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1 Session Five

WHAT ABOUT ISRAEL

There are different views on what place Israel plays in the plans of God, once the church was started. Questions include:

- *Where do Israel fit in God's plan?
- *Is Israel accepted and saved?
- *Has the church replaced Israel?
- *Are we to treat Israel differently to other nations?

These are difficult and important questions. I do not intend to spend a great deal of time looking at the answers, but I think it important we at least look at them.

It seems clear to me, from the prophecies that have been fulfilled and the teaching of scripture, that God has not finished with Israel.

God is a covenant keeping God and has given many promises to Israel and covenanted with them which will be fulfilled at the coming of Jesus, after the Tribulation period.

During this time Israel will possess the land given to Abraham and they will be established once again over all the land without threat or dispute.

Jer 24:6

My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. 7 I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

In **Psalm 122:6-9** we are commanded to pray for Jerusalem and to seek its prosperity:

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure.7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.'8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, 'Peace be within you.'9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.

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In **Romans 9-11** Paul talks about the fact that God has ordained that through the Jews he would speak, but through their unbelief he now grafted in the gentiles.

But God also says he has a remnant that will be saved and will be grafted back in to the whole so that the Jews and Gentiles will be saved

Romans 11:11-13

Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. 12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! 13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry

Zechariah has end time scriptures that confirm that Jesus will come back to fight for his people in Jerusalem and it will be secure forever.

Zechariah 14:9-11

9 The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name. 10 The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up high from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses, and will remain in its place. 11 It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.

God has not finished with Israel, they will be saved, they will ultimately accept that Jesus is Messiah and they will be grafted back in and restored as God's people with the gentiles who also believe.

Zech 8:22-23

And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him.'23 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, "Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you."'

I do not believe that we should treat Israel as a nation any more special than any other nation, but we must treat Jews as God's people and pray for them.

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During the tribulation there will be many Jews and Gentiles who will own the name of Jesus, many who will be martyred.

The Bible says that many will die for their faith in the tribulation period.

Rev 6:9-11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

Rev 7:13-14

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Both Jews and Gentiles believers will be martyred, rather than take the mark of the Beast

Rev 20:4

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The Tribulation period will be a time of the greatest persecution the world has ever known and if people will not serve the Beast, they will be persecuted and martyred for their faith.

During this time 144,000 Jews will own the name of Jesus and preach the Gospel to those who are still alive and will see a great multitude saved

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Rev 7:3-4

Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Jews and Gentiles will be saved during this period and will either receive protection & grace to endure through this time or will be martyred.

Rev 7:13-14

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” 14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.