

ISRAEL, ISLAM, & THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

April 24, 2024

Israel: The Building of a Kingdom – part 2

Last week we looked at the second requirement of a kingdom – people. We saw how God started His chosen people simply with a man and his wife and how He grew them into a nation through being in captivity in Egypt for 400 years. This week we will examine the third requirement, a place. The kingdom requires a land for the people to dwell in. This seemingly insignificant place has been the “political center” of the whole earth long before mankind was even present. This special place is the central location for the worship of God AND...always has been!

THE PROMISED LAND – NOW AND THEN

Basic facts concerning its recent history:

- It is the land that God promised to give to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-7).
- It's original borders (Gen. 15:18-21) - See Map #1
 - From the Nile river to the Euphrates river: 300,000 square miles known as the “Fertile Crescent”.
- It's borders in modern times:
 - 1918 - See map #2. End of WW I, under British control.
 - 1923 - See map #3. Balfour declaration but England changes borders after Sunni pressure.
 - 1948 - See map #4. Post WW II, a new Jewish State.
 - 1967 - See map #5. After The 6-day war.
 - 1975 - See map #6. They gave it back in 1975.
 - 2024 - Roughly same as map #6.

While they currently do NOT possess all of the land God gave them, the promise is still _____!

- Israel's demographic breakdown – (Approximately)
 - Total Population: 9.8 million
 - Jews: 7.2 million
 - Arabs: 2.0 million
 - “Other”: 0.6 million
 - By Age (Jews and Arabs)
 - 0-14: 25.9%
 - 15-64: 61.6%
 - 65: 12.5%
 - By Religion
 - Jewish: 73.5% (many are Atheists)
 - Muslim: _____%
 - Christian: 1.9%
 - Druze: 1.6%
 - Other: 4.9%
- It's capital city – _____ – Ps. 122.

- We are told to PRAY for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122).
- Jerusalem means: City of Peace or Teaching of Peace.
- Also referred to as: _____ or Sion (Ps. 48:11).
- It is called: The City of our God (Ps. 48:1, 8) & of the Great King (Ps. 48:2).
- It was temporarily Tel Aviv in 1948 due to higher populations.

Why here out of all the places on Earth??

- In the beginning (Gen. 1:1), the land was known as _____ – Gen. 2:8-14, 4:16, Eze. 31:18. (See Map #1)
- As seen in Genesis 2, God planted a _____ IN EDEN where he then placed Adam.
NOTE: this is a place located WITHIN the land of Eden – Gen. 2:15, 3:23.
- Other names for these 2 locations:
 - "Garden of the LORD" = Garden of Eden – Gen. 13:10; Is. 51:3.
 - "Garden of God" = Eden – Eze. 28:13, 31:8-9.
- The original King in this land (Eze. 28:11-19; Is. 14:12-14):
 - Long before Adam was created and placed in the Garden of Eden, Lucifer, which means "Light-bearer", (aka the Devil or Satan) was the king over the Land of Eden!
 - As a result of the iniquity found in him ... he LOSES his dominion (throne) in the land.
- The new king in this land:
 - The new king's name is Adam. He is given dominion over everything on earth. His capital is Eden (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:19-20).
 - God has a plan for Adam (Gen. 1:28).
 - The Devil came to **COUNTER** God's plan (Gen. 3:1-6). He still wants his throne and to exalt it above God's.
- The old king continues to deceive the new:
 - Think about it: Satan is NOT going to be happy that there is a replacement "King" in his previous kingdom! He's a liar, so what does he do? He's LIES to all these other kings of the earth and gets them to establish their "kingdoms" in his old kingdom in order to thwart God's Plan!! The CRISIS in the Middle East is _____!
 - These are the KINGS who will be moved to meet Satan in Hell!! (Is. 14:9-10; Eze. 28:17; 31:3, 8-10, 11a, 14-18; 32:4-8, 18-21, 22-23, 24, 26-27, 29, 30)
 - Satan still has his Earthly Kings who he's put in power through lies & lying wonders...fighting for the very Kingdom that was taken away from him!
 - This is the same piece of ground God gave to Abraham, the "FATHER" of the Nation of Israel as we saw in the Abrahamic Covenant - Gen. 15:18-21.

What It Will Be... (Ps. 132:13)

- It is where all history BEGINS...where God's plan for the earth starts...and when the Jewish Messiah (Jesus) returns, it is where all history will END - See Genesis 2 - Revelation 20!
- This is the SAME piece of real estate that will belong to the Nation of Israel during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ which will last 1000 years, called the millennial reign. (Eze. 44-48)

God ultimately desires the whole universe to be filled with people who choose to love and follow him...a universe in which He will rule and reign in righteousness with its capital on the earth located in the Land of Israel in Jerusalem with Jesus (God in human flesh) as the King! Satan's plan, from the very beginning of human history, starting in the Garden of Eden, is to _____ God's plan...