

Israel, the Church and the Nations

I. God's Eternal Plan

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NIV®)

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Galatians 3:14 (NIV®)

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV®)

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

II. God Keeps His Word

A. Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant)

Genesis 17:6-8 (NIV®)

⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, **I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you;** and I will be their God."

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV®)

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Exodus 2:24 (NIV®)

God heard their groaning and he remembered **his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.**

Psalms 105:7-11 (NIV®)

⁷ He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. ⁸ He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, ⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. ¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: ¹¹ "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit."

B. Central Role of Jewish People

John 4:22 (NIV®)

You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for **salvation is from the Jews.**

Revelation 5:5 (NIV®)

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 21:12 (NIV®)

It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Romans 9:4-5 (NIV®)

⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

C. An Adversary — Persistent Hatred — Evident on Contemporary Stage

1. Antisemitism

Zechariah 12:3 (NIV®)

On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

2. The Spirit of Anti-Christ

Matthew 24:9 (NIV®)

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be **hated by all nations** because of me."

D. A Response

Revelation 5:5-6 (NIV®)

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the



Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne...

Psalm 122:6-9 (NIV®)

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

⁷ May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

⁸ For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Prayer

Almighty God, we turn to You asking for mercy and grace that we might serve You. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may her inhabitants dwell in safety. Open the eyes of the people of the Land to their King. Awaken the Church to complete the assignment You have given. May the leaders of the United States make decisions regarding Israel that will enable Your blessings to come upon us. All this we ask in Jesus' name, amen.