

JUST THAT QUICK – “ISRAEL”!

The world news just keeps coming back to Israel again and again and again! How is that?

God is THE “nation builder” and He promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2 that he would make from him “a great nation”. Israel is such a tiny nation but yet such a mighty nation in terms of attention on the world’s stage. How is that?

The history of the world from Genesis 12 on revolves around God’s program for His people Israel. The other nations of the world prophetically take their place largely in relationship to Israel. The nation of Israel is God’s centerpiece nation!

The reason Israel commands the attention of the world is BIGGER than them. The reason is because of the GOD OF ISRAEL – Who is the GOD OF THE BIBLE. Spiritual warfare defines the realities surrounding Israel (cf. Rev. 12). God loves Israel and has attached His very name and credibility to what He has prophesied about her. The devil is the “god of this age” and is doing everything he can to thwart God’s plan for Israel (2 Cor. 4:4). Thus, a tremendous CLASH in the spiritual arena is continually going on behind the scenes in relationship to Israel (cf. Dan. 9). God is SOVEREIGN, but He promotes, prevents, and permits things under that umbrella.

God clearly has a LAST DAY’S plan for Israel in which Israel will be front and center in terms of the climactic time in history that will ultimately usher in the kingdom of our Lord.

Most so-called Bible scholars get Israel WRONG! So MANY have an appalling theology that says God is done with Israel. Well, if God is done with Israel, then He has lost all credibility! BUT HE’S NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL!! God’s very name YHWH (His most sacred name) is eternally tied with His covenant relationship with Israel (cf. Ex. 3:13-15; 6:1-7).

The talk right now is that Israel is in a fight for her very existence. Well, Israel is NOT going anywhere because the GOD of Israel is not going anywhere!

Jeremiah 31:35–37 (NKJV)

35 Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name):

36 “If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever.”

37 Thus says the Lord: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord.

Here we have the definitive statement from God on Israel’s existence!

God has fixed the sun, moon, and stars. It is God Who sovereignly controls the sea and its waves (cf. Gen. 1:16). He is the mighty God, the God of the armies of heaven. He controls the power center of the universe as “The LORD of hosts”. That is His name. This is Who He is.

God says if these FIXED ordinances in nature can be stopped, then Israel may also cease from being a nation.

Many through the centuries have tried to eliminate the nation of Israel and the goal is alive and well today, but God’s statement in effect says this is impossible. Who can thwart the course of the sun, moon and stars? Who can alter the sea waves? NO ONE!

God is painting a picture of that which is impossible. It is impossible to alter the course of nature and it is impossible that Israel be eliminated as a nation.

“It should be noted that in this verse [36] in the original text (Hebrew), the promise is made to preserve them not merely as a “people” (ha-am), but as a “nation” (ha-goy). While it would be a phenomenon of history that any Jews might survive, it is an incredible miracle that they survived intact as a nation.” – **Randal Price**

It is impossible to measure out the heavens of the universe and the earth cannot be fully searched out beneath. Likewise, it is impossible for God to cast away Israel despite all that evil that she has done.

You see this story about Israel is not so much about Israel as it is about God. Israel’s great UNFAITHFULNESS only serves to showcase God’s

great FAITHFULNESS. Faithfulness defines God. This defines His Name. It defines His New Covenant promises (cf. Jer. 31:31-34).

Right now God is putting the finishing touches on BUILDING His Church and when the Church is completed Christ has promised to take her out of the world (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). Then God will complete and finish His program with Israel. In the meantime, He is preserving Israel and we see God setting the stage for the finale of end-time events in which Israel will be front and center.

SIGNS are NOT Church oriented – but rather are Israel-oriented. The Church began suddenly and signlessly and it will be completed in the same fashion (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 15:51-58). In contrast, God's program for Israel consistently has DATED SIGNPOSTS (cf. Dan. 9:24-27). No one knows the day nor the hour when the Lord will come (Matt. 25:13). Therefore we are exhorted to LIVE READY!

Clearly, the prophetic Scriptures revolve around Israel as the central prophetic player in the end. The prophet Ezekiel spoke of “the latter years” (Ezek. 38:8) and “the latter days” (Ezek. 38:16) when Israel would be back in the land of promise. And then a great war (the war of Gog and Magog) will break out as seen in Ezekiel 38-39. Interestingly enough both Russia and Iran are depicted as major players in this last day's assault on Israel.

Zechariah the prophet spoke of the coming day of the LORD in which all the nations of the whole world will come against Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3). Joel spoke of God's last day's judgment on the world for what they have done to HIS people and to HIS land (Joel 3:2). This is PERSONAL with God!

Daniel 9:24-27 gives a prophetic overview of God's special dealings with Israel. There He predicted EXACTLY 483 years from the command to rebuild Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-8) “until Messiah the Prince” (Dan. 9:25). This was fulfilled to the letter in the so-called “Triumphal Entry of Christ” into Jerusalem just a few days before His crucifixion (Lk. 19:27-44).

But then Daniel 9:26 predicts an EXTENDED GAP PERIOD prior to the final 7-year period called the 70th week of Daniel (Dan. 9:26-27). During the GAP PERIOD when God's DATED prophetic program for Israel is in effect put ON HOLD three things would take place as seen in Daniel 9:26.

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

1. Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself (fulfilled in the crucifixion of Christ).
2. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple in A.D. 70 by the Romans from whom the Antichrist will eventually emerge. He comes out of a revived Roman Empire.).
3. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

“Till the end of the war desolations are determined” is more literally translated, *“till the end shall be war; desolations are determined.”* The entire GAP period (in which we currently live) will be characterized by war and its desolations for the land of Israel. Daniel pinpointed two specific events (1 – the crucifixion; 2) the destruction of Jerusalem/Temple) and then gave the general character of war that will characterize the remainder of the entire GAP period for Israel.

This is where we are! This will continue until finally a “7-YEAR PEACE PLAN” is negotiated with Israel (Dan. 9:27). This will be a short-lived peace with Antichrist at the helm. There will be no lasting peace for Israel until the Prince of Peace (the Lord Jesus Christ) comes and there is no peace for the individual until they know peace with God through faith in Him (Rom. 5:1).

One more thing: None of this is happening by chance or accident. **THREE TIMES** in Daniel 9 the word “determined” is found as seen in Daniel 9:24, 26, and 27. None of this is left to “chance”. It is **NOT** “to be determined” but already **DETERMINED** by the sovereign God of the Bible! All is being and will be fulfilled in perfect accord with the **DETERMINED PLAN** of God. God remains **SOVEREIGN** and His purposes for Israel will be fulfilled!

**GOD IS STILL GOD!
ISRAEL IS STILL ISRAEL!**

AND THE FUTURE REMAINS “DETERMINED”!

PRAY SERIOUSLY!
LOVE FERVENTLY!
SERVE FAITHFULLY!
LIVE READY!