

## ***Israel and the End Times*** ***Genesis through Revelation***

**August 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

We live in exciting times as we see events unfold around us that seem to agree with Biblical descriptions of the approach of end times. Ezekiel prophesies judgment on immorality. Jesus spoke of false religions, many wars, religious persecution, and the breakdown of the family unit in Mark 13 and Matthew 24.

Jesus says for us to not be frightened by these events. *John 16:33* The good news is that as societies, governments, and moral fiber seem to be crumbling around us, we know that God is in charge. Those that have accepted His Son as Lord and Savior know how things will turn out and it will be good. God's plan from the Creation is one of Redemption.

### ***The book of Genesis and the importance of Israel***

- Two chapters cover the story of creation
- One chapter covers the fall of man
- Eight chapters cover the years from creation to Abram
- Thirty nine chapters deal with the establishment of Israel and the Jews as God's chosen country and His chosen people through the life events of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### ***The Abrahamic Covenant***

- 📖 *Genesis 12:1-3* Four unconditional promises were made to Abraham
  - God promised to bless Abraham.
  - God promised to make of Abraham a great nation.
  - God promised to make Abraham a blessing to all people on the earth.
  - God promised to bless them that blessed Israel and curse those that cursed Israel.

The covenant was to pass to one born of Abraham's body, however, Abraham was approximately 80 years old and childless. Abraham and Sarah became impatient and took things upon themselves. As a result Ishmael was born. Abraham petitioned God for Ishmael to be his heir, but God said no, Isaac would be the heir. Ishmael was blessed with twelve tribes and his heirs are a multitude plus they have most of the world's oil.

### ***Israel ... the center of the world***

Many enemies have come forth over the centuries in an attempt to thwart God's plan of Redemption. This attempt to defeat God's plan has consistently taken place in and around what is now the land Israel. For centuries Israel has been the center of the world, Jerusalem the center of Israel, and the Temple Mount the center of Jerusalem.

### ***Jerusalem ... a special city to God***

- ✓ In the Old Testament God dwelled in His Temple in Jerusalem
- ✓ In the New Testament Jerusalem was the scene of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ
- ✓ In the end time Jerusalem will be the location of the return to earth of Jesus.
- ✓ God gave the Jews and Israel a special role in His plan for redemption. That role continues today and will continue to the end times.

📖 Isaiah 42:6

📖 Acts 13:47

In 1948 the United Nations narrowly passed a resolution declaring the land and people Israel a nation, and immediately Israel made the Western half of Jerusalem their capital. The entire Arab and Moslem world fought against this UN resolution which created an independent Jewish nation, and the very next day five Arab armies attacked Israel. By God's divine intervention, Israel was victorious and survived as a nation.

## Jerusalem ... a burdensome stone

📖 Zechariah 12:1-3

What is it about Israel and Jerusalem that drives the nations crazy? <sup>1</sup>

1. Jerusalem reminds people of the God of the Bible and that the kingdoms of the world are in conflict with God and His reality. *Psalms 48:3; Psalm 132:13-14*

❖ Allah of Islam is not the same as the God of Israel and of Christianity.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the statue in Daniel 2

- ✓ The head of gold was Babylon ⇒ Religion without God
- ✓ The arms of silver were the Medes-Persians ⇒ Government without God
- ✓ The belly of bronze was Greece ⇒ Knowledge without God
- ✓ The legs of iron were Rome ⇒ Power without God

❖ In western society today we see all of these.

Because Jerusalem reminds people of God, we see world systems challenging the sovereignty of the Jews and the nation of Israel over Jerusalem.

📖 Psalms 2:1-6

2. Jerusalem reminds people of God's Law.

➤ Man does what seems right in his own eyes. *Judges 21:25*

We, the church, must continue to walk by faith in God's Word. Lawlessness can't survive where God's Word is preached. Many worldly practices have crept into the Church, even things that are clearly against God's Word.

📖 II Thessalonians 2:1-4

As Bible believers we cannot get caught up in the things of the world. This includes joining the world's stand against Israel's sovereignty in an attempt to achieve man-made peace. *Ezekiel 13:1-10*

*Psalms 83:1-5* says that nations will come to take the Land of Israel. Many nations want to usurp the place of God's Throne and send forth their own messages but God says this won't happen. *Isaiah 2:1-3*

3. Jerusalem is, past, present, and future, God's Base of Operations.

- ✓ Jerusalem was the place of the Temple of God where He dwelt in Old Testament times.
- ✓ God's Word came from Israel.
- ✓ Our salvation and redemption was accomplished in Jerusalem by Jesus.
- ✓ Jerusalem is where Jesus will return.

📖 Zechariah 8:3; 9:14; 14:16; Psalms 102:21-22

A totally restored Jerusalem is a threat to Satan and God's enemies. These enemies will stop at nothing to destroy God's plan for Jerusalem.

4. Jerusalem is a Reminder of God's Coming Judgment

The Bible speaks to two coming battles in the end times:

***The first battle is prophesied in Ezekiel 38 and 39.*** This prophesy is about the invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog and Gog's allies led by Russia and Iran.

***The second battle described in the Bible is the Battle of Armageddon.*** *Revelation 16:13-16.* The Hebrew word Har Mageddon actually means the Mount of Megiddo, a geographical area located in Northern Israel. Armageddon appears to be the place where the armies from the four corners of the earth will gather.

- ✓ Joel speaks of this battle. *Joel 3:2-3*
- ✓ Isaiah speaks of the great battle in Edom, southeast of the Dead Sea. *Isaiah 34:5-6*
- ✓ Zechariah speaks of battles around Jerusalem. *Zechariah 12:2-3*
- ✓ The Battle ends with Christ's return. *Revelation 19:17-20*

📖 Revelation 21:9-10

<sup>1</sup> Bridges for Peace, "*Jerusalem, Driving the Nations Crazy*," March 1999