

ISRAEL – THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND

For a Jew, the Land of Israel is more than a place. The land of Israel and the people of Israel go together like body and soul. They belong together, as ordained by God.

Someone has well said that to be a Jew is to be on a journey to the Promised Land. The Jews are a people of destiny, involving the Promised Land called Israel.

Starting with Abraham, God promised a special LAND to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants.

Scripture has at least 170 specific references to the LAND that God gave to the patriarchs and their descendants. 55 times God is stated to have confirmed this promise of land with an oath, and 12 of those times the covenant is stated to be EVERLASTING in nature.

There are more than 1,400 passages in the Bible that talk about God's relationship to the Promised Land. So, it is a MAJOR theme in the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation.

In Genesis, we have the development of a chosen family, the family of Abraham through Isaac and then Jacob. This family was then born as a NATION in the Exodus. It was to this particular family-turned-nation that God promised the land of Canaan – FOREVER!

During the times of the Gentiles God has allowed Jerusalem and His people to be trodden down by the Gentiles because of their sin (Lk. 21:24). But God has not forgotten His covenant promises. And in the end, God is going to judge the entire world for the abuse of BOTH His people and His land – ISRAEL.

Joel 3:2 (NKJV)

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Note this verse ties the coming worldwide judgment with how the nations have mistreated BOTH the people of Israel and the land of Israel. They are tied together.

Joel 3:14–17 (NKJV)

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

17 “So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”

Note yet again the connection of Jerusalem (as the capital of Israel representing the land of Israel) with the children of Israel. They are inseparably united in the plan and ultimate purposes of God.

Ultimately you can't separate the people of Israel from the land of Israel. And this is what makes Israel such an interesting phenomenon in the days in which we live. Israel is back in the land and Jews are coming from all over the world to once again be established in the holy land of Israel.

This is in perfect accord with what the Bible foretells regarding the last day's events. This ultimately sets the stage for the fulfillment of last day's prophecy. Live Ready! All is being fulfilled EXACTLY as God has foreordained!