

## WHY ISRAEL MATTERS

**Your Message Notes:**

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: WHY ISRAEL MATTERS

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: November 19, 2023



## Connect (30min)

\*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.


### 1. FILM FOCUS

- a. Have you seen any apocalyptic movies about the end of the world? Rattle off a quick list as a group.
- b. Which one was your favorite and why? Did it make you think about reality and the future at all?

### 2. WORD UP

\*What is your current Bible/Devotional plan? Share a highlight from your personal time with God this past week.

### 3. BLESS GOD

- a.  Read [Isaiah 9:1-7](#).
- b. Take 2min to *Bless God* with short prayers of thanksgiving and praise. *"Lord, I Bless You..."*

## Message Discussion (45min)

### 1. THOUGHTS ON ISRAEL


- a. **This is a complex and challenging topic.**
  - i. What were your thoughts when you heard about the attack on Israel on October 7, 2023?
  - ii. What are your thoughts on the conflict today?
- b. **Has this conflict impacted your family and friends in any specific way?** Briefly share.

### 2. MESSAGE FEEDBACK

- a. **Share your feedback on Sunday's Message.**


What connected with you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you? What did you learn?
- b. Shawn set the scene for this message by explaining that the conflict in Israel is first and foremost a spiritual battle. Have you ever thought of it this way? Share & discuss.

### 3. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT & CONFLICT



- a.  **READ** [Genesis 15](#)
  - i. **What kind of covenant did God make with Abraham?**
  - ii. What is the significance of God passing through the halves of the carcasses from Abraham's sacrifice?  
[ V.17 – Note: *When a covenant was made an animal would be killed and cut in half and both parties would walk in between the two halves, representing that if they break the covenant they made, may they become like the slain animal. God appears as a firepot and flaming torch and walks between the halves, reciting the terms of the covenant make the covenant unbreakable. God both makes and meets the demands of the covenant making in an everlasting covenant*]

**b. Why is it important to understand that the *Abrahamic Covenant* is eternal?**

How does this impact your view of Israel?

- c. This conflict goes back 4000 years, when God called Abraham and promised Him LAND, and that a great nation would come from his LINEAGE, and ultimately the Messiah -- the LORD Jesus Christ.
- i. What is the story that started this conflict (  **READ** [Genesis 16](#)).
  - ii. What does God say about *Ishmael* (Read [16:12](#)).
- d. What happened in the spiritual realm when God made a covenant with Abraham?  
[Satan began to attack God’s promise of land, the lineage of Isaac and the Lordship of Jesus]

**4. THE LAST DAYS**

- a.  **READ** [Matthew 24:3-14](#). What does Jesus tell us about the “*Last Days*”?
- b.  **READ** [Zechariah 14:1-5](#). How are you living your life considering the “*Day of the Lord*”?
- c. How would you respond to someone who says, “Israel doesn’t matter”?

**5. REMEMBER Who God Is & What He Has Done!**

 **READ** [Deuteronomy 7:6-9](#).

If you are struggling to believe that that all this will happen, remind one another of what has already happened.


Don’t forget what God has already done and what has come to pass.

What are some things that have already happened, including prophecies that have come to pass?

This Week -- Make a list and let it remind you that God has been faithful in the past, and we can trust that he will do the same in the future.

**Prayer** (15min)

**The Best Way to Bless Israel is with Jesus!**

> READ  [Ephesians 6:10-20](#) and [Psalm 122:6-9](#)

> Pray for Israelis, Palestinians and the “Peace of Jerusalem”

**Resources**

ONEforISRAEL: [www.oneforisrael.org](http://www.oneforisrael.org)

24-7PRAYER: [www.24-7prayer.com/prayer\\_guide/how-to-pray-for-breaking-news-stories](http://www.24-7prayer.com/prayer_guide/how-to-pray-for-breaking-news-stories)