to the southern kingdom during the period of the divided monarchy, comprising the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Read: I Kings 12:21 *²¹And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an*

*hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. ²²But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, ²³Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, ²⁴Thus saith the LORD, **Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel:** return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.*

2. Israel

- a. The collective name for the twelve tribes. Read Genesis 49:28 ²⁸*All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.*
- b. The name specifically applied to the northern kingdom during the period of the divided monarchy, consisting of the ten tribes. Read I Kings 11:35 ³⁵*But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.*

3. Ephraim

- a. The second-born son of Joseph. Read Genesis 41:50-52 ⁵⁰*And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. ⁵¹And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. ⁵²And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*
- b. One of the tribes, taking the place of Joseph and Levites for the division of the Promised Land. Read:
 - Joshua 14:4 ⁴*For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim: therefore they gave no part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell in, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance.*

- Numbers 1:33 ³³*Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Ephraim, were forty thousand and five hundred.*

- c. A name also applied to Judah. Read II Chronicles 25:7 ⁷*But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit [that is to say; namely], with all the children of Ephraim.*

4. Jew

A word derived from “Judah” and first used in Kings 16:6. The name is used frequently in the Old Testament from the time of the Babylonian captivity. Read some examples:

- Daniel 3:12 ¹²*There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*
- Ester 3:13 ¹³*And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.*

5. Hebrew

- a. A name first applied to Abram. Read Genesis 14:13 ¹³*And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.*
- b. The race of all Israelites. Read I Samuel 13:19-20 ¹⁹*Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: ²⁰But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.*

The word “Hebrew” is thought to mean a “descendant of Eber” (Read Genesis 11:14 ¹⁴*And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:)*

6. In the New Testament:

- a. The apostle Paul called himself a Jew (Read Acts 22:3 *³I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*)

Paul was out of the stock of Israel, of the tribe Benjamin, and an Hebrew. Read Philippians 3:5 *⁵Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee.*

- b. The name "Israelite" is used in a general way in the New Testament to refer to any descendent of Jacob. Read John 1:47 (from verse 43 for some interesting context.)

⁴³The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. ⁴⁴Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?** Philip saith unto him, Come and see. ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, **Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!** [guile = crafty, deceptive] ⁴⁸Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. ⁴⁹Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. ⁵⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. ⁵¹And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

- c. The words "Jew" and "Israel" also have a spiritual connotation and apply to those who are saved: Read
- Romans 2:28-29 ²⁸*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*
 - Galatians 6:16 ¹⁵*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. ¹⁶And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*

C. The Choosing of Israel

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (through verse 10 for edification) ⁶*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. ⁷The 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: ⁸But 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. ⁹Know 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; ¹⁰And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.*

1. The LORD chose Israel to be a SPECIAL people unto Himself, above all other people on the Earth.
2. The LORD chose Israel because He LOVED them.

3. The Lord chose Israel because of the OATH He made with the patriarchs (fathers).
4. The LORD chose Israel to be a testimony before the Pharaoh to Him and His Word. Note: Pharaoh was the leader of the world's dictatorial superpower at that time.
5. The LORD chose Israel to be the channel wherein all families of the Earth would be blessed. Read Genesis 12:1-3 *¹Now 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: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*
6. The LORD chose Israel as the channel for the "oracles (Word) of God." Read Romans 3:2 *¹What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? ²Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*

The choosing of the nation of Israel is a remarkable testimony to the sovereignty of God.

Read Romans 9:6-16 *⁶Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. ⁹For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. ¹⁰And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; ¹¹(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works,*

but of him that calleth;) ¹²*It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.* ¹³*As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.* ¹⁴*What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.* ¹⁵*For he saith to Moses, **I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*** ¹⁶*So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*

God chose Seth over Cain, Shem over Ham and Japheth, Abram over Haran, Isaac over Ishmael, and Jacob over Esau.

Note 1: Romans 9 is NOT teaching that God chooses between individuals in the manner of salvation. God has chosen to save any and all that put their faith in His Son. This passage is using the fact of God's sovereign choice as to who made up Israel's lineage as an illustration to show the Jews that they have no inherent right to salvation!

This is what John the Baptist preached. Read Matthew 3:9 ⁹*And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

Note 2: Considerable confusion has risen by failing to distinguish how the word "elect" is used in the New Testament. Sometimes the word is used:

- Of Israel (2 Timothy 2:10 ¹⁰*Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*)
- Of the believer (Colossians 3:12 ¹²*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;)*
- Of angels (1 Timothy 5:21 ²¹*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*)

- Of Jesus Christ himself (1 Peter 2:6 ⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.)

Confusing Israel with Christians or the Lord’s churches – especially in the Gospels – has led to incorrect interpretations of prophetic messages.

D. A Brief History of Israel

1. Patriarchal (2000 – 1500 BC)
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Isaac
 - c. Jacob (Israel)
 - d. Joseph
2. Transitional (from a family to a nation)
 - a. Bondage
 - b. Exodus
 - c. Mt. Sinai / Wilderness
3. Theocracy (1550-1200 BC)
 - a. Conquest – Joshua
 - b. Conquest - Judges
4. United Monarchy (1200 – 1000 BC)
 - a. Samuel
 - b. Saul
 - c. David
 - d. Solomon
5. Divided Monarchy (1000 – 600 BC)
 - a. Northern Kingdom (10 tribes) – “Israel”
 - b. Southern Kingdom (2 Tribes) – “Judah”
6. Captivity (600 – 400 BC)
 - a. Daniel
 - b. Esther
7. Restoration (400 BC)
 - a. Zerubbabel
 - b. Ezra
 - c. Nehemiah

Genesis
Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Joshua, Judges, Ruth
I Samuel, II Samuel
I & II Kings, Chronicles, Isaiah, Jeremiah
Daniel, Ezekiel, Ester
Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

The period between the two testaments (400 – 5 BC) is known as the “Silent 400 Years” during which no new revelation came from God to man. In this time, Israel

passed from Persian captivity through Greek (Alexander the Great + successors) and then Roman conquests.

In 70 AD, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans (lead by future emperor Titus.) [Study the writings of Josephus – Jewish historian at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem.] The Jews were dispersed throughout the world until the birth of the modern Jewish state – May 14, 1948.

More notes: According to the Bible, before the united monarchy, the Israelite tribes lived as a confederation under ad hoc charismatic leaders called Judges. In around 1020 BCE, under extreme threat from foreign peoples, the tribes united to form the first united Kingdom of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul from the tribe of Benjamin as the first king c. 1026 BCE, but it was David who in c. 1009–1000 BCE created a strong unified Israelite monarchy.

David, the second King of Israel, established Jerusalem as its national capital 3,000 years ago. Before then, Hebron had been the capital of David's Judah and before that Gibeah had been the capital of the United Monarchy under Saul.

David succeeded in truly unifying the Israelite tribes, and set up a monarchical government. He embarked on successful military campaigns against Israel's enemies, and defeated nearby regional entities such as the Philistines, thus creating secure borders for Israel. Under David, Israel grew into a regional power. Under the House of David, the united Kingdom of Israel achieved prosperity and superiority over its neighbors.

Under David's successor, Solomon, the United Monarchy experienced a period of peace and prosperity, and cultural development. Much public building took place, including the First Temple in Jerusalem.

However, on the succession of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, in c. 930 BCE the country split into two kingdoms: Israel (including the cities of Shechem and Samaria) in the north and Judah (containing Jerusalem) in the south. Most of the non-Israelite provinces fell away.

II Israel: A Covenant Nation

In dealing with His chosen people, God established a number of covenants with them. A covenant is simply an agreement between two or more parties, and MAY BE CONDITIONAL or UNCONDITIONAL.

Conditional – IF you do this, I'll do that.

Unconditional - I WILL do that, regardless.

The Hebrew word translated “covenant” (beriyth) literally means “to cut.” This is because the ancient method of making a covenant involved both parties killing an animal, dividing the parts, then walking through the midst of the parts. The symbolic implication was: “Let be done to me what has been done to this animal if I do not perform what I have agreed to.” Read Jeremiah 34:18 *“And I will give the men that*

have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof,

A. The Numbers of the Covenants.

There are six (6) covenants between God and man mentioned in the Old Testament:

1. Noahic Covenant (applies to Noah, his family, and all men)

- *Genesis 6:18 ¹⁸But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.*
- *Genesis 9:9-17 ⁸And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; ¹⁰And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. ¹¹And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹²And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: ¹⁵And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. ¹⁷And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.*

*** The last 5 covenants to be discussed in detail but are outlined below: ***

The last five of these covenants apply specifically to the nation of Israel – four of which have prophetic importance. The last of these covenants (the New Covenant) encompass the salvation of both Jew and Gentile.

2. The Abrahamic Covenant
Genesis 12:1-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-2; 17:1-14
3. The Mosaic Covenant
 - Exodus 19:3-8
4. The Palestinian Covenant
 - Deuteronomy 30:1-10
5. The Davidic Covenant
 - II Samuel 7:8-17
6. The New Covenant
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34

B. The Mosaic Covenant.

Read Exodus 19:1-9 ¹*In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. ²For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. ³And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ⁴Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. ⁷And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. ⁹And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.*

1. God spoke to Moses from Mount Sinai

2. This covenant was made by the Lord with the house of Jacob
3. This covenant was **CONDITIONAL**: the Lord used the word “if” in verse 5a.
4. The covenant was **BILATERAL**: it was made between the Lord and the people I verse 8.
5. This covenant was dedicated with **BLOOD**. Read Hebrews 9:18-20
*¹⁸Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.
¹⁹For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,
²⁰Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.*
6. Jacob’s household had gone down to Egypt as a family but come out of Egypt as a nation. The Mosaic covenant gave God’s laws to govern the new nation:
 - a. Moral Laws: encapsulated in the ten commandments
 - b. Ceremonial Laws: offerings, priesthood, feasts, Sabbaths, etc.
 - c. Civil Laws: hygiene, human relationships, crimes, punishments, etc.
7. The Law was never intended to **SAVE** people – it was a way of life, not a way to life.
 - a. Read Romans 7:12 *¹²Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.* The Law is holy and the commandments holy, and just and good.
 - b. Read Romans 8:3 *³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:* The Law is weak through the flesh. The problem is not with the Law, but with men who is “weak” and unable to keep it.

The Law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
(part of little poem by John Bunyan)

- c. Read Romans 3:20 ²⁰*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
The Law is intended to give man the **knowledge** of **sin**.
 - d. Read Galatians 3:24 ²⁴*Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ, that we might be **justified by faith**.*
 - e. The Old Testament saints were NOT saved by keeping the commandments (an impossibility!). They were saved by faith in the promises of God – which the ceremonial Law foreshadowed. Read Hebrews 11:13 ¹³*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*
- 8. Read John 1-17 ¹⁷*For the law was given by Moses, but **grace** and **truth** came by Jesus Christ.*
 - 9. Read Hebrews 10:9 ⁹*Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.* Christ took away the “first” (the Law) that He (Jesus) might establish the second.
 - 10. Read Matthew 5:17 ¹⁷*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

THESE ARE IMPORTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT JESUS.

Jesus did this by:

- a. Keeping it perfectly, “without SIN”. Read Hebrews 4:15b ¹⁵*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
- b. Removing its curse. Read Galatians 3:13 ¹³*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

- c. Actualizing it. The Law was a shadow Christ is the body (the real thing.) Read Colossians 2:17 *¹⁷Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*
- d. Ending it. Read Romans 10:4 *⁴For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

C. The Abrahamic Covenant. Read Genesis 12:1-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-2; 17:1-14

This is the most significant covenant God made with Israel, because it embraces all subsequent covenants. In fact, all the blessings known to man arise out of the Abrahamic covenant.

This covenant was given through Abram (Abraham) progressively as follows:

- + **Made – Genesis 12:2, 3, 7** (from verse 1) *12:1-7 ¹Now 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: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. ⁴So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. ⁶And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*
- + **Enlarged – Genesis 13:14-17** *¹⁴And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: ¹⁵For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. ¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth:*

so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

- + **Signed – Genesis 15:5-21** (entire chapter) ¹After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. ²And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? ³And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. ⁴And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. ⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. ⁶And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. ⁷And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. ⁸And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? ⁹And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. ¹⁰And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. ¹¹And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. ¹³And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their's, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; ¹⁴And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. ¹⁵And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. ¹⁷And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸In 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: ¹⁹The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, ²⁰And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, ²¹And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

- + **Confirmed – Genesis 17:2-8** (from verse 1) *¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ²And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. ⁵Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. ⁶And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷And 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. ¹²And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. ¹³He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*
- + **Reiterated Genesis 22:15-18** *¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: ¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

1. The Promises of the Abrahamic Covenant
 - a. This covenant contained some PERSONAL promises to Abraham.
Read Genesis 12:2 : *²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*
 - I will make thee a great nation.
 - I will bless thee.
 - I will make thy name great.
 - Thou shalt be a blessing.
 - b. The covenant contained promises to Abraham and his posterity.
Read Genesis 12:3 *³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*
 - I will bless them that bless thee.
 - I will curse them that curse thee.
 - c. The covenant contained a planetary promise to all.
 - In thee shall all families of the Earth be blessed.

Also, read Matthew 1:1

¹The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Read Matthew 1:21 *²¹And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*

2. The Prophecies of the Abrahamic Covenant

There are three (3) promises made in the Abrahamic Covenant which are prophetic significance:

a. **The Promise of a Seed**

Read Genesis 13:16a *¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

Read Genesis 15:5 *⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*

Note there two (2) kinds of seed involved here (read Genesis 22:17 *¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies)*)

- “As *dust of the Earth*” in Genesis 13:16 means earthly seed, the physical descendants of Abraham. From the New Testament, read:
 1. Matthew 3:9 *⁹And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*
 2. Romans 9:4-7a *⁴Who 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; ⁵Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. ⁶Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

- “As the stars in heaven” in Genesis 15:5 means heavenly (spiritual) seed, the faith descendants of Abraham. From the New Testament, read:
 1. John 8:39 *³⁹They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (Jesus speaking to the Pharisees who seeking to kill him.)*
 2. Romans 4:16-17 *¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, ¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

3. Galatians 3:6-7 *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*
4. Galatians 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

b. **The Promise of a Land**

Read Genesis 12:7 *And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*

Read Genesis 13:15 *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

- The dimensions of the land. Read Genesis 15:18-21 *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:*
From the Nile river in Egypt in the south to the river Euphrates in the north.
- The tenure of the land – Genesis 17:8 *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.*
Given as an **EVERLASTING** possession.

c. **The Promise of a Throne**

Read Genesis 17:6c *And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and **kings shall come out of thee.***

3. The Permanency of the Abrahamic Covenant

a. It is an everlasting covenant. Read:

- Genesis 17:7 *⁷And 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.*
- Psalm 105:8-10 *⁸He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. ⁹Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; ¹⁰And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:*

b. Read Genesis 15:8-18 (verse 17 only) *¹⁷And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.* [downloaded from: <http://bible.org/seriespage/focal-point-abram%E2%80%99s-faith-genesis-151-21>, "This covenant is distinctive because only God, in the appearance of a smoking oven and a flaming torch, passed between the divided carcasses of animals. This was done to signify that the covenant was unilateral and unconditional. No conditions were placed upon Abram for its fulfillment."

c. Though this covenant was based upon Abraham's obedience, it was never **conditioned** upon his upon his (or any of his descendant's) obedience.

d. The covenant was confirmed to Isaac in Genesis 26:3-5 *³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; ⁴And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; ⁵Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*

e. It was confirmed to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14 *¹³And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; ¹⁴And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou*

shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

NOTE: Some contend that the “land” aspect of the covenant was fulfilled during the reign of King Solomon. While Solomon expanded Israel’s influence to its greatest extent, Israel never possessed the land – Solomon merely collected tribute from its inhabitants. Israel’s boundaries were basically unchanged.

Bible prophecies subsequent to Solomon’s reign still looked for the realization of the promise. For an example, read Ezekiel 11:17
¹⁷Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. [Present day Israel?]

D. The Palestinian Covenant.

Read Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, 15

- Verse 1-2 *¹And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ²And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*
- Verse 15 *¹⁵But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

This covenant enlarges upon the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant concerning the LAND. It was given just before the nation of Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, which at the time was inhabited by others. This covenant deals with the CONDITIONS upon which Israel would enjoy the blessing of the promised of the Abrahamic Covenant. The full text of this covenant can be found in Deuteronomy 28:1 thru 30:10.

Additional background (view <http://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/bookofdeuteronomy.html> downloaded 5-18-2013):

The word "Deuteronomy" is taken from the Greek word for "the second law" or "the law repeated." The book is written in the form of discourses which Moses delivered to the people in the plains of Moab on the eve of their entrance into the promised land of Canaan. These discourses are addressed to every member of the congregation of Israel and not just to a small segment, such as the Levites. The discourses are not a second law in the sense of being a different law; neither are they to be taken merely as a recapitulation of those things recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy. They are rather a forceful presentation of the most essential aspects of God's revelation with an emphasis on the spiritual principle of the law and its fulfillment, as well as a development and application of the law to circumstances which would face the Israelites in their new life in Canaan. These discourses were spoken in the eleventh month of the last year of Israel's wanderings, the fortieth year after leaving Egypt.

- In the first speech (1:1 - 4:43), Moses strives briefly, but earnestly, to warn the people against the sins which had kept their fathers from entering the Promised Land. In order to stress the necessity of obedience, he recapitulates the chief events of the last forty years in the wilderness, emphasizing the role which disobedience and lack of trust had played in the afflictions of the Israelites.
- The second discourse (4:44 - 26:19) enters more fully into the precepts of the Law. It may be viewed as the body of the whole address, the former being an introduction. This section is hortatory and legal, consisting of a review of Israel's moral and civil statutes, testimonies and judgments. This discourse is broken into two main sections: 1) Chs. 5-11, an exposition of the Ten Commandments and 2) Chs. 12-26, a group of special statutes on various matters, containing a strong ethical and religious emphasis.
- The third discourse (27:1 - 31:30) deals primarily with the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience. Moses now speaks in conjunction with the elders of the people and with the priests and the Levites, whose office it would be to carry out the ceremony which Moses describes in this discourse. The place selected for the ceremony was the spot in the center of the land where the first altar to God had been erected. As soon as they passed over the Jordan, the people were commanded to set up great stones on Mt. Ebal. These were to be covered with plaster and inscribed with the law of God. They were also to build an altar, which seems to have been distinct from the stones, although it is difficult to be certain about this. Then the twelve tribes were to be divided between the two hills. Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin were to station themselves on Mt. Gerizim to recite the blessings which God promised them if they would remain faithful to him. Across on Mt. Ebal, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali were to speak the curses with which the Lord had threatened disobedience.
- After completing these discourses, Moses encouraged the people to follow their new leader, Joshua, and to go across and take the land which had been promised to Abraham. He wrote down the Law in a book and turned it over to the priests, who were to keep it as a perpetual reminder for all the people (31:9 - 13). It was to be read every seventh year, when the people assembled for the feast of Tabernacles.
- At the command of the Lord, Moses and Joshua appeared before God at the tent of meeting. There God told them of the future infidelity of Israel and instructed Moses to leave the people a song which they were to learn and which was to serve as a witness for God against them. This song of Moses is recorded in Ch. 32; it recounts the blessings which God has bestowed on his people and the corrupt manner in which they have responded to his beneficence. Ch. 33 contains Moses' blessing on the people and Ch. 34 records the brief account of the death of this great leader of Israel.

1. The **Provisions** of the Palestinian Covenant

- a. Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 ²⁶*Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; ²⁷A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: ²⁸And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*
- b. Both were conditioned upon whether Israel would obey the commandments of the Lord.
- c. The covenant anticipated Israel's disobedience, which eventually would result in them:

- **Being scattered among all people.**

Read Deuteronomy 28:64 ⁶⁴*And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

- **Finding no ease among the nations.**

Read Deuteronomy 28:65 ⁶⁵*And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:*

- **Becoming an astonishment** [a cause of amazement], **a proverb** [a person or thing that is commonly regarded as an embodiment or representation of some quality; byword], **and a byword** [common saying] **among the nations.**

Read Deuteronomy 28:37 ³⁷*And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither [wherever] the LORD shall lead thee.*

2. The Prophecies of the Palestinian Covenant

Remarkable!

Read Deuteronomy 30:1-9 *¹And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, ²And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; ³That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. ⁴If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: ⁵And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. ⁶And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. ⁷And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. ⁸And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. ⁹And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:*

- a. Israel will be cursed among all nations.
- b. Israel shall return unto the Lord.
- c. The Lord will gather His people from all nations.
- d. The Lord will bring Israel back into the land.
- e. The Lord will circumcise (change) the heart of His people to love Him.
- f. The Lord will make Israel plenteous in every work.

3. The **Permanency** of the Palestinian Covenant

Although some of the provisions of this covenant have been fulfilled (the Babylonian captivity and the present diaspora [any group that has been dispersed outside its traditional homeland, especially involuntarily]), it is still in force.

- a. Read Ezekiel 16:60 *⁶⁰Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.*

The covenant God made in the “days of thy youth” is called an EVERLASTING covenant.

- b. Read Ezekiel 20:34 *³⁴And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*

The Old Testament prophets still looked for Israel’s future regathering “out of the peoples wherein you are scattered.”

Israel’s disobedience to God did **NOT** forfeit their title to the land – just the blessing of the land. (The Lord must allow for this because He is HOLY, and His holiness cannot be set aside by any covenant, conditional or unconditional.)

E. The Davidic Covenant.

Read II Samuel 7:8-17 (the prophet Nathan speaking to David) *¹²And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: ¹⁵But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. ¹⁶And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*

This covenant enlarges upon the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant concerning the THRONE.

1. **The Provisions of the Davidic Covenant** (read: *¹⁶And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*)
 - a. “Thine house... shall be established forever.”
 - b. “Thy kingdom... shall be established forever.”
 - c. “Thy throne... shall be established forever.”

2. **The Permanency of the Davidic Covenant**
 - a. The covenant is FOR EVER. (II Samuel 7:16)
 - b. Read Psalm 89

Verse 3-4 *³I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, ⁴Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.* [Selah - means GOD HAS SPOKEN. Used 71 times in the Psalms]

Verse 28-37 *²⁸My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. ²⁹His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ³⁰If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; ³¹If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; ³²Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. ³³Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. ³⁴My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. ³⁵Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. ³⁶His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. ³⁷It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.*

In this Psalm, God states:

- They seed will I establish FOR EVER.
- Thy throne to all GENERATIONS.
- My faithfulness WILL NOT FAIL.

- My covenant will I NOT BREAK.
 - Once have I sworn by my HOLINESS that I will not lie to David.
- c. According to this Psalm, will Israel's disobedience annul the Davidic Covenant? NO
- d. If God should break His covenant with David, there would no longer be DAY and NIGHT. Read Jeremiah 33:19-26 ¹⁹And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰Thus saith the LORD; If ye **can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;** ²¹Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. ²²As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me. ²³Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁴Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them. ²⁵Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; ²⁶Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Note: When God gave a similar covenant to Solomon that was conditional Read I Kings 9:1-9 ¹And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, ²That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. ³And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. ⁴And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: ⁵Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a

man upon the throne of Israel. ⁶But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: ⁷Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: ⁸And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? ⁹And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

The Lord did not promise that Solomon's seed would sit on David's throne forever. This is because His lineage would eventually be cut off.

Read:

- Jeremiah 22:30 ³⁰Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.
- Jeremiah 36:30 ³⁰Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

In studying the lineage of Christ, we see that Joseph's line comes through Solomon and the kings of Judah (Matthew 1), but Mary's lineage comes from David (Luke 3).

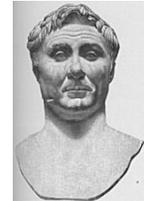
3. The Prosecution of the Davidic Covenant

- a. Jesus Christ is the SEED OF DAVID (thus David's seed extends eternally.) Read Romans 1:3 ³Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
- b. David's KINGDOM has been interrupted as follows:
 - From David to the Captivity, a total of 20 kings reigned in unbroken succession from the throne of David in Jerusalem.
 - Zedekiah was removed from the throne of David by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Read Jeremiah 52:10-11 (from verse 8)

⁸But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him. ⁹Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him. ¹⁰And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah. ¹¹Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

- The Babylonian Captivity ushered in what is called the “times of the Gentiles.” – a period when no son of David sits on the throne of David ruling Israel. Read Luke 21:24 ²⁴And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- Following the Maccabean revolt, the Jews did rule themselves for a brief period (165-63 BC), just before Roman conquest by Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus in 63 BC. However, the Maccabeans were Levites, not the royal tribe of Judah.



- Since 1948, Israel has been an independent sovereign nation. None of it's leaders - Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Rabin, Shamir, Netanyahu, etc. are of David's lineage, nor have they been divinely appointed.

- c. David's THRONE will NOT be occupied again until the Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ) returns. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Also confirmed in reading:

- Jeremiah 23:5-6 ⁵Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and

prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- Hosea 3:4-5 *⁴For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod [an object of worship in ancient Israelite culture], and without teraphim [household god]: ⁵Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*

d. The next ruler to sit on David's throne will be JESUS. Read Luke 1:31-33 *³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³²He 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: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

e. Jesus Christ is presently seated in His Father's throne. Read:

- Revelation 3:21 (from verse 20) *²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*
- Hebrews 10:12 *¹²But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

F. The New Covenant.

This covenant enlarges upon the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant concerning the HEART. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 *³¹Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts,*

and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. [Through the blood sacrifice (death) of Jesus Christ who took away the sins of the world.]

1. The Promises of the New Covenant.

- a. God's law will be written on Israel's heart.
- b. All Israel shall know God.
- c. God will forgive Israel's iniquity and remember their sin no more.
- d. God will give Israel one heart and one way.

Read Jeremiah 32:38-39 *³⁸And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: ³⁹And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:*

- e. God will put a new spirit within His people.

Read Ezekiel 11:19 (from verse 16-20 **WOW!**) *¹⁶Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. ¹⁷Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.** ¹⁸And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. ¹⁹And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: ²⁰That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

2. The Permanency of the New Covenant.

This New Covenant is EVERLASTING. Read Ezekiel 37:26-27 ²⁶Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. ²⁷My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

3. The Payment for the New Covenant.

Since the New Covenant involves the spiritual regeneration of Israel, it must provide for the miracle of individual new birth by grace faith in Jesus Christ. This can only be accomplished through the blood of Christ, which has been shed. READ MATTHEW 26:27-28 ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many **for the remission of sins.**

III Israel: A Blinded Nation

What is the present spiritual condition/status of Israel and the Jews today?

A. National Israel Rejected Christ.

1. Christ came unto his people and Israel rejected Him. Read John 1:11 *¹¹He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*
2. The rejection of Christ is expressed by a parable in Luke 19. Read Luke 19:14 (verses 10 – 28) *¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. ¹¹And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. ¹²He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. ¹³And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. ¹⁴**But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.** ¹⁵And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. ¹⁷And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very*

little, have thou authority over ten cities. ¹⁸And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. ¹⁹And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. ²⁰And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: ²¹For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. ²²And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: ²³Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? ²⁴And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. ²⁵(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) ²⁶For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. ²⁷But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me. ²⁸And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem.

3. When Pilate's questioned the chief priests "Shall I crucify your King?" read John 19:15 to see how they answered: *¹⁵But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.*

Note: While Israel rejected Christ as their Savior nationally, there were multitudes which believed on Him during His earthly ministry.

SALVATION IS ALWAYS AN INDIVIDUAL MATTER.

B. God Has Blinded Israel.

1. The nation of Israel brought God's judgment upon itself when it the people cried out in Matthew 27:25 *²⁵Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.*
2. God has given Israel the "spirit of slumber." Read Romans 11:8-10 *⁸(According as it is written, God hath given them **the spirit of slumber**, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. ⁹And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: ¹⁰Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.*
3. This judgment is call "blindness in part." Read Romans 11:25e *²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye*

*should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel**, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

4. Presently there is a saved Jewish remnant. Read Romans 11:5 ⁵*Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*
5. Because of Israel's fall, salvation has come unto the gentiles. Read Romans 11:11b ¹¹*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: **but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles**, for to provoke them to jealousy.*
6. Most Jews today are ignorant of God's righteousness, yet are trying to establish their own righteousness. Read Romans 10:2-3 ²*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, **have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.***
7. The Jew's spiritual darkness will continue until "the fullness of the gentiles be come in" when Jesus Christ returns.
 - a. Read Romans 11:25f ²⁵*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.***
 - b. Read Acts 15:14-16a ¹⁴*Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. ¹⁵And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, ¹⁶**After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:***

IV Israel: A Re-gathered Nation

The re-gathering of Israel is one of the major prophetic themes of the Old Testament.

A. A Devine Re-gathering.

1. Read Isaiah 11:11 *¹¹And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

God will once again set His hand the **second** time to recover the remnant of His people.

2. Read Isaiah 11:12 *¹²And he shall set up an ensign [a flag or banner used to indicate nationality; a badge of office or authority; a sign, token, or emblem] for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

The Lord will gather the dispersed of Judah from **the four corners of the earth**.

3. Read Jeremiah 30:3 *³For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring **again** the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.*

The Lord will cause Israel to return to the land He gave them.

Notes on Jeremiah: It has been interpreted that Jeremiah “spiritualized and individualized religion and insisted upon the primacy of the individual’s relationship with God.” About a year after King Josiah of Judah had turned the nation toward repentance from the widespread idolatrous practices of his father and grandfather, Jeremiah’s sole purpose was to reveal the sins of the people and explain the reason for the impending disaster (destruction by the Babylonian army and captivity)

B. A Devine Revival.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 ¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, ²And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. ³And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. ⁴Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. ⁸And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. ¹¹**Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.** ¹²Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, ¹⁴And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

1. Ezekiel's vision was of a valley full of bones.
2. The bones represented the whole house of Israel (verse 11).

This vision is one of national resurrection!

V Israel: A Deceived Nation.

Read Daniel 9:24-27 ²⁴Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, **and to bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. ²⁵Know therefore and understand, **that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks**, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. ²⁶And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This passage is one of the KEY prophetic passages in the Word of God. It deals with God's overall plan for Daniel's people (the Jews) from:

- Verse 25b: The going forth of the commandments to restore and to build Jerusalem
- Verse 24e: Christ brings in everlasting righteousness.

A. The Coming Prince

Read Daniel 11:26 ²⁶Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

Daniel 11:26 speaks of the people of the "prince that shall come." These people (who would destroy the holy city of Jerusalem) are identified as Rome (Rome did just that in 70 AD - The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander as his second-in-command, besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem, which had been occupied by its Jewish defenders in 66 CE.)

Therefore this prince cannot be the Lord Jesus Christ. Elsewhere, Daniel spoke **of a coming king who will one day arise out of a revived Roman empire**. Read:

- Daniel 7:7-8 ⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. ⁸I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.
- Daniel 7:19-25 ¹⁹Then I would know the truth of the **fourth beast**, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; ²⁰And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. ²¹I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ²²Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. ²³Thus he said, The **fourth beast** shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. ²⁵And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.
- Daniel 8:23-25 ²³And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. ²⁴And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. ²⁵And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Also read:

- Revelation 13:1-7 ¹And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ²And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a

bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. ³And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. ⁴And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? ⁵And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ⁶And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ⁷And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

- Revelation 17:11-14 *¹¹And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. ¹²And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. ¹³These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. ¹⁴These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

The king out of the revived Roman Empire:

1. Read John 5:43 (Jesus answering the Pharisees after they persecuted Jesus for healing on the Sabbath and stating He was the Son of the Father) *⁴³I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: **if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.***
2. This "king" shall be called the antichrist. Read I John 2:18 *¹⁸Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*
3. The coming prince will be a counterfeit Messiah. Note the similarities:
 - a. Both will come riding on a white horse. Compare:
 - (Antichrist) Revelation 6:2 verses 6:1-4 for clarity about the 4 horsemen: *¹And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ²And I saw, and behold a **white horse**: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he*

went forth conquering, and to conquer. ³And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ⁴And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

- (Real Jesus) Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a **white horse**; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

- b. The “Beast” suffers a mortal wound yet lives again. Read Revelation 13:3 (verses 1-7 for context) ¹And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ²And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. ³**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.** ⁴And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? ⁵And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ⁶And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ⁷And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

- c. Both are worshipped by men:
- Read Matthew 14:33 (real Jesus) *³³Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*
 - Revelation 13:8 (antichrist) *⁸And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
- d. Like Christ, the “Beast” and the false prophet will do great wonders. Read Revelation 13:12-15 (from verse 11) *¹¹And I beheld another beast [the false prophet] coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹²And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³**And he doeth great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*
4. Read Matthew 24:24 (Jesus on the Mt. of Olives speaking to his disciples), the coming “Abomination of Desolation” shall deceive the very elect (**the Jews**). Read Matthew 1-5 for context) *¹And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. ³And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? ⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many....*

*²⁴For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch [to such an extent or degree] that, if it were possible, **they shall deceive the very elect.***

Today, Jews are still looking for their Messiah. The prophets declare that one day, a false messiah will come – and Israel will turn to him.

B. The Covenant Confirmed

Read Daniel 9:27 *²⁷And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [7 years]: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

Daniel says the false messiah shall confirm the covenant with many for 1 week (7 years). This covenant (with the Jews) is probably the Abrahamic covenant, and especially its promise of LAND.

The whole world will hail this savior! He will ride onto the world's stage and usher in a false millennium saying "peace, peace," when there is none. Read Jeremiah 8:11 *¹¹For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, **Peace, peace**; when there is no peace.*

VI Israel: A Troubled Nation

The name "Jerusalem" mean "city of peace." Ironically, it is a city which has known little peace during its turbulent history. And yet, what this city and the Jewish people as a whole have endured to this point is nothing compared to what is coming!

A. The Broken Covenant.

1. Read Daniel 9:27b *²⁷And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: **and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease**, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

The Antichrist will end temple sacrifices in the middle of the week (about 3.5 years.)

2. What follows is referred to as the overspreading of abominations.

3. Read II Thessalonians 2:3-4 ³*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;* ⁴*Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*
At this time, the man of sin will sit in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God!

4. Energized by Satan himself, the Antichrist will persecute the woman (Israel). Read Revelation:
 - a. Revelation 12:7-13 ⁷*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,* ⁸*And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.* ⁹*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* ¹⁰*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.* ¹¹*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* ¹²*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.* ¹³*And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

 - b. Revelation 13:8 ⁸*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

B. The Great Tribulation.

1. Read Matthew 24:21 starting with verse 1: *¹And **Jesus** went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. ³And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? ⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ⁶And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows. ⁹Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. ¹⁵When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ¹⁶Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ²¹**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** ²²And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. ²³Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ²⁵Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

Jesus stated that the last 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th Week will be great tribulation.

2. Read Daniel 12:1 *¹And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:** and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

This will be an unprecedented “time of trouble.”

3. Read Jeremiah 30:7 *⁷Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*

Although the general population of the world will experience devastating calamities and divine judgments (read Revelation 6-19), Jeremiah 30:7 specifically call this horrendous period the time of Jacob’s trouble.

4. Read Ezekiel 22:17-22 *¹⁷And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹⁸Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver. ¹⁹Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. ²⁰As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. ²¹Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. ²²As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.*

God will bring His people into a furnace of affliction to remove the dross [waste matter].

5. Read Ezekiel 20:34-38 *³⁴And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. ³⁶Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. ³⁷And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: ³⁸And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where*

they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

- a. God pleads with his people.
 - b. God causes His people to pass under the rod.
 - c. God will purge the rebels.
6. Daniel prophesied the Antichrist would make war with, and wear out the Saints – Israel.
- a. Daniel 7:21 ²¹*I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*
 - b. Daniel 7:25 ²⁵*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*
7. Jesus spoke of the Great Tribulation being shortened for the elect's (Israel's) sake.. Read Matthew 24:22 ²²*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*
8. Read Revelation to learn the woman (Israel) will receive divine protection in the Wilderness.
- a. Revelation 12:6 ⁶*And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*
 - b. Revelation 12-16 ¹³*And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. ¹⁴And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. ¹⁵And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. ¹⁶And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

9. By the time this 'mega-holocaust' ends, **only one third of the people** of Israel will have survived.

Read Zechariah 13:8-9 ⁸And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. ⁹And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

10. This terrible time will culminate with ALL NATIONS gathered against Jerusalem.

Read Zechariah 14:2 ²For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

C. The Faithful Witnesses.

1. The Sealed Servants of God.

Read Revelation 7:3-8 ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an **hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel. ⁵Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. ⁶Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. ⁷Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. ⁸Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

- a. They number 144,000.
- b. They are from all the tribes of Israel.

- c. They are the “first fruits” of redeemed Israel.

Read Revelation 14:4 (from verse 1 for context) *¹And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.²And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: ³And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*

- d. They will turn many to righteousness.

Read Daniel 12:1-3 *¹And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.²And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

2. The Two Witnesses

Read Revelation 11:3-12 ³And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. ⁴These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. ⁵And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. ⁶These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. ⁷And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. ⁸And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. ⁹And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. ¹¹And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. ¹²And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

- a. They will prophesy (preach) for 2,260 days (42 months or about 3.5 years).
- b. They shall eventually be killed by the “beast” (Antichrist).
- c. After 3.5 years, they shall rise and ascend to heaven.

Note: The identity of these two witnesses is not given. Most speculate them to be either Moses and Elijah (based on verse 6 above) OR Enoch and Elijah (the only two men in the Bible who by-passed death.)

VII Israel: A Saved Nation

Israel's salvation is anticipated by the Abrahamic Covenant and assured through the New Covenant. Read Deuteronomy 4:30-31 *³⁰When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; ³¹(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) **he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.***

A. The Promise of Salvation.

Read Romans 11 (Paul writing about the Jews): ¹I 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. ²God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel saying, ³Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. ⁴But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. ⁵Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. ⁷What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. ⁹And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: ¹⁰Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. ¹¹I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. ¹²Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? ¹³For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. ¹⁵For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? ¹⁶For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ¹⁸Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. ¹⁹Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. ²⁰Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: ²¹For if God spared not the natural

branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. ²²Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. ²³And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. ²⁴For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? **²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.** ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. ²⁸As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes. ²⁹For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. ³⁰For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: ³¹Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. ³²For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. ³³O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ³⁴For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? ³⁵Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? ³⁶For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

1. "Hath God cast away His people? God forbid" (verse 1)
2. "How much more their fullness" (verse 12)
3. "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" (verse 15)
4. "God is able to graft them in again" (verse 23)
5. "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the gentiles be come in." (verse 25)
6. "And so all Israel shall be saved." (verse 26)

B. The Plan of Salvation (for Israel).

1. God will gather all the nations against Israel. Read Zachariah 14:2 *²For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

This is the culmination of the Great Tribulation. Read Revelation 14:14-20
¹⁴And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. ¹⁶And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. ¹⁹And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

[Read all of Revelation 14 for some real fire and brimstone.]

2. The sky will be darkened and the moon shall turn to blood.

Read Joel 2:31 *³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

Read Matthew 24:29 *²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

3. The Lord shall return in power and great glory. Read Joel 3:14-16 (and many other passages in scripture about the Lord's return) ¹⁵*The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. ¹⁶**The LORD also shall roar out of Zion**, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ¹⁷So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.*

4. God will pour out His spirit upon all flesh (his people):

Read Joel 2:28 ²⁸*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

Read Zechariah 12:10 (from verse 8 for context): ⁸*In that day [at the end of the tribulation] shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. ⁹And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

5. Finally, all Israel will call upon Jesus and be saved (the 1/3 remaining).

Read Zechariah 13:8-9 ⁸*And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; **but the third shall be left therein.** ⁹And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: **they shall call on my name, and I will hear them:** I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

Note: Although Israel will be "born at once", its salvation will be an individual basis.

VIII Israel: A Glorious Nation

To this day, none of the four prophetic covenants have been completely fulfilled.

- While Israel is in Palestine today, it by no means possess all the land promised to Abraham.
- The modern nation of Israel is a democracy not a kingdom.
- While some Jews have been saved through the centuries, the nation is still in abject unbelief (besides being very secular).

All the covenantal promises will finally be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom of Christ. Read Isaiah 11:1-10 *¹And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse [father of King David], and a Branch [Jesus] shall grow out of his roots: ²And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; ³And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: ⁴But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. ⁵And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. ⁶The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. ⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Jesus], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

A. A Glorious Land.

Read Obadiah 17-21 *¹⁷But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. ¹⁸And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it. ¹⁹And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. ²⁰And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall*

possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. ²¹And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

[Esau: in the Jewish Bible, is the older son of Isaac. He is mentioned in the Book of Genesis, and by the prophets, Obadiah and Malachi. The New Testament of the Christian Bible alludes to him in St Paul's Letter to the Romans and in the Letter to the Hebrews.

Esau is the progenitor of the Edomites and the elder twin brother of Jacob, the patriarch of the Israelites. Esau and Jacob were the sons of Isaac and Rebekah, and the grandsons of Abraham and Sarah. Of the twins, Esau was the first to be born with Jacob following, holding his heel (the Hebrew name Yaacov meaning "Heel-holder"). Isaac was sixty years old and Rebekah is believed to have been younger when the boys were born. The grandfather Abraham was still alive, being 160 years old at that time.

Esau, a "man of the field" became a hunter who had "rough" qualities that distinguished him from his twin brother. Jacob was a shy or simple man, depending on the translation of the Hebrew word "Tam" (which also means "relatively perfect man"). Throughout Genesis, Esau is frequently shown as being supplanted by his younger twin Jacob (Israel).]

Also concerning the future for Israel:

Read Ezekiel 48:29... ²⁹*This is the land which ye shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these are their portions, saith the Lord GOD.*

1. Read Ezekiel 48:1 ¹*Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan.*

Its NORTHERN border is Hamath (about 140 miles north of Damacus).

2. Read Ezekiel 48:28 ²⁸*And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea.*

Its SOUTHERN border is to the river of Egypt.

3. Read Psalm 48:2 ²*Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

It will be "Beautiful for situation"

4. Read Zechariah 14:8 (from verse 5 – 9 for context) ⁵And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. ⁶And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: ⁷But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. ⁸And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. ⁹And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one

Living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem.

B. A Glorious Kingdom.

1. Its CAPITAL will be JERUSALEM.

- a. Read Isaiah 2:2-3 ²And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from **Jerusalem.**
- b. Micah 4:1-2 ¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from **Jerusalem.**
- c. Zechariah 8:3 ³Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of **Jerusalem: and Jerusalem** shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

2. Its KING will be LORD.
 - a. Zechariah 14:9 ⁹*And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*
 - b. Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*
 - c. Jeremiah 33:15-16 ¹⁵*In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.*
3. The Lord's apostles will serve as judges.
 - a. Matthew 19:28 ²⁸*And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
 - b. Isaiah 1:26 ²⁶*And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.*

Note: Jerusalem will be called:

- From Isaiah 1:26 [immediately above]:
 - The city of righteousness.
 - The faithful city.
- Read Ezekiel 48:35 ³⁵*It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, **The LORD is there.***

- Read Isaiah 60:14 ¹⁴The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee; The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
 - The city of the LORD.
 - The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

- Read Isaiah 62:4 ⁴*Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called **Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah**: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.* [Hephzibah literally means, “My delight is in her.” Isaiah 62:4 is a message of hope to the nation of Israel. God plans to change its name from Deserted and Desolate to Hephzibah and Beulah. Beulah means “married.” When God changes a name in the Bible, it conveys transformation, a second chance, and a new beginning. This passage promises the restoration of Israel to a place of favor and protection in God’s sight. Through this passage, the whole world knows that God finds delight in Israel and is married to her. He will no longer forsake His people. The Lord has sworn to never again allow a conqueror to overcome Israel, and Israel will exist in a sanctuary of safety.]

- Read Isaiah 62:12 ¹²*And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, **Sought out**, A city not forsaken.*

C. A Glorious People.

1. Read Daniel 7:18 ¹⁸*But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*
The saints (Israel) shall possess the kingdom forever.

2. Read Isaiah 10:20 ²⁰*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.*
The remnant of Israel shall stay upon the LORD.

3. Read Ezekiel 37:22 *²²And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.*

They shall be one nation.

D. A Glorious Worship.

1. Read Zechariah 6:12-13 *¹²And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: ¹³Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*

Christ shall build a temple. The details and dimensions of this magnificent structure are given in Ezekiel 40-44 [know your cubits and reeds]

2. **A great temple will be erected.** Read Ezekiel 43:13-17 *¹³And these are the measures of the altar after the cubits: The cubit is a cubit and an hand breadth; even the bottom shall be a cubit, and the breadth a cubit, and the border thereof by the edge thereof round about shall be a span: and this shall be the higher place of the altar. ¹⁴And from the bottom upon the ground even to the lower settle shall be two cubits, and the breadth one cubit; and from the lesser settle even to the greater settle shall be four cubits, and the breadth one cubit. ¹⁵So the altar shall be four cubits; and from the altar and upward shall be four horns. ¹⁶And the altar shall be twelve cubits long, twelve broad, square in the four squares thereof. ¹⁷And the settle shall be fourteen cubits long and fourteen broad in the four squares thereof; and the border about it shall be half a cubit; and the bottom thereof shall be a cubit about; and his stairs shall look toward the east.*

The continual blood sacrifices will be memorial in nature rather than anticipatory, serving to remind men of the CAUSE of the millennial peace and righteousness – that the cause will be praised more than the effect.

3. Read Zechariah 14:16 *¹⁶And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

The nations will go up annually to worship the LORD.

4. Psalm 118:24 *²⁴This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*