

God's Plan for Israel 1

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I. Long ago God determined that He would work out His plan of redemption in the world through a special family who would become the nation of Israel. The Bible clearly shows four ways in which God desired to use Israel in the world.

A. God planned to bless all of the nations through Israel.

1. (Gen. 22:15-18 NKJV) ¹⁵*Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

2. Because Abraham believed God and obeyed His voice, God chose his descendants to be the nation that He would use to bless all the nations of the earth.

B. God planned to bring salvation to the world through the Israel.

1. (John 4:22 NKJV) ²²*You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*

2. In other words, God was going to work through the family of Israel to bring salvation to mankind.

C. God planned to bring His written Word to the world through Israel.

1. (Rom. 3:1, 2 NKJV) ¹*What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? ²Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.*

2. The word oracles means the sayings of God and refers to the Scriptures.

D. Finally, God planned to bring the Messiah into the world through the Jews.

(Rom. 9:1-5 NKJV) ¹*I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴who are Israelites, to whom*

pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

II. In order to establish this special nation, God gave them possession of a certain tract of land in the Middle East by an everlasting covenant.

A. (Psalm 105:7-11 NKJV) *⁷He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. ⁸He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations. ⁹The covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, ¹⁰and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, ¹¹saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance."*

B. God has not changed His mind about his covenant. The land belongs to Israel by Divine right.

III. In order to secure the reverence of the nations for Himself and His plan of redemption, and in order to secure the respect of the nations for the nation of Israel, through whom He would bring that redemption, God chose to deal with the nations in accordance with their treatment of Israel.

A. (Gen. 12:3 NKJV) *³I 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."*

B. (Jer. 2: 3 NKJV) *³Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them," says the LORD."*

C. (Psalm 122:6 NKJV) *⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.*

D. History is full of examples of the veracity of these promises.

E. Pharaoh and his army found them to be true.

F. King Balak and Balaam the prophet found them to be true.

G. King Sennecherib and the Assyrians found them to be true.

H. Haman found them to be true. He was hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for the Jew Mordecai.

I. The third Reich found it to be true in the end, and the list goes on and on.

J. The Antichrist and all the nations of the world will find it to be true at the battle of Armageddon.

IV. God determined that His dealings with Israel, both good and bad, would serve as object lessons for the nations and for signs of the times.

A. God promised to establish them in the land if they obeyed. (Deut. 28:1, 8, 11 NKJV) *¹"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ⁸"The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹¹And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.*

B. God promised to evict them from the land if they disobeyed. (Deut. 28:15, 63-65 NKJV) *¹⁵"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: ⁶³And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.⁶⁴"Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. ⁶⁵And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.*

C. But at the end of their eviction period, God promised to restore them to the land and finally to save them. (Jer. 32:37-42 NKJV) *³⁷Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. ³⁸They shall be My people, and I will be their God; ³⁹then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. ⁴⁰And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. ⁴¹Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.' ⁴²"For thus says the LORD: 'Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.*

V. When Israel at large rejected Messiah, God evicted them from the land and offered salvation to the Gentiles (nations) in order to make the Jews jealous so that they also would return to Messiah and be saved.

A. (Luke 21:20-24 NKJV) ²⁰"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

B. This passage is referring to Israel being led away captive into all nations in AD 70 by the Romans.

C. This came upon them because of their rejection of Jesus Christ.

D. So, we are now living in the church age.

E. God is now promoting His plan of redemption, the gospel, through the church, which is made up primarily of believing Gentiles and a remnant of believing Jews.

F. (Rom. 11:11, 12 NKJV) ¹¹I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ¹²Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

G. So, wrath came upon Israel because of their rejection of Christ.

H. (1 Thess. 2:14-16 NKJV) ¹⁴For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, ¹⁶forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

I. **Nevertheless**, they are still beloved by God for the sake of the fathers; the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

J. (Rom. 11:28, 29 NKJV) ²⁸Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

K. God's calling to Israel is irrevocable, and He has promised to save Israel and to restore Israel to Christ.

L. (Rom. 11:12-15, 25-27 NKJV) ¹²Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ¹³For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ²⁵For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

M. Notice that Israel's final salvation is associated with the time of Christ's Second Coming and the life from the dead which is the resurrection. In other words, Israel's salvation is an end time event.

N. But God is not through with the nation of Israel. He is getting them in position for their acceptance of the Messiah. They will endure a tremendous struggle in the Tribulation Period, but they will come to Jesus as a nation and be saved.

O. But until then, the ground rules are the same: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and blessed are those who bless you and cursed are those who curse you.