

#### Ezekiel 37

"11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; . . . 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, '. . . 14 I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land."

#### *Romans* 11:15

"For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?"



#### **Winston Churchill**

"Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has appeared in the world."

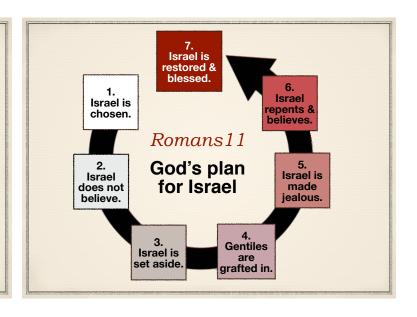
#### Joel Rosenberg

communication strategist & author

The rebirth of Israel in 1948 was the supersign. What we haven't seen happen in the context of all the other prophecies coming true is we haven't seen, until 62 years ago, the rebirth of the state of Israel.

#### Romans 11:25-36

"25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. 27 And this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. 32 For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all."



#### Some general observations

- 1. "mystery" God's plan to use Gentiles and Jews in this way was unknown to the readers of the O.T.
- 2. "fullness of the Gentiles" probably has to do with the general acceptance among the Gentiles of the Gospel.
- 3. "show mercy to all" not to every person but to both Jew & Gentile.
- 4. "all Israel will be saved" Who is Israel?

#### *Romans* 11:26

#### "all Israel will be saved"

#### Who is Israel? Three views

- 1. The church (all the elect Jew and Gentile).
  But in Rom.9-11 (See 11:25) Israel = nation
- **2. Every individual of national Israel.** But "all Israel" = nation generally.
- National Israel as a whole but not every individual. This view best fits the context of Rom. 11.

## Does the nation Israel have a future in God's plan?

 Many of the O.T. promises to Israel (if taken at face value) remain unfulfilled.

Old Testament promises made to Israel



1. A repentance of heart & faith.



2. A return to land & prosperity.



3. A restoration of temple & throne.



4. A role in blessing the world.



 There is no doubt that (for a time) the present nation of Israel is set aside for a future generation or for the Gentiles.

#### Matthew 21:43

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation (ethnic group) bearing the fruits of it."

 But that does not exclude it from one day being grafted back into the vine as a nation.

#### Romans 11:11

"I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be!"

### Is the Christian church the new Israel and the sole recipient of the promises?

- The land of Israel (Palestine) is never mentioned after Pentecost as a part of Israel's restoration; unlike the O.T.
- Some passages suggest that the church not the nation Israel is all that counts.

#### **Galatians** 6:15-16

"Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation (*Body of Christ?*). Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God (*Christians?*)."

 Some passages suggest that true Israel is not defined by the flesh but by faith.

#### Philippians 3:3

"for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,"

#### Romans 2:28-29

"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God."

#### God promises to make a new covenant with Israel.

#### Jeremiah 31

"31 Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, . . . 33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart. . ."

### Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of the New Covenant prophecies.

#### 1 Corinthians 11:25

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### · God promises to place a new spirit in Israel.

#### Ezekiel 36:27

"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

#### The promise of the Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost.

#### Acts 1:4-5

"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, . . . for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

#### Our bodies are the new temple of the Spirit.

#### 1 Corinthians 6:19

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

#### The promised land of rest is a life of faith.

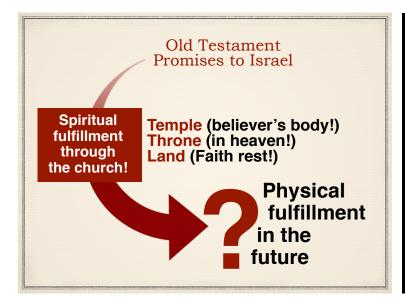
#### Hebrews 4

"3 For we who have believed enter that rest, . . . 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. 9 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His."

#### Christ sits on David's throne NOW!

#### Acts 2:29-36

"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. . . . For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, . . ." Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified."





#### Why does the USA support Israel?

- It is a friendly, democratic, and military stronghold in the middle east.
- The Jewish lobby in Washington is very active and powerful.
- The American media has been generally pro-Israel.
- Many American citizens (including evangelical Christians) support Israel for religious reasons.



#### Christians in support of Zionism believe -

#### 1. Prophesy is being fulfilled.

In Dispensationalism - the nation Israel has a role in God's plan today and tomorrow. In Covenant theology the church is the new Israel.

The Prophets spoke of Israel's future regathering in the land of Palestine. Isa.11:11-13, Amos 9:15.

# It is assumed by some that the UN resolution of 1948 was the fulfillment of prophecy.

#### Deuteronomy 30

"3 **then** the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. 5 The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers."

#### Deuteronomy 30

- "1 So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, 2 and **you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart** and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,"
- "3 then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. 5 The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers."



The conflict over Civilian casualty Palestine may be figures between more complex and 1987 - 2011 ugly than we wish to admit. Israeli The dark shade represents civilian casyalties children are called victims of atrocity. **Palestinian** Israeli 7978 1503 Palestinian civilian casualties are called collateral damage.

#### David Ben-Gurion

"We must use terror, assassination, intimidation, land confiscation, and the cutting of all social services to rid the Galilee of its Arab population."

#### **Ariel Sharon**

"There is no Zionism, colonialization, or Jewish State without the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands."



"If Israel is making a Biblical, theological claim to the Land, then it must also uphold Biblical standards of nation-building and justice. Both modern Israeli writers and Christians committed to justice see grave shortcomings in this country that was to be a "light to the gentiles." They recognize that Judaism holds precious ideals of justice and truth within its heritage. But the current political program of Israel's government is neglecting them."

Gary M. Burge Wheaton College

Prophetic faith and justice precedes prophetic fulfillment of restoration to the promised land.

#### Deuteronomy 30:1-3

"So it shall be **when** ... you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, **then** the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you."

Has Israel returned to her God yet?

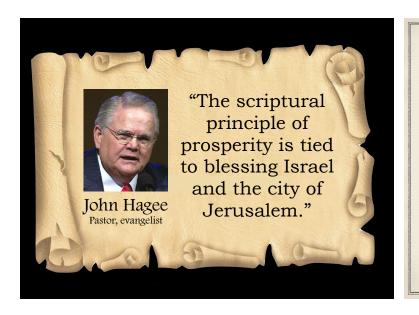


Is it possible that the UN resolution of 1948 was not a part of the prophetic restoration of Israel

but rather an exposure of Zionist hubris and hardening of heart?

I will not have to give an account of another's behavior

but
I will give an
account of mine?



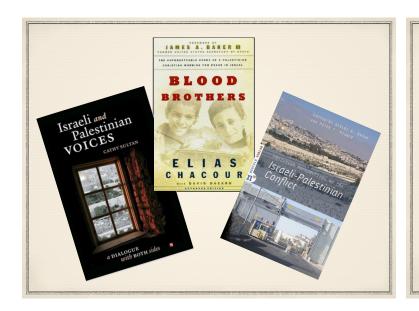
# 2. A blessing is promised to all who support Israel.

#### Genesis 12:3

"And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curse you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed."

How has God loved Israel when she was in spiritual rebellion?

Exile not Endorsement?



#### Romans 11:25-36

"33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For "who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?" 35 Or "who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?" 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

# The Gospel is to be received and shared not audited and edited.

# How should Christians respond to present day Israel?

- Promote Kingdom values (peace, justice, grace, etc.) and a universal Gospel with no national favoritism.
- Recognize that prophetic restoration involves spiritual renewal and social justice.
- Acknowledge and repent of joining the world in discriminating against Jewish people in history.
- Consider if indeed we are resisting God in His continued care (through discipline) of the nation Israel.

#### Lessons to be learned

- 1. Is Zionism a Christian calling? Don't be too quick to give an uncritical endorsement of Israel's occupation of Palestine.
- 2. A sign of God's "end game" is Israel's "spiritual" renewal.
- 3. The blessings of Abraham are spiritual more than physical as the N.T. epistles indicate.
- 4. We stand or fall by our faith. Our security is not in God's election, our ethnicity, our morality, nor our service.
- 5. Don't be too dogmatic with respect to how we should read O.T. prophecy concerning Palestine and the Jews.