

I. “HISTORY LESSON”

Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Gen. 12:1-3

“For you are a holy (set apart) people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Deut. 7:6-8

Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff necked people. Deut. 9:6

- A. God makes it plain in many places of the scripture that He chose Israel as a nation starting first with a man named Abram (Abraham). The covenant God made with Abraham is an “unconditional covenant” meaning it is not dependent on Abraham to fulfill the promises of what is agreed to.
- B. God chose Israel for His specific reasons. This choice has had multiple responses from human kind both which are a blessing and others a curse. God chose Abraham and ultimately Israel because of His willingness to bind himself to an earthly family who ultimately would birth Messiah and be the nation through whom the knowledge of God is displayed.
- C. This choice made by God placed blessing on this family and nation. It has also brought an incredible amount of hostility from the nations who were not chosen in this way. For those chosen (Israel) it’s like a target has been placed on their back. To the rest of the nations an angry hostility has been unleashed due to insecurity. “God chose them, what makes them so special?” “If God is a loving God why didn’t he chose us?”
- D. Then God took one step further by providing land for Abraham’s family and in the end Israel. God drove out what he called wicked nations from their own land and gave that land to Israel.

4 “Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. 5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Deut. 9:4-5

- E. God fulfilled this promise to Abraham. God made Abraham’s family into a mighty nation, delivered them from bondage to slavery in Egypt, destroyed the God’s of Egypt and placed Israel into a beautiful land.

- F. After taking possession of the land given them through conquest (see Joshua) God established them as a nation by appointing kings to lead them. Saul was the first king who was disqualified due to his disobedience and the second king was David.
- G. God made another “unconditional covenant” with David and thus Israel in 2 Sam. 7:12-16. God promised David that a son from his body would rule over an eternal kingdom that would be both heavenly, earthly and eternal.
- H. The two unconditional covenants God made with Abraham and David are eternal promises God has bound himself to and must perform. If God doesn’t keep these promises then he cannot be God.

II. PAUL’S OVERVIEW – ROMANS 9-11

- A. Paul gives the Church in Rome a three chapter mini-series on God’s plan for Israel. Three chapters of the most condensed content critical for the church in Rome who was struggling with Caesar’s edict to kick out the Jews.
- B. Romans 9-11 Overview.
 1. Romans 9 – Israel’s past – Blessed, the people of the covenants. A nation who reveals the knowledge of God and had birthed Messiah.
 2. Romans 10 – Israel’s present – Mostly apostate. Seeking their own righteousness through religious works instead of God’s lamb (Jesus) who he provided to contend with their unrighteousness at the cross.
 3. Romans 11 – Israel’s future – Blessed. God will save the nation. Salvation here has two meaning, one spiritual and eternal and the other natural and earthly.
 - a. God will save all Israel so that those who are alive at the return of Jesus and the beginning of the Millennium will all be born again.
 - b. God will rescue Israel from a global army lead by the Antichrist who have come to destroy Israel once and for all from the earth.

III. IMPORTANT PROPHETIC PROMISES

12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.” Dan. 10:12-13

- A. Persia (modern day Iran) only seen as a world power two times in global history...Daniel’s day and present (supported by Russia and China)

- B. God has promised that he would gather the nations of the earth to make war against Jerusalem and Israel. God is lifting his hand of restraint to allow the nations to manifest their hatred of God and ultimately anyone (nation) which is bound to God.

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, ...2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem. Zech. 14:1-2

1. ***ALL the nations shall all gather.*** This means there will be no political state or nation allied with Israel at that time in the future. This becomes a sign to us then that this present war in Israel with Hamas mostly centered in Gaza is not the final end times Armageddon war. Israel's only supporting entity allied with her will be the praying church.

- C. Satan gathers the nations to the final battle against Jerusalem and Israel.

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

- D. War in heaven with earthly implications.

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." ¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. Rev. 12:7-13

IV. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PRESENT WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS

- A. Hamas is a terrorist organization holding political control of Gaza. Hamas is heavily supported financially by Iran (Ancient Persia). Iran is presently pursuing nuclear weapons. Iran is also heavily supported itself by Russia and China.
1. Hamas (Gaza) and Hezbollah are the two dominant terrorist organizations funded by Iran to disrupt Israel. Iran's ambitions have always been to destroy Israel. Iran for the sake of personal interests cloaks itself with these two terrorist organizations as it seeks to maintain its standing at the table of nations.
- B. In May 2023, 5 million intercessors joined in a global 21-day fast to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and that God would establish intercessors for the purpose of praying for peace in Jerusalem. This fast focused on God's promise in Isa. 62:6-7.

- C. The significance of this particular war is found in:
1. Timing – Just after a global fast unifying the Church in its role with Israel.
 2. Intentionality – Both Israel and Hamas (Iran) with Hezbollah (in Lebanon) have set themselves on all out war until one or the other is destroyed.
 - a. Hamas attacked across a multi-pronged assault path into Israel taking hostages and killing hundreds. This demonstrates an intentional attack planned months ahead in which insurgents were trained for specific military assignments.
 - b. Israel's response, deemed over reach by the news media and several governments, was/is to call up 360,000 reserve soldiers to prepare for a ground assault into Gaza and strengthening of their borders in the north with Hezbollah. Israel's air attacks to weaken the infrastructure of Gaza and prepare Gaza for a ground attack have been very targeted and extremely heavy.
 3. Resolve – Both warring sides are determined to fight until the other is no longer capable of threatening the other.
- D. Pathway to escalation:
- a. Hamas and Hezbollah – Supported by Iran in turn supported by Russia and China.
 - b. Israel – Supported by USA and softly by Canada.

V. WHY IS THIS WAR NOT THE ARMAGGEDON WAR?

- A. Jesus tells us and warns us of the signs of the time in which he would return to the earth. Matthew 24 is his greatest teaching regarding this subject. Several of the signs he tells us to look for just prior to his return are not evident in this present war. These signs Jesus speaks of are all on a global scale.
1. Abomination of desolation – vs. 15
 2. Great tribulation – vs. 21
 3. Gospel of the kingdom preached in all nations – vs. 14
 4. Cosmic signs and wonders – vs. 29-30
- B. Paul in his second letter to the Church at Thessalonica also gave signs that are not evident in this particular war.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2Thess. 2:3-4

VI. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns... I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, ⁷ And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Isa. 62:1, 6-7

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. ⁷ Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." ⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. Ps. 122: 6-9

So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one." Luke 11:2-4

- A. Pray – As believers in Jesus as the chosen Messiah (King) who will lead a global kingdom after his return to the earth we are to pray.
 - 1. Pray for revelation of God's hear and his plans for Israel.
 - 2. Pray for peace which only comes when Jesus is on the throne in Jerusalem
 - 3. Pray for protection over innocent civilians
 - 4. Pray for the gospel to be preached in the land.
 - 5. Pray for revival
- B. Proclaim – We are to tell others about God's plan to return his son to the earth. WE are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus to all men – Jew and Gentile.
- C. Provide – Support ministries or individuals in the land of Israel who seek to advance the gospel of the kingdom of God.
- D. Understand – We are to understand that political Israel is not necessarily aligned with God's plan for her. Therefore, as we understand God's heart and plans for Israel, God is not necessarily in support of all the agendas driving Israel's politics or culture at this moment.
- E. Reading the Scriptures and Bible Study – Read and study God's word regarding His plans for Israel (Jew and Gentile). Studying God's word opens our hearts to his plans.
- F. Participate – As Holy Spirit leads participate in the annual feast seasons in Jewish culture. These feasts have tremendous prophetic insights into Israel's calling before God, God's plan for Israel and the person whom God has chosen as Messiah.

