

Israel

I. Started with Abraham Gen. 12:4, Isaac 26:3, Jacob 35:12

After the flood of Noah's day God started a new generation of people. Before there was an Israel or a Jew, God began to form a spiritual line of people through whom He would spread the message of God. It was a faith message and Abraham was the father of the faithful. Jacob's name was changed to Israel after his encounter with God. His name means prince of God.

II. Chosen people Ex. 19:6

Chosen does not always mean blessed, it sometimes means cursed. These people were chosen first to birth the Messiah and MUCH was required of them. They became the custodians of the Gospel.

III. The promised land Gen. 15:18

The boundaries of this land are from the Nile to the Euphrates. Remember who lives in this land today and you will see some serious issues.

IV. The built-in conflict Gen. 16:11-12

God promised to bless and multiply the seed of Abraham. Here he has an illegitimate son. God still honors the promise. Ishmael is purported to be the first Arab and that lineage has a legitimate claim to the Promised Land via the promise of God to Abraham. Today these two groups, the lineage of Ishmael and the lineage of Isaac, both still vie for the same land. One calls the land Palestine and the other calls the land Israel.

V. To Egypt Gen. 46 (Joseph)

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery to a caravan going to Egypt. God used him in a special way to keep the region alive during a serious famine. He led the nation of Israel to vacate the Promised Land and move to Egypt. There they became oppressed by a Pharaoh nervous that they might turn on him and help him to be overthrown.

VI. Wanderings Ex. 20 (Moses)

After 480 years of oppression, Israel was delivered from the grips of Egypt under Moses and spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness. There they learn to depend on God. They barely knew Him after spending so long around the worship of the "gods" of Egypt.

VII. Back into the Promised Land Joshua 1 (Joshua)

When Israel got back to the Promised Land it was occupied. The land was still granted to Israel but they had to purge the land of the occupiers. The biggest issue was the false gods of the land. They were commanded to drive out the inhabitants. Psalms 106:35-37 is an extremely sad report of their failure to keep their faith pure.

VIII. The Kingdom divided I Kings 12

Greed and political ambition caused the nation to be divided. Rehoboam and Jeroboam were the culprits and the result was a nation on a fast track to idolatry.

IX. Exiled 721 B.C. Northern, 601 B.C. Southern

As a result of this idolatry God judged the nation and allowed them to be taken captive and led to Assyria and Babylon respectively. God turned evil into good when he brought them back together in Acts 2 to spread the Gospel to the world. The northern kingdom never came back from their exile, only the southern kingdom.

X. Religious evolution I Sam. 8:7, Matt. 23, Mark 5:1,

In I Samuel 8 we see the nation rejecting God. Matthew 23 demonstrates the displeasure of Jesus condemning the religious leaders. In Mark 5 the people would rather bootleg pigs than deliver a soul from spiritual torment.

XI. Valley of dry bones Ez. 37:12-13

Once the nation is disbanded would God allow them to come back together and have renewed life? The answer is a resounding yes. It is a result of the providence and mercy of God.

XII. Two returns Isa. 11:11-12 May 1948

The nation return to the land in 536 BC but was again driven out the land in 70 AD. Isaiah 11 discusses another return to the land that would ultimately take place in May 1948. This is a very significant happening directed by God.

XIII. Prophecies

* Dan. 9 Messiah

Fulfilled initially by Jesus during His life.

* New covenant Jer. 31:31-33

Likewise fulfilled in Jesus

* Gathered Jer. 16:14-16

Fulfilled in 1948

* Eyes opened Isa. 35:5

They will in the future nationally accept that Jesus is the Messiah.

* Know the Lord Ez. 37:12-13

Same as above.

* Light to nations Is. 60:5,11

In Revelation 7 they will carry the message to the world.

* Dwell with Messiah Is. 66:19-21

In the millennial kingdom they will follow Jesus.

XIV. Near future Matt. 24, Luke 21, Rev. 7

This is a discussion of the tribulation period after the rapture (resurrection). The events center on the nation of Israel.

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