

Significance of Israel

Part 2

Genesis 12 NKJV

2

I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.

3

I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Deuteronomy 7

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. **8** But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery...

God Uniquely Called Israel:

1. To provide the Lineage of the Messiah

Jesus is born of the tribe of Judah and in Matthew 1 we see the lineage of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph.

2. To be a Model Nation and Light to the World

Israel was intended to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6)

3. To Preserve God's Word (Romans 3:1,2)

4. God has called Israel to be a blessing. (Genesis 12)

2 Kings 5 - Naaman received healing when he came to the Jewish Prophet Elisha.

1 Kings 17 - The Widow at Zeraphath received provision for her and her son when she blessed the Jewish Prophet Elijah.

Matthew 8 - The Centurion's servant was healed when he came to the Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

A key to receiving a blessing from God, is first recognizing and bless what God has already blessed. A prophet, a righteous person, a disciple of Jesus and Israel. This is Honors Reward when we Honor what God has established.

Matthew 10

40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41** Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. **42** And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

If you want to know one of the ways Israel is still a blessing today, plan a trip to Israel:

1. Drive down the ancient roads that Jesus and his disciples walk down...
2. Go out on a boat on the Sea of Galilee and sing songs of worship to God where Jesus calmed the storm and walked on water...



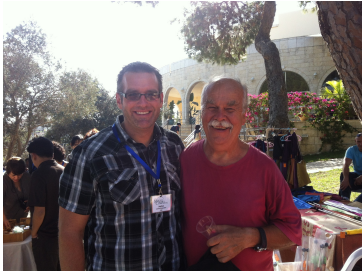
3. Go to the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the man who was lame for 38 years.
4. Go to the Jordan River where John Baptized Jesus



5. Walk the streets of Jerusalem and see the city Jesus said.
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings...
6. Meet some of the Israeli’s who in many cases represent our lost brothers and sisters. We desperately pray for the veil to be removed from their eyes that they would see Jesus as Messiah.



7. Meet Jewish believers in Jesus like Caleb, Israeli Jay and Andre.



8. Go to the region of the Gerasenes where Jesus stepped foot on the shore and the Gadarene demoniac ran and fell at the feet of Jesus.

9. Go to The Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed before he was crucified and the Mount of Olives where the feet of Jesus will land when he returns.

10. Go to The tomb site where Joseph of Arimathea placed Jesus' dead body and see the place where they laid him.

11. Go to The Upper Room in Jerusalem where 120 gathered and experienced the Promise of the Father, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with wind and fire.



Friends its all still there and when you see it, it will set your soul on fire and you will understand why Israel is still a blessing today.

Does this mean that all Israel and the Jewish people are automatically saved and right with God?

- No
- The Jewish people are just as lost without Jesus as the rest of mankind. They must repent and come to faith in Jesus or they will also face judgement and eternal separation from God.

In Romans 11 the Apostle Paul explains a lot of the spiritual mystery surrounding Israel.

Romans 11

1 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: **3** “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? **4** And what was God's answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” **5** So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

- How many Jews today believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Jews for Jesus claim that globally there is somewhere between 350,000 to over 1 million.
- Many Jewish people believe that if a Jewish person accepts Jesus as Messiah they are no longer Jewish. They connect their religious identity (Judaism) to their ethnic Jewish identity. If they accept Jesus as Messiah they suffer ridicule and rejection from the Jewish community and family.

Matthew 10:37 NIV

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

- These words ring true for anyone who faces losing their family at the cost of following Jesus.

Paul explains the lost condition of his own people, the Jews, and God's ultimate plan because of it.

Romans 11

7 What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened,
— — —

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. **12** But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry **14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. **15** For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

- This “life from the dead” is what was shown to Ezekiel with the Valley of Dry Bones.

Ezekiel 37 NIV

11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ **12** Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13** Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. **14** I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

Vs. 16-24

16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, **18** do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. **19** You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” **20** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. **23** And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **24** After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, **26** and in this way all Israel will be saved...

- Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles humbles the attitude and perspective of the Gentile Church by saying. **Vs. 18** do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.
- And then **Vs. 20** "...they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.
- This thing of adoption spoken of in scripture and being grafted into the Christ the Olive Tree is a humbling thing and demonstrates God's loving, compassionate heart towards mankind.
- God wants a family and because his own people Israel rejected him as it says in John 1:11 "He came to that which was his own, but his own receive him not." Now the grace of God has also been extended to us and God intends that we play an important role in his family and also in the eventual salvation of Israel.

"When an old olive tree had lost its vigor, it seems that one remedy in antiquity was to cut away the failing branches and graft in some wild olive shoots. The result was said to be the invigoration of the failing tree." **(Morris)**

Vs. 28,29

28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, **29** for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

- We have heard Romans 11:29 recited many times, but how many times have you heard it's original intent towards Israel. The Gifts and calling of God is irrevocable for Israel who originally rejected their Messiah. But God is faithful and promises that he has not given up on Israel. In Revelation 7 that 144,000 will be sealed. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Matthew 23 NIV

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **38** Look, your house is left to you desolate. **39** For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

- Aren't you glad God hasn't given up on Israel?
- I'm so thankful that he hasn't given up on any of us...

Closing: