



Israel and the Middle East

Dr. Brandon Park | June 23, 2013

Despite all that is taking place in our world, God gives us a great assurance that He has a plan and that He is in control of history. When you read your Bible or a newspaper on any given day—chances are you will read something about the nation of Israel. You cannot understand Bible prophecy and the ways and workings of God if you do not understand His chosen people—Israel.

Every Jewish person still alive on this planet is a miracle. If you ever doubt that God is alive and well and still on His throne – just look at Israel. on the face of this earth is a literal miracle.

Mark Twain said, *“The Egyptian, the Babylonian and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; The Greek and the Roman followed and made a vast noise and they are gone; Other peoples have sprung up, held their torch high for a time, but it burned out and they sit in twilight now or have vanished. All things are mortal, but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”*

Without a doubt, God chose the Jewish people. Somebody said, “How odd of God to choose the Jews.” But He did choose this people group through whom to bless all the nations of the world.

Deuteronomy 14:2, *“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

Why is it important to know God’s Plan for Israel?

- **Israel is the _____ center of the world.** Ezekiel 5:5 says, *“Thus says the Lord God: ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.’”* The rabbi’s call it, “The navel of the earth.” It’s where the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa meet.
- **Israel is the _____ center of the world.** For Christians, Israel is our spiritual center. It’s where Jesus was born, lived, died, was resurrected and ascended, and it’s also where He will return again. Yet the three major religions of this world – Islam, Judaism, and Christianity claim Jerusalem as their spiritual capitol.
- **Israel is the _____ center of the world.** If you want to know what time it is on God’s clock, look at Israel. You can summarize Bible prophecy into three words: Jews, Jerusalem, and Jesus – they’re all inextricably woven.
- **Israel is the _____ center of the world.** It is here that Armageddon, the last battle of the last war, will be fought. Psalm 122:6, *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”*

LIFE LESSON: Israel is a living example of how God keeps His _____, fulfills His _____, and _____ His people.

I. Israel Teaches Us that God’s _____ Cannot Be _____

The story of Israel begins with Abraham, the Father of the Jewish race, who lived 4,000 years ago!

READ Genesis 12:1-3. God gave Abraham (Abram) a promise – that from him is going to come a great nation that will be God’s chosen people and that they would be a blessing to all other nations. Later in Genesis 15, Abraham “informs” God that he has no children.

READ Genesis 18:9-14 – at the time that this promise was made, Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 years of age. Sarah doubted God (and likely so as there reproductive ability was dead), but God asked a fair question, *“Is there anything too hard for the Lord?”*

God honored His word and Abraham’s faith and gave him a son, and the rest is history.

Just as every Jew owes his origin to a miracle birth of _____; every Christian owes his origin to the miracle (virgin) birth of _____.

Today’s 18 million Jews who inhabit the world are here due to the miraculous birth of a baby boy born to a 100 year old father and a 90 year old mother who dared to believe God.

Do you realize that the Jewish nation is the only nation whose origin can be traced with total _____. No one knows who the first Englishman was or who the first German was, but the entire world knows that Abraham was the first Hebrew.

II. Israel Teaches Us that God's _____ Cannot Be _____

- God prophesied that the Jew would be _____
- God prophesied that the Jew would be _____. – Luke 21:24; Ezek.34:13
- God prophesied that the Jew would be _____. – Zechariah 12:3a
- God prophesied that the Jew would not be _____. – Zechariah 12:3b

The question is, "Why didn't the Jewish people live happily ever after?" Just as Adam and Eve didn't believe God when He told them not to eat of the forbidden fruit; Abraham and Sarah didn't first believe God when He told them they would have a child together. So they come up with their own plan. (Read Genesis 16:1-2).

Sarah instructs Abraham to sleep with her servant Hagar. Hagar becomes pregnant with Abraham's son Ishmael, and that's when the trouble began. (Read Genesis 16:4-5).

NOTE: Nothing was more shameful to a woman in that day than to be barren. Seeing her servant pregnant with her husband's child infuriated Sarah. She blames Abraham for the idea that she thought up! Eventually, the relational strife grew to the point that Hagar and Ishmael were forced to leave. An angel of the Lord also appeared to Hagar prophesied that his descendants will also be too many to count and "*He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.*" (Genesis 16:12).

The descendants of Isaac are the _____; the descendants of Ishmael are the _____.

"His hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him..." Not only do the Muslims not get along with other people, but they don't get along with themselves.

"He will live in hostility toward all his brothers..." God was predicting that there would be conflict between Ishmael and Isaac for the rest of time.

Despite all of Israel's enemies, God's hand of protection has been upon them. In multiple wars in their pursuit of freedom as an independent nation, they have prevailed despite the odds that were stacked against them. In one battle, 20,000 Arabs were captured by just 400 Israelis. Despite being such a small country with so few people, they are the third strongest military power in the world.

III. Israel Teaches Us that God's _____ Cannot be _____

In Genesis 12:1-3, God made three specific promises to Abraham which tells us about His plan for His chosen people.

- **God promised He would make Abraham's _____.** He is considered to be the father of Judaism and the spiritual father of Christianity and Islam.
- **God promised that all the peoples of earth would be _____ through his descendants.** Did you know that although the Jews make up just .02% of the world's population, they have received 25% of all Nobel Prize's awarded.
- **God promised a _____ as an everlasting possession.** After being displaced from their land for 2,000 years an amazing thing happened that was prophesied in Ezekiel 11:17, "*Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.'*" (Ezekiel 11:17)

What Does This Mean To Us?

1. **Keep your eyes on Israel as it is the _____ of end time events.**
2. **Realize that even though the Jews are blinded spiritually today, there is coming a time when they will turn to Jesus as their _____.** (See Romans 11)
3. **Recognize that your _____ as a Christian is tied to Israel and the Jews.**
4. **Refuse to _____ because everything is on _____.** If you take worry and turn it around you have faith; if you take faith and turn it around, you will have worry.
5. **Remember that when it looks as if this _____ is going _____, God knows what He is doing and it all fits into His plan.** Corrie Ten Boom said, "There is no panic in Heaven, only plans."
6. **Remember that if God has kept His Word to _____, He will also keep His Word to _____.**



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Deuteronomy 14:2, *“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

Why is it important to know God’s Plan for Israel?

- **Israel is the Geographical center of the world.** Ezekiel 5:5 says, *“Thus says the Lord God: ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.’”* The rabbi’s call it, “The navel of the earth.” It’s where the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa meet.
- **Israel is the Spiritual center of the world.** For Christians, Israel is our spiritual center. It’s where Jesus was born, lived, died, was resurrected and ascended, and it’s also where He will return again. Yet the three major religions of this world – Islam, Judaism, and Christianity claim Jerusalem as their spiritual capitol.
- **Israel is the Prophetical center of the world.** If you want to know what time it is on God’s clock, look at Israel. You can summarize Bible prophecy into three words: Jews, Jerusalem, and Jesus – they’re all inextricably woven.
- **Israel is the Political center of the world.** It is here that Armageddon, the last battle of the last war, will be fought. Psalm 122:6, *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”*

LIFE LESSON: Israel is a living example of how God keeps His Promise, fulfills His Plan, and Protects His people.

I. Israel Teaches Us that God’s Promise Cannot Be Denied

The story of Israel begins with Abraham, the Father of the Jewish race, who lived 4,000 years ago!

READ Genesis 12:1-3. God gave Abraham (Abram) a promise – that from him is going to come a great nation that will be God’s chosen people and that they would be a blessing to all other nations. Later in Genesis 15, Abraham “informs” God that he has no children.

READ Genesis 18:9-14 – at the time that this promise was made, Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 years of age. Sarah doubted God (and likely so as there reproductive ability was dead), but God asked a fair question, *“Is there anything too hard for the Lord?”*

God honored His word and Abraham’s faith and gave him a son, and the rest is history.

Just as every Jew owes his origin to a miracle birth of Isaac; every Christian owes his origin to the miracle (virgin) birth of Christ.

Today’s 18 million Jews who inhabit the world are here due to the miraculous birth of a baby boy born to a 100 year old father and a 90 year old mother who dared to believe God.

Do you realize that the Jewish nation is the only nation whose origin can be traced with total Accuracy. No one knows who the first Englishman was or who the first German was, but the entire world knows that Abraham was the first Hebrew.

II. Israel Teaches Us that God's People Cannot Be Destroyed

- God prophesied that the Jew would be Disobedient.
- God prophesied that the Jew would be Disbursed. – Luke 21:24; Ezek.34:13
- God prophesied that the Jew would be Discredited. – Zechariah 12:3a
- God prophesied that the Jew would not be Destroyed. – Zechariah 12:3b

The question is, "Why didn't the Jewish people live happily ever after?" Just as Adam and Eve didn't believe God when He told them not to eat of the forbidden fruit; Abraham and Sarah didn't first believe God when He told them they would have a child together. So they come up with their own plan. (Read Genesis 16:1-2).

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The descendants of Isaac are the Jews; the descendants of Ishmael are the Muslims.

"*His hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him...*" Not only do the Muslims not get along with other people, but they don't get along with themselves.

"*He will live in hostility toward all his brothers...*" God was predicting that there would be conflict between Ishmael and Isaac for the rest of time.

Despite all of Israel's enemies, God's hand of protection has been upon them. In multiple wars in their pursuit of freedom as an independent nation, they have prevailed despite the odds that were stacked against them. In one battle, 20,000 Arabs were captured by just 400 Israelis. Despite being such a small country with so few people, they are the third strongest military power in the world.

III. Israel Teaches Us that God's Purpose Cannot be Defeated

In Genesis 12:1-3, God made three specific promises to Abraham which tells us about His plan for His chosen people.

- **God promised He would make Abraham's Name Great.** He is considered to be the father of Judaism and the spiritual father of Christianity and Islam.
- **God promised that all the peoples of earth would be Blessed through his descendants.** Did you know that although the Jews make up just .02% of the world's population, they have received 25% of all Nobel Prize's awarded.
- **God promised a Land as an everlasting possession.** After being displaced from their land for 2,000 years an amazing thing happened that was prophesied in Ezekiel 11:17, "*Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.'*" (Ezekiel 11:17)

What Does This Mean To Us?

1. **Keep your eyes on Israel as it is the Epicenter of end time events.**
2. **Realize that even though the Jews are blinded spiritually today, there is coming a time when they will turn to Jesus as their Messiah.** (See Romans 11)
3. **Recognize that your Spiritual Roots as a Christian is tied to Israel and the Jews.**
4. **Refuse to Worry because everything is on Schedule.** If you take worry and turn it around you have faith; if you take faith and turn it around, you will have worry.
5. **Remember that when it looks as if this World is going Wrong, God knows what He is doing and it all fits into His plan.** Corrie Ten Boom said, "There is no panic in Heaven, only plans."
6. **Remember that if God has kept His Word to Abraham, He will also keep His Word to You.**