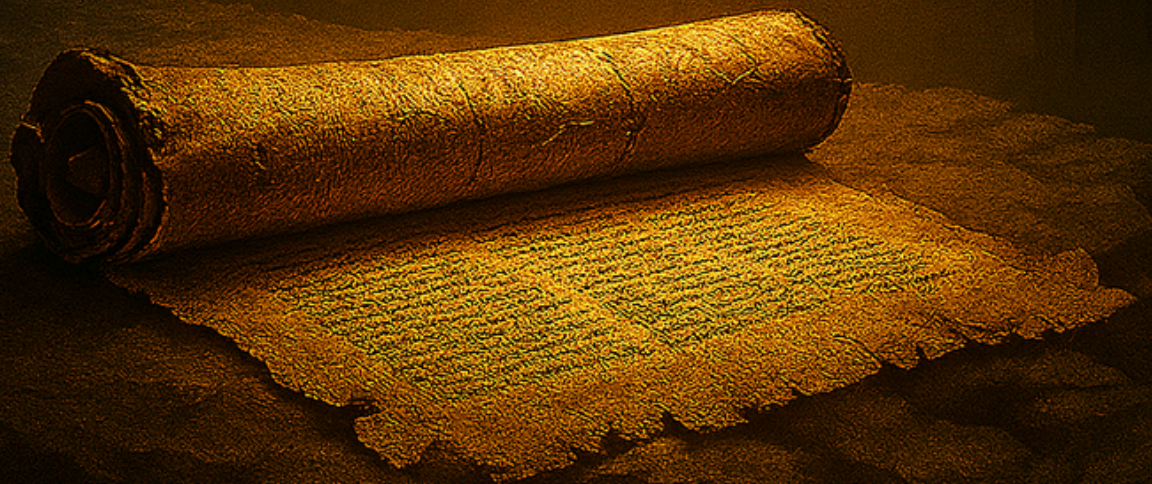


Israel's Place In God's Eternal Plan

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**By Thomas J Hughes
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Table of Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1: The Divine Purpose for Israel

Chapter 2: The Historical Journey of Israel

Chapter 3: The Role of Prophecy in Israel's Story

Chapter 4: The Cost of Disobedience

Chapter 6: Jerusalem: God's Chosen City

Chapter 7: The Davidic Covenant and Jerusalem's Future

Chapter 8: When the World is Against Israel

Chapter 9: The Spiritual Battle for Israel

Chapter 10: Israel's Future

Chapter 11: The Messianic Hope of Israel

Chapter 12: Israel and the Nations

Chapter 13: The Church's Role in Supporting Israel

Chapter 14: Israel in the End-Times: Prophetic Fulfillment

Chapter 15: Conclusion: Why Israel Still Matters

Introduction

There has never been a time quite like this. In a world overwhelmed by cultural chaos, geopolitical uncertainty, and spiritual confusion, one small nation continues to demand the world's attention: Israel. From headlines and UN resolutions to border conflicts and diplomatic negotiations, Israel remains at the epicenter of global conversation. But for followers of Jesus Christ, the importance of Israel extends beyond politics and global headlines—it reaches deep into the heart of God's redemptive plan.

This book is not an attempt to defend every decision made by the modern State of Israel. Nor is it a call to elevate one people group above another. Instead, it is a biblical exploration of Israel's Place in God's Eternal Plan, and therefore, why it should still matter to us. Through prophecy, covenants, and God's enduring promises, Scripture presents Israel as a nation uniquely called, disciplined, preserved, and destined to play a central role in the final chapter of history.

Many in the Church today have lost sight of this. Some have dismissed Israel's role altogether, while others have embraced theological frameworks that sideline or replace Israel with the Church. In doing so, they have unknowingly disconnected from key elements of God's revealed plan. This book is written to challenge that trend—not with condemnation, but with clarity. It's written to reignite a passion for God's Word and a desire to see His promises fulfilled exactly as He declared.

Supporting Israel is not about adopting a political position; it is about aligning our hearts with God's heart. It's about recognizing the unfolding prophetic story that began in the ancient past and continues today. It's about seeing God's character in His faithfulness to a people who have often wandered, but who remain chosen. And most importantly, it's about understanding how Israel's story is intricately woven into our own—because the return of the Messiah is tied to the restoration of Israel.

Whether you are well-versed in Bible prophecy or just beginning to explore this topic, this book was written with you in mind. Each chapter will build upon the last, offering biblical insight, historical context, and spiritual application. We will not only study what God has said about Israel, but also what it means for the Church today and in the days to come.

You won't find sensationalism here. You will find Scripture. You will find truth. And you will find hope rooted in the unchanging promises of God.

Chapter 1: The Divine Purpose for Israel

Israel's Calling - God's Specific Call to Israel as His Chosen People

From the beginning, God set Israel apart as a nation with a unique calling and purpose. In *Exodus 19:5-6*, God declared to the Israelites,

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

These verses reveal the divine intention behind Israel's existence: to serve as a conduit of God's truth and to reflect His holiness to the world. Unlike any other nation, Israel was chosen to be God's “special treasure,” a people who would carry His name and live according to His covenant.

Israel's calling was not about favoritism but responsibility. As a kingdom of priests, their mission was to mediate between God and humanity, proclaiming His laws and demonstrating His character. This priestly role meant that Israel's actions carried significant weight, as they were meant to be an example to the surrounding nations. The covenant was central to this relationship, requiring obedience and faithfulness to God's commands. By living in accordance with His laws, Israel was to reveal the character of God—His justice, mercy, and holiness—to the world.

Throughout their history, Israel faced both triumphs and failures in fulfilling this calling. From their miraculous exodus from Egypt to their eventual settlement in the Promised Land, God's hand was evident in guiding and protecting them. Yet, their disobedience and idolatry often led to judgment and exile. Even in these moments, God's purpose for Israel remained steadfast, and He continued to call them back to Himself through the prophets.

The Role of Israel in Redemption - Israel as the Conduit for God's Plan of Salvation through Jesus Christ

Israel's purpose reaches its ultimate fulfillment in God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. As Paul wrote in *Romans 9:4-5*,

“who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.” Through Israel, God provided the foundation for salvation history, culminating in the birth of the Messiah.

The lineage of Jesus Christ is deeply rooted in Israel’s history. The promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob established the nation through which the Savior would come. God’s covenant with Abraham in *Genesis 12:3* declared,

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This blessing ultimately came to fruition in Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection provide salvation to all who believe.

The giving of the law at Mount Sinai further highlights Israel’s role in God’s redemptive plan. The law revealed humanity’s need for a Savior by exposing the depth of sin and the impossibility of achieving righteousness through human effort. Additionally, the sacrificial system instituted in the Mosaic law served as a foreshadowing of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice. Each offering and atonement pointed forward to the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world (*John 1:29*).

The temple worship established in Israel was another critical aspect of their redemptive role. The temple represented God’s presence among His people, and its rituals symbolized the necessity of holiness and atonement. These practices were not an end in themselves but a shadow of the greater reality found in Jesus, the true temple and ultimate High Priest (*Hebrews 9:11-12*).

Without Israel, there would be no Christ. Their role in God’s redemptive plan underscores His sovereignty and faithfulness in orchestrating history to bring salvation to all nations through one chosen people.

God’s Faithfulness to His People - How God’s Promises to Israel Are Eternal

God’s faithfulness to Israel is an unshakable truth rooted in His character. As *2 Timothy 2:13* states,

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

Despite Israel’s recurring disobedience and unfaithfulness, God has never abandoned His promises to them. His covenant with Israel is not conditional upon their perfection but is sustained by His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Throughout history, Israel has faced exile, persecution, and dispersion, yet God's promises remain intact. The prophetic books of the Old Testament are filled with declarations of restoration and hope for Israel, underscoring that God's plans for His people are eternal. *Ezekiel 37* vividly describes the vision of dry bones coming to life, symbolizing Israel's national and spiritual restoration. This passage, along with others, reminds us that God's purposes for Israel are not finished. They are part of His unfolding plan that will culminate in the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.

Even in the New Testament, God's faithfulness to Israel is affirmed. Paul, in *Romans 11:1-2*, asks,

"I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew."

He goes on to explain that there is a remnant chosen by grace and that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable.

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." Romans 11:29

This assurance reflects the enduring nature of God's covenant with Israel. Even in the face of challenges, God's promises to Israel remain secure, reaffirming that His plan for the nation will come to fruition. This is why it is crucial for Christians to engage with Israel, support her, and pray for her, understanding that God's covenant with Israel is unbreakable and His purposes are unwavering.

The modern state of Israel is a testament to God's faithfulness. Despite centuries of dispersion and persecution, the Jewish people have been regathered in their ancestral homeland, fulfilling numerous biblical prophecies. This restoration is a precursor to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises, when Christ will reign as King in Jerusalem and bring peace to the world.

Beyond Israel's prophetic restoration, their journey offers further insight into the heart of God and the nature of His dealings with humanity.

The unfolding story of Israel also reveals the mystery of divine patience. While human history often judges nations by military strength, economic power, or cultural influence, God's dealings with Israel emphasize covenant, grace, and long-suffering. Over the centuries, Israel's survival amidst relentless opposition testifies not only to God's protection but to His willingness to work through flawed humanity to accomplish His will. Their continued existence and prophetic restoration are not accidental—they are evidence of God's sovereignty operating through time, shaping history toward His predetermined end.

Additionally, Israel's journey highlights the interplay between divine election and human accountability. Though chosen, Israel was not exempt from discipline and judgment. Their exile, suffering, and dispersion came as consequences of rebellion, yet

always with the goal of correction and eventual restoration. This paradox—that a chosen nation could experience both divine favor and discipline—reminds us that election does not eliminate responsibility. Instead, it magnifies it. Israel’s example invites believers to walk humbly, recognizing that privilege in God’s plan always comes with the call to obedience and trust.

As Christians, understanding God’s divine purpose for Israel deepens our faith and enriches our perspective on His sovereignty. God’s relationship with Israel is a testimony to His faithfulness and the reliability of His promises. If God remains true to His covenant with Israel, we can trust Him to be faithful in His promises to us through Christ.

Furthermore, recognizing Israel’s role in redemption fosters a sense of humility and gratitude. Salvation came to the world through the Jewish people, and as Paul reminds us in *Romans 11*, Gentile believers have been grafted into the olive tree of Israel.

“And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.” Romans 11:17-18

This grafting does not replace Israel but unites us in God’s redemptive plan, affirming that His covenant with them still stands.

This understanding also challenges Christians to stand with Israel in prayer and support. *Psalms 122:6* exhorts believers,

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.”

Such prayers align our hearts with God’s purposes and demonstrate our recognition of Israel’s unique place in His plan.

Finally, the story of Israel serves as a reminder of God’s unchanging character. Just as He has been faithful to His covenant people, He will be faithful to all who place their trust in Him. *The future of Israel is the future of the world.*