

# WHAT ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF ISRAEL?



Outlines from November 2023 chair series by:  
Jason Hardin & Roger Shouse

# Israel in the Old Testament

A. The word "Israel" is used more than 2300 times in our Bibles.  
There are several words connected to the Jewish people:

## 1. Israel

- first used as the name of a PERSON (Gen 32:28). Israel means, "one who strives with God"
  - later it was used to describe a group of PEOPLE (Ex 4:22; Ps 41:13)
  - become associated with a PLACE (a country)
- (a) after the death of Solomon, the kingdom divided into Judah and Israel
- sometimes called the Southern (Judah) and Northern (Israel) tribes
  - the two nations often fought each other (1 Kg 15:6)
- (b) In 722 B.C. Israel (the northern tribes) was destroyed by the Assyrians
- many intermarried with other nations and in time became known as the Samaritans
  - the descendants of the Samaritans are modern Palestinians
- (c) Late in the O.T., the word "Israel" was used of Judah (Mal 1:1)

## 2. Jew

- first used in the Bible in 2 Kings 25:25
- Originally connected to Jacob's son, Judah
- became a word to describe the people of Israel

## 3. Hebrew

- more than a language and a book of the Bible, was a term to describe Israel
- Acts 6:1; Phil 3:5

## 4. Circumcision

- was a covenant sign for the people of Israel
- became a term to describe Israel (Titus 1:10-11; Phil 3:2)

The concentration of the current war is in the region called the "Gaza Strip"



## B. God made three promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4)

1. a great people or nation: fulfilled (Heb 11:12)
2. a great land: the promise land: fulfilled (Josh 21:43-45)
3. a great blessing to all nations: fulfilled in Christ (Gal 3:16)

## ***Israel in the New Testament***

The land that was promised to Israel was fulfilled in Joshua 21. It was also conditioned upon their faithfulness to God (Jer 11:1-13; 19:10-12). Israel was not faithful to God. Israel broke the covenant with God.

1. Through most of history, the land of Israel belonged to someone else (Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans). This is why the Jews had to get permission from Pilate to execute Jesus (Mt 27:2)
2. Israel became an independent nation in 1948.

A. When the Messiah came, three important things took place

### **1. Jesus introduced a worldwide faith**

The promise to Abraham was that all the families of the world would be blessed.

Not just Israel

- John 10:16 I have sheep which are not of this fold
- 1 John 2:2 Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world
- John 8:31-43 there is a shift from physical Israel to spiritual Israel
- Gal 3:26-29 those that belong to Christ are descendants of Abraham and heirs to the PROMISE

### **2. God prophesied a change in covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

- this is fulfilled in Hebrews 8:7-13
- the first covenant, a person was born into the family of God and then was taught the law
- in the new covenant, a person is taught the law first and is born-again in the family through baptism (John 3:3-5)

### **3. The word "Israel" became used for those who walk with Christ**

- 1 Pet 2:9 God's holy nation was not physical Israel, but those in Christ
- Rom 2:28-29 A Jew is no longer on the outside, but on the inside
- Rom 9:6-8 it is not ancestry that makes us the people of God
- Rom 9:25-26 those who were not God's people (Gentiles) are now God's people
- Rom 9:30-32 the Gentiles attained righteousness
- Gal 6:15 circumcision or uncircumcision no longer matter
- Gal 3:29 if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants

Physical Israel are not the people of God. Those that belong to Christ are God's people.

- Spiritual Israel are N.T. Christians who walk faithfully with the Lord

**Acts 2:38-39 "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."**

## ***Israel & God's Kingdom***

Prominent National preachers are saying that the war in Israel is a sign of the Lord's coming.

- David Jeremiah: *In 1967, the Mount of Olives returned to Israeli control, setting the stage for Christ's return and the final battle in Israel.*
- Greg Laurie: *You're seeing Bible prophecy fulfilled in your lifetime, in real time, before your very eyes.*
- Max Lucado: *The current war is a "signal of the coming end of this age."*

**These and others are basing their ideas from Apocalyptic prophecies such as:**

Ezekiel 38-48; Daniel 7-12  
Zechariah 14; Matthew 24; Revelation 20

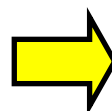
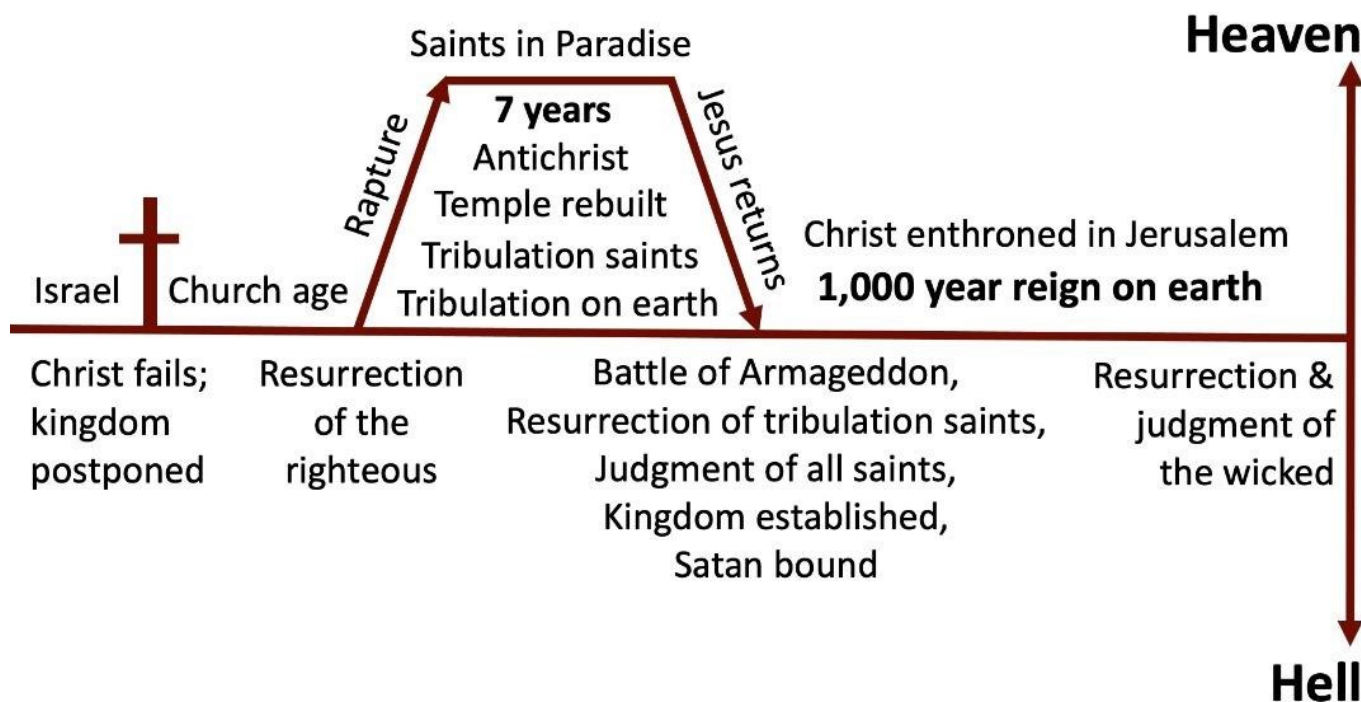
### **A. There are three major strands connected together**

1. Belief that apocalyptic prophecies are literal
2. Believe that Jesus is returning to the earth
3. Belief that Jesus will establish His kingdom in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years

### **B. This is part of a theory called PREMILLENNIALISM**

Pre: before

Millennial: 1,000



### **C. What has God said about His Kingdom**

1. Daniel 2:36-45

A time period is given: in the days of the fourth kingdom (Babylon is first (Dan 2:38; Medes/Persians are the second kingdom—Dan 5:31;

The Greeks are the third kingdom; Rome is the fourth kingdom—Luke 2:1-5)

Mt 3:2; 4:17

Mk 9:1, Col 1:13; Rev 1:9

The nature and enduring power of the kingdom is identified (Dan 2:44-45)

It is divine, "without hands"

John 18:36 (Acts 1:6-8; Matthew 16:18-19)

THE KINGDOM IS HERE. IT IS NOW (Mt 6:9-10; Heb 12:28-29)

The temple has been built—followers of Christ are that temple (1 Cor 3:16)

2. When Jesus comes it will be to deliver the kingdom, not establish it (1 Cor 15:23-24; 2 Pet 3:4, 10-13)

- Jesus completed all that He was to do (Jn 4:34; 17:4; 19:30)

(a) Will there be three resurrections as the Premillennial model indicates?

- John 5:28-29; 6:39-40, 44, 54

### **D. The nature of the book of Revelation is symbolic, immediate and to the seven churches (1:1-4)**

- 22:7,10,12

What is left for Israel?

Romans 11:22-23 (1:16)

- God's people today are those who are in Christ (Galatians 3:29)