Israel's Significance to the Prophetic & Biblical Prophecy

October 24, 2020





Part 1 The New & Everlasting Covenant





The New Covenant with Israel



"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

To Israel Belong the Promises



- or "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God" (Romans 9:3-5).
- Ca "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

Christ is the Everlasting Covenant



- "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3).
- "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him" (John 1:10).
- *Because the whole of creation was made through Christ, all humanity is, born with the natural law of Christ on their hearts.
- To Israel, God further gave His written law—the Torah.

All Have Fallen Short



- *We are also born with the sinful and rebellious nature of Adam.
- *We have all fallen short of both God's natural and written law.
- "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:5).

We Will All Be Judged



"For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts..." (Romans 2:12-15).

The New Covenant to the Jews



"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them [Israel] an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed" (Isaiah 61:8-9).

Everlasting Covenant to the Gentiles



"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price... Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you' (Isaiah 55:1-5).

Promises to Abraham



- The everlasting covenant, which is Christ, is the same and equal covenant that was promised through Abraham to both Jew and Gentile.
- "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you [Abraham], and you shall be a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:4).
- "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed" (Galatians 3:8).

Christ is the Mediator



- "Even so through one Man's [Christ'] righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life" (Romans 5:8).
- "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6).

Full Equality



- The covenant with the Gentiles does not have to be administered through the nation of Israel, nor does it make the Jewish people, intermediaries to God's covenant with the Gentiles.
- God has established His Everlasting Covenant independently with each person.
- This is His sovereign work of salvation amongst the nations.
- For this reason, there is full equality between Jew and Gentile.

Retaining our Identitites



- The Gentiles are not required to become Jewish to enter the covenant
- The Jews do not relinquish their unique identity either.
- *We each been uniquely created in the image of Christ
- *Yet we are one people of God comprised of every tongue, tribe, nation, and people on the face of the earth, to worship Him with the diversity of culture, language, and ethnicity He has given each of us.

Christ is the Mediator



- Christ is the mediator of this new everlasting covenant to both Jew and Gentile.
- To the Jew, we are under the new everlasting covenant (emphasis on new), free from the condemnation and judgment of the Old Covenant—the written law.
- To the Gentiles, you are under the new everlasting covenant (emphasis on everlasting), free from the condemnation of the natural—unwritten law of sin and death.

The Commonwealth of Israel



- The church is not comprised of just the nation of Israel.
- The church is Israel plus the Gentile nations joined to her.
- Paul refers to this as the "commonwealth of Israel."

The Cultivated Olive Tree



- Paul uses the analogy of a cultivate Olive tree to illustrate this great mystery.
- The tree is comprised of natural branches (Israelites), and wild ones (the Gentiles), who have been grafted in contrary to nature.

Father of Many Nations



- The tree is Christ, and the root is the fathers, the foundation of the church, connecting both the Jew and Gentile to Abraham—the father of many nations.
- "Foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed" (Galatians 3:8).

Paul goes on to say:



"Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all" (Romans 4:16). "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

Full Equality



- There is full equality between Jew and Gentile.
- God has sovereignly established his everlasting covenant with each person, regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.
- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

We Gain our Identity in Christ



- Paul was not saying that we lose our identity in Christ.
- He was declaring that we will discover it.
- This is the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham.
- *We are one new man and one people of God comprised of every tongue and tribe.
- This is the church.

Part 2 A light to the Nations





To Israel Was Given the Revelation



- ❖ Israel is the only nation on earth to receive direct revelation and visitation of God.
- And Israel is the only nation to be born of His Covenant.
- "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2).

A Kingdom of Priests



- The Lord said to Israel:
- "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:6).
- *He later revealed His calling to her regarding the nations:
- "I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6).

Israel—A Light to the Gentiles



- The Apostle Paul, as a Jewish man, referenced this scripture and Israel's calling for the nations when he said:
- "For so the Lord has commanded us [myself and Barnabas]: I have set you [made you in the NIV] as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47).

Israel's Calling—Salvation is of the Jews



- ❖ Israel calling was and is still to bring God's message of salvation to the ends of the earth.
- Yeshua said salvation is of the Jews.
- The sages tell us for this reason that Israel and God are one.
- *We will pick that up in another teaching.

The Name-Israel



- The word Israel is comprised of the Hebrew roots El and yashar.
- El is one of the sacred names of God, and yashar means to go straight.
- Let's see how Israel's name also fits her calling.

What Advantage has the Jew



- "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3).
- Paul said:
- "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles [the written truth] of God" (Romans 3:1-2).
- ❖ Israel's calling comes with great responsibility.

Make a Straight Highway



- The Lord was declaring that He would make through Israel a straight path for all the nations to walk in.
- Israel was to shine with God's brightness in this dark world so that all those drawn to His light would join themlselves to the God of Israel through her.

The Kingdom of God is Israel



- "In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:23).
- Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. Many people shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2-3).

A Covenant and a Light



- ❖ Israel serves as both a covenant to the people and a light to the nations.
- ❖ A light because she was to reveal God's truth in this dark world.
- And a covenant because her relationship with the Gentiles is likened to a marriage, where Israel, being God's special treasure has been given to the nations as a gift
- This is God's eternal promise that Israel would be a blessing to every nation and fill the whole earth with His fruit—His blessings.

How Have the Nations Treated Israel



- ❖It is important to ask ourselves:
- iust how have the nations treated their gift from God?
- "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" (Genesis 12:3).

Judgment of the Nations



- *"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" (Joel 3:2).
- *"For thus says the Lord of hosts: He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8).

An Irrevocable Calling



- ❖ Israel's calling is to be a blessing to the nations is irrevocable and without repentance.
- Even in her present fallen condition, God continues to bless and reveal His love for the nations through the Jewish people.

A Company of Nations



- The Lord made this promise to Abraham when He said:
- "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation [Israel] and a company of [Gentile] nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body" (Genesis 35:11).
- *And Paul said:
- "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed'" (Galatians 3:8).

God's Blessings Flow to the Nations



- While the New Covenant that God made with Israel is unconditional and remains as an unbreakable marriage between Him and the Jewish people.
- The flow of God's blessings to the nations through Israel required her to come into alignment with His will and purpose.

Join Themselves with Israel



- Namely that Israel would open their heart to her Messiah and allow God to make the Jewish people as a light to the nations.
- In turn, the Gentiles were to join themselves to Israel as one people of God and "one new man" in Christ.

The Great Assembly



- The joining of the nations to Israel in the covenant relationship would effectively establish and build the church.
- ❖ In Greek, the church is called the ecclesia and in Hebrew called the kahal—the great assembly.
- The church is not a denomination or an ethnic group, but one people of God redeemed out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation on the face of the earth.

The Commonwealth of Israel



- The church does not replace Israel.
- No. Those of the nations who join themselves to the God of Israel and His people come under the bond of His New and Everlasting Covenant and receive His covenant blessings.
- The nations become part of the commonwealth of Israel, which is the great nation and the company of nations promised to Abraham.

The Foreigner Who Joins Himself



- The Lord said:
- "The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered" (Isaiah 56:6-8).

For This Season



- ❖ If Israel's calling was to become a kingdom of priests and to reconcile the nations to God through her, but she divorced her calling,
- Then God for this season has Himself reached out to the Gentiles and grafted them (contrary to nature) into His cultivated Olive Tree.

The Gentiles Entrusted



- The Gentiles have been entrusted with carrying God's light and His message of salvation to the ends of the earth, including to the nation of Israel.
- "But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles" (Romans 11:11).

Many From the East and West



- God cut away natural branches and grafted wild one's into a house that was not inherently for them.
- α "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:11-12).

The Anginting of the Nations



- Paul said:
- "For I could wish that I myself were accursed [separated] from Christ for my brethren, my [a] countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites..." (Romans 9:3-4).
- That is how much Paul loved the Jewish people and desired their salvation.

Fullness of the Gentiles



- Could it be that the fullness of the Gentiles requires the salvation of Israel? Paul said:
- "For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?" (Romans 11:15).
- There is an unfulfilled promise to the church regarding Israel's salvation.
- *Imagine the joy this will bring to the Kingdom of God!

God's Order



- God's order and purposes will not change.
- Paul said:
- "[God] will give glory, honor and peace to every man who works good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 2:10).

Salvation of Israel Entrusted



- *We now see that the salvation of the nations has been entrusted to Israel.
- And for this season, because of Israel's rebellion, the salvation of Israel has been entrusted to the nations.

Yet to be a Fulfillment for Israel



- So we know there is yet to be a fulfillment of Israel's destiny:
- First to receive her material and spiritual blessings including all the land of Israel.
- Then to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation,
- Pouring her heart out to the Lord so that God would reconcile all nations to Himself through her.

The Glory of God upon Israel



- "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising" (Isaiah 60:2-3).
- This verse speaks to Christ, but it also reflects His Kingdom of Israel.

Restoration of Israel



- "Thus says the Lord [regarding the restoration of Israel]: 'In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You [Israel] as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; That You may say to the prisoners, Go forth, to those who are in darkness, Show yourselves" (Isaiah 49:8-9).
- *Israel is called to be a covenant to the people and a light to the nations.

Part3
The Kingdom of God





Kingdom of Heaven



- The book of Matthew uses the term "Kingdom of Heaven" and "Kingdom of God" interchangeably.
- The other three gospels use the term "Kingdom of God" exclusively.

A Circumlocution



- The Hebrew word for "heaven" is shamayim, which was used by the Jewish people as a circumlocution (which means a substitute) for the name of God.
- So, the Kingdom of Heaven is also a reference to the Kingdom of God—
- they are the same.

Two Kingdoms



- There are actually two kingdoms—
- one of this world, and one not of this world.
- The prince of this world governs this kingdom.
- The other is governed by Yeshua, the chief Prince and the Prince of all princes.

Definition



- So what exactly does God's Kingdom look like?
- Let us start with a definition:
- A kingdom is a nation of people—both physical and spiritual—whose ruler is God as King.
- God's Kingship (Malchut in Hebrew) and His Lordship (Adnut) lies in the fact that He is Lord of the whole universe.

In Summary



- So in summary, a kingdom has a King, and His name is Yeshua, and a kingdom has a people who form a nation that serves that King.
- There is one more aspect to God's Kingdom—
- His citizenship.
- *We will be talking about that in a future episode.

The Purpose of Creation



- Now, the sages tell us:
- *"It is known to all that the purpose of the creation of the world is the revelation of God's sovereignty, for there is no king without a nation."
- The nation at the heart of God's Kingdom is Israel.

All Those Grafted into Israel



- ❖ But the Kingdom of God now encompasses all those who have been grafted into Israel.
- ❖ Paul said: grafted in amongst them, the natural branches who are Israelites and the descendants of Abraham.
- God's church, His Ecclesia and congregation includes people from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.

Belongs to the King



- The kingdom belongs to the King,
- and its people are His domain.
- Therefore, the Kingdom is as much about the people of God as it is about God Himself.

No Ordinary Kingdom



- *But this is no ordinary Kingdom.
- *It is a Kingdom of kingdoms,
- *as it says,
- α "He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

Misunderstanding



- *Many Christians misunderstand the Kingdom of Heaven.
- They believe it is a spiritual place that exists in some far-off location or alternate dimension.

Natural & Spiritual Realms



- *While we know there is a heavenly spiritual realm,
- God intends to bring heaven to earth.
- In other words, the spiritual and natural worlds will one day collide,
- *and the Kingdom of Heaven will invade the earth so the two shall become one.

A Shadow



- Yeshua instructed us to pray,
- "Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).
- God's Kingdom will one day be fully established in this natural realm.

Resurrected Physical Body



- To prove that, Yeshua rose from the grave and was resurrected into a physical body.
- And He is returning with His bride—the church—to a physical earth.

God will Dwell with Men



- The prophets declared:
- "Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You" (Zechariah 14:5).
- "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

Part 4
Restoration of The Kingdom





The Time of Restoration



- The prophet Isaiah has given us a powerful glimpse into this time:
- Now it shall come to pass in the latter days [the last days] that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob [Israel]; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Mountains



- *Mountains in scripture represent kingdoms.
- So, the key to understand here is that "the mountain of the Lord's house" represents Christ's Kingdom and His church.

The Kingdom on Earth



- The Kingdom of God is not some intangible spiritual place in the clouds.
- The Kingdom of God will be established right here on the earth, in Israel, from Jerusalem.
- *Yeshua is the king, and we are His royal subjects—the ecclesia—a congregation of people from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.

Nations Joined to Israel



- The nations do not replace Israel but are joined with her.
- *We together are the Kingdom of God,
- ❖and the foundation of this great Kingdom is God's eternal law that was given to the Jewish people.

When is the Kingdom?



- So when exactly will the Kingdom be established?
- α Yeshua said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).
- This would imply that the Kingdom of God is a present condition.

Present & Future



- However, the commonly accepted pre-millennial view is that when Christ returns to the earth, He will at that time usher in and ultimately establish the Kingdom of God.
- So, the Kingdom of God is both present and future.

Eschatology



- There is much biblical prophecy that must be fulfilled before Yeshua's actual return.
- The study of this prophecy is called eschatology—which is the study of the end-times.

Watch!



- Now, if you think for a moment that this topic is unimportant,
- *Yeshua sternly warned his disciples in all four of the gospels and the book of Revelation, to be watching with eager expectation for His imminent return.
- He also promised a blessing to those who were found watching when He returned.

About the Kingdom



- *Yeshua had many things to say about the Kingdom of God,
- ❖ and we read that the disciples were deeply curious about the end of the age and the restoration of the Kingdom.
- Listen to their inquisitive hearts for a moment,
- and the answers Yeshua gave them:

When Will These Things Be?



- *"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"
- And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24:3-14).

Tribulation



"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:3-14).

The Last Days



- This period that Yeshua describes is called many different things, including:
- the last days,
- the latter days,
- *the time of sorrows,
- and the end of the age.

The Day of the Lord



- The last days are not the end of the world, nor are they the day that Yeshua returns to the earth.
- *That day, which is known only to the Lord, will be unique in every way,
- and is called "the day of the Lord."
- *This will be the day that Yeshua physically returns to the earth.

Not in Darkness



- The time and season leading up to this great day should be recognized by the church as the last or the latter days.
- It says,
- "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

Are We?



- So, are we in the last days leading up to the return of Yeshua?
- ❖ Very likely, but it is impossible to speculate just how long we have left since no man knows the day or the hour.
- So if we don't know exactly how long, then we should at least be aware of prophetic events unfolding in the earth during this time.

The Fig Tree



- Yeshua said,
- "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near" (Matthew 24:32).
- *We know from scripture that the fig tree represents Israel,
- *and since He gave Israel His biblical calendar, she is the Lord's time clock.

Deceptions



- *Yeshua also revealed many signs of the end:
- *deception, false Messiahs, wars and threats of war, kingdoms rising and falling, famine, pestilence, and powerful earthquakes.
- But all this He said were just the beginning.

All Will be Shaken



- *And it gets worse.
- Listen carefully to these words:
- The Lord declared:
- α "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens" (Hebrews 12:26).

The Lord Will Arise



- Everything in the world is going to begin to fall apart,
- but in the midst of this chaos, there is a prophetic promise that God has made to Israel.
- ❖It says:
- "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you" (Isaiah 60:2).

Sons & Daughters from Afar



- ❖ If we continue reading, we see this scripture verse speaks to the restoration of Israel:
- "Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side" (Isaiah 60:4).

Rise and Shine



- *As the earth falls into greater darkness, Israel will begin to rise and shine as a beacon of light in the earth.
- Let's go back to our opening scripture from Isaiah where it says:
- *"these things" shall come to pass in the "latter days," meaning the days leading up to the return of the Lord.

His Holy Temple



- *And what things is the Lord speaking of?
- Specifically, it says that the Kingdom of the Lord's house, which is His holy temple, shall be established over all the kingdoms of the earth, and shall be exalted over all the nations.
- It says that all the nations shall flow up to Jerusalem to the Kingdom of God, and Israel will teach the nations how to walk in God's paths according to His laws.

Kingdom of the Living God



- *We know that "all" who are in Christ Yeshua, Jew, and gentile, are both the temple and the Kingdom of the living God.
- ❖I am specifically referring to Messianic Jews (true Israel) and believing Gentiles who have been grafted in amongst us.

The Church



- ❖ I am speaking about the Lord's church—His ecclesia and congregation comprised of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.
- And I am speaking about the "one new man" in Christ Yeshua who have been brought together by the blood of the Lamb,
- One people of God, comprised of every tongue, tribe, nation, and people.
- *We are the redeemed of the Lord.

Jealousy



- Paul says,
- α "But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles" (Romans 11:11).
- *He is not speaking exclusively of the gift of salvation,
- He is speaking about the calling to share the New Covenant and the message of salvation with all the nations.

For a Season



- This calling, which was originally for Israel, has for a season been given to the Gentiles;
- but only until Israel's temporary blindness has been lifted, and the fullness, or full number of Gentiles has come into the Kingdom.

Two Aspects



- There are two aspects of the Kingdom that the Lord will be working together in tandem.
- *As the Gentiles accept Christ and provoke Israel to jealousy,
- ❖ Israel will gradually be restored to her spiritual foundation and become a light to the nations.

From Jerusalem



- Yeshua's words will ring true,
- that the message of salvation would be shared in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,
- "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and *then* the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).
- This time of the end, the latter days, is when we would begin to see the restoration of God's Kingdom.

Restoration of All Things



- ❖ If we study the history of both Israel and the church, we will discover there is a common parallel—
- *that God has been working for centuries to restore both.
- *While they seem to be on different and even diverging paths,
- *at some point not far into the future, the Lord will bring the two together as one.

Jewish History



- Let's go back in time and look at some of the history:
- The Jewish enlightenment period began in the late 19th century.
- This period culminated in the Balfour declaration in 1917,
- *and ultimately in the Council of the League of Nations agreeing to restore the Jewish homeland in 1922.

The Holocaust



- Sadly, this Zionist vision would not be fully realized until after the ashes of the Holocaust
- when the United Nations General Assembly would vote in 1947 to partition an area of Palestine for the Jewish people.

The State of Israel



- On May 14, 1948,
- a gathering of Jewish leaders in Tel Aviv signed a proclamation that declared the establishment of a Jewish state, to be known as the State of Israel.

Jerusalem



- Nineteen years later in June 1967, during the six-day war,
- ❖ Israel regained control of the Temple Mount for the first time in nearly two thousand years.
- The Lord's prophetic words had been at least partially fulfilled as He began to restore His Kingdom.

Restoration of the Church



- *And what about the church?
- Starting with the Protestant Reformation in 1517, the Lord began to restore His written word to the body of Christ.
- The term "reformation" derives from the Latin word reformation and means "restoration" or "renewal."
- From the 1730s through the 1800s, the Lord brought the first and second great awakenings to the church and restored the power of His Holy Spirit to His people.

Great Awakenings



- The third great awakening began in the 1850s and continued through the 1900s.
- The crescendo of this movement is commonly referred to as the "Azusa Street revival,"
- *and it birthed the Pentecostal church that moved in great signs, wonders, miracles, and healings.

Messianic Movement



- And lastly, from the 1960s through the 1970s,
- *the church experienced the fourth great awakening and the explosion of the Messianic movement.
- This initiated the last phase of God's restoration to the church—
- to bring the Messianic Jewish people together with their Gentile brethren as "one new man."

Return of Jerusalem



This move of the Holy Spirit was divinely timed with the return of east Jerusalem and the Temple Mount back to the Jewish people in 1967.

Next Great Harvest



- With the restoration of God's word, the power of His Holy Spirit, and the Messianic awakening of many Jewish people back to their Messiah,
- *the church today is poised to receive the Lord's next great outpouring of His Spirit.
- This will culminate in the final restoration of the church and Israel, and the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen.

Restore the Kingdom to Israel



- *Yeshua's disciples, no doubt, had many questions for Him,
- but one stands out to me:
- α "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

Belongs to Israel



- The fact that Yeshua's disciples asked this question reveals they understood that the Kingdom of God belonged to Israel.
- ❖ And we, the church, should understand the same—
- God is restoring His Kingdom to the Jewish people, and we are part of His plan of restoration.

From Jerusalem



- The other noticeable point is that the gospel was to be preached through Israel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.
- The clear indication here is that it will be Israel, not Rome, America, or any other nation that will ultimately be stewards of God's word
- or stewards of God's assignment to bring and teach His word to every nation.

Irrevocable Calling



- This confirms the irrevocable calling given to the Jewish people,
- but for this season has been entrusted to the Gentiles.
- *Paul said,
- "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God" (Romans 3:1-2).

Aware of God's Restoration



- The church needs to be aware of God's restorative work with His land and His covenant people—Israel.
- And we need to get our eyes pointed in the right direction—towards Jerusalem.

Back to Israel



- *Because this is where the Lord will reestablish His spiritual foundation and heritage,
- and this is where the center of Christianity will once again return in these last days before the return of Christ.
- ❖ It should be no surprise that the Lord has drawn so many influential Messianic leaders back to Israel over the past several decades.
- God is restoring His Kingdom.

Invited to Join



- The church has been invited to join the Lord is the great endtimes endeavor.
- The Lord told His disciples:
- *"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2).

Selective About His Servants



- *And Yeshua is selective about His servants:
- "[Yeshua] went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted" (Mark 3:13).
- "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

Her Am I



- Yes, the Lord chooses those He wants.
- But how are we qualified to be chosen?
- First, I believe we must be willing;
- The prophet Isaiah said: "Here am I! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

The Father's Heart



- Second, we must have the Father's heart to fulfill His will.
- *It is imperative we understand God's heart for Israel,
- The Lord has declared:
- "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- "Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul" (Jeremiah 32:41).

His Land and His People



- *And it is imperative we understand God's heart for His land,
- "a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year" (Deuteronomy 11:12).

How We are Qualified



- This is how we are qualified.
- We must be willing, and we must have God's heart for His land and His people.
- ❖I pray that you will be qualified and chosen to fulfill His great commission regarding Israel and the nations.

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