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## *War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 3*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** In this series we explore the biblical theology behind the attack by Hamas upon Israel and answer the question of why it matters. Why is Israel so important in the flow of human events? How should we view Israel? Why do so many in the Church seem to dismiss the nation of Israel? Should we? All of this is driven by certain theological convictions of which most are unaware of. In this sermon we see the sovereign choice of God to make Israel a unique nation and the promises attached to His choosing to not only create Israel but to bless her.

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Open bibles to Genesis 10, 12, 15, and 17.
- B. Last week I spoke about two key issues:
  - 1. How to read and understand the bible. The term used is hermeneutics.
  - 2. Second, I sought to introduce to you how Israel is part of the redemptive/saving plan of God and therefore must not be ignored.
- C. Today I want to draw your attention to several key questions about Israel. Remember my observation last week that from Genesis 12 to Revelation 21 we find the nation of Israel showing up over 3000 times. Therefore, as a Christian, to ignore Israel is simply to ignore a major part of God's saving work.
  - 1. How did Israel come into being?
  - 2. What are the promises of God toward Israel?
  - 3. To whom does the term "Israel" refer?
  - 4. What happens to those Israelites who die in sin?
  - 5. Is there a future for the nation? Or is it only limited to individual Jews/Israelites?
  - 6. Does the idea of Israel, the Church and the People of God all mean the same thing in some way?
- D. Bring up the nation of Israel in most any situation and the responses are quite varied and often rather volatile.
- E. So how should we understand Israel?



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c. Shem—he was second born (21) to Noah.

5. From here we fast forward in time to Genesis 12:1-3.

a. We have here the giving of what is called the Abrahamic Covenant. It took place around 2,100 BC in a place called Haran.

b. The promises in this covenant are then unfolded through the rest of the bible. When you read Genesis you find this covenant repeated at least 20 times.

c. We see in this passage the grace of God saving sinners.

6. This passage is the introduction to the covenant. It would not be enacted formally until Genesis 15 (turn).

7. So, in recap, in 12:2 God says to Abram, “I will make you a great nation.” And in Genesis 13 on through the rest of the Old Testament we see this all unfolding in great detail.

a. Genesis 17:19 we find that the promise of this nation is going to come through Isaac, who was not yet even conceived.

b. Then, after Isaac is born, grows up and marries we find in Genesis 25:23 a new situation.

c. Then, in Genesis 32:28 we have a major moment in history.

B. What are the promises of God toward Israel?

1. It all starts with Abraham in 12:1-3.

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2. In 13:15-16.
  
3. 15:5-7, 13, 18-21.
  
4. Later, in Genesis 17 the covenant is again in the forefront, God comes to Abram and now adds more information.
  
5. Now in this passage we see a tension that arises because of Abraham's disobedience. Ishmael is his first born but not the child of the promise. This is very important to see and is a consistent theme in the bible. God is the One who chooses whom to bless and how to bless. This is true in every aspect of our existence and yet it is often missed by us.
  
6. Vs 18 shows Abraham's love for Ishmael and realizes this and wishes for this blessing to be upon him instead.
  - a. vs 19 God immediately makes it clear that this is not how it will work. The covenant will go to a son from Sarah. His name will be Isaac and it is through him that the covenant and its blessings will flow.

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- b. But note well the mercy of God as well. Ishmael will become a great nation as well. In Genesis 16:12 God told Hagar that Ishmael would become a “wild donkey of a man, his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand will be against him.”

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. Understand that the whole mess with the Middle East where great hatred for Israel exists is simply due to the act of unbelief by Abraham and Sarah.
- B. Ishmael is the father of these nations and they are functioning just like God ordained them to be.
- C. And here we are reminded that there is always something more going on than what we see right in front of us. We are reminded that without a firm, biblical mind set we are caught up with current events and are easily led down various paths.
- D. The statements are clear through Genesis and then supported in the rest of the bible. Bless Israel and God blesses you. Curse Israel and you come under God’s curse. That is about as basic a national policy as you can get.
- E. Our Lord is not just King. He is the King of the Jews. He is the final King of Israel who shall sit on His Father, David’s, throne. He shall rule the nations with a rod of iron.
- F. In other words, you cannot fully separate Jesus Christ from the nation of Israel.

### **Benediction**

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**