

**JEREMIAH**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Jeremiah chapter 30 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Remember what we read back in Jeremiah 29:11, **“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”** That is the focus of these next four chapters, Jeremiah chapters 30-33, the restoration of the nation of Israel, their return from captivity! You see, God wants to give His people a future, a hope, knowing that His thoughts towards them are not to bring about evil, but good in their lives and thus, in the midst of the judgment that was going to come upon them, God gives them this hope!

That is why these four chapters of Jeremiah have been called “The Book of Consolation.” You see, they are going to deal with their return to the land. Now let me give you some background information so you can see where we are at in regards to their captivity and the captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

At this point the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been in captivity for over 100 years. Now, when the Babylonians defeat the Assyrians those captives from Israel will be assimilated into the Babylonian captivity.

At this point here in Jeremiah many people in the Southern Kingdom of Judah had already been taken into captivity. We know that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah and Ezekiel were some of the more prominent ones in which the Bible speaks of.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians and when they returned home from Babylon that was a partial fulfillment. Then, in 70 A. D. the Jews were scattered throughout the world by the Romans.

They went without a homeland for some 1878 years. Now in saying that it does not mean that Jews were not living in the land of Israel, they were. But we saw these dry, lifeless bones spoken of prophetically in Ezekiel chapter 37 come to life on May 14, 1948.

Let me give you some information, brief but it will help you to understand how Israel should never become a nation, they should have been destroyed, but God fought for them!

Back on March 1, 1944, Yasser Arafat's uncle, Najamin el-Husseini said on Radio Berlin regarding the increase numbers of Jews in the land, "Arabs, rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God [Allah] and religion [and] saves your honor. God is with you."

It is hard to imagine but it did happen. On May 14, 1948, in Tel Aviv, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, proclaimed the birth of the sovereign state of Israel. Upon Israel's declaration of independence, of their statehood, they were immediately attacked by seven Arab armies and out-manned 30 to 1. The goal was to drive Israel into the Sea, and to destroy them!

What took place? IDF General Shimon Erem said back in 1948, "Twenty thousand untrained civilians, many of them speaking languages which could not be understood took on armies represented by 100 million Arabs, and prevailed. It was a miracle of God, there is no other explanation. God was keeping His word. The key was faith. We believed God. We believed the prophets. And because of God, we prevailed. The difference is faith in God, the God of the Bible."

General Shimon Erem believed what God said and now, their existence in the land of Israel is a fulfillment of what God promised even though the enemy was bigger and stronger than they were. It is as David said in Psalm 124; we see this played out in the history of the re-birth of the nation of Israel. David said in verse 1 of Psalm 124, **“If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,’ Let Israel now say; ‘If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul.’ Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.”** Psalm 124:1-8.

And on June 7, 1967, as Israeli troops moved into the old city and stood at the western wall or the Wailing Wall for prayer, Rabbi Shlomo Goren declared, “We have taken the city of God. We are entering the Messianic era for Jewish people, and I promise . . . That what we are responsible for we will take care of.” The city of Jerusalem was once again reunited and the Star of David flew over the nation’s capital, ***JERUSALEM!***

And we see that even today as God is working with His people. We are told with this latest conflict in Gaza,

Israel Today translated a report from a Hebrew-language news site, which noted the Iron Dome battery failed three times to intercept an incoming rocket headed toward Tel Aviv last week.

The commander recalled: “A missile was fired from Gaza. Iron Dome precisely calculated [its trajectory]. We know where these missiles are going to land down to a radius of 200 meters. This particular missile was going to hit either the Azrieli Towers, the Kirya (Israel’s equivalent of the Pentagon) or [a central Tel Aviv railway station]. Hundreds could have died. “We fired the first [interceptor]. It missed. Second [interceptor]. It missed. This is very rare. I was in shock. At this point we had just four seconds until the missile lands. We had already notified emergency services to converge on the target location and had warned of a mass-casualty incident.

“Suddenly, Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) shows a major wind coming from the east, a strong wind that . . . sends the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and shouted, ‘There is a God!’

“I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes. It was not told or reported to me. I saw the hand of God send that missile into the sea.”

. . . Barbara Ordman, who lives in Ma’ale Adumim on the West Bank.

Her exact quotation was: “As one of the terrorists from Gaza was reported to say when asked why they couldn’t aim their rockets more effectively: “We do aim them, but their God changes their path in mid-air.”

- <http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/hand-of-god-sent-missile-into-sea/>

Israel became a nation once again and Jews from all over the world are returning to the land of Israel. No longer were they a divided nation but one nation, the nation of Israel! But please understand that this is not the complete fulfillment of them returning to the land. You see, during the reign of the Antichrist they will be scattered once again.

It is during this time, the seven-year Tribulation Period when the Jews will turn to their Messiah, they will turn to Jesus and their sins will be washed away. We will see that as we get to Jeremiah chapter 31, this “**new covenant**” that God is going to make with His people and He has made through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

And when the Messiah comes He will set up His Kingdom here on the earth and He will bring them back into the land of Israel never to be removed or scattered again! That is the complete fulfillment of this prophecy of them returning to the land which tells me Israel is the focal point of the last days, the Jewish people!

Let me share these words with you before we get into our study this evening as this will sum things up for us. We are told,

God had threatened Judah with judgment for her disobedience, but the nation refused to mend her ways. The stage was set and the curtain was about to rise on the final act of Judah’s history as a nation. But before this sad scene of suffering started to unfold, Jeremiah inserted “The Book of Consolation,” a collection of prophecies that offered hope in desperate times. These prophecies looked beyond Judah’s imminent collapse and pointed to a new age when Israel and Judah would be returned to their land, reunited as a nation, and restored to their God.

- John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 1167

With that as our background, let’s begin reading in Jeremiah chapter 30 beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this evening as we are studying through His Word.

**JEREMIAH 30****VERSES 1-3**

1. There were the days of judgment but now we see a change, there is a new day coming. There is a day of restoration that is coming. How do we know this? Because of the source of this message, God! We can trust what God tells us even if it is speaking of prophetic events or things that have not taken place yet. We are told very clearly that, “**The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD . . .**”

The subject of these words is Israel and Judah, both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And we are told that the captivity will end, that they will return to their land once again.

Now some have a problem with this because they say that the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, over 100 years later were taken into captivity by the Babylonians, so how can the Northern Kingdom be returned?

One writer put it like this in his commentary on Jeremiah. He wrote,

When the Jews came out of Babylon in 520 B. C., led by Ezra and then Nehemiah, they were all from Judah. Israel was carried away by the Assyrians in 722 B. C. and never returned. So what does the Lord mean when He says Israel shall return? I believe He is speaking of the return taking place in our own day as Jews from all over the world have been returning to Israel since its rebirth as a nation in 1948.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary, Old Testament, Vol. 2, p. 538

I do not agree with that and this is why. In II Chronicles 15 we see that King Asa brought spiritual reform to the Southern Kingdom of Judah and because of this many in the Northern Kingdom of Israel started to move to Judah. Because of that we are told in II Chronicles 16:1, **“In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.”**

King Baasha tried to stop this flow of his people from his Kingdom. Not only that but if you remember the first King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Jeroboam let anyone become a priest and thus, many of the priests of Israel came to Judah because they could not accept that.

And lastly, when the Assyrians were defeated by the Babylonians those Jews from the Northern Kingdom of Israel were also assimilated in Babylon. So when the Jews returned home from their Babylonian captivity, all Israel came back, both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom! I just wanted to make sure you understood that, there are not the 10 lost tribes of Israel!

2. Yes God was encouraging His people during a very dark period in their history. He was telling them that they were going to return home from their Babylonian captivity, but as you are going to see its scope is far more reaching than that. It will bring us to the end of the Tribulation Period and into the Kingdom Age as we will see as we read on.

VERSES 4-9

1. Make no mistake about it; the Babylonian captivity was devastating for the Southern Kingdom of Judah as well as the Assyrian captivity for the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Millions of Jews in the Southern Kingdom of Judah were murdered and the rest were taken captive to Babylon. The ones that remained in Judah were the old, the sick because Babylon did not see them as a threat and did not want to take care of them.

And to drive home this point about how bad it was the Lord likens it to a woman who is in labor. Now I can honestly say that I don't know what that feels like, praise God, but I saw my wife give birth to our two sons and it looks painful.

But here the Lord is speaking of the men doubled over in pain and this pain is just like the pain of a woman giving birth. We see that illustration often in the Scriptures when relating to judgment and specifically the Tribulation Period!

2. The key to what the Lord is speaking about is found in these verses. First of all He tells us that **“it is the time of Jacob’s trouble.”** This is the period of time known as the Tribulation Period or those last seven years of judgment before the Lord returns and specifically I believe that **“the time of Jacob’s trouble”** is the last 3½ years of the seven year Tribulation period and you will see why in a minute. Now keep in mind that the church is not around during this period of time; the Lord has come and taken His Bride out, the Church is removed prior to the start of the Tribulation Period.



Why is that? First of all we see that during this period of time God is dealing with the Jewish people once again as well as pouring out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. God does not judge the righteous with the wicked and the only reason we are righteous is because of the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed into our lives by faith in Him!

It is as Peter wrote in II Peter 2:9, “**then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.**” And Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 4:18 after he spoke about the Church being caught up to meet the Lord in the air prior to the start of this period of time, “**Therefore comfort one another with these words.**” If we were going through the Tribulation Period there would be no words of comfort!

The second point or reason why I believe this is speaking of the Tribulation Period and specifically the last half of the seven year Tribulation Period is that the Lord said, “**Alas! For the day is great, So that none is like it.**” There has been no other time in the history of the world like this time that is coming. Yes it has been bad and specifically it has been bad for the Jewish people, but not like what is coming!

We have seen the atrocities that Hitler brought forth upon the Jews, murdering 6 million of them. And once the Jews returned to the land their cry has been, “*Never again!*” They will never again allow such things to happen to them, at least that is what they are saying.

But there is coming a persecution that will be so intense, brought on by the Antichrist upon the Jews, that 2/3 of the Jewish population will be destroyed. (Zechariah 13:8-9) Right now it has been estimated that there are about 15 million Jews living in the world. Think about this for a minute. That would mean 10 million will be destroyed by the Antichrist! And the pain will be like a woman in labor. It is out of all that we see God birthing the Kingdom Age. But before that comes they will have to go through a time called Jacob's trouble!

We see this spoken of by Jesus in Matthew chapter 24:15-21 where we are told, **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.’”**

Notice that last part because it is what the Lord is saying here in Jeremiah, that this period of time has never been seen before and when it is done it will never be seen again!

3. Now you may be wondering where the hope is in all of that? That is a great question and the Lord gives us that hope. Notice what we are told once again in the last part of verse 7 of Jeremiah chapter 30 through verse 9, **“... But he shall be saved out of it. ‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the Lord their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them.’”**

Notice that the Lord will save the remnant from this period of time and He is speaking specifically of the Jewish people, the ones who turn to Jesus as their Messiah and receive the forgiveness of their sins. That is the only way a person can be saved out of this judgment!

Not only that but the yoke of the Gentiles that has been placed upon the necks of the Jewish people will be broken as Luke 21:24 tells us, “**And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**”

This is speaking of Gentile rule over Israel, the Jews and it began when Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon invaded the Southern Kingdom of Judah and captured the people taking them back to Babylon and placing them in captivity for 70 years.

Now some feel that the times of the Gentiles is over because Israel is back in the land. They became a nation in 1948 and recaptured the city of Jerusalem in 1967 as we have seen. Thus, the Jews are no longer under Gentile rule, or at least that is the thought, but I don't see it that way.

Look at the nations that are still trying to tell Israel what to do and during the Tribulation Period and specifically the last half the world will turn against the Jewish people just like or really worse than during the time of Hitler!

Thus, the times of the Gentiles will not be fulfilled until Jesus Christ returns to set up His Kingdom and He crushes Gentile power and the Jews and Gentiles will worship the Lord! But before that, during the Tribulation Period, the Gentile nations will surround Jerusalem to destroy her and her people! So the times of the Gentiles are not over.

And as you look at how verse 9 closes it closes with the Lord, with Jesus on the throne of David ruling and reigning and the Jews will **“serve the LORD their God.”** That has to be encouraging and they will need that encouragement because the days will get tough, it will be a **“time of Jacob’s trouble.”**

#### VERSES 10-15

1. The Lord starts out by encouraging the Jewish people. Yes the news of the coming Tribulation Period is overwhelming but the Lord says, **“do not fear”** and do not **“be dismayed.”** And the reason is simple, the Lord is with them, the Lord will give them rest, the Lord will save them!

Now think about Israel today, a tiny nation to say the least, only the size of New Jersey and they are surrounded by over 100 million enemies, Muslims that want them dead, they want every Jew destroyed! They are not interested in peace but the destruction of the nation of Israel and the Jews! Think about that, you are surrounded by over 100 million enemies on three sides, north, south, and east. Then, on the west side is the Mediterranean Sea.

They have no place to run to, no place to hide. And the Lord is telling them to rest in Him because He will save them! You see, there is coming a day when the Lord returns and sets up His Kingdom and the Jews will live in the land without fear, without terror, they will live in peace because the times of the Gentiles will be over!

2. Listen to what Dave Hunt said a few years back regarding the land of Israel and the peace process that is going on there. He said,

They will not allow Israel even to exist, and you know, there is no Arab map in the world that shows the existence of Israel. You get the logo of the PLO for example, here's Palestine, look for Israel. There's no Israel there, Hamas the same. They have sworn to exterminate Israel, and then the world says, Make peace with these people - oh, surely we can have them sign another piece of paper, another peace agreement, and that will solve all of this. No, it won't!

. . . the problem is, what have they done? They divided the land! Just like God said, No conqueror ever divides a land, you keep the land for yourself. Whoa, wait a minute, this land is going to be divided, Joel 3:2. Okay, what is the documentation for that? Well, I've given you some of the history, but UN Resolution 181, November 29, 1947, it is called, the partition of the land, and the nations of the world, exactly as God said, joined together, United Nations, to divide this land, and Israel ended up with about 13% of what they had been promised.

God said, I am angry, this is my land; you are taking it away from my people! Well, . . . you know, every peace proposal since, including President Bush's so called, Roadmap to Peace. What's the foundation of it? Israel give them more land - give them more land - give them more land! They just forced Israel to pull out of Gaza. That was Israel, that's Israeli land. They talk about, O, Israel is occupying Palestinian land.

No, these people who call themselves Palestinians are occupying Israeli land. And I begin to get a little angry, Tom, so if I could take another minute here. Who are the Palestinians? They are Arabs. Arabs claim descent from Ishmael. Ishmael was the first son of Abraham, not through his wife Sarah, but through her maid Hagar. All right, Abraham was what? He was a Chaldean from Iraq, actually, and Hagar was an Egyptian.

So you claim descent from Ishmael whose father was an Iraqi, was a Chaldean actually, not the same kind of Iraqi's they have today, although there are Chaldeans living over there, I've met some of them, but Abraham was a Chaldean, Hagar was an Egyptian, you've got a Chaldean father, an Egyptian mother. When they arrive in this place, not Palestine it's Canaan, it is already settled by the Canaanites, and you're descended from Ishmael and you say you are descended from the original Palestinians?

I begin to get really angry, Tom! This is a lie! It is a total fraud, as history says, and the world accepts this lie as the basis for a peace that they are going to force upon Israel, which involves dividing up this land, and God said: I'm going to punish you for dividing My land! So, anyway, that's a little bit of background of prophecy. It gives us confidence, Tom, that when Jesus said: I will come again, it gives us confidence that when the Bible talks about the return of Christ, or the rapture, it's actually going to happen because all these other things that the Bible foretold have come to pass exactly on schedule.

- <http://www.thebereancall.org/content/how-will-all-nations-come-against-israel>

3. The Lord also tells them in verse 11 that He will make an end of all those nations where they were taken into captivity and then He says, **“Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.”**

That sounds like judgment for the Jewish people, but why? Because of their sin, they turned from the Lord, they trusted in other nations to deliver them from captivity! Remember what we read in Jeremiah 6:14, **“They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.”**

The false prophets were putting Band-Aids on an arterial bleeder. It was not going to help. He speaks of their sin as a wound, sever, incurable. I worked as a Nurse for some 30 years and I have seen my share of wounds that would not heal and they are not pretty. That is what God sees as He looks upon this nation, they looked like a festering wound and they tried to fix the problem but it was beyond their control!

The reality was that God was their answer but they were not looking to Him for help but they tried to do it on their own. And as you look at the Scriptures that relate to this period of time prior to their captivity in Babylon you see that God was looking for someone to step in and help His people, to intercede for them.

Ezekiel, prophesying during the same time as Jeremiah, only Ezekiel was in Babylon, said, **“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,’ says the Lord GOD.”**

Ezekiel 22:30-31.

God’s judgment came because there was no one standing in the gap for the people, the nation. Most of the nation was into idolatry, listening to the false prophets instead of God. And God tried to get them to repent, but they refused. Because of that God placed some pretty harsh judgments upon them, chastening them, not to destroy them, but to change them. The captivity had to come!

The Lord said, **“Because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.”**

And it looks like this same attitude will be present during the Tribulation Period as they look to the Antichrist to deliver them and at the half-way point he goes into the re-built Temple and demands to be worshiped as God. It is then the Jews flee for their lives and call upon Jesus to save them from their sins! They realize that this man was not their Savior but Jesus is!

#### VERSES 16-17

1. The nations that came against the Jewish people God is going to deal with them and with the measure of destruction they brought upon the Jewish people God will bring upon them. We see that with the fall of Babylon when the Medes and the Persians destroyed them.

And looking ahead, as the nations of the world come against the Jews in the latter days, the Tribulation Period leading up to the Battle of Armageddon, God will wipe them out!

We see this spoken of in Zechariah 12:2-3, which says, **“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”**

Also, in Zechariah 14:2-3 we are told, **“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.”**



This speaks of the time towards the end of the Tribulation Period when the Gentile nations gather together surrounding Jerusalem. And as they make their conquest against the city, things look bad. Houses are plundered, the women violated, many taken into captivity, but not all because God has His faithful remnant who love Him!

Now some may wonder why the Lord waited so long to intervene. Why didn't He respond sooner? I believe He was waiting upon the nation of Israel to call upon Him and as soon as they do He steps in, fighting for His people and destroying their enemies.

It is as Matthew 23:38-39 says, **“See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”** And thus, He will hear and respond to His people in the following manner, **“The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; he shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; he shall prevail against His enemies.”** Isaiah 42:13.

You can read of this Battle of Armageddon in Revelation chapter 19 as the Lord returns and puts down this rebellion with the Sword of the Spirit or the Word of God defeats these enemies. It is really not a battle but a slaughter because how can creation fight against their Creator and win? They can't and they won't!

VERSES 18-22

1. Once again there is a partial fulfillment of this prophecy when they returned from their Babylonian captivity. Psalm 126:1-3 tells us of this time as we are told, **“When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad.”**

Those Jews who returned home faced very difficult times. The land was devastated, the walls of the city of Jerusalem were broken down, the homes that were left behind were destroyed. They had nothing and yet they had everything because they knew that this was the place God had given to them and He would see them through this all!

2. But again we must look ahead to a future time, which I believe is getting closer and closer as we see the complete fulfillment in the Kingdom Age. We are told in Isaiah 51:11, **“So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”**

And that is what we see here in Jeremiah chapter 30 in verses 20-22, Jesus is sitting upon the throne of David as the Scriptures teach us and Jews and Gentiles will come to worship Him there in Zion! And for 1,000 years Jesus will rule and reign and then Satan is loosed for a season and many join with Him and the Lord puts down that rebellion. Then He creates a new heavens and a new earth with a new Jerusalem and this is the eternal state, sin is done away with completely and we will be with the Lord forever. For those who have rejected Him they too will enter the eternal state but they will go to the Lake of Fire where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth!

#### VERSES 23-24

1. There is coming a day when God will pour out His wrath like a whirlwind, destroying the wicked so that His purposes may be established, the Kingdom of God will be set up and righteousness will fill this land.

And notice the key, **“In the Latter days you will consider it.”** We are living in those days and they continue on into the Tribulation Period!

2. I want to take some time before we go any further in Jeremiah to talk about the land of Israel, the Jewish people and the Palestinians and whose land this is because there seems to be a lot of misinformation about this today! We even have some churches coming against Israel for war crimes and they side with the Palestinians who are brutally killing their own people by using them as shields to protect themselves. I hope I can clear up some misconceptions this evening about this issue.

Please understand that the concept of “*Palestinians*” is one that did not exist until about 1948 when the Arab inhabitants, of what until then was Palestine, wished to differentiate themselves from the Jews. Until then, the Jews were the Palestinians. There were the Palestinian Brigade of Jewish volunteers in the British World War II Army (at a time when the Palestinian Arabs were in Berlin hatching plans with Adolph Hitler for world conquest and how to kill all the Jews); there was the Palestinian Symphony Orchestra (all Jews, of course); there was The Palestine Post; a Jewish newspaper and so much more.

Tragically, if your Bible has Bible maps in back you will see phrases like this, “*Palestine in Christ’s Time.*” That is what is in one of my Bibles and it is a lie. It was never Palestine in the time of Jesus; it was the land of Israel. I even have read some Bible commentators that call this land Palestine, which just drives me crazy because it is wrong and it is getting others to believe this lie! These men and these companies that produce these Bibles should be ashamed of themselves!

Then why do we hear so much about Palestinians today. Keep in mind that the Arabs who now call themselves “*Palestinians*” do so in order to persuade a misinformed world that they are a distinct nationality and that “*Palestine*” is their ancestral homeland. But they are not a distinct nationality at all. They are the same – in language, custom, and tribal and family ties – as the Arabs of Syria, Jordan, and beyond. What’s more, many of the “*Palestinians*” or their immediate ancestors came to the area attracted by the prosperity created by the Jews, in what previously had been pretty much of a wasteland.

Dave Hunt gives us insight into this idea of a Palestinian. He wrote,

To the British Peel Commission in 1937, a local Arab leader testified, “There is no such country as Palestine. ‘Palestine’ is a term the Zionists invented . . .”

Professor Philip Hitti, Arab historian, testified to an Anglo-American Committee of inquiry in 1946, “There is no such thing as Palestine in history – absolutely not!”

To the UN Security Council on May 31, 1956, Ahmed Shukairy declared, “It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but southern Syria.” Eight years later, in 1964, Shukairy became the founding chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and coined the infamous slogan, “[W]e’ll drive the Jews into the sea.” And he wasn’t even a “Palestinian”! Like Arafat, he was born in Cairo. The Palestinian Liberation Organization was not founded by Palestinians but has been used to exploit these abused people in Islam’s war against Israel.

- Dave Hunt, Judgment Day!, pp. 82-83

And please understand that the Arabs control 99.9 percent of the Middle East lands. Israel represents one-tenth of 1 percent of the landmass and yet, the so-called Palestinians want it all! But whose land is it. Listen to what God has told us in His Word. The land belongs to the Jews, God has given it to them, and it was His in the first place and it is still His!

In Genesis 12:7 we are told, **“Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.”** That is pretty clear; the land of Israel belongs to the Jews!

In Genesis 13:15 we are told, **“for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.”** Think about this for a minute. This land that God gave to Israel is theirs forever! Has that ended? No, it is ***FOREVER!***

In Genesis 15:18 we are told, **“On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.’”** God made this covenant with Abram or Abraham and the land is theirs.

In Genesis 17:7 we are told, **“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”** Again, it is an everlasting covenant that God made with the Jewish people and if His everlasting covenant that He made with them is not everlasting, then what about the everlasting covenant that He made with us, does that mean it is not everlasting? You see, you open up a can of worms when you try to alter the Scriptures!

And in I Chronicles 16:14-18 we are told, **“He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance.’”**

God gave to Israel an everlasting covenant and He uses that phrase some eleven times in regards to this covenant. And folk's, just because the Jewish people, as a nation rejected what their prophets said about the Messiah, just because they rejected the Messiah, it does not mean that God would then break His everlasting covenant with them because then it would not be an everlasting covenant!

And think about this for a minute. The word **“Israel”** is mentioned 2,565 times in 2,293 verses in The King James Version of the Bible. The city of **“Jerusalem”** is found 811 times in 764 verses.

Now in contrast the word “**Jerusalem**” is not even found once, not even once in the Qur’an and yet Muslims claim that this city is their third holiest city! The Jews have been in the land of Israel continuously for about 3,000 years, not so with the so-called Palestinians! There are so many myths out there that people believe are the truth and they are not the truth, they are myths like I have said.

To help clear up some of that garbage, David Hocking said this regarding some of the myths about Israel and the Middle East:

First, the widely disseminated idea that the Jews were disbursed from their ancient homeland by the Romans in the first century A. D. is a myth. In fact it was not until the seventh century A. D. Moslem invasion that Jews were finally expelled in large numbers, murdered, or fled to nearby countries. Even then communities of Jews continuously lived in the land. It is particularly notable that even after Titus’ destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), which resulted in the expulsion, or death of over 1,000,000 Jews, the Jewish population in Israel remained at around 3,000,000.

Second, the idea that immigration by Jews to Israel began following WWII and the Holocaust, that it was precipitated by the world’s sympathy, and that Jews displaced the local Arab residents west of the Jordan River is also a myth. . .

Fourth: The idea that when the Jews returned, in what Yassir Arafat now calls the Jewish Invasion of Palestine beginning in 1888 and that they displaced Arabs living on productive and verdant farms, and spreading citrus groves is total myth. Many who were there describe it differently. In the 1870's Samuel Manning, *In Those Holy Fields*, London, 1874 referred to the same land as "left desolate and without inhabitants." Nothing had changed since 1867 when Mark Twain traveled the area and wrote in *Innocents Abroad* (p. 349), "Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes . . . desolate and unlovely."

- Hope for Today, David Hocking, Sept/ Oct 1997

Now, in regards to this everlasting covenant that God made with Israel regarding this land, Hank Hanegraaff writes in his book these words from his key character in the book called, *The Last Disciple*, "The covenant between God and Israel was broken with the rejection of His Son." (Hank Hanegraaff, *The Last Disciple*, p. 88).

Please explain to me how an everlasting covenant can be broken, that it is not everlasting? You see, that makes no sense and Hank does not even explain how this could ever happen, it is just what he believes and he allows his character in the book to speak forth this jaded theology! You see, the everlasting covenant that God made with Israel regarding this land was based upon God's faithfulness to complete it, not the Jews. Yes, because of unbelief they missed out on many of the blessings, even being removed from the land for a time, but that is not going to deter the fulfilling of His promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! Again, let me just give you a few examples from the Scriptures to show you what I mean.



In Deuteronomy 1:8 we are told, **“See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers - to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - to give to them and their descendants after them.”** In Jeremiah 7:7 we are told, **“Then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.”**

You see, it was the promise that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and it is an everlasting covenant.

Now some do believe that this covenant that God made with them was based on their faithfulness and when they rejected the Lord, He cut them off and is done with them. Keep in mind that when God spoke to Abraham in Genesis chapter 15 and established this covenant it was a unilateral covenant based upon God’s faithfulness because Abraham was sleeping when the covenant was cut!

Also, in Ezekiel chapter 36 we are told starting in verse 11, **“I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. . . . Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. . . . Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord God, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!” ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.” Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it.”’** Ezekiel 36:11, 22-26, 32-36.

Why is God doing this for the nation of Israel? It is not because they are so great but for the integrity of His name, to fulfill what He has promised them, what He promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! And yet, many Christian denominations have initiated a boycott against companies that do business with Israel because they feel that Israel has no right to the land!

Replacement theologians such as the late D. James Kennedy, R. C. Sproul and others have rejected the idea that Israel is going to play any role in the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and yet, the Scriptures seem to go contrary to what they are saying!

In an, "An Open Letter to Evangelicals and Other Interested Parties: The People of God, the Land of Israel, and the Impartiality of the Gospel" over 100 Evangelical pastors signed this document and this is a portion of what it said:

"The inheritance promises that God gave to Abraham . . . do not apply to any particular ethnic group, but to the church of Jesus Christ, the true Israel. . . . The entitlement of any one ethnic or religious group to territory in the Middle East called the 'Holy Land' cannot be supported by Scripture. In fact, the land promises specific to Israel in the Old Testament were fulfilled under Joshua."

Now people read that and they say, "Yes, that must be true" and they don't even think about what they are agreeing to. Joshua lived 110 years and that was the everlasting covenant that God gave to them! In fact, Moses spoke of them being driven out of the land even before they entered it, once in around 600 B. C. and then again in 70 A. D. And why does the church want the blessings of Israel but they negate the cursing's that also come upon Israel for the evil that they did? You can't have it both ways and in reality, we are not Israel, the Jews are!

But God said that He would bring them back in the land once again, and He did. He brought them back from the Babylonian captivity and from the Roman persecution for on May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation again as I have said this evening.

And think about this for a minute. If God is done with Israel, if they were to bring forth the Messiah and they did, and then rejected Him and now God is done with them, why is there a rise in anti-Semitism? Why in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century with the Crusaders did they slaughter so many Jews with their motto being, “Kill a Jew and save your soul” if God was done with them? Why did Hitler try to wipe them out by killing 6 million Jews if God is done with them? And why, during the Tribulation Period is there going to be one of the greatest holocausts against the Jewish people under the reign of the Antichrist if God is done with the Jewish people? That makes no sense; Satan could care less about the Jews unless, as Romans chapter 11 shows us, God is not done with the nation of Israel!

Let me close with this, about 250 years ago, the King of Sweden had troubling doubts about whether the Bible was really true in every word. He asked Count von Zinzendorf, bishop of the Moravian Church, to give him proof that the Bible was truly inspired of God. The King had set aside 10 hours to hear what might be said. To his majesty’s surprise, Zinzendorf informed him that the time allotted was far too much. He only needed to say one word.

Astonished, the King asked what that could be. The Count replied, “*Jews.*” May we not forget that, they are His people and God is not done with them! And thus, since God’s promises to Israel are sure, He will fulfill them, then the promises to us are sure, He will fulfill them! As the Lord said, “. . . In the latter days you will consider it.” Jeremiah 30:24.