

# UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL

## DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY GUIDE

**In this sermon, Pastor Josh Huisman emphasizes the importance of preparing spiritually for the end times by understanding the Biblical significance of Israel. He discusses recent conflicts, biblical history, and prophecies related to Israel, urging Christians to recognize and support God's chosen people and land.**

### Primary Bible Passage:

- **Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)**

### Study Questions:

Pastor Josh invites us to spiritually prepare for the end times by deepening our understanding of Israel's biblical importance. He highlights recent events and historical conflicts to underscore the significance of Israel and its people in God's plan.

In Genesis 12:1-3, God's call to Abram marks the beginning of the Old Covenant, promising blessings, a great nation, and through Abraham, blessings to all families on the earth. This pivotal moment in biblical history illustrates faith and obedience, as Abram steps into (what was for him) the unknown, trusting God's word and promise.

**How does Abram's response to God's call inspire your own walk with Christ?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**In what ways can you see the significance of Israel in your spiritual life?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Pastor Josh explains the historical and spiritual contexts that have shaped Israel, from Abram's journey to the nation's rebirth in 1948. The sermon paints a vivid picture of God's unwavering promise to Abram and the continuous lineage leading to Israel's role in the end times.

**How does the history of Israel's formation and struggles impact your understanding of God's promises?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What are the implications of Israel's significance in the end times for Christians today?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The sermon dives into the unconditional promises made to Abraham and the prophetic words regarding Israel and its enemies. Pastor Josh emphasizes the spiritual warfare at play, highlighting the importance of aligning our perspectives with biblical prophecies.

**How do the promises made to Abraham resonate with you personally?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discuss the role of prophecy in shaping our views on current events and spiritual battles.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In the closing of the sermon, Pastor Josh concluded with the prophecy of renewal for Israel, citing Ezekiel 36:24-28, a future where hearts are transformed and God's spirit dwells within His people. This prophecy serves as a hope and call to prayer for Israel's spiritual awakening.

**What does the promise of a new heart and spirit mean for you in your walk with Christ?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**How can we as a community support and pray for Israel's spiritual renewal?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Next Steps

1. **Study the Scriptures:** Dive deeper into the passages mentioned in this sermon, especially focusing on Genesis 12:1-3 and Ezekiel 36:24-28. Consider how these scriptures relate to the significance of Israel and God's promises.
2. **Prayer for Israel:** Commit to regular prayer for Israel, its people, and for peace in the region. Pray for the spiritual renewal promised in Ezekiel 36 and for the hearts of Jews to turn to Jesus as their Messiah.
3. **Discuss and Reflect:** Participate in or initiate discussions within your Connect Group or church community about the sermon. Use the provided discussion questions to explore personal reflection.
4. **Share the Message:** Share any insights or things you learned from the sermon with friends, family, or on social media. Spreading awareness about the importance of Israel from a biblical perspective is so important, especially in our society today.
5. **Attend the Series:** Make a commitment to attend the upcoming sermons to gain a fuller understanding of everything that Pastor Josh introduced in Week 1 of "Reading the Signs."