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## *War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 5*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology, Covenants, Romans 9

**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 specifically see how God has promised a future restoration of Israel as part of His plan of redemption.

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

- A. We will see today how the entire flow of the Old Testament is the promise of Israel's apostasy and the promise of God's restoration and salvation of Israel.
- B. But beneath all of that is the faithfulness of God.
- C. That faithfulness is what is really at the heart of this whole issue of Israel.

#### **II. The explicit promise of a future restoration of Israel.**

- A. Old Testament.
  - 1. Deuteronomy 30:1-6.
    - a. A renewing of the Mosaic Covenant prior to this generation entering the promised land that would be Israel.
    - b. 29:10, 12-13. "You stand today . . . That you may enter into the covenant with YHWH . . . in order that He may establish you today as His people . . ."
    - c. 29:20 the one who rebels against this covenant will never be forgiven. Why? It is apostasy.
    - d. 29:22ff when a Gentile comes and sees the devastation the question will be, why has your God done this? And the answer is in vs 25ff.
    - e. 30:1 shows a sense of how long this time of apostasy and dispersion throughout the world would be.

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- f. But then comes the day of rejoicing and repenting by Israel.
  - g. Key point to take note of is the “then” in vs 3.
  - h. Note the promises:
    - (1) Restored from captivity, (3-4).
    - (2) They will be restored to the land (5a).
    - (3) They will prosper and be very fruitful. (5b).
    - (4) God will circumcise their hearts and their descendants (6a).
  - i. The rest of the Old Testament history shows that they continued down that road of rebellion with only minor moments of repentance. And so fast forward to near the end of their existence as a sovereign nation and **we find that none of the promises of God have ceased to be true.**
2. Jeremiah 30:1-3.
- a. Here we again have the promise not to just bless Israel but to restore them to the land (3).
  - b. The promise of God’s mercy saving them is reiterated in vss 7ff.
    - (1) Jacob’s distress = a future time of testing that will be great..
    - (2) But in the end of it all what happens? “He shall be saved from it.”
    - (3) Then we have the time marker in vs 8.
    - (4) Vs 9 gives us more details:
  - c. In the next passage we have an example of how the bible explicitly states that Israel shall not pass away.
3. Jeremiah 31:35-37.
- a. Before looking at this section, let’s see the context in the vss just above.

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(1) Note first it is not like the first covenant that they broke (33).

(2) And here we see several promises:

(a) **Now, the question is this, has that happened yet?**

(b) But God is always faithful.

b. Now in vs 35 we have the first statement:

(1) A series of questions that is reminiscent of God confronting Job.

(2) The answer is given at the end of vs 35. It is YHWH, the Lord of the heavenly armies.

(3) Now this requires us to pause and ask if we believe this?

(4) It certainly is in the mind of YHWH.

(5) Now, what does this have to do with Israel? And how does God view this nation of rebellious, stiff-necked and hard-hearted people?

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c. In vs 37 we have the second statement.

d. Now we can look at another key prophet to see if something changed:

4. Ezekiel 36.

a. Here again we have the wonderful promise of the New Covenant in the middle of great apostasy and rebellion by the nation.

b. vs 3:

c. Vs 6:

d. Vss 8-12:

e. Vss 16-20:

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f. But now look with hope and joy with what he then says in vss 21-30.

g. And just like Jeremiah we find the promise of the New Covenant as the basis of this restoration. Follow the promises and perhaps number or circle them.

(1) Vs 25

(2) Vs 26

(3) Vs 27a

(4) Vs 27b

-Many will stop there, but it is not finished-

(5) Vs 28a

(6) Vs 28b

(7) Vs 29a

(8) Vs 29b-30

h. The result is that they will repent of their sins.

i. And why? Vs 32.

j. And finally, vs 33.

5. Ezekiel 37:21-28.

a. Again we have this stated in such clear terms.

b. Vss 21-22

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- c.      Vs 23
- d.      Vs. 24
- e.      Vs 25
  
- f.      Vs 26
- g.      Vs 27
- h.      Vs 28

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A.      So many other passages are as clear as these. As you read your Old Testament this year take note of the constant promise of God's saving restoration of this nation Israel.
- B.      As I said in earlier messages, the place of Israel in the mind and plan of God is critical to understand God's saving purposes. To diminish their place in all of what God is doing is to diminish God Himself.
  - 1.      "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
  - 2.      Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself."
  - 3.      Psalm 36:5, "Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Thy faithfulness reaches to the skies."
- C.      Beloved, the joy of studying the relationship between God and Israel is how it establishes you in the faith. You see how utterly faithful God is to His promises, every promise, in every detail. You see the patience of God as people rebel and reject. You see the kindness of God is drawing Israel back. And you see the severity of God in not treating sin lightly.
- D.      "[The] faithfulness of God is of the utmost practical significance to the people of God. It is the ground of their confidence, the foundation of their hope, and the

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cause of their rejoicing. It saves them from the despair to which their own unfaithfulness might easily lead, gives them courage to carry on in spite of their failures, and fills their hearts with joyful anticipations, even when they are deeply conscious of the fact that they have forfeited all the blessings of God” (Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, II.71).

## **Benediction**

**May our gracious Father in heaven cause us to be found in Christ, clothed on in His righteousness which comes through faith from the hand of God. May we know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings as we become conformed to His death. Amen.**