

## ISRAELOLOGY

Definition of Israelology: Israelology is simply the study of ISRAEL.

Israel is a MAJOR theme in Scripture:

You get Israel right when you apply the proper principles of interpretation, taking the Scriptures for what they plainly say. You get Israel right when you get the OT covenants and promises right. And when you get Israel right you are well on the path to getting God right. God has largely bound the revelation of Himself to the context of the nation of Israel.

**Three Clarifications...** 1) Israel is distinct from the Church (cf. 1 Cor. 10:32); 2) God is not finished with His people Israel (cf. Rom. 9-11); 3) In background the church is made up primarily of Gentiles and a remnant of Jews forming a unique organism called “the body of Christ” or, “the bride of Christ” (cf. Eph. 2:19-22, 4:4; Rev. 19:7-9).

**Four Nuances of the “seed of Abraham” ...** 1) The biological descendants of Abraham (cf. Gen. 17:5-6, 20); 2) The Messiah (cf. Matt. 1:1, Gal. 3:16); 3) The righteous remnant in Israel (cf. Isa. 41:8, Rom. 9:6-7); 4) The spiritual descendants who share in “like-faith” with Abraham (cf. Rom. 4:11-12; Gal. 3:29). Note: Context determines the proper sense in which to take it.

Why Israel Matters:

1. God has chosen Israel (cf. Deut. 7:6-8).
  - a. God uses the weak and insignificant so that He gets the glory (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-31).
2. Israel serves to illustrate God’s faithful character (cf. Lam. 3:22-23; Mal. 3:6).
3. Israel is uniquely God’s channel of blessing.
  - a. Revelation (cf. Deut. 4:6-8, 33-35).
  - b. Prophecy (cf. Isa. 43:10).
  - c. Messiah/Salvation (cf. Jn. 4:22; Rom. 11:17, 15:27).
4. God’s reputation is forever tied to Israel (cf. Ezek. 36:20-21, 39:7).

Revelation 12 - A Big Picture Overview of Israel in Redemptive History:

Revelation 12 presents the CORE issues that are behind all that we find happening in the book of Revelation and in redemptive history. It relates to the age-old conflict between Satan & God, with Israel right in the middle.

That is what is being depicted and it is brought to a CLIMAX in the Tribulation Period.

The three main characters in Revelation 12:

1. **The Woman** = Israel (Rev. 12:1-2, 6, 13-16);
2. **The Dragon** = Satan (12:3-4, 9, 12-13);
3. **The Male Child** = Christ (12:2, 5).

From Genesis to Revelation, Israel is shown to be central in God's great plan of redemption (cf. Gen. 12:3). Israelology may be the missing link in many systematic theology books, but in God's book, Israel is shown to be a most important link. The Church is distinct from Israel. However, the Church builds on and is partaker of the spiritual things which are ROOTED in Israel (cf. Rom. 11:17, 15:27).