



Israel As A Sign Of The Time

**What We Should Be Watching
For In The Days Ahead**

IS THIS IT?

- **Over the past few weeks, people have asked, “Is this it?”**
- **Last month we looked at Luke 21**
- **Today we want to look at Israel as being a sign of the times**
- **Israel and particularly Jerusalem at all of our eschatology**
- **For that to happen, Israel must exist as a nation and Jerusalem must be a Jewish city.**
- **Historically, it has not been that way for long periods of time**

History of Israel

- **Deut.32:8-9 Jehovah chose Jacob as His allotted heritage**
- **Gen.13:14-17 – Jehovah said to Abram, I will give this land to your offspring forever. This is key.**
- **There was Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Joseph and the time in Egypt. The Exodus and establishment as a nation under Moses and Joshua. Prophets followed.**
- **They were to be a nation directly lead by Jehovah**
- **Kings were chosen because they wanted to be like everyone else. And so the downhill slide began.**
- **The split of the nation under Rehoboam 1Kings 12:16**

History of Israel

- **Israel did not have one King that worship Jehovah. Judah had some. In 721 BC Israel was defeated and taken into exile by Assyria.**
- **609 BC Assyria fell to Babylon and Judah was defeated by Egyptians**
- **605 Babylon defeated the Egyptians which included Judah. This is when Daniel was deported to Babylon**
- **601 Egypt defeated Babylon, and Judah switches allegiance to Babylon**

History of Israel

- **598 BC - Babylon attacks Jerusalem – 10,000 were deported to Babylon. Ezekiel was one of those deported.**
- **Ezekiel wrote this book while in Babylon.**
- **Chp.1-24 coming judgement on Jerusalem**
- **587 BC - Jerusalem fell and temple destroyed - Ezk.33:21**
- **Why? Ezk.36:16-21 – They defiled the NAME of God; They didn't keep the First Commandment 20-21**
- **Chps.25-32 Judgement on nations after the fall of Jerusalem**
- **33-48 – Hope for the Restoration of the Nation and the City**

God's Love For Israel

- **538 BC Cyrus issues decree allowing Jews to return**
- **Jer.25:12 cf. Dan.9:2 – after 70 yrs people were allowed to return and rebuild the temple. Completed in 515 BC**
- **Temple was enlarged and beautified several times**
- **500 BC to 100 AD is known as the 2nd Temple period**
- **Persia ruled till 331 BC; Greeks till 63 BC, Romans till 565 AD**
- **2nd Temple was destroyed in 70 AD and Jews were expelled from Jerusalem in 135 AD**

God's Love For Israel

- **Israel was never an independent nation again until 1948**
- **Jehovah says he will bring the Jewish people back from among the nations- Ezk.34:11-13; 36:24; 37:1-14, 21**
- **Israel will be united – 34:23-24; 36:10; 37:11, 15-24, 17, 21-22**
- **He will put His Spirit in them- 36:25-29, 31-33; 37:23-28**

Has This Been Fulfilled?

- **Some would say it was fulfilled with Cyrus decree in 538 BC**
- **Was Israel one nation? Did they display the fruit of the Spirit? Was it “forever”?**
- **Was it fulfilled on the day of Pentecost?**
- **Jews were there from all the nations; They were filled with the Spirit; But it still wasn't forever**
- **Their rejection of Jesus as Messiah led to 70AD – Lk.19:43-44; 21:20-24**
- **On the day of Pentecost, it was established, but not yet!**

Already, But Not Yet!

- **When Christ came, He established the kingdom! It was already, but not yet!**
- **We now live in the blessings of the kingdom, but not the fulness of the kingdom**
- **On the 5th day of Lyar of the Hebrew calendar (our May 14), 1948, Israel declared its independence.**
- **Israel had not been an independent state since the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586BC.**
- **Ezk.37:3. “Can These bones live?”**

Already, But Not Yet!

- **Same question could have been asked after the complete devastation of Jerusalem and the temple in 70AD**
- **God made a promise in 586 BC. It is being fulfilled in Israel.**
- **3.2 million immigrants from 150 nations moved to Israel since 1948 - Ezk.36:33-36; 37:11-13**
- **1948 there were 23 believers in Yeshua in Israel. In 2017 there were 300 messianic congregations with 30,000 attending.**
- **Every month, 22,000 Israelis do an internet search for Yeshua or Messiah**

Already, But Not Yet!

- **Israel became an independent nation in 1948**
- **Jews are returning Israel from all over the world**
- **Lk.21:24 – Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. 1967**
- **The Messianic Jewish church is growing in Israel as well as other nations.**
- **I believe this is the first sign to the soon return of Christ**

What Does This Mean?

- **If existence of Israel as a nation is the first sign**
 - 1. Then we are in the End Times.**
 - 2. Then we can expect evil to flourish**
 - 3. Then we can expect things to get more difficult for the followers of Jesus**
 - 4. Then we need to be looking for the other signs gave**
 - 5. We need to be growing in grace and knowledge**
 - 6. We need to be proclaiming that Hope is found in Jesus**