

## UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL BIBLICALLY! WHY?

IS ISRAEL SIGNIFICANT? WHY?

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Understanding Israel Biblically is the same as understanding the significance of Israel... understanding the uniqueness of Israel!

The Bible is an historical book...a supernatural historical book...about Israel.

The Bible is a prophetic book...looking forward to the future...about Israel.

Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, was born in Israel

Jesus ministered in Israel

Jesus died in Israel

Jesus rose from the dead in Israel

Jesus is going to return to Israel

Jesus will rule and reign from King David's throne in Jerusalem – in Israel

Our eyes need to be on Israel – as we FOCUS on Jesus!

### How is Israel significant?

"Israel's significance is that God chose this one people and land to be the primary stage on which His character, covenants, and redemptive plan for all nations are revealed and brought to completion in the Messiah. Israel stands at the center of Scripture's storyline, yet always in a way that is oriented outward toward the blessing and salvation of the world."

*Deut. 7:6-8 – God is speaking of the children of Israel going into the land of promise and casting out many nations... and God then tells the children of Israel, ...*for you are a holy* (set apart for a purpose) *people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.* *7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;* *8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

Israel is a CREATED nation!

*Isa. 43:1 - But now, thus says the LORD, Who created you, O Jacob, (whose name was changed to Israel in Gen. 32) and He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.'* Abram's grandson, Jacob, was the Father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

### WHY did God create the nation of Israel?

- To accomplish His purposes for the world!
- To receive His law which magnifies God's holiness and man's sinfulness and convicts of sin (Rom. 7:7) and restores the soul (Psa. 19:7a). Gal. 3:19-24 – the law was given because of transgressions 'til the Seed should come. The law is NOT against the promise; the

promise was given first through an unconditional covenant and cannot be annulled. The promise – salvation through faith in Jesus. The law was our tutor to bring us to Jesus!

- To be the channel through whom the Messiah would come for the WORLD (Gen. 12:3; Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; John 4:22 - salvation is of the Jews...cross reference)
- To be God's witness to the Gentiles (Psa. 117; Isa. 43:10; Rev. 7:1-12 – cross reference)

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- To be an instrument of blessing for the WORLD (Gen. 18:18 – cross reference).
- To receive God's covenant promises which offer eschatological hope – restoration of creation and mankind and the nation of Israel!
  - Jesus will return at His physical second coming when Israel (believing Israel) calls out to Him (Zech. 12:10; Matt. 23:37-39)...and the Kingdom of God – the Millennial Kingdom on earth will be established with Jesus ruling and reigning in Jerusalem (Luke 1:31-33)

If you take any nation within the Bible and erase it from the face of the earth...it will not eradicate God's message of the Bible. Try to do that with Israel! If Israel is ERASED...the Bible's message would be changed!!!

Rom. 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. “First” means priority in the Greek. The Jews are to witness to the Gentiles and the Gentiles are to provoke the Jew to jealousy (Rom. 11:11)

Gentiles receiving salvation in the Hebrew Scriptures:

- Melchizedek, king of Salem – He is “priest of God Most High” who blesses Abram in the name of the true God and receives tithes from him, indicating a genuine priestly relationship to the Creator prior to Sinai.
- Jethro (Reuel), Moses' Midianite fatherinlaw – A “priest of Midian” who, after hearing of the exodus, rejoices, blesses Yahweh, confesses “Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods,” and offers sacrifice with Israel's elders, functioning as a paradigm of a righteous Gentile worshiper.
- Rahab of Jericho – A Canaanite who hears of Yahweh's mighty acts, confesses that “the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above and on earth beneath,” casts her lot with Israel, and is spared, later cited in Hebrews 11 as an example of faith.
- Ruth the Moabitess – Explicitly leaves her people and gods, pledging to Naomi “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”; she enters Israel's covenant life and even Messiah's genealogy as a model Gentile believer.
- Naaman the Syrian – After healing, he declares, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel,” resolves to offer sacrifice only to the Lord, and takes Israelite soil home as a sign of exclusive allegiance.
- The widow of Zarephath (Sidon) – A Gentile widow who obeys Elijah in faith during famine and, after her son is raised, confesses that Elijah is a man of God and that Yahweh's word is truth, showing real trust in Israel's God.

- The sailors in Jonah 1 – Initially pagan, they end up greatly fearing the Lord, offering sacrifice, and making vows to Yahweh after the storm ceases, a pattern of Gentile repentance and worship.
- The people of Nineveh (Assyrians) – From king to commoner they believe God, repent at Jonah’s preaching, and are spared, standing in Scripture as a corporate Gentile example of turning to Israel’s God.
- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon – After being humbled, he blesses, praises, and honors “the King of heaven,” confessing Yahweh’s eternal dominion and justice; Daniel 4 presents him as a Gentile king brought to acknowledge the true God.