

## The Israel Connection



The first place to look in the last days

Week 1 - *God's plan for Israel yesterday, today, and tomorrow*

- **Note this:** Israel becoming a nation would not only change human history but it would also fulfill biblical prophecy. In Ezekiel 36:24, God said of His people, the Jews scattered all over the world, *"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land."* On May 14th, 1948, against all odds, the prophecy of God's scattered people becoming a nation with their own land was fulfilled.

"The Abrahamic Covenant" (Genesis 12:1-3)

**Question #1 - Where did the Jews come from?**

(Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 1:1; Genesis 16:1-4; 17:17-19)

- **Note this:** What have the battles with Israel been over and are still over at this very moment? One, it is a battle over the LAND. Who's going to have the land God gave to Israel? Two, it is a battle over the LINEAGE. Who does the land belong to - Isaac (Israel) or Ishmael (Muslims)? And three, it is a battle over who will be the LORD. Who is ultimately going to be Lord over all the earth - Allah or God?

**Question #2 - Where did the Palestinians come from?**

- **Note this:** In 135 AD the Roman Emperor, Hadrian, in an effort to disperse the Jews from Jerusalem, renamed the entire region the Latin "Palestina." He gave it that name because that is the Latin name for the Philistines. Hadrian did that because the Philistines were the

ongoing enemies of the Jews.

As a way to dishonor the Jewish people, Hadrian said, but I'm now going to take away Israel from the name of your land and I'm going to name it "Palestina" meaning "Philistines" as a way of dishonoring you.

**Question #3 - Who is Hamas?**

- **Note this:** Hamas is a terrorist organization. The word "Hamas" in Arabic means "zeal" or "strength." But in Hebrew, the word "hamas" means "violence." Did you know the word "hamas" is in the Bible? For example, Genesis 6:11 says that in the days of Noah, *"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was filled with violence."* The word for "violence" here is "hamas." "Hamas" is a spirit of violence. Hamas is a spirit of violence that has been at work in our world since the days of Noah. What did God do to everyone who had the spirit of hamas in the days of Noah? He destroyed them by flooding the earth. And the only people who lived were not filled with the hamas spirit, but God's Holy Spirit.

**Question #4 - "Does any of the present Israel war fit into Bible prophecy about the End Times?"**

- **Note this:** The prophet Ezekiel says in chapter 38 that in the last days, nations will form a confederation to advance and attack Israel. Is that what we see happening today? Maybe so or maybe not yet. The prophecy is about Russia and the nations that join with Russia in this confederation against Israel. First on the list is Persia. What did Persia change its name to in 1935? Iran. Who is fully funding and aids the terrorist group Hamas that savagely attacked Israel? Iran funds, aids, and assists Hamas. This is why we keep an eye on Israel as we await our Lord's return.

- **Note this:** Replacement theology teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. They believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. However, Romans chapter 11:1 says, *"Did God reject His people? By no means ..."*

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### Week 2 - The Future Goes Through Israel

→ **Note:** It has been said "He who reads the newspaper knows what's going on in the world. He who reads the Bible knows why."

#### Week One Review

**Review #1** - Israel becoming a nation would not only change human history but would also fulfill biblical prophecy. In Ezekiel 36:24, God said of His people, the Jews scattered all over the world, "*For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.*" On May 14th, 1948, against all odds, the prophecy of God's scattered people becoming a nation again, with their own land again, was fulfilled!

**Review #2** - What have the wars with Israel been about and are still about today? One, it is a war over the LAND. Who's going to have the land God gave to Israel? Two, it is a war over the LINEAGE. Who does the land belong to - Isaac (Israel) or Ishmael (Muslims)? And three, it is a war over who will be the LORD. Who is ultimately going to be Lord over all the earth - God or Allah?

**Review #3** - Does any of the present Israel war fit into Bible prophecy about the End Times? Maybe so, or maybe not yet (Ezekiel 38). Three things to remember about End Times prophecies. ONE, since the first coming of Jesus, everything that happens in history is setting the stage for the second coming of Jesus. TWO, although no one knows when Jesus will return, (Matthew 24:36) we can see signs that His coming is close (Matthew 24:32-33). And THREE, some people point to every earthquake, every war, and every attack on Israel as a sure sign that the last moments of human history are here. Maybe so, or maybe not yet. What we can say with certainty is that no generation has ever been closer to the coming

again of Jesus than our generation at this very moment!

**Note this:** The Jews are a "miracle people." There are an estimated 16 million Jews, 0.2% of the 8 billion worldwide population. That the Jews, a persecuted people, exist at all today ... as a nation ... with their own land ... cannot be explained by anything other than the Divine, Sovereign, guiding hand of God.

#### Two important questions

##### Question #1 - Why are the Jews hated?

**Note this:** Why has there always been a hatred for the Jewish people? Answer? Satan hates what God loves. God chose the Jews as His very own people, and He loves them. Why? God Himself gives the answer in Deuteronomy 7:7-8, "The Lord did not set His heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the Lord loves you, and He was keeping the oath He had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the Lord rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt."

##### Question #2 - Why should Christians pray for and stand with Israel?

First of all, we should pray for Israel because God tells us to pray for Israel and specifically, Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). Two, we should stand with Israel because Israel is God's chosen people (Deuteronomy 7:6).

#### Today's Takeaway Truths

- **Truth #1** - The Jews do not OCCUPY the land of Israel, they OWN the land of Israel because it was given to them by God. (Genesis 17:8)
- **Truth #2** - God is a covenant-keeping God who always keeps His promises including to Israel. (Genesis 15:18)
- **Truth #3** - When Jesus came to earth for the first time, He came to Israel. When Jesus returns to earth for the second time, He will come to Israel. (Zechariah 14:4)
- **Truth #4** - The future of the world will go through Israel as God promised but the future of the present Church Age will go through Christians. It is our time to point others to Jesus. (Matthew 24:14)

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## Week 3 - *The Future Goes Through Israel - Part 2*

### Israel yesterday

**Genesis 12:1-3:** (The LAND) The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. (The LINEAGE) “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. (The LORD) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 13:16; 15:5; 17:2; 18:18; 22:17)

### Israel today

#### When is it right for a nation to fight

1. It’s right to fight when a just war is fought for a just cause.
2. It’s right to fight in order to defend innocent people.
3. It’s right to fight in order to stop the spread of evil.

### Israel tomorrow

**Note this:** One place will be at the center of everything that will happen in the world’s last seven years and that place is Israel. After the seven-year Tribulation period, one place will be at the center of living on earth in peace and prosperity for a thousand years under King Jesus and that place is Israel.

**Note this:** Why do most Christians believe the rapture of Christians (1 Thessalonians 4:17) will occur before the Tribulation starts? If Christians were to go through the Tribulation they would suffer the righteous wrath of God on an unrighteous world. But the Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, “*God has not appointed us to suffer wrath ...*” Before God’s wrath judged the world with a flood in the days of Noah, the righteous, Noah and his family, were put in the Ark and spared God’s wrath (Genesis 7:7). When God’s wrath was going to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the righteous, Abraham, and his family were removed and spared from God’s wrath (Genesis 18:23-25). The rapture of the righteous before God’s wrath is poured out on a wicked world is consistent with God’s character elsewhere in the Bible.

**Note this:** The future of the world will go through Israel. The Bible reveals that Israel will endure into the end times and play a primary role in God’s plan for the final days. After the rapture, it is Israel that will have a key part in everything that happens in the Tribulation period. It is with Israel, that the Antichrist will make a peace treaty in order to bring world peace. It is Israel that will build a future Jewish temple that the Antichrist will abominate by requiring people to worship him. It is from Israel that there will be 144,000 Jews who serve as evangelists during the last days (Revelation 7). It is in Israel at Armageddon that the last world war will be fought as the nations of the world attempt to do what they have always attempted to do - annihilate and eliminate God’s people. And it will be in Israel after the Tribulation period that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will reign for 1,000 years from His throne in Jerusalem!

**Conclusion:** Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room. And Heaven and nature sing. He rules the world with truth and grace. And makes the nations prove. The glories of His righteousness. And wonders of His love. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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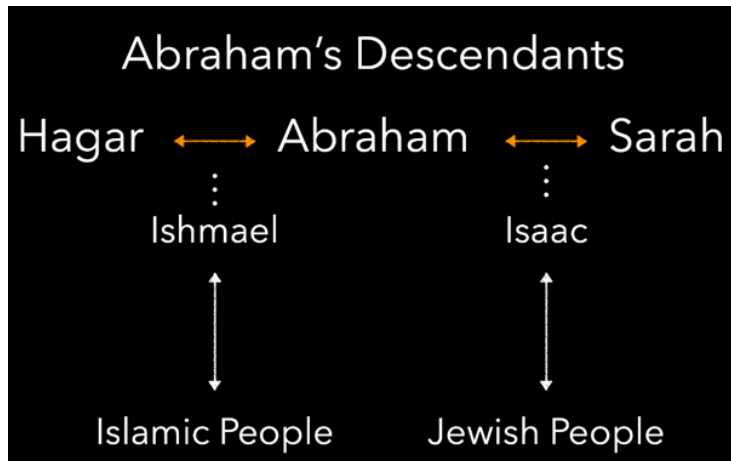


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### Week 4 - What God Wants Us to Know About Israel

Seven Things God wants us to know about Israel

1. The nation of Israel was God's idea and He created it for His glory and our good. (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. Israel's conflicts with other nations, even today, have always been about three things: the land, the lineage, and who is the Lord. (Genesis 17:19-21)



3. The Jews, God's people, are a miracle people who have miraculously been protected by God - Israel's real Iron Dome. (Ezekiel 36:24, Isaiah 66:8)

4. Because Israel is God's chosen people they have always been hated by others because Satan hates what God loves. (Exodus 1:8-22; Esther 3:6)
5. The Jews do not occupy the land of Israel, they own the land of Israel which was given to them by God. (Genesis 12:7; Genesis 17:7-8; Amos 9:15)
6. Christians and churches must not remain silent while Israel suffers. Israel matters to us because Israel matters to God. (Deuteronomy 7:6)
7. Since the first coming of Jesus, everything that happens in history is setting the stage for the second coming of Jesus. And the first place to look in the last days is Israel. (Matthew 24:32-33)

