

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## *War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 2*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** In this series we explore the biblical theology behind the attack by Hamas upon Israel and answer the question of why it matters. Why is Israel so important in the flow of human events? How should we view Israel? Why do so many in the Church seem to dismiss the nation of Israel? Should we? All of this is driven by certain theological convictions of which most are unaware of. In this sermon we see the sovereign choice of God to make Israel a unique nation and the promises attached to His choosing to not only create Israel but to bless her.

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. We are now ready to learn about Israel and her place in history.
- B. If we want to have a good understanding of the importance of Israel you must go to the beginning.
  - 1. How did Israel come into being?
  - 2. What are the promises of God toward Israel?
  - 3. To whom does the term “Israel” refer?
  - 4. What happens to those Israelites who die in sin?
  - 5. Is there a future for the nation? Or is it only limited to individual Jews/Israelites?
  - 6. Does the idea of Israel, the Church and the People of God all mean the same thing in some way?
- C. To do this means we need to first think about how to interpret the scripture.
- D. Today we will consider two key pieces of information in relation to Israel.
  - 1. The first is how the method of interpretation we will use here at Missio Dei Fellowship. This will be done in a positive way rather than showing all the other methods that people have used to interpret the bible.
  - 2. The second will be to see why the nation of Israel is not to be ignored, replaced, or superceded. Israel is not merely from where Jesus Christ came, but the nation is part of how God reveals Himself and His work and purposes.

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3. So to get Israel wrong means you also get wrong how God is working in this sinful age and where history is going.

## **II. How to Interpret the Bible.**

A. First rule: Progressive revelation.

B. Second, the author's intention alone determines the meaning.

C. Third, treat the biblical text literally.

D. Fourth, there is a single meaning to a text.

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E. Fifth, understand the historical context.

F. Sixth, understand grammar.

G. If you take these simple principles to heart you will do well. Mistakes will still be made but the number of them will decrease significantly.

1. Picture them as guardrails against two common ditches people fall into while interpreting the bible.
2. On one side is the ditch of letterism where no room is made for the natural way language works with word pictures, similes and figures of speech.
3. On the other side is some level of finding a deeper, spiritual meaning that is not evident from the text itself.

H. Now, we can turn our attention to how God has always intended to use Israel in His saving work of sinners.

### **III. The Key Role of Israel in The Plan of God.**

A. The relationship of Israel with salvation.

1. In Romans 1 and 2 Paul repeats the key point that the gospel is to the Jew first and then to the Gentile.

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2. Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman (essentially a half-breed) about her false worship. (John 4:22).

3. Matthew 15:22.

4. Matthew 10:5-6.

B. Salvation is always all of God and not humanity.

1. We are recipients of God's saving mercy. How? Through Jesus. He is the substitute sacrifice that perfectly pays the price. He is the only mediator between us and the Godhead. He is even our Judge who declares us to be righteous in Him.

2. But God uses **means** to save people from enslavement to sin. And this is often missed by us.

a. God uses the preaching/teaching of the gospel to save people. That means He uses you and me. You can pray forever for God to save someone but that will not happen unless you tell the person about how they can be right with God.

b. Well, God also uses Israel in this whole work of salvation. This is often missed.

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- (1) He chose the nation not because of what they were but because of His purposes and faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).
  - (2) The first time we see God speak of a worldwide work to call people to Himself is through Abraham, “*And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed*” (Genesis 12:2-3).
  - (3) In Exodus 9 “*for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth*” (Exodus 9:16).
  - (4) And Romans 11:25 tells us that even the rejection of Israel to receive Jesus Christ as their king and savior is part of the saving work of God.
3. Even in the Jesus’ kingdom we see that His saving work is centered in Israel.
- a. Zech 14:16-19.
  - b. This promise is one of many about the role of Israel with the rule of Jesus over the earth. This is not eternity, for sin and rebellion shall be cast away forever. But worship is centered not in the hearts of the people in some private sense, but it will be a yearly event going to Jerusalem.

## **IV. Conclusion.**

- A. Israel is not some step-daughter with whom we have to play nice.
- B. Israel has a unique place within the plan of God and it is very foolish to disregard them by simply saying that Jesus is the real, true Israel and the nation is of little importance.
- C. Next week I want to show you why this is so and why we should seek to be a blessing to the nation of Israel while not turning a blind eye to evil. Then we will go back to our study in the book of Acts.

## **Benediction**

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**May the Lord remind you all of the richness of His grace and the manifold blessings that belong to you in Christ Jesus our Lord. May you walk in His promises and by the power of the Holy Spirit as you engage this fallen age for God's glory. Amen**