

Revelation 12:1-6

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Now think with me: Who is this woman? It's Israel. Pastor Dale went over this a few weeks ago. Who is the dragon? Satan. Who is the male child? Jesus. **And for centuries Satan has been seeking to destroy Israel and the people of God.**

It's been said: “The people of God have been called ‘God’s timepiece of the ages.’” As we watch and hear the news from the Middle East, we listen with a close ear, because as Israel goes, so goes the world. I want you to see how small Israel is compared to the world.



Why is such a small nation with a total landmass smaller than the state of New Jersey mentioned in the nightly news more than any other nation except the United States? I want to show you why. I want to show you the special place of Israel in God’s economy.

The world and many people don’t understand the significance of Israel! Rabbi Binyamin Elon, a member of the Israeli Knesset (their parliament or Congress) once said:

“I believe that if you do not know how to read the Bible, you cannot understand the daily newspaper. If you do not know the biblical story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you cannot possibly understand the miracle of the modern state of Israel.” Rabbi, Binyamin Elon

Genesis 12:1-3

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

The Jews are God’s chosen people and nations are blessed because of them. Why? Think about it. Without the nation of Israel and the Jews there would be no Ten Commandments or the Law...in essence...no Old Testament. After all, it was through the Jewish patriarchs, the prophets, and the temple that God brought forth His Word, the Law, and morality to a world cursed by sin. Without the Jews, there would have been no Jesus. After all, He was sent forth to the world born in a

Jewish body to a Jewish peasant couple, Mary and Joseph). Without Jesus, there would be no Christianity or salvation.

Did you know that the Jews constitute only about 0.2% of the human race? About 6.5 million Jews live in Israel and another 5.7 million live in the United States and another 5+ million live scattered throughout the world. About 17.1 million worldwide. Yet, from these people we are blessed beyond measure.

Deuteronomy 7:6-7

⁶“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

It was God’s choice to choose Abraham and his descendants through which He would bring His Son into the world. They didn’t choose God...He chose them. Do you know what’s wonderful? It’s through Jesus that we have the privilege of being a part of God’s family. We are not Jews, but we have been adopted into His family through our faith in Christ and our trust in Him.

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

So the world hates Israel and the world hates us! Truly, the world has hated the Jews since the days of Abraham. So, why is this? Why does the world hate the nation of Israel and the Jewish people? Well, the truth is: the world hates the Jews because the world hates God. Satan has poisoned the minds of mankind with his hatred of the Jews from the days of Abraham till now. Revelation 12 is depiction of Satan’s (the dragon’s) hatred of the Jewish nation (the woman).

Satan has tried to wipe out the Jews through the Babylonians, the Persians, the Assyrians, the Egyptians, the Hittites, and the Nazis. But he’s failed every time. God will preserve the Jews for the future, just as He has preserved their remnant throughout history, until His final plan comes to pass. Jesus will rule and reign on the throne of David and nothing can thwart God’s plan for this to take place in Jerusalem.

We, as Christian believers, should give support to the chosen people of God. This is not to say that we support necessarily the methods they use in their relationships with the Arab nations. The Bible warns that conflict will always characterize the relations between the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael. Sadly, this conflict will continue until Jesus comes back to judge the nations and He sets up His 1,000-year reign of peace on earth. Therefore, we must look at the "big picture" with a biblical worldview. While we do not have to support everything Israel does as a nation, we most definitely should support Israel’s right to exist. God will fulfill His promises and covenants with Israel. God still has a plan for Israel. Woe to anyone who seeks to defeat that plan; “whoever curses you I will curse” Genesis 12:3.

So what about America? Do we support Israel? Well, currently we do. As you may remember, the US, at the hands of President Trump, made the announcement last December that we would move our US Embassy to Jerusalem. Oh my!!! What a disaster the world said this would be. Remember:



Here's some quotes from that NBC article back in December: "U.S. allies and foes alike expressed dismay Wednesday over President Donald Trump's expected move to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, with some warning it could potentially trigger violence. The decision will 'provoke Muslims and Christians alike,' Jordan's King Abdullah predicted.

Yet, Jerusalem is already home to Israel's Parliament, Supreme Court and other government sites. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas warned Trump in a phone call of "dangerous consequences" for peace efforts and regional stability if the embassy is moved. Hamas also declared three "days of national anger" and called for protest rallies and sit-ins outside U.S. embassies and consulates in the region.

Pope Francis expressed "profound concern" at Trump's move and said that he prayed "wisdom and caution will prevail so as to avoid adding new elements of tension in a world...already convoluted and marred by many cruel conflicts." However, Israel's justice minister, Ayelet Shaked, urged Trump to not be intimidated by Arab threats of violence. "I wouldn't be worried about this event or any other."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted a short video on Facebook welcoming recognition of his country's "historical and national identity." Well, the President made good on the promise and the new embassy opened on May 14, 2018, exactly 70 years from the establishment of Israel as a nation. Here's a picture of that.



Israel loves President Trump



and Netanyahu and Trump really like each other.



Thankfully, our relationship with Israel is very good. But it hasn't always been this way. Under President Obama there was a frosty relationship at best.



According to Israeli newspapers Netanyahu never trusted Obama and didn't consider him to be a friend to Israel. Netanyahu said that Obama was always wanting them to give up more land and noted how Obama and his administration supported the UN's stance (who is no friend to Israel) in pushing for Israel to give up more land.

But, did you know the land promised to Abraham takes in much more area than what the present nation of Israel occupies? Take a look at this map.



Genesis 15:18 tells us that it stretches all the way from the Med. Sea on the west into eastern Egypt (to the Nile River), which includes the Sinai Peninsula all the way to the Euphrates River on the east (that's all the way into Iraq). The prophet Ezekiel fixes the northern boundary of Palestine into Syria about 100 miles north of Damascus.

Have you ever wondered how the nation of Israel as arrived to where it is today? This is fascinating. The single most influential event that triggered the ability for the Jews to become a nation came about because of a brilliant chemist named Chaim (Kie-Am) Weizmann.



Weizmann was a Russian Jew who immigrated to England in 1904. Here's where it gets interesting. During WWI, English armies used gunpowder made of cordite, which produced little smoke and wouldn't blind the gunners or reveal their positions. The problem was they were running out of cordite and the compound used to make it came from their enemy, Germany.

Weizmann came to the rescue. He developed a chemical process that made the compound that ultimately led to an Allied victory. By the end of the war, as an act of a grateful nation, the government of England issued the "Balfour Declaration of 1917."

The Balfour Declaration
laid the foundation for the formation of the state of Israel

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in replying to you, in behalf of His Majesty's government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been authorized by, and approved by, the Cabinet:

His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the attention of the Zionist Federation.

Arthur Balfour

The Balfour Declaration
laid the foundation for the formation of the state of Israel

@the_newarab TheNewArab @balfour

England granted the establishment in Palestine (modern day Israel) a national home for the Jewish people. This ultimately set the stage for what took place 31 years later on May 14, 1948, when Israel was recognized by the world as a modern-day nation. You see on May 14, 1948 the world changed. On that afternoon, Jewish leader David Ben-Gurion, stepped to the podium at the Tel Aviv Art Museum...



He said these historic words:

“This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State. Accordingly, we...are here assembled...and by virtue of our natural and historic right, and on the strength of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby declare the establishment of the Jewish State in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.” *David Ben Gurion, May 14, 1948*

Six thousand miles away, President Harry Truman sat in the Oval Office, reading a forty-word statement that would be released to the press.



He penciled in a few words, then signed his approval and noted the time. It was 6:10 pm. One minute later, the White House press secretary read the release to the world. The United States had officially recognized the birth of the modern nation of Israel.

Isaiah’s prophecy, written 750 years before the birth of Jesus, declared: “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?” (Isaiah 66:8) Secular Israel was born 70-years ago. And let me tell you something...the world didn’t like it. Here’s the front page of the...



New York Times and what they reported. The next day there were bombings and Egypt threatened to invade. Yes, even after 7 decades this tiny nation with a total population of slightly more than 8.5 million is the geopolitical epicenter of the world. And did you know there will be a future war called the battle of Gog-Magog. Here are the players as described in Ezekiel 38-39. See the map:



Here's a listing of the nations:

1. Magog = Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan (and possibly Afghanistan), most likely part of a Russian confederation
2. Rosh = Russia
3. Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, Beth-togarmah = Turkey (and possibly Azerbaijan and Armenia)
4. Persia = Iran
5. Ethiopia = Sudan
6. Put = Libya (and possibly Algeria, Tunisia)

Now let me go on the record and say I am not dogmatic about when this war will take place. But, I believe it will likely be at the beginning of the Tribulation, right after the Rapture, which gives Israel seven months to bury the dead invaders and the full seven years to burn the weapons used against them. This is how I see it playing out:

1. The Rapture of the Church
2. Israel is at peace because of the Antichrist and his peace agreement with them
3. Israel spends the seven years of the Tribulation burning the weapons

4. Jesus returns at the end of the seven years to defeat His enemies at Armageddon resulting in Israel acknowledging that Jesus is God's Son

Yes, God's eternal purpose is to bless the world through Israel and Israel will survive! It's all part of God's plan and God has blessed the world beyond measure. Why? Because John 4:22 say: "salvation is from the Jews." Jesus came from the Jacob, Israel. And no matter what Satan tries to do, he can't stop the plan of God that He has for Israel. The prophecy of Isaiah 27:6 will come true:

Isaiah 27:6

In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

Jesus came from Israel. They are not perfect...but, they are God's chosen people and we should support them and the Scripture teaches us to pray for the peace of Israel. And one day, Jesus is coming back and will rule and reign from Jerusalem, just as the Scriptures teach...and that's where we're headed in the book of the Revealing (Revelation) of Jesus Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! (I pray you know Him...He is our only hope!)

But Satan will continue to try to stop Him and we'll see that next week, "War In Heaven!"