

Why We Support Israel

There's been a lot of discussion and opinions formed over the last few weeks that we've seen Israel enter into a war they didn't want after the brutal and heinous attacks by Hamas on October 7, a little over a month ago already.

Initially we saw a lot of people show sympathy and empathy for Israel over what they experienced. But that began to wane very quickly as Israel launched their retaliation and voice their objective to neutralize and nullify Hamas.

Over this last month we've seen the growing support for Palestine and with it a heavy and growing animosity toward Israel. The rise of antisemitism that we've seen is beginning to resemble the days of the holocaust. People around the world are now making their disdain for the Jew very public and are going out of their way to target Jewish people and make their views known.

But I want to make a couple things clear right off the top here. When I say I support Israel, I do not do so from a political standpoint. I am not saying that they are a Godly nation and everything they do is just. When I say I support Israel, I do so from a biblical position and understand that this is a nation that God has chosen for very specific purposes. If this is a nation that God has chosen and a nation He is not done with, then I'm going to support what God is doing! And I hope to make it clear today from God's Word why I hold this view.

Another thing I want to make clear, we do not support Israel at the expense of other people. In saying I support Israel does not mean I'm against Palestinian people. There are many Palestinians that live in peace with Israel and are unfortunately caught in the crosshairs of this war. We have Palestinian people here in the church and we do not look at them as the enemy by any means.

The problem is an ideology that many carry that says Israel has no right to the land, or that Israel is the problem in the Middle East and the reason there's no peace. It's an ideology that wants nothing more than the complete annihilation of the Jewish people. When you hear the chants: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!", it's a call for Israel to be wiped out and driven in the sea.

You see, what's going on in Israel and the Middle East has nothing to do with borders, or Palestine, or Hamas essentially. It's a deep-rooted hatred toward the Jewish people that's as old as time.

We need to go back to the beginning to see the genesis of this hatred. Right after Satan had deceived Eve, and her and Adam sinned in the garden, God pronounced the curses upon them. To Satan He said:

- **Genesis 3:14–15**, *"So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.""*

There's been a deep-seated Satanic hatred and attempt to destroy the seed of this woman. There was an attempt to corrupt this seed in Genesis 6 with the sons of God going to the daughters of men. It became so bad that God chose to flood the whole earth and wipe out this degeneracy. He started over with Noah which eventually led us to Abraham.

And it's with Abraham that God chose to make a nation. A nation that would preserve the Promised Seed that God was going to send as a deliverer and Saviour to the world.

And God made a covenant with Abraham. It's introduced for us in **Genesis 12:1–3**, *"Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

- This covenant is about a **place**, a **people**, and a **promise**.

This covenant is first mentioned here but it will be clarified and expanded upon in subsequent chapters of Genesis: 13:14-17; 15:4-6; 17:10-14 and 22:15-18.

And it's in Genesis 15 that we really get the nature of this covenant. Because God has Abraham bring the objects of sacrifice, cut them in two, and lay them opposite of each other (Genesis 15:8-10). This was a common practice between two parties pledging an agreement with each other. They would walk through these sacrifices and recite the terms of their covenant, and if they broke any of it, they were saying may it be done to me as it is to these sacrifices. However, Abraham fell into a deep sleep, and it was the Lord that passed through those sacrifices alone. In other words, it was God alone who was going to uphold this covenant.

Genesis 15:18–21, *"On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."*

Notice, this is land the Lord has **given** to Abraham. Chapter 15 says it's an inheritance. This is God's land, and He chooses in His sovereignty who's going to live there. And He's given it to Abraham and his descendants.

And please catch this, it's an unconditional, eternal covenant.

- Yes, Israel walked in disobedience. Yes, they were taken out of the land. But Israel never forfeited their rights or inheritance because God was upholding this covenant. God is a covenant keeping God. Though Israel has been unfaithful, God is faithful.
- And that should be a great comfort to each of us! We think sometimes our salvation is dependent upon our faithfulness as though we could forfeit our salvation. But that's not the case. If Israel was cast aside and God didn't keep His promises to Israel, then what hope do we have!? But that's not the case, thank the Lord for that!

Now some may claim that the land is given to Abraham and his *descendants*. He had another son too – Ishmael. But we're dealing with the line of the Promised seed discussed in Genesis 3. This is through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In fact, in Genesis 22, when Abraham is told to go sacrifice Isaac, God says: **Genesis 22:2**, *"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

- Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations and Genesis 16:12 says he would live in great contention. It's been the reality of Israel's history.

And throughout history, Israel has had a target on their back. People will say you need to look at the full picture of what Israel has done to warrant these actions. But again, this goes beyond borders, land, and political posturing. This has been a concerted, spiritual, satanically driven effort to wipe out the Jews.

Israel has continually faced numerous enemies who have tried to take them out. They've been up against numerous plots to exterminate them, from Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, Hitler, Hamas, the list is large.

The bible says it's going to continue this way right up until Jesus comes back and brings an end to it all. The battle of Armageddon is about the nations coming against God's people Israel. How can one little nation have the world's focus and concern to bring her down apart from this being a spiritual war? Here we see in Revelation the hostility and hatred by Satan towards the Jews.

Revelation 12:3–6, *"And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."*

Revelation 12:13–17, *"Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

Satan is the root of antisemitism and the hatred of the Jews today. His desire all along has been to thwart God's plans and promises from coming to fruition.

There's so much to share on this topic, but let's clarify and maybe review some reasons why we support Israel.

1) Israel is God's Chosen People

They are the only nation in history that God has sovereignly created. She belongs to God Himself. In fact, Israel is referred to as the wife of God. Amazing! The church however is the bride of Christ – betrothed to Jesus. Our wedding comes in heaven when we see Him!

Because Israel is the wife of God, she's referred to as the "Apple of His Eye".

- **Zechariah 2:8**, *"For thus says the Lord of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."*
- **Jeremiah 30:11**, *"For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'"*

God will not give up on this nation.

Not only are they His chosen people...

2) Israel is loved by God

Yes, this goes right along with the previous point but anything that the Lord loves, I want to love.

- **Deuteronomy 7:7–8**, *"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."*
- **Jeremiah 31:2–4**, *"Thus says the Lord: "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness— Israel, when I went to give him rest." ³ The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice."*

You may ask, how can God love such a sinful, rebellious nation? In the same way He loved a sinful rebel like me. **Romans 5:8**, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

3) Our Roots are Jewish

God gave a huge responsibility to Israel. They were to keep the laws of God and preserve the Word of God. They were meticulous in these things (for the most part). We've been given an incredible spiritual heritage which we owe to the Jews.

- **Romans 11:18**, *"do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you."*

This verse is in reference to the wild branches that were grafted into the natural olive tree. This speaks of us Gentiles being grafted into the heritage Israel has given us. We have much to be thankful for.

And if our roots are Jewish, then guess what...

4) Our Saviour is Jewish

Jesus was born a Jew and He came for the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24). Now we know that mission was always meant to extend beyond Israel and was to reach the whole world, but His focus was to the Jew.

And there is coming a day when Jesus Himself will restore her, and they will receive Him.

- **Zechariah 12:10**, *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”*

Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. That’s in His post-resurrection identity (Revelation 5:5). In fact, some of the last words of Jesus recorded in the Bible are: *“I am the Root and the Offspring of David...”* (Revelation 22:16). We’re reminded that He is a descendant of David.

By serving the Jewish people, we serve the earthly family of Jesus. And that’s something He takes notice of. It’s something that will be judged in the tribulation.

- **Matthew 25:40**, *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”*

5) We are to Comfort God’s People

Isaiah 40:1–2, *“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. ² “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord’s hand Double for all her sins.””*

This is a call for the Gentile nations to come alongside Israel in times of difficulty and be a comfort to her.

6) Israel’s Restoration is a Source of Blessing

Romans 11:15, *“For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”*

Paul viewed the fall of Israel in rejecting Jesus as a benefit for the Gentiles in that it opened the door for them to be saved. But he viewed the future restoration of Israel as an even greater blessing to the world and to the church.

Romans 11:12, *"Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!"*

7) God's Gifts and Call are Irrevocable

God has called Israel as a nation for a specific purpose. He has and will continue to work through this nation. God does not go back on His Word.

Genesis 17:8, *"Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

This land has been hotly contested over the centuries, but it has never been a Palestinian state. The land of Israel has never operated as an independent state outside of Israel.

And by incredible Providence of God, Israel has come back into their land just as the Bible has said. One of the greatest proofs to the truth and divine inspiration of Scripture is to look to Israel. No other nation has been dispersed around the world, taken out of their homeland, and maintained their language, religion, and ethnic identity as Israel has. Typically, refugees will assimilate into the country they move to and lose their national uniqueness after a few generations. That has not happened with Israel and they are back in their own land. It's truly miraculous!

Romans 11:29–31, *"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy."*

There is a teaching that says because of Israel's disobedience, they have forfeited their promises and blessings to the church. And now the church has replaced Israel. This is absolutely unbiblical and a very problematic view to hold. As I've said, if God promised these things to Israel as an everlasting covenant and has now gone back on His Word, then what hope do we have that He will do for us what He said He will do? But God is a covenant keeping God. He is faithful and He's not finished with the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

So we need to support them and in so doing, we support the work God is continuing to do through them.

Psalm 122:6, *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."*