Why Israel?

4414

Proclamation: Psalm 124

I. Facts About Israel
A. Israel is the name for the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
B. Israel or Israelite occurs more than 2,500 times in the Old Testament
C. In the New Testament 79 times—never once is it a description of the Church
D. The word Jew occurs 84 times in the Old Testament; 192 times in the New
E. The word Christian occurs only 3 times in the New Testament

II. Uniqueness Of Israel
A. David says it is the only nation called out by God for redemption (1 Chron. 17:21)
B. A kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex. 19:6)
C. Distinctive features that apply only to Israel (Rom. 9:4–5)
   1. God adopted them as a nation
   2. The glory = the manifest supernatural presence of God
   3. The covenants were all made with Israel
   4. The giving of the Law
   5. The priestly service of God
   6. The promises
   7. All the patriarchs are from that stock
   8. Messiah came from it
D. Lion of the tribe of Judah = Jesus—Eternally identified with the Jews (Rev. 5:5)
E. Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)
F. Their whole history is foretold in prophecy
   1. Enslavement in Egypt
   2. Their deliverance with wealth from Egypt
   3. Their possession of the land of Canaan
   4. That they would turn to idolatry in the Promised Land
   5. That God would establish a center of worship in Jerusalem
   6. Northern kingdom would be taken into captivity in Assyria
   7. Southern kingdom would be taken into captivity in Babylon
   8. Destruction of the first temple (built by Solomon)
   9. Return of a remnant from Babylon
   10. Destruction of the second temple (from time of Jesus)
   11. They would be scattered amongst the Gentile nations
   12. Endure persecution and oppression among the Gentiles
   13. Re-gathered from all nations
G. Three still unfulfilled
   1. The gathering of all nations against Jerusalem in war
   2. The supernatural revelation of Messiah to His people
   3. The coming of Messiah in glory and power

III. God’s Plan For The Land Of Israel
A. Biblically, the land of Canaan; New Testament, the land of Israel
B. God’s covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:7–8)
1. Everlasting covenant
2. Abraham and his descendants

C. God’s plan for the land
   1. Total, authoritative commitment: covenant, word, command, oath, statute, everlasting covenant—giving of the land of Canaan as an inheritance (Ps. 105:7–10)
   2. Israel shall possess the land—through tremendous terror and opposition (Jer. 30:3)
   3. Not for the sake of Israel, but because of the glory of His name (Ezek. 36:16–28)
   4. “I will” 18 times in 6 verses

IV. Prophecies Currently Being Fulfilled
   A. A second re-gathering of His people (Is. 11:11–12)
      1. Worldwide ingathering
      2. A banner for the nations: “God keeps His covenants”
   B. Nations judged for partitioning the land (Joel 3:1–2)

V. What Is The Real Issue Behind It All?
   A. Re-establishment of Jewish people in Israel and Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37–39)
   B. Supernatural revelation of Jesus (Zech. 12:10)
   C. End of Satan as “god” of this age

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