

WEEK 2 – Israel continued...

B. The Land (*known as Israel or the Middle East*)

1. Basic facts concerning the land:

- It is the land that God promised to give to **ABRAHAM** - Genesis 12:1-7; 15:18
- It's original borders - Genesis 15:18-21 - See Map #1
 - From the Nile river to the Euphrates river: 300,000 square miles known as the "Fertile Crescent"
- It's borders in modern times -
 - 1918 - See map #3
 - 1923 - See map #4
 - 1948 - See map #5&6 (A new Jewish State)
 - 1967 - See map #7 (The 6 day war)
 - 2011 - See map #8

KEY POINT: They do **NOT** possess the land God gave them but the promise is still unconditional!

- It's demographic breakdown – (Approximately)
 - Total Population: 7.7 million
Jews: **5.8 million**
Arabs: (mostly) 1.6 million
 - By Age (Jews and Arabs)
0-14 yrs.: 28%
15-64 yrs.: 62.1%
65+ yrs.: 9.9%
 - By Religion
Jewish: 76% (many are Atheists)
Muslim: **16%**
Christian: **2%**
Druze: 2%
Other: 4%
- It's capital city - JERUSALEM
 - Jerusalem means: City of **PEACE** or Teaching of Peace
- Also referred to as: **ZION** or Sion

- It is called: The **CITY** of our **GOD** - Psalm 48:1, 8
The City of the **GREAT KING** - Psalm 48:2
- We are told to **PRAY** for the peace of Jerusalem –

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.*

Psalm 122:1-9

2. The historical significance of the land

- It's beginning
 - Where? Genesis 15:18 ...
 - What was there prior to Genesis 15:18 ... in the beginning?
Genesis 2:8-14; 13:10; 2 Kings 19:12; Is. 51:3; Amos 1:5 - See Map #2
 - It was known as **EDEN!** (Lam 2:1-5; Ez 36:35; Joel 2:1-3)
- The original **KING** in this land -
 - Ezekiel 28:11-15; Isaiah 14:1-14
 - Long before Adam was created and placed in the Garden of Eden, Lucifer, which means "Light-bearer", (and now known as the Devil or Satan) was the king over this land!

*As a result of the iniquity found in him ... he **LOSES** his dominion (throne) in the land.*
- The new king to replace Lucifer -
 - The new king's name is Adam. He is given **DOMINION** over everything on earth. His capital is Eden - Genesis 1:27-28; 2:19-20
 - God has a plan for Adam - Genesis 1:28
 - The Devil came to **COUNTER** God's plan - Genesis 3:1-6

- This is the same piece of ground God gave to Abraham, the “FATHER” of the Nation of Israel - Genesis 15:18-21
- This is the SAME piece of real estate that will belong to the Nation of Israel during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ (which will last 1000 years; called the millennial reign) - Ps. 89:25; 2 Samuel 8:3; 1 Kings 4:20-25; Ezekiel 44-48
- This is the very same property known today as the **MIDDLE EAST** or the Fertile Crescent!

C. God’s Plan for the Land

1. It is where all history BEGINS...where God’s plan for the earth starts...and when the Jewish Messiah (Jesus) returns this is where all history will END - See Genesis 2 - Revelation 20!
2. God’s plan, from the very beginning, was to have a people He could call His very own...a people that would love Him ... a people with whom He could spend eternity. As we discussed last week, the Jews are those special people. Their job was to invite ALL the peoples and nations of the earth to join them. However, they failed initially...

God ultimately desires the whole universe to be filled with people who love and follow Him...a universe in which He will rule and reign in righteousness, a universe with it’s capital on the earth, located in the Land of Israel, in Jerusalem with Jesus (God in human flesh) as the King!

Satan’s plan, from the very beginning of human history (in the Garden of Eden), is to usurp God’s plan...

CONCLUSION

- Do you believe “what the Bible says” or do you believe what you personally think and feel?
- If you are WISE and believe that the Bible is true, then you also must accept the biblical fact that God has a special plan for your life, a plan that includes you in His overall purposes for the earth and the universe!
- Do you know what that plan is?
- Do you know how to find out what it is?
- For many of you, God intends for that plan to begin today...

1



2 The Ancient Fertile Crescent



The Middle East: “The Cradle of Civilization”

THE FERTILE CRESCENT... WHERE IS IT?





Area Allocated for Jewish National Home
San Remo Conference, 1920



Great Britain's Division of the Mandated Area,
1921-1923



Armistice Lines, 1949



Israel before June 1967



Cease-Fire Lines After the Six-Day War

