

# God's Everlasting Covenant

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## Study 6 – Israel's Glorious Future and How We Should Respond

### Review

In lesson 5, we talked about the Jewish influence on the early church, and how we have lost sight of our Jewish roots. We talked about replacement theology, the belief that formed in early church history, that Christians had become the "New Israel." We talked about the seeds of anti-Semitism as the natural outgrowth of the early Church's decision to separate herself from all things Jewish. And we talked about the huge void that the influence of this belief has left on the Body of Messiah – as we have separated ourselves from our Jewish roots, the Church has not fulfilled her calling -- unity and provoking the Jewish people to envy over our relationship with the God of Israel. We have forgotten our Jewish brethren and we are missing out on the richness and depth of the gospel because we don't understand the Hebraic mind and influence written into the Scriptures. We also talked about Islam as the devil's most recent scheme to get rid of the Jewish people and all Jewish influence from the face of the earth. Islam is a political, social and religious system that was birthed in the pit of hell. Allah, the god of Islam, is the enemy of the God of Israel. We learned that the conflict in the Middle East is not a conflict over land. It is a conflict over whose god is greater: the God of Israel or Allah. Muslims are not our enemy, but are enslaved and trapped by the real enemy, Satan, and we are called to love them and pray for them as well.

With all we've studied, we can only come to one conclusion: God has always had an eternal plan for Israel. He is not finished with her. Let's turn to the Scriptures and see what was foretold long ago to a bunch of Jewish outcasts – the Prophets!

### I. The Nation born in a day!

Buying back the land - The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. just as the nation of Judah was being destroyed and the people taken captive into the land of Babylon. He spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting nearly a century ago - they bought back the land. (From [www.therefinersfire.org](http://www.therefinersfire.org))

**Jeremiah 32:44 NIV** - "Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."

And then, the miracle happened. On May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation. This prophecy was written approximately 2200-2400 years before this event happened!

**Isaiah 66:7-9 NIV** – “Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?”

The answer to this rhetorical question is a resounding “NO!” This is not heard of in our world of wars and fierce struggle to bring forth nations. On the website, [www.therefinersfire.org](http://www.therefinersfire.org), it says: “Isaiah said the birth would take place before there would be labor pains. And that too is precisely what happened. A movement called Zionism began in the 1800s to encourage Jews worldwide to move to Israel, which at that time was called Palestine. Within hours of the declaration of independence in 1948, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

When reading Isaiah 66:7-8, keep in mind that Israel's status as a sovereign nation was established and reaffirmed during the course of a single day...it was born of a movement called Zionism...its declaration of independence was not the result of a war but rather the cause of one.”

## **II. Israel’s Glorious Future – God’s Heart Revealed**

There is one place in Scripture where God’s heart & plan is revealed like no where else! Jeremiah 30 & 31. I recommend you read both chapters in their entirety, but for the sake of time, we will only read certain passages. Let’s read **Jeremiah 30:3-7**: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,’ says the Lord.” These are the words the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah; “This is what the Lord says: “Cries of fear are heard – terror, not peace. Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.”

It is interesting to note that God declares He will bring them back from captivity, and immediately after He talks about there being terror, not peace in the land. My friends, we are watching with our own eyes, in our day, the fulfillment of this prophecy. The time of Jacob’s trouble is coming, and it is very close.

In **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, the Lord reveals that a time is coming, when He will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, not like the one they broke when He led them out of Egypt. This one would be one written on their hearts. No one will have to teach them to know the Lord, for they will all know Him. And then He makes an astounding declaration that removes all doubt about God’s eternal covenant with Israel. It is written in **Jeremiah 31:35-37**: “This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the Lord Almighty is his name: Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the Lord, “will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me.” This is what the Lord says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured

and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the Lord.

The last time I looked, the sun was still shining...the moon and stars are still in the heavens...the waves still roar in the restless sea. Therefore, Israel is still God’s nation, and He has not rejected her. Despite her rejection of Him, Israel is still His beloved adopted first-born son. What amazing love is this!

And lest we have any fears or worries because of what is happening today, God has chosen Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and where He has put His name forever. Let’s read **2 Chronicles 6:6** and **2 Chronicles 33:7, Psalm 48:1-2, 8, 12-14, Psalm 132:13-14**. Finally, let’s read **Isaiah 62:1-7**.

(From [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org):) **Mount Zion** (**Hebrew**: צִיּוֹן רֶהַב **transliteration**: Har Tziyyon)

There is no doubt of what God’s plans are for Zion (Israel) and for Jerusalem. His Word should be shouted from the rooftops by us and all who love Him. As verse 6-7 says, we should never be silent, we should not rest, and God has given us a command to give Him no rest until He has made Jerusalem the praise of all the earth. Jerusalem is our future. Jerusalem is our home. Jerusalem should be in the center of our hearts, just as it has always been for the Jewish people. Like the Psalmist says, we should never forget her.

**Psalm 137:5-6 – CJB:** *“If I forget you, Yerushalayim, may my right hand wither away! May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I fail to remember you, if I fail to count Yerushalayim the greatest of all my joys.”*

### III. Our Debt of Gratitude

We turn now to the book of Romans. **Romans 9-11** clarifies the importance of and need for the Jewish people. It is a book which clearly explains their eternal purpose. It is no accident that Paul immediately follows his treatise on the love of God with God’s sovereign choice of the Jews. Let us not forget that in the original Hebrew and Greek, there are no chapters or divisions in the text. This is for our convenience. Paul moves right into speaking of his own anguish over the Jewish people over their rejection of Messiah *immediately* after talking about the fact that nothing can separate us from God’s love. And in Romans 11, he boldly states that God has not rejected His people. Why? Because even though they rejected Messiah, nothing can separate them from His boundless love for them. It follows that we should not let their rejection separate us from loving them as well. In fact, Paul expresses how much he loves them when he wishes that he could exchange his own salvation for theirs. *“...my grief is so great, the pain in my heart so constant, that I could wish myself actually under God’s curse and separated from the Messiah, if it would help my brothers, my own flesh and blood, the people of Israel.”* (Romans 9:2-4a - CJB)

Then he goes on to explain in verses 4-5 “*Theirs is the adoption of sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.* (NIV)

QUESTION: What do these verses mean to us today? What is being said here?

ANSWER: Paul is clearly expressing to the predominantly Gentile believers in Rome that everything they (and we) are benefiting from has come to us through the Jewish people. And just look at what they have given us. It has been said by a wise person, “Without Christianity, there would still be Judaism, but without Judaism, there would certainly be no Christianity. Remember last week, we talked about the early Church, and how Jewish it really was...I believe the burden is upon us to understand them, and not vice versa. And oh, what a debt of gratitude we owe to the Jewish people. It would serve us best to not forget that.

Let’s read **Romans 11:16-12:1**

QUESTION: What are you personally hearing God say to you through this passage? What should our attitude be?

ANSWER:

- Humility (don’t be arrogant or boast).
- Israel’s hardness of heart or ‘stoniness’ has come upon Israel *in part, to a degree*, until God’s purposes for the Gentile world has been completed. We are seeing the shift taking place gradually now – Israel is coming to the forefront, but the Gentile nations are still dominant over her. This will change when God’s purposes have been accomplished.
- The call of Israel is irrevocable.
- Just as we were disobedient and God showed us mercy by revealing Himself to us, we need to show that same mercy to the Jewish people.

Notice, that in **Romans 12:1**, Paul says, “therefore.” You know the old saying: when you see the word *therefore*, you need to find out what it’s there for. Paul is saying that in light of everything I just said, in view of God’s mercy to you, offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship. The Complete Jewish Bible says, “it is the logical ‘**Temple worship**’ for you!” (emphasis mine). How wonderful! He is speaking to Gentiles, and that having mercy on the Jews is just like we are going to the Temple to offer a sacrifice on the altar. It is as if we are offering an animal sacrifice on behalf of them and their sin of unbelief. What a concept! And get a grip here – we should be a *living sacrifice* continually offering our service and intercession for the Jewish people. Wow! Can you imagine how many Jews would possibly be provoked to envy if we served them this well, if we were so merciful toward them to the point of great personal sacrifice?

#### IV. What should our response be?

The Bible gives us guidance on at least three critical things we must first do.

A. Repentance – The first thing is repentance and asking forgiveness, from God, and then from every Jewish person that we get into a relationship with. The second is prayer & intercession. And the third is to ask God what restitution (action) He wants us to make.

- Our pastor has modeled repentance and asking forgiveness for the sins of former generations. This is Biblical – just to cite a couple of examples, and there are many, you can read in **2 Samuel 21:1-2**, God reveals the reason for the famine for three years during the reign of David was because Saul broke a covenant made with the Gibeonites. David had to repent for Saul and make restitution with the Gibeonites. Also Daniel was reading in Jeremiah, and he recognized his people were in captivity because of their sin. In **Daniel 9:4-19**, is his beautiful prayer of repentance for the corporate sin of his people. He includes himself and takes responsibility. God was very pleased with this. Before Daniel even finished praying confessing his sin and the sin of his people, the angel Gabriel appeared to him.

#### B. Intercession

- “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...” **Psalm 122**
- Don’t rest and don’t let God rest! - **Isaiah 62:1-7**
- Pray for the Lord to raise up Ruths, Daniels, Hoseas on behalf of His people Israel.

#### C. Take Holy Spirit led action!

DISCUSSION of what we can do. Share ideas together!

- Pray for the Jewish people, that the scales will be removed from their eyes, and that God will put a new spirit in them, and remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh (see **Ezekiel 11:19** and **Ezekiel 36:26**)
- Recognize what the Bible has taught all along – Study **Romans 9-11**
- Return to our Jewish roots – **Jeremiah 6:16** “This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’”
- Some of us are called to a unique and special relationship with the Jewish people. I believe the Lord is moving in many gentile believers’ hearts to reclaim their Jewish roots and celebrate Sabbath, the Feasts and to better understand the Laws of the Torah. Why? Because it will be a statement to the world that we understand that our Messiah was Jewish, and the Jewish people are still His Covenant people, and we are joining with Israel, encouraging her to fulfill her destiny to be a light to the nations. It also makes for great conversation with Jews!

- Read books, get educated. Share with others what you are learning!
- Attend a Messianic Congregation, get better acquainted with our Jewish brethren who believe that Yeshua is the Messiah.
- Participate in Christian Zionist events that support Israel.
- Build relationships with non-believing Jewish people. Seek to serve them, love them, find out their needs, pray for them. God may open a door to witness to them with words, and if not, at least you will speak volumes with your actions as you live your life in front of them.
- Give financial support to ministries that are doing what you feel called to do. You might even be able to get involved in some way.
- Visit Israel! The Land has a way of touching you in the depths of your soul like no other place on the earth. It is a very special place because it is God's Land and Jerusalem is where He has placed His Name forever. Visiting will make the Bible come alive for you as never before. You will be able to picture the places mentioned as you read God's Word. And in some places, you can even walk where Jesus walked!

## **Conclusion**

Please see our list of suggested resources. It's not exhaustive – just some books and websites to help you in figuring out what the Lord is calling you to do. You may find other resources. Great! Have fun! Before you do anything, we suggest you first prayerfully consider, then ask the Lord to reveal and confirm. He speaks to us in four primary ways – 1) through the Bible, 2) through the Holy Spirit in prayer, 3) through the Body of Messiah, and 4) through circumstances. (Henry Blackaby's study *Experiencing God* teaches this.) If you aren't sure about something, ask Him to confirm it twice or even three times, so you know that you are hearing from Him. Don't be afraid to act! Just be aware that there are a lot of wolves hiding in sheep's clothing out there. As Jesus said, "Be wise as serpents but gentle as doves." If you pursue the Lord in what He wants, you can trust that He will reveal His will and heart to you. And when He does, move on it in joy!  
Amen.