

# Israel & The End Times

## *Part 2: Is Israel Cast Out?*

(preached 10/29/23)

Please turn to *Matthew 21:33*.

### Sermon #1: A Chosen Nation & People

- After Noah's Flood, God divided the world into 70 nations and kept the land of Israel for Himself.
- He assigned 70 angelic princes to rule over the other nations, and God ruled over Israel.
- The 70 angels rebelled, demanding worship for themselves, and the Lord pronounced an end times judgment that will fall upon all of them—the Lake of Fire.
- The Lord called Abraham, Isaac & Jacob to birth His people—the Hebrews—and live in the Promised Land.
- Jacob was renamed Israel and had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel who exist to this day.
- All nations and people outside of Israel were called “Gentiles” or “pagan” and said people were also referred to as “unbelievers,” “sinners,” and “uncircumcised.” Even Jesus and the Apostles—all of whom were Jewish—used these labels.
- The Lord called His people to be separate or “sanctified” from these other nations and their gods—to worship only Him and follow only His commands.
- God's OC plan was for the Hebrew people to stay in their own land, defend it, and obey and worship the Lord.
- The other “gods” and nations hated the LORD and His people Israel back then AND now.
- They desire 2 things: 1) to destroy ANYONE God calls His and 2) to TAKE anything God has given to those He calls His.
- Therefore the millennia long persecution of the Jewish people and fighting over the land of Israel is a direct result of an ancient war between God and Satan.
- The other “gods” rule the nations in the ancient world AND now and won't be dethroned until Revelation 12.
- Everything taking place in modern Israel is the result of the ongoing ancient war.

In last week's Biblical history lesson, we're now caught up to the time of Jesus and the Apostles. Please remember we're *trying to understand who and what Israel is*, and what their role is in the end times.

Also remember **the pattern of ancient Israel**: God gathers them to His land and blesses them. Tells them to obey and worship Him. They do for awhile and then start to fall away, looking to the pagan nations and gods to fulfill them. God sends a prophet to warn them, warn them of judgment and call them to repentance. They don't listen. God then allows the

Gentile nations to invade and dispossess them, enslaving many. They finally repent and cry out to God and He frees them, bring them back into their own land...then the whole cycle starts over again.

***It would do so for the last time in the day of our Lord Jesus.*** He sums it up in this parable:

**[Mat 21:33-45 ESV]** 33 "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. 34 When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. 35 And the tenants took his servants and **beat one, killed another, and stoned another.** 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And **they did the same to them.** 37 Finally **he sent his son** to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' 39 **And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.** 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and **let [rent] out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.**" 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" 43 Therefore I tell you, **the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.** 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

Our question for today is this: **has Israel been cast out by God forever** [due to their rejection of Jesus as their Messiah]?

### **AND has the Church replaced Israel?**

- If yes to both, then the modern state of Israel is false and has no prophetic destiny.
- If no to both, then the modern state of Israel is a fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy and has a future end times prophetic role to play.

Let's go through *Matthew 21*:

- The Master/Owner of the Vineyard is God the Father.
- The Vineyard to be tended and produce fruit is God's Kingdom.
- The Tenants are the people Israel, tasked with tending the Kingdom and producing fruit.
- The servants God sends are the OT prophets sent to warn and call for repentance.
- The Son Who is finally sent is Jesus of Nazareth.
- The "other tenants" of verse 41 are the Church.

It seems pretty final, doesn't it? Yet let me reread verse 45:

45 When the **chief priests** and the **Pharisees** heard his parables, **they perceived that he was speaking about them.**

The **chief priests** are those who minister in the Temple, and the Pharisees were the dominant sect of religious leaders of that day. Jesus previously accused them of BLOCKING the way to God's Kingdom.

**MANY OF THE COMMON PEOPLE LOVED JESUS AND RECEIVED HIM AS THEIR SAVIOR AND MESSIAH.**

**The “builders”** Jesus refers are the priest class, just as it was in the days of the construction of Solomon's Temple AND that of Ezra (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple). The Priests were the ones who laid the foundation stones of both temples. The Priests were the one who were supposed to be the keepers of God's word and plan, a bridge between the Lord and His people. Especially the ones who went into the inner sanctum of the Temples where the people couldn't go.

With the exception of a few like Nicodemus, **the vast majority of these guys rejected Jesus** and demanded/taught the people to do the same. They blasphemed Him, said He came from the devil, was a false prophet, and a deceiver...and they ***still do to this day***. Modern Israeli's who convert to Christ talk about being blocked by the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi's from seeing or hearing anything about Jesus. In some of their Bibles, Isaiah 53 is not taught and even removed because the parallels to Jesus fulfilling the role of Messiah are undeniable.

The Priesthood were the keepers of Israel, both the nation and the people. **The result of their rejection of Jesus was tragic and terrible.** While some of the common Jewish people did believe in Jesus, the Pharisees and Chief Priests were able to keep the blinders over many. Jesus wept as He entered into Jerusalem for His final time over this:

**[Mat 23:37-38 ESV]** 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!** How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and **you were not willing!** 38 See, **your house is left to you desolate.**"

**DESOLATE MEANS EMPTY**...empty of God. God was said to dwell in the Temple in Jerusalem, in the Holy of Holies. But Jesus wasn't there, and Jesus was and is God. God was walking among His people, preaching and healing, telling them the Truth and revealing that He WAS the Truth.

**Jesus was fulfilling ancient Scriptural prophecies** that spoke of God's loving desire to walk among His people and not be far away in Heaven. His desire was to gather them together and reveal His glory! But they weren't willing. So now God would depart from them.

We already know **the Judgment Day pattern** that's existed from the beginning: when Israel falls away, God allows the Gentile nations to invade, destroy, and steal. 40 years after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the **Romans** surrounded Jerusalem and then attacked. After a horrible battle in which hundreds of thousands on both sides were killed, Rome won.

The following is a direct quote from 1<sup>st</sup> century historian **Flavius Josephus**, who was there and attempted to intercede and unsuccessfully call for a truce between the Romans and Jews. Here's is his eyewitness testimony of Rome's final victory and destruction of the Temple:

These Romans put the Jews to flight, and proceeded as far as the holy house itself. At which time one of the soldiers, without staying for any orders, and without any concern or dread upon him at so great an undertaking, and being hurried on by a certain divine fury, snatched some what out of the materials that were on fire, and being lifted up by another soldier, he set fire to a golden window, through which there wion, passage to the rooms that were round about the holy house, on the north side of it. As the flames went upward, the Jews made a great clamor, such as so mighty an affliction required, and ran together to prevent it; and now they spared not their lives any longer, nor suffered anything to restrain their force, since that holy house was perishing...thus it was the holy house burnt down...Nor can one imagine any thing greater or more terrible than this noise; for there was at once a shout of the Roman Legions, who were marching all together, and a sad clamor of the seditious, who were now surrounded with fire and sword... the people under a great consternation, made sad moans at the calamity they were under...Yet was the misery itself more terrible than the disorder; for one would have thought that the hill itself, on which the Temple stood, was seething hot, as full of fire on every part of it.

In His first coming, **JESUS PROPHESED ALL OF THIS**. He knew His own nation would reject Him. He knew it would bring upon them yet another "Judgment Day" event as had happened so often in their past. He wept over this even as He carried His own Cross, even though He'd been severely beaten and was bleeding.

**This Judgment Day event was worse than any in Israel's history**. Even after the Babylonian invasion, they were restored and back in their land in 70 years and had both the temple and city of Jerusalem rebuilt a few decades later.

*After the Roman invasion their Temple was destroyed* and it's never been rebuilt. For a few decades, the Jews remained in the land of Israel but another **terrible prophecy** spoken by Jesus would be fulfilled:

**[Jhn 5:43 ESV]** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. **If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.**

The “name” He’s referring to isn’t Jesus, but MESSIAH—CHRIST. Sure enough, a war leader named **Simon bar Kochba** appeared in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the same religious leaders who rejected Jesus and called Him a fake, received bar Kochba as their Messiah. Bar Kochba gathered a massive army and took on Rome...and was defeated and executed in 134 BC.

After this horrible defeat, **ROMAN EMPEROR HADRIAN WAS VERY, VERY ANGRY**. Not only did he command his soldiers to exile all the Jews from the land and carry as many away as slaves back to Italy. Former Roman emperors had allowed the Jews to keep practicing their own faith, but Hadrian issued an executive order for all to worship the Roman gods or be executed.

**Hadrian wasn’t done.** Remember what you’ve learned: this is an ancient war that’s dated back to when Abraham cast Hagar and Ishmael out of his camp. It’s a war between God our Father and the fallen angelic gods of the nations. Rome worshipped those gods and said gods were exuberant to see God’s people fall and even happier to occupy the land God gave them and call it their own.

**Hadrian decided to wipe all references to Israel off the map.** He knew that the ancient enemy of the Jewish people were the Philistines, of which Goliath the giant was one. He renamed the entire land “Palestine” which is a translation of “Philistine.”

Interesting Biblical fact: the Philistines constantly attacked Israel, both open war and terroristic style attacks. Do you know where they lived and attacked from? **Gaza**. That was their land.

**Hadrian then salted the land** so that nothing would ever grow there again. Truly Jesus prophecy that it would be “left desolate” came true in more ways than one.

**The Jewish people were dispossessed** of their ancient homeland and scattered into the unbelieving nations. They were Israel no more, but Hebrews...strangers in a strange land. Exiles. Homeless.

***They were the original keepers of God’s word and covenant.***

- They were the first to be “the shining city on the hill” for the dark gentile nations to look to if any desired to worship the one, true God.
- They introduced the entire world to the One True God and, as Paul says, “Salvation is of the Jews.”
- They were the older brother, the firstborn of God the Father among humanity.

**DESPITE THIS HORRIBLY TRAGEDY, GOD WASN'T DONE.** He knew all this would happen, and nothing took Him by surprise. His grand plan for redemption wasn't finished.

**I can only surmise that Satan rejoiced** and to this day does not yet understand everything “he” thought he accomplished. There's a strange verse of Scripture that us modern westerners have a tough time with that speaks to this:

**[1Co 2:8 KJV]** Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Please pay special attention: **“the princes of this world” are the angelic rulers** we've been talking about...not human. [Even were we to try and blame the religious authorities of putting Jesus to death, they're never once referred to as “princes” or “rulers.” No human politicians are ever mentioned as crucifying Jesus either.]

In other words, *Satan thought it was their plan to kill Jesus*, have the Jews cast out of their land, and for his people to come and possess it. When that happened, he probably thought he had won!

**Except Jesus totally changed the paradigm with the New Covenant.**

*Under the OC*, God GATHERS His chosen people and places them in the land known as Israel. His people live there, defend their borders, and worship the Lord. They're separate—sanctified—keeping to themselves.

With the Ascension of Messiah Jesus, however, **GOD SCATTERS HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE—BOTH THE JEWS AND THE CHRISTIANS.** The Jews were scattered in exile but the Christians—who were mostly Jews back then—scatter to the Gentile nations to SHARE the good news of Christ Jesus.

**[Mat 28:19-20 ESV]** 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**[Mat 24:14 ESV]** 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**[Mar 16:15 ESV]** 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

*For the first time in the history of God's people, the commission changed from "stay put and keep to yourselves" to "spread out and share."*

God changed the paradigm **from defense to conquest**...SPIRITUAL conquest.

As the Apostles went forth from Jerusalem to the known world, I wonder if **Satan began to understand that he'd made a terrible mistake.** That his "victory" was false, and was actually a win for Jesus.

Here's why: up until that moment, which was at least 4 millennia, **he'd been able to keep God and his people relegated one little sliver of land** on the entire planet. *He and his angelic rulers controlled the rest of the planet and all its people.*

Yet as the Apostles and their disciples left Jerusalem and traveled into the Gentile nations, **people were getting converted by the thousands.** Do you understand that EVERY epistle in the NT is written to Gentile cities?

The result was *Gentile sinful unbelievers were suddenly reading the Jewish Bible and worshipping the Hebrew God.*

They were **REPENTING OF THEIR PAGAN RELIGIONS AND WAYS, AND PLACING THEIR FAITH IN THE JEWISH MESSIAH: JESUS OF NAZARETH.**

In the next two millennia, **the name of Jesus Christ and His Church would spread to the entire planet.** As famous as Taylor Swift is, I'll wager there are people on this planet who still don't know her. But everyone knows Who Jesus is—those who love Him, those who hate Him, and those who are ambivalent.

I can only imagine that **Satan raged as he saw the fame of Christ** and His Gospel spreading to all the nations under HIS control.

I can only speculate that **he screamed as people rejected worship of his fallen angelic princes and turned to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**

I wonder what he thought as **HE SAW THE CONQUEST OF GOD'S KINGDOM INVADING HIS OWN** for the first time in thousands of years. Indeed: the Church became the new renters of God's Kingdom. *They took up the torch of God's Light and carried it into the world.*

At the exact same time, **the unbelieving Jewish people—those who rejected Jesus as their Messiah—also spread into the nations in exile.** For the last 2000 years, they've paid a terrible price for their unbelief in the Lord.

**Is God done with them? Have they been forever “replaced” by the Church?**

- The Church most certainly took up the torch of God's Light.
- The Church most certainly have become the keepers of God's Word and are the dispensers of the good news that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of the world.
- The Church most certainly is in covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- The Church most certainly has been grafted into God's Kingdom and are citizens thereof.

Yet there are MANY **end times prophecies about the people and nation of Israel** that we, the Church, must not only acknowledge but pray for and declare. Said prophecies are contained within both Old and New Testament Scriptures:

**[Amo 9:11, 14-15 ESV] 11 "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, ... 14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will plant them on their land, and they shall *never again* be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,"** says the LORD your God.

**Are these verses about the end times before Christ returns, or were they already fulfilled in an earlier time in Israel's history of exile and return?** Verse 15 uses the word “NEVER” meaning the cycle of exile and regathering is over, once and for all. That there will be a last time that God brings His people back into His land and will never exile them again.

*That couldn't have been in or before the days of Jesus and the Apostles, because they were exiled in 136 AD after their final rebellion.* Yet they became a nation again in 1948....



**[Isa 11:10-12 ESV]** 10 **In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--**of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand **yet a second time to recover the remnant** that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 **He will raise a signal for the *nations* and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**

Again we ask: *what is the timeline here in these verses?* Are they referring to events that happened in Isaiah's day, or in the latter times just before the return of Jesus?

**Verse 10** identifies the "root of Jesse" Who is Jesus! He "stands as a signal" or sign for Israel. At Jesus' first coming, the people were already in their land and assembled there...thus the "recovering of the remnant" in **verse 11** cannot refer to days of Jesus and the Apostles.

**Verse 12** tells us that Jesus will raise an end times "signal" for the NATIONS.

**THE NATIONS ARE THE GENTILES!** Verse 12 is saying that something will be a sign for the non-Jewish nations to realize that the end is near and tells us what that something is: *the regathering of banished Israel and Judah!* This did not happen at Jesus' first coming as Israel & Judah were already in their land. A century after His ascension the Jews were exiled from their land and remained so until...1948.

**The resurrection of the modern state of Israel is a prophetic alarm clock that the Second Coming of Christ is near!**

**[Jer 23:3-6 ESV]** 3 Then I will **gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them,** and **I will bring them back to their fold,** and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. 5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign** as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 **In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.** And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

We ask the same question: *what is the timeline of Jeremiah's prophecy?* Did it apply and happen in his day, or at some other point in our future? Verse 5 tells us: the "Branch" is Jesus which is why the "B" is likely capitalized in your Bible. It says He shall reign as king AND the in the time of His reign, Judah & Israel will be SAVED and dwell securely.

In His first coming, **Jesus refused to be made King** and “teleported” away whenever the people tried to grab Him up to make Him so. During that time Israel was occupied by Rome and didn’t dwell safely or securely, nor were they Saved. Thus these verses are clearly speaking of a time when Jesus reveals His full glory and DOES sit on the throne as King, and when He’s clearly vanquished all the unbelieving nations and His Kingdom rules. Then and only then will Israel be Saved and dwell securely!

**Thus the regathering of the Jewish people is, once again, a last days sign that Christ is soon to return!**

For my last proof in this sermon, though not at all the last in the Bible, I give you a quote from Hosea. **IN HOSEA’S BOOK, GOD PORTRAYS HIMSELF OVER AND OVER AS A LION.** We know from Revelation 5:5 that Jesus is called “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.” With that in mind, let’s read these verses and end for the day:

**[Hos 6:1-2 ESV]** 1 “Come, let us return to the LORD [portrayed as a Lion]; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

**Verse 1:** the imagery of Israel being “torn” and “struck” are that of an attacking lion. I know it makes God sound harsh, but remember what we’ve learned: the cycle of disobedience leading to exile. Israel being torn and struck by the Lion is them rejecting Jesus and being exiled from their ancient homeland.

**Verse 2:** gives an allegory where we apply what the Lord said in *Psalms 90:4* and *2 Peter 3:8*—one day to the Lord is as 1000 years to us. Thus after 2000 years the Lord “revives” Israel—same thing as the “dry bones” prophecy of Ezekiel 37. Then at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He resurrects them. This follows the exact pattern of Jesus’ Resurrection.

***What’s the difference between the Lord’s revival and resurrection of Israel?*** Israel’s revival is regathering them as a nation. Israel’s resurrection will be opening their spiritual eyes to see Jesus as their Messiah and God! It follows the same order as the Resurrection of Jesus Who then breathed spirit into the disciples and opened their eyes to things they were formerly blind to.

**Jesus and the Gospel started in Jerusalem.** Just as Jesus scattered both Israel and the Church 2000 years ago, the Plan is to regather BOTH into the same area at the end.

***Scripture is clear that Israel is regathered first*** and that has happened. Our regathering takes place at the Rapture. In other words...we’re next!