# Israel ... The Apple of God's Eye



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# Israel and the Church

## Discovering the Heart of God ...

As the body of Christ we find ourselves come to a time when many truths accepted for generations are now being called into question. No longer does the world adhere to a position that the word of God as it is revealed in scripture is absolute truth. Today, truth is accepted in one moment and in the next is being declared to be no longer trustworthy. In his letter to the chruch in Rome Paul spoke of a time when men would exchange the truth of God for a lie. We find ourselves living in such times. In this teaching I will be speaking of the Heart of God as it relates to the nation of Israel. In particular I will address the relationship between Israel and the church, particularly as we are come into these end times.



"My people israel, I have loved you with anEverlasting Love. Jeremiah 31:3



## ... For His People

What I will lay out applies to every assault that the world may choose to bring where as followers of Jesus, we are being asked to lay down our willingness to trust in the truth of God. The Lord has called His children to understand the signs of the times. There are going to be many issues that will arise, not just the one that I will address within these pages, and as His children we will be required to stand up for the truth of God in our time. There is great comfort in knowing our identity in Christ. The is such assurance in knowing there is absolute truth to guide us through the trials we all face in this life.

There is a battle raging in our world and it is becoming more fierce as each day passes but we are part of a bigger story called His-story and we can take such great confidence in the fact that we know how the story ends:
Jesus is Victor !

# The Root and the Branches

**On October 7th 2023, the terrorist group Hamas attacked Israeli settlements killing over 1200 Israeli men women and children. Since that time, Israel has been at war with Hamas in retaliation and believers everywhere have been trying to evaluate what their stand ought to be in face of the great groundswell of resentment that has risen against Israel as a result of their response.**



**"You do not support the root, but the root supports you. (Romans 11:18)**

**In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul declares that we are not the root of the spiritual tree, but Israel is the root, and we are the branches that have been grafted in. The light of God given to the world came through Jesus and Jesus was born a Jew. As gentiles, we became the spiritual inheritors of the truth that was revealed through the Jews. The scriptures are clear that it was we who were grafted into Israel as the root, not the other way around.**

***It is very important to be clear that the heart of God has never changed regarding His feelings for Israel as a nation and the promises and covenants of God regarding His people remain as valid today as ever they did in the past.***

# Truth Is Revealed In God's Word

## God's gifts, His calling, and His promises to the people of Israel are irrevocable. (Rom 11:29)

The promises of God toward Israel don't get withdrawn just because world circumstances change and humanity decides that what was once given must surely now be revoked.
NOT AT ALL! The covenants and decrees of the Lord regarding Israel remain in place forever, regardless of the prevailing politic of the day, and the Lord is entirely clear on this point. He has declared in His word,



## God's Promises Remain

In His word, God declares that His promises remain, and He will never abandon His people. The covenants of God, as well as His promises, form an everlasting relationship with Israel that will remain in force until Jesus returns for His own.

> *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Gen 17:7)*

## He is Faithful Throughout the Generations

Another important point is that God's promise to the descendants of Abraham will continue to be in force, regardless of circumstances. Even should Israel turn its back on God as it has so many times in the past, God will continue to remain faithful to Israel. Our God does not revoke His promises just because we break ours. God has often set limits on His declarations stating that if ..... then.... a thing shall happen. However, in the case of His covenant with Israel as a nation and as a people, God has declared that His covenant is to be an everlasting covenant, There shall be no IF's AND's or BUT's concerning His covenant with Israel which shall be everlasting.

# A Treasured Possession

God's love for Israel knows no bounds and is never-ending.
Throughout His word, God has demonstrated that as the grafted in branches, we are called to love Israel as God loves Israel. It is inconceivable since God loves Israel so much, that as the grafted in branches we should not love them as God loves them. He has declared in His word that those who bless Israel will be blessed ! The scriptures clearly lay out God's heart for the believers in relation to the nation of Israel. God wants us to bless Israel, regardless of how Israel as a nation conducts itself. God is a never changing God and since we serve our God, are we then not called to be in agreement with Him on the matter of our relationship with Israel ? Scripture is clear that it was God's choice to call Israel His own, and He did not make a mistake for He chose her out of all the nations of the earth.

*"God chose Israel out of all the people and nations of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. (Deuteronomy 7:6).*



God has guarded Israel not as any other nation but as His 'treasured possession'. This paints a very clear picture of the heart of God for Israel. If God considers them to be His treasured possession, how can it be that as His grafted in branch we would not desire that we would share His heart.



Our Lord desires that we will love those whom God loves. Since this is the heart of God for Israel, then as believers, it ought to be our heart too. How shall we justify taking a position that willfully opposes the heart of God. If Israel is God's treasured possession, we are being called to treasure her also !

*"Comfort, oh comfort my people, says your God. Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear that she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of – forgiven! She's been punished enough and more than enough, and now it's over and done with. (Isa 40:1)*

# A Gift for the Nations

*There is a common phrase that we have learned to use rather loosely referring to those that we particularly care for, however, it is worth noting that it was first used by Moses when he uttered the words that Israel was the apple of God's eye.*



> *Israel is the Apple of God's Eye. (Deut 2:10)*

*How must it hurt God's heart when as believers we choose to do anything to disparage Israel or choose not to stand squarely beside her. God chose Israel so that He might display His splendor through her, to the ends of the earth. How then do we justify doing anything other than to hold her up as a gift from God that should be given honor before him.*

> *Israel was created to display God's splendor throughout the earth. (Isaiah 49:3)*



*God has not been slow to demonstrate His love and care for Israel. God loves Israel. God treasures Israel. How then can we as Christians justify adopting any other position ? How can we take any position other than God's position ? Shall we turn to God to say, well Lord, that is good for you, however since you said all those things, circumstances really have changed and in light of all that's going on in the world right now, we're so sorry, but we really have to adjust our position. Which of us shall be the one to go into God's throne room to let the Lord know what we have decided.*

*One of the most quoted verses regarding the nation of Israel is found in the book of Genesis where The Lord told Abraham ....*

***I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by you. (Genesis 12;3)***

# A Nation Under Siege



*Throughout all of History, Israel has been a nation and a people under siege. We are familiar with the history of the Jews when they were taken into captivity, first by the Assyrians and then the Babylonians. Even after Jesus death, under the brutal Roman empire, Israel has known nothing but misery pain and death all the way from the fall of Rome to the death camps of 3rd Reich and still, against all odds, she has survived.*

*No other nation has been so continually chased down and assaulted by the powers of this world and yet, to this day, not only does she survive but she thrives. Surely, the only reasonable explanation for Israel's existence must be that she has been protected by the miraculous, supernatural, hand of God going ahead of her along the way, and this makes a very clear statement as to the Lord's heart for this people. In Romans chapter 1 the apostle Paul declares,*

> *Am I saying that God has turned His back on His people ?*
> *Certainly not ! (Rom 11:1)*

*The wealth Israel currently enjoys points to the provision of God for Israel. It has been just over 75 years since Israel was granted a homeland. Since then, she has grown from a homeless outcast people to become listed among the top 30 most wealthy nations in the world. In keeping with prophecy, fruit trees line her banks and she has become the number one exporter of Roses in the world. Technologically she has become the envy of the world. Many, if not most,of the surrounding Arab nations are lining up to sign onto the Abraham accords because Israel is the only nuclear power in the middle east capable of defending the region against a possible nuclear attack from Iran. Like most western nations of the world, the nation of Canada is no longer a godly nation. We are become a pagan nation and Israel as a nation is no different to our own. Does that mean that God chooses to turn his back on us. Of course not. Israel too, has chosen the things of this world over the things of God. They too are become a liberal society. Again and again, they have chosen to turn their back on God, but let us be clear, God has not turned His back on them.*

*Where are the Edomites or the Ammonites and so many other nations and yet there has always remained a remnant of Israel. If for no other reason than to support the remnant that God has chosen to protect, we as Christians ought to pray that God will fulfill his purposes for Jerusalem and the people of God in that nation. Yes, Israel as a nation has turned its back on God however, God uses all things for good for those who love him. God used Israel to bring so many of the gentiles to Himself for as the Apostle Paul declares ...*

> *Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the gentiles have come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. (Rom 11:25)*

# The Wisdom of God



*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)*

Some things are unsearchable and unknowable except by the heart of God. In our world and in this hour a blanket of darkness covers our world. We live at a time when only the wisdom of God can provide is with the direction we need.

***Lean not on your own understanding.*** Solomon was gifted with more of man’s wisdom than any other man and yet, it was his disobedience to the command of God that brought about the complete destruction of 10 tribes of Israel. Those who remained were then dispersed among the nations of the world, there to remain for two thousand years. If depending on the wisdom of man brought about such a dire result for King Solomon and Israel, then surely the lesson for us to learn must be that we must be governed not by our own wisdom but by the wisdom of God as it is revealed in scripture. It was to warn against the danger of trusting in our own wisdom that the apostle Paul wrote:

*“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and Revelation, so that you may know Him better. (Eph 1:17)*

*The Spirit being mentioned in this verse is not the (s)pirit of man but the (S)pirit of God, capital ‘S’. I began by saying that we need to seek the heart of God on this matter. When it comes to understanding God’s heart for Israel, we absolutely must ask the Spirit of God to enlighten us. It is certainly true that proportionately many more Palestinians have now died than Israelis in this present conflict. Over 32,000 at the last count. Certainly, there remains a great responsibility on Christians around the world to pray for the safety and wellbeing of these dear displaced Palestinian people and to support them where and how we are able. As Christians we must come to understand that we can speak out for the loving care of the Palestinian people while at the same, time standing firmly and squarely in Israel’s corner, not only in terms of their right to defend themselves but also because that is exactly what the Lord calls us to do.*

*We make a grave error by thinking that if we support the one that we cannot choose to care for the other. Nothing could be further from the truth. The two positions are by no means mutually exclusive.*

# *Jews and Gentiles, Together Members of One Household*

***The apostle Paul clearly identified God's position when it comes to understanding how Jews and Gentiles ought to relate to each other. In his letter to the believers in Ephesus Paul wrote,***

> ***For He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one (Jews and gentiles) and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. Consequently, you are fellow citizens with God's people and also, members of one household (family) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians. 2:11-22)***



***The word of God could not be any clearer on this subject. The Lord sees the church and Israel to be united as one family of God. We are fellow citizens with the Jews and together we are members of one household. Paul continues to paint the picture of unity between the two by comparing it to a building where we are joined together as a holy temple with the chief cornerstone being Jesus. It is through Jesus alone that we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. When Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus he was speaking to both the Jews and Gentiles.***

***He was declaring very loudly that the dividing wall of hostility had been destroyed and that God's purpose had been to create one new man out of the two.***

***By delivering this word to the Ephesian church, Paul was seeking to destroy the dividing wall that existed between Jews and Gentiles declaring that because of Christ there is no longer any reason to remain divided. Ephesus was at the time the gateway of Asia. It was The fourth largest city in the known world and so Paul understood that by sharing this truth with the believers in Ephesus it would likely become known throughout the whole world. If the believers of the church in Ephesus accepted this word it would likely have repercussions throughout the entire Roman world. God has called both Jew and gentile believers to become 'only family' . For what reason is this important we may ask? The answer can be clearly found in the gospel of Luke where we read that the purpose of God in this hour is:***

> ***To prepare a people made ready for the Lord. (Luke 1:17)***

# The Miracle of Transformation

God has a clear plan for Israel in the last days. When we, the church, have been removed and the restrainer is taken out of the way, God will once again turn to the Jews to become the voice of God to a lost world. God's plan for Israel is far from over and as their spiritual brothers and sisters who have been built together with them as a spiritual house, we have the honor as well as the most awesome responsibility of standing shoulder to shoulder with her come what may. The hour is late and there is a cloud of great darkness covering our world. To come against the darkness, the Lord by His Spirit is moving upon His people to be the light of the world that will overcome the darkness.



"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! (Ephesians 5:8)

**Transformation within Israel.** Recently we have been witnessing a wonderful spiritual transformation taking place between Israel and the people of God. Today, all around the world there are said to be as many as 750,000 Messianic Jews and recently, Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted as saying that Israel has no greater friend than the Christian evangelical community. If the Spirit of God has moved upon Israel as a nation to recognize God's heart, then surely the time has come for us as the church to do likewise. What man cannot accomplish in his own strength, the Lord by His Spirit can do in an instant so let us determine to take our place and stand as one with Israel. Never before, has the bond between Jew and Gentile been so strong. Strong enough to be able to bridge any political divide so that together we can become the light that shines against the darkness. Dare we refuse to acknowledge the heart of God on this critically important matter ? God has revealed His heart. He has declared that the two have been created to become one holy temple before the Lord and God has chosen to bring this particular issue to light in this hour. It would be good for us to wrestle with this question now so that going forward we will be in agreement as to where we stand on the matter of 'Israel and the church' . God may well be using this moment in time as an opportunity to discover His heart so going forward we will choose to stand firmly on the authority of scripoture and not on the ever changing politic clilmate.

**The Lord is calling His people to decide where they stand.** In this day and age as we eagerly anticipate Jesus' return, so much about what we have been taught about the gospel is being watered down. Believers are being called to make a choice just as Joshua once did 'as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.' Joshua 24:15)

As for you and me and our spiritual house however, let us be Hot or Cold but never 'lukewarm'. (Rev 3:16) Rather let us become a people who are known to be passionate for the things that matter to the heart of God.

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***Ron King Ministries is an international Christian ministry based on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Our ministry purpose is to disciple the body of Christ to do their own work of ministry so that as they do, they will continue to build up the body of Christ.***

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