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More recently, in 2017, excavators in Jerusalem discovered the only stone in existence from the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It was found and contained the full and complete spelling of “Jerusalem.” This is irrefutable evidence that shows the significance of Israel since the days of Abraham, both inside and outside the Promised Land.

Also there are eight major tablets that have been discovered that have great Old Testament significance:

- 1) Mari - Mari was Syrian king and he mentions Nahor and shows conditions during time of Abraham. Dated 1800 B.C.
- 2) Enuma Elish - is a writing that gives a polytheistic mythological theory of creation. In it, there are parallels to Genesis account. Dated 700 B.C.
- 3) Gilgamesh Epic - is a written tablet written, found in Nineveh. with the subject of eternal life. In it there are parallels to Genesis account. Dated 700 B.C.
- 4) Boghaz-Koy Tablets - document of Hittite empire describes Hittite culture. Dated 1600 B.C.
- 5) Nuzi tablets - a series of private documents lists customs, birthright, servant heir. Date 1500 B.C.
- 6) Ras Shamra tablets - a book of religious poetry describes Canaanite religion. Date 1500 B.C.
- 7) Amarna Letters - a series of letters from Palestinian kings written to request help from Egyptians. They describe conditions in Palestine. Dated 1400 B.C.
- 8) Chaldean Chronicles - These are court records of the Babylonian Empire and they record initial capture of Jerusalem in 597 B.C.. Dated 626-594 B.C.

Each one of these tablets adds to our knowledge of Israel in ancient times.

(John H. Walton, *Chronological Charts of the Old Testament*, pp. 20-21).

So although the primary source of historical information about Israel comes from the Old Testament, there are archeological discoveries and secular writings in existence that also give accurate collaborating evidence concerning this remarkable nation.

QUESTION #2 – How important is Israel as she relates to God?

Israel is actually a small nation compared to other countries. It is 262 miles long and 70 miles wide. By car you can drive from the west Mediterranean to the east Dead Sea in 90 minutes. You can drive from the southern tip to the northern tip in 8-9 hours. **The total land of Israel is 8,630 square miles.** This is about the size of the state of New Jersey which is 8,721 square miles.

To put this in some perspective, the United States is 3.8 million square miles; China is 3.7 million square miles. Egypt is 390,000 square miles. Syria is 17,500 square miles. Jordan is 34,400 square miles. So as you can see, 8,630 square miles makes Israel a small nation.

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However, Israel is gigantic when it comes to God. There is no greater nation on this earth. In fact, no other nation has had such an impact on the world, which is due to the very fact that Israel is special to God (Genesis 22:18). God has declared Israel to be His nation and He has made it so.

There is absolutely no debating the fact that when it comes to the God of the Bible, no nation is as special as Israel. In fact, in many passages God specifically identifies Himself as the God of Israel, including passages in the New Testament (Gal. 6:16).

- 1) God says in multiple passages too numerous to count that He is the LORD God of Israel (Ex. 5:1; 32:27; Joshua 7:13, 19, 20; Judges 5:3, 5; Ruth 2:12; I Sam. 23:10, 11; I Kings 8:23).
- 2) God says He is the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (I Chron. 29:18).
These obviously are three critical names in regard to the nation Israel. **Jacob is Israel-actually named by God Himself. Genesis 35:10**
- 3) God says that He is the LORD for Israel (I Sam. 7:9).
- 4) God says that He is the God in Israel (I Sam. 17:46).
- 5) God says that Israel is God's son (Ex. 4:22).
- 6) God says that He is the God of Israel (Ex. 24:10; Josh. 22:16; Judges 21:3; I Sam. 5:7, 8, 8, 8, 10, 11).
- 7) God says that He dwells among the children of Israel (Num. 35:34).
- 8) God says that Israel is the "apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8). What this actually means is that this nation is the focus of God's eye continually. She is central to God.

There is no other nation on earth that has this kind of national connection to the sovereign, almighty God. God has specifically promised that He will bless nations that bless her and curse nations who curse her (Gen. 12:3; Num. 24:9). In fact, God promises that He will actually prosper the economies of those nations who honor Israel (i.e. Isaiah).

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul said that every individual and every nation owes Israel a tremendous debt of gratitude. Through Israel came the Scriptures, the Law, worship, promises, prophecy and Jesus Christ (Romans 9:4-5).

Clearly to God, Israel is the most important nation in the world. Wise are those who recognize this fact.

QUESTION #3 – What is the Historical Timeline of Israel?

The Jewish people are the most important and traceable and verifiable people in all of history. The timeline of the nation Israel is like no other nation in the world. There is more data about Israel than any other nation in the world. We are actually able to track her history with timeline accuracy for the past 4,000 years.