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## *War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 9*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology, Salvation, Olivet Discourse

**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. This is a rather technical series that seeks to explain and answer the whole issue of Israel and the Church. In this message we see that the New Testament continues with the promise of a future for Israel as a nation, not merely individuals.

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

- A. We continue with seeking to understand the reason Israel is consistently in the news and how we are to view events such as the war with Hamas.
- B. Within the visible church there are many opinions and position and it can be very hard to get a solid position on how to view Israel without a lot of other views pressing in.
- C. My argument in this whole series is that God has never abandoned Israel, never rejected Israel in the fullest sense of that term, never changed Israel into another entity like the Church and that God will by no means fail to fulfill the promises made to Israel. Israel is a key part of the redemptive, saving work of God.
- D. Last couple of weeks we looked carefully at the second half of Zechariah to see how many clear prophecies were given that should force each of us to rethink how we approach biblical prophecy.
- E. John MacArthur recently did a Q&A at his church and talked about the rise of what is often called Christian Nationalism and noted that a key problem with it is the underlying theology that is usually what is called Postmillennialism. This is the idea that the Church will be so successful in bringing the gospel to the nations that we will usher in the Kingdom of God and then Christ will come.
- F. With that in mind let's consider the future of Israel as the New Testament describes it for us.

#### **II. Israel's Future in The New Testament.**

- A. First, the New Testament begins by simply treating Israel as Israel.

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1. Sounds silly perhaps to some but this is a big issue when it comes to understanding how Israel becomes the Church and all the promises given to her now are spiritualized to belong to the Church.
2. There is the old adage that if you repeat something long enough it becomes a fact in people's minds. This is a good example of that.
3. Examples in the first advent:
  - a. Herod:
  - b. Matthew 2:6:
  - c. Luke. 1:16:
  - d. Luke 1:53:
  - e. Luke ends the first chapter with the Child, Jesus growing up until the day of His public appearance to Israel.
  - f. In chapter 2 of Luke follow the flow of thought starting in 25.
    - (1) Simeon is looking for the "consolation of Israel."

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(2) Then we have right after Simeon, a prophetess, Anna.

4. So we have good reason to see that the Old Testament revelation is unchanged at the first advent of Jesus Christ. There was the expectation that God would come and be the savior to the nation of Israel.

B. Second, the New Testament reaffirms a future for the nation of Israel.

1. Matthew 19:28.

a. We read here of a unique time that Jesus refers to. It is in the “regeneration.” What is meant by this? You may see it translated as “renewal of all things,” the “new world,” or “when all things are renewed.”

b. What is meant by that? Look at the text and you will see some indicators within the text that explain it.

(1) First:

(2) Second:

(3) Add to this a separate time when Jesus again spoke about the apostles judging over Israel in Luke 22:39-30:

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2. Matthew 23:37-38:

a. Here we see the heart of Jesus Christ for the nation. It is a great sorrow for their sin and how it prevents Him from gathering them and blessing them in all ways.

b. But to our point we see several things that are worth noting:

(1) First;

(2) Second:

(3) Third:

(4) Fourth:

(5) Fifth:

c. Matthew 24.

(1) Time does not allow us to go through this entire chapter but understand that chapters 24-25 are devoted to issues

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described in vs 3: the destruction of the Temple, the sign of His second coming, and the end of the age.

- (2) The flow of the chapter goes like this:
  - (a) vss 4-8 the continuation of wars and unrest.
  - (b) vss 9-13 the rise of persecution against those who follow Jesus and the result being that many who claim faith in Christ will fall away.
  - (c) vs 14 the spread of the gospel to the whole world and THEN the end of this age comes.
  - (d) vss 15-22 Jesus then refers to the prophecies of Daniel and when the temple is defiled they are to flee for in this time there shall be what is called the Great Tribulation.
  - (e) vss 23-34 then lay out some of the details leading up to that moment.
    - i) And it is at that time that the generation alive during those events will see the final days of this age and move into the next age.
    - ii) The idea of the nations seeing and mourning at the sight of Jesus' return fits perfectly with Zechariah, which then shows the establishment of Jesus as King over the whole earth but situated in Israel.

### 3. Acts 1:2-7.

- a. Here we have the moment between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension to heaven. It is very interesting to note what the topic of discussion was during that time.

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- b. In vs 2 Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, gives his final charge to the Apostles.
  - c. Vs 3 fills in the details a bit more.
  - d. It is here that you would expect that if saving and restoration of Israel was not longer part of the plan that He would be very clear in His instructions.
  - e. Vss 4-5 He gives his final order to go to Jerusalem and wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
  - f. But notice what is on their minds in vss 6-7. They are wondering if this is when the kingdom is restored to Israel
  - g. This restoration is at the core of all of the Old Testament prophets.
  - h. So if they were wrong, why does Jesus not correct them? Why would He deflect and tell them to go wait for the Holy Spirit?
  - i. But what is clear here is that after 40 days of instruction about the kingdom, the one thing they definitely were expecting is that Israel would be restored.
4. Acts 3:19.
- a. In this first sermon Peter calls the people to repent and return.
  - b. In vs 18 he speaks of how the prophets spoke and Jesus fulfilled those things.
  - c. But notice also in vs 19 how it is constructed. Repent, return, having your sins removed IN ORDER THAT times of refreshing would come.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. Next week I hope to bring this whole thing to a close by then asking ourselves how to view Israel today.
  - 1. Are they enemies of the Christian or not? And if so, in what way are they enemies?
  - 2. How should we respond to the modern Israel we see?

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3. With regard to the future of Israel, what should we expect?
  - B. All of this is explained in the New Testament.
  - C. Again, behind all of this is the faithfulness of God.
    1. We are to be a people of such hope that we confound the non-Christian with how stable we are in our hope.
    2. But this will not happen if we are all over the map on God's promises.
    3. In 1 Samuel 7 there was a battle with Israel and the Philistines. God told the prophet Samuel that the battle belonged to Israel and then God routed the Philistines.
    4. At the end of it, Samuel set a large stone in place near the battle and named it Ebenezer, which is simply the stone of the help. It was designed to remind the people in later times of the faithfulness of God.
    5. We are no different. We are to read the Old Testament and New Testament with a view to see how utterly faithful God is to His Word. He alone is fully dependable. He is the One to whom we have entrusted our souls for care.
    6. Let the fulfilled promises of God lead you in confidence to trust in God future promises.

## **Benediction**

**May you go in the love of the Father resting in the fulness of His grace. May you walk in hope through the rich calling in which you have in Jesus Christ our Lord. May your power not be found in you but through the presence of the Holy Spirit. And may we all continue to grow together in true unity**