**What Promise Is Left To Israel?**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 22nd, 2023

Text: Galatians 3:26-29; Scripture Reading: Romans 11:17-24

***Introduction***

1. Whenever Israel is in the news, either being attacked or on the attack, many people ask, “Will Israel be restored to their land?”
	1. World leaders and preachers in the religious world watch world events and even make political moves, all believing Israel as it exists today will still play a part in God’s plan.
	2. Premillennialists: Events fulfill prophecy, Christ to rule 1,000 years in restored Israel.
	3. The purpose of this lesson is not to take on the Premillennial doctrine but to focus on the issue on people’s minds: “Will Israel rise again?”
2. Current events get people excited that Israel will be restored to their land…
	1. In 1948 State of Israel formed – Many claimed prophecy was being fulfilled!
	2. The 1967 6-Days War with Egypt & their Arab Alliance tripled their land area.
		1. <https://www.jewishhistory.org/the-six-day-war/#:~:text=On%20Monday%20morning%2C%20June%205%2C%201967%2C%20the%20war,and%20Jerusalem%2C%20destroying%20the%20enemy%20with%20impunity%2C%20etc>.
	3. The Gaza War of 2008-2009 with Hamas (a terrorist group who took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007) ended with many claiming Israel won the war but Hamas won the Public Relations War.
		1. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R40101.pdf>
	4. The 2014 50-Days War with Hamas brought about a tenuous peace with Palestine.
		1. <https://jcpa.org/the-gaza-war-2014/timeline-key-moments-gaza-war/>
	5. The 2021 11-Days War with Hamas ended with heavy casualties on the Gaza Strip and a Cease Fire.
		1. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israel-unleashes-strikes-vowing-press-gaza-77796552>
	6. Hamas attacked Israel Saturday morning, October 7, 2023. Conflict still ongoing…
		1. <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/12/1204881032/hamas-israel-attack-palestinians>
3. Whenever these current events happen many preachers and world leaders teach that prophecies concerning Israel were about to be fulfilled and they would be restored to their ancestral land! They say, “Stand with Israel,” “End times are near!”
4. **Galatians 3:26-29:** The blessings promised to Abraham were fulfilled in Christ; not land!
5. The promises to Israel were fulfilled and the nations were blessed in Jesus Christ!
6. **God Fulfilled the Covenant to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob**
7. **Genesis 12:1-3** God’s Covenant Included Three Promises to Abraham’s Descendants…
	1. **Vs. 1:** Land Promise: Canaan
	2. **Vs. 2:** Nation promise: Israel
	3. **Vs. 3:** Seed promise *(Gen. 22:17-18):* Bless men of all nations (fulfilled in Christ).
8. **Genesis 26:2-5:** God repeated His covenant with Abraham to Isaac, Abraham’s son.
	1. **Vs. 3:** Land Promise: Canaan
	2. **Vs. 4:** Nation promise: Israel
	3. **Vs. 4:** Seed promise *(Gen. 22:17-18):* Bless men of all nations (fulfilled in Christ).
9. **Genesis 28:13-14:** God repeated His covenant with Abraham & Isaac to Jacob, Isaac’s son.
	1. **Vs. 13:** Land Promise: Canaan
	2. **Vs. 14:** Nation promise: Israel
	3. **Vs. 14:** Seed promise *(Gen. 22:17-18):* Bless men of all nations (fulfilled in Christ).
10. **Joshua 21:43-45: Land Promised FULFILLED**
	1. God GAVE the land (21:43)
	2. Israel POSSESSED the land (21:43)
	3. Israel LIVED in the land (21:43)
	4. Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed (21:45)
11. God gave them the land UNCONDITIONALLY because of the faithfulness of Abraham – Genesis 18:19; 22:18; 26:5; Exodus 33:1; Deuteronomy 9:1-6
12. **Deuteronomy 28-30; Joshua 23:14-16:** Staying in the Land was CONDITIONAL!
	* 1. Moses set before them life and death, the blessing and the curse.
		2. He encouraged them to choose life and the blessing.
		3. Joshua urged them to remain faithful to God!
		4. Moses said if they forsook God’s covenant they would be removed from their land.
13. **Exodus 19:6: Nation Promise FULFILLED** – “A kingdom of priests, a holy nation”
	1. When God gave them His laws at Sinai, He was establishing His covenant with them as a nation!
	2. A nation came out of Egypt and crossed the Jordan River into Canaan (Joshua 3:17; 5:6)
	3. Israel as a nation transgressed God’s covenant and would be judged (Judges 2:20).
	4. David asked, “And what one nation in the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt?” (I Chronicles 17:21)
	5. Paul said he was “circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;” (Philippians 3:5)
14. This shows that Israel was a nation before the exile and after the exile, for Saul of Tarsus, who become the Apostle Paul, was born “of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin.”
15. The first two promises made to Abraham were fulfilled by the time of Joshua!
16. **Christ Is the Ultimate Fulfillment of the Covenant with Abraham**
17. The Seed Promise
	1. The seed of woman (Gen. 3:15)
	2. The seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18)
	3. The seed of David (II Sam. 7:11-14)
18. **Galatians 3:16:** Christ Is Abraham’s Seed
	1. The gospel of Matthew begins by telling us Jesus is the fulfillment of the seed (son) of David and the seed (son) of Abraham (Matthew 1:1)
	2. Matthew further tells us Jesus is the seed of woman by a virgin birth by the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4).
19. **Galatians 3:26-29:** United with Christ, saints Become Abraham’s Seed! Children of promise!
	1. **Galatians 6:15-16:** Christians are the New Israel
20. Jesus fulfilled the seed promise, and saints that put on Jesus through baptism are the heirs of the promise to Abraham!
21. **Timeline Of Israel as a Nation**
	* + 1. A Timeline of their history will be helpful to see the promises and their fulfillments…
				1. 1400 BC: Moses leads the people out of Egypt and back to Israel.
				2. 1010 BC: King David unites the 12 tribes into one nation.
				3. 970 BC: King Solomon, son of David, builds the first temple structure in Jerusalem.
				4. 930 BC: Israel is divided into two kingdoms: the Kingdom of Israel (Northern 10 Tribes) and the Kingdom of Judah (Southern Kingdom).
				5. 800s BC: The rise of the prophets, God's messengers.

Israel, the Northern Kingdom, promised to lose their land – Isaiah 8:4; Hosea 5:9-14; 9:3; 10:5-6 – NO Remnant promised to return!

Judah, the Southern Kingdom, promised to lose their land but a remnant to return in 70 years – Isaiah 39:5-7; Habakkuk 1:9, 16; 2:8; 3:16; Jeremiah 20:4-6; 25:8-11; 32:28-29; Ezekiel 12:10-13

* + - * 1. 722 BC: Kingdom of Israel is conquered by Assyrians. As foretold! (II Kings 17)
				2. 605 BC: Kingdom of Judah is conquered by the Babylonians. As foretold! (Daniel 2:38: Head of Gold)
				3. 586 BC: Solomon's Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians (Jeremiah 52).
				4. 539 BC: Persians conquer the Babylonians and take control of Israel. As foretold (Daniel 2:39: Chest & Arms of Silver; 8:1-4, 20: Ram)
				5. 538 BC: The Jews return to Israel from exile. As foretold! (Ezra 1)
				6. 516 BC: The Temple is rebuilt.
				7. 450 BC: Reforms made by Ezra and Nehemiah.
				8. 432 BC: The last group of Jews return from exile.
				9. 425 BC: Nehemiah & Malachi are at the end of the prophetic age. Just as was foretold (Amos 8:11-12). The Period of Silence begins!
				10. 333 BC: The Greeks conquer the Persian empire. As foretold (Daniel 2:39: Belly & Thighs of Bronze; 7:6; 8:5-14, 21-22: Swift male goat & four horns)
				11. 323 BC: The Egyptian (Ptolemaic) and Syrian (Seleucid) Empires take over Israel. As foretold (Daniel 11)
				12. 167 BC: Hasmonean's recapture Israel, and the Jews are ruled independently. Hasmoneans, the descendants of the Maccabees are of the Tribe of Levi. As foretold (Daniel 11:32-35)
				13. 63 BC: Romans conquer Israel. As foretold – Daniel 2:40-43: Legs of Iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay; 11:30: Ships from Kittim (or Cyprus).
				14. 20 BC: King Herod builds the “third” temple (Really, an expansion of the already existing 2nd Temple)
				15. 6-5 BC: Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem. As foretold (Micah 5:2).
				16. AD 29-33: Jesus is crucified by the Romans and rises the 3rd day. As foretold (Isaiah 53; Luke 24:44-47; I Corinthians 15:3-4).
				17. AD 66-73: Jewish Revolt against Rome. As foretold by Jesus, that their kingdom would be removed from them.

**Matthew 21:43:** Jesus foretold that their kingdom was removed from them and given to a people producing the fruit of it.

* + - * 1. AD 70: Romans destroy Jerusalem and the temple. As foretold by Jesus! **Matthew 24:1-2: “not one stone left upon another.”**

General Titus tried unsuccessfully to save the temple, but his soldiers put it to the torch, thus fulfilling Christ's prophecy.

The fire melted the gold trim and it ran down between the stones.

To get at it, the soldiers had to remove the stones one by one, just as our Lord predicted, “not one stone left upon another.”

Their tribal records were destroyed. Cannot know what tribes they are from so their fleshly and spiritual inheritance were also destroyed.

Today the nation of Israel has rabbis not priests.

* + - * 1. AD 132-135: Jewish revolt under Emperor Hadrian: Jerusalem destroyed, earth salted, Jews dispersed, the whole land of Judea renamed to Palestine (Land of the Philistines).
				2. AD 1099-1291: 1st through 3rd Crusades. The kings of Jerusalem were French.
				3. U.N. treaty of 1948: A small portion of the land given back to Israel. NOT Divinely given but given by men.
			1. Israel’s land, nation and seed promises were fulfilled as was the promise to lose their land and a remnant to return, and for the temple to finally be destroyed. ***What other promises remain?***
1. **What Promise is Left to Israel?**
2. Some teach the Premillennial doctrine that Jesus will return and rule from Jerusalem so Israel still plays a part in God’s plan for the future!
3. **Jeremiah 19:10-15:** Physical Israel Cannot Be Restored – Shattered like the jar Jeremiah broke in their sight.
4. Jews will be scattered among the nations; not ever a nation as they once were!
5. A remnant would return, but not a physical ruler from the line of David in Judah! (Ezra 1:1-3: Cyrus the Persian was granted the rule over Jerusalem)
6. *In the Intertestament period, the Maccabees ruled, but were of the tribe of Levi.*
7. **Jeremiah 22:28-30:** God told Jeremiah to write King Jeconiah (Coniah) “childless.”
8. He did have children (I Chr. 3:17-18) but they would not rule, and further, God said, through Jeremiah, that no descendant of Coniah would prosper ruling from the throne of David in Judah!
9. Jesus is of the line of David through Jeconiah! In exile Jeconiah had Shealtiel, by whom Jesus physically descended (Matthew 1:11-12).
10. Jesus has the right to rule from the throne of David, but He cannot rule in Judah and prosper. This means Jesus cannot have a prosperous earthly reign from Jerusalem for a thousand years! (As is taught by the Premillennialists)
11. Jesus does rule now from the Throne of David but over a spiritual kingdom from a Heavenly Rule! (Luke 1:32-33; Acts 2:29-36)
12. **Galatians 3:26-29:** The blessings promised to Abraham have been fulfilled, the nation and land promise fulfilled long ago, and the seed promise fulfilled in Jesus! ***No other promises to be fulfilled that were made to Abraham!***
13. Jews Restored to God in Jesus Christ! Citizens of Jesus’ spiritual kingdom.
14. **Romans 11:17-24:** The Jews and Gentiles who obey the gospel are both grafted into the olive tree. Figurative language meaning the Jews, the natural branches, were cut off for disobedience but by their obedience, like the Gentiles, can be grafted back in.
	1. **Acts 13:46:** Paul told the Jews the message of the gospel, the message of eternal life, was preached to them first but because they judged themselves of unworthy of eternal life he would preach to the Gentiles.
15. The promise left to the Jews is eternal life! The same promise to Gentiles!
16. Jews that are saved are made up of those that have obeyed the gospel through faith, been baptized into Christ for forgiveness of sins, the same as the Gentiles (Acts 2:37-38, 41; Acts 10:48; 11:18)!

***Conclusion***

1. Both Jew and Gentile alike are called by the gospel and saved by faith through grace *(Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:8-9),* are called Christians *(Acts 11:26)* and are in the church *(Eph. 3:6)!*
2. **One last promise:** Both Jew & Gentile wait for the promise of Jesus to return again for judgment & reward (Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 9:27-28) – Christians need to be prepared!
3. **Ephesians 2:11-16:** Both Jew and Gentile made into “one new man” in “one body” through Jesus.
4. All men need to be in that “one body” (Ephesians 4:4) to be saved! (Ephesians 5:23)
5. All mankind must seek to be a part of the church *(Ephesians 5:23: Jesus saves those in His body)* in this life: God’s chosen people, royal priesthood, and holy nation! (I Peter 2:9-10) – ***ARE YOU READY?***
6. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait for “that one day” to come, but repent and seek forgiveness!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!