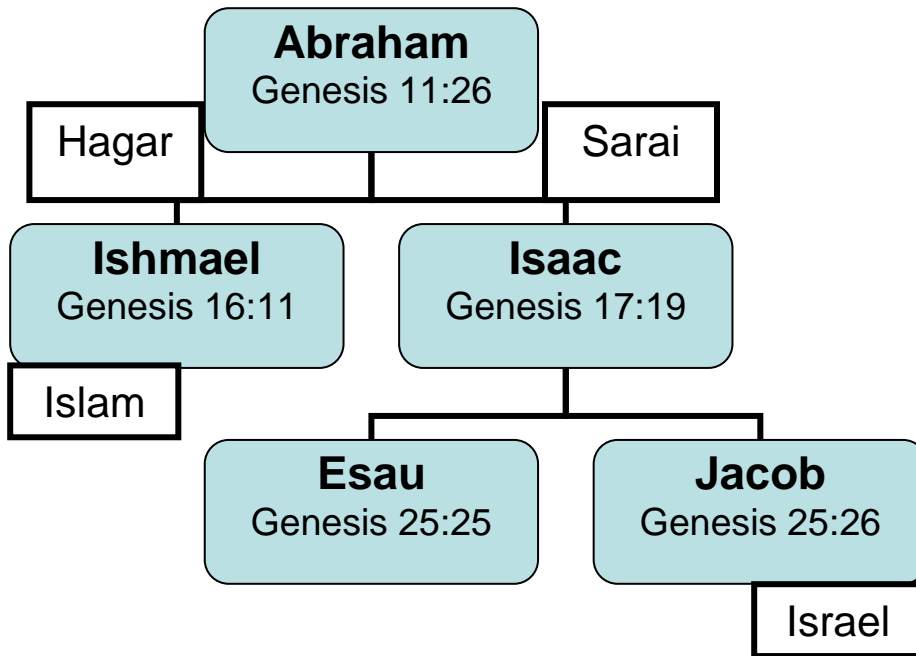


Series: 2009! Could This be the Time?!

Sermon: Insight into Israel

Scripture: Genesis 12 and Ezekiel 20, 36-37 (NKJV)



Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

1 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."

Notice that God’s covenant with Abraham consists of **four unconditional promises**.

- **God promised to bless Abraham.** That promise has been lavishly kept. For thousands of years, the very name of Abraham has been revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike – a significant portion of the world’s population.
- **God promised to bring out of Abraham a great nation.** The latest statistic states that 5.4 million Jews live in Israel alone. Another 5 million live in the United States. Plus there is a significant Jewish population that remains scattered throughout the world. Add to these present figure all the descendants of Abraham who have lived throughout history and you truly have a population as uncountable as the nighttime stars.
- **God has promised to make Abraham a blessing to many.** That promise has been spectacularly kept. Just think what the world would be missing without the Jews. Without the Jews, we would have no Bible. Without the Jews, there would have been no Jesus. Without the Jewish Jesus, there would be no Christianity. Without the Jews, there would be no Ten Commandments, the Law that has largely been the basis of jurisprudence and statutory proceedings among most of the civilized nations of the world.

- **God promised to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who cursed her.** He has kept that promise faithfully. No nation has blessed Israel like the United States of America, and no nation has been as blessed at the United States.
- Throughout history, the judgments of God have fallen heavily upon Israel's oppressors – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, and in more modern times Spain, Germany, and Russia. Today, as forces less friendly to Israel gain influence in the US, there are many who believe that America is dangerously close to being added to this hit list.

Hal Lindsey wrote: “Although America continues to be Israel’s principle protector, and continues to enjoy the concomitant blessings that come with it, America’s good fortunes began to wane about the time the White House forced Israel into the Oslo Agreement. The “land for peace” formula called for Israel to give up some of the land of Promise in exchange for peace. In other words, it was a form of blackmail whose terms were drawn up in Washington and forced upon Israel for the express purpose of undoing what God has already done, including dividing Jerusalem and taking part of it from the Jews.”

- **God has removed His hand of blessing from the US. (9/11/01 proves that!)**
- **And God removed it from the nation of Israel when they were disobedient also.**

Ezekiel 20:23-25, 32 (NKJV)

23 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries,
 24 because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.
 25 Therefore I also gave them up to statutes *that were* not good, and judgments by which they could not live;
 . . . 32 What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'

Ezekiel 36:19 (NKJV)

19 So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.

- **But God also made a promise to bring the Jews back to the land of promise.**

Ezekiel 36:24 (NKJV)

24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

May 14, 1948 was a pivotal day in human history. On that afternoon, a car carrying prominent Jewish leader David Ben-Gurion rushed down Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv and stopped in front of the Tel Aviv Art Museum. Four o'clock was only minutes away, and inside, more than 400 people – Jewish religious and political leaders and press representatives from all over the world – were assembled in an auditorium, anxiously awaiting his arrival. Ben-Gurion quickly bounded the steps. Precisely four o'clock, local time, he stepped to the podium, called the meeting to order, and read these historic words:

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State. Accordingly, we . . . are here assembled . . . and by virtue of our natural and historic right, and on the strength of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby declare the establishment of the Jewish State of Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

Six thousand miles away, President Truman sat in the Oval Office, reading a forty-word statement about to be released to the press. He penciled in a few added words, then signed his approval and noted the time. It was 6:10 p.m. One minute later, the White House press secretary read the release to the world. The United States has officially recognized the birth of the modern nation of Israel.

- **Israel's prophecy, written 740 years before the birth of Jesus, declared:**

Isaiah 66:8 (NKJV) 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? *Or* shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Secular Israel was born that day.

This May, Israel will be 61 years old as a nation. What amazes many people is that in those 6 decades, this tiny nation with a population of slightly more than 7 million has become the geopolitical center of the world. Why is this so? Why is a fledgling country with a total space smaller than New Jersey mentioned in the nightly news more than any other nation except the US?

To answer these questions, we must understand what happened on that day in 1948, what is happening today in Israel, and how these events affect the entire world. **For answers, we must turn not to the morning or evening news, or the front page of the newspaper, but to the Bible.** As Rabbi Binyamin Elon, a member of the Israeli Knesset, wrote:

I believe that if you do not know how to read the Bible, you cannot understand the daily newspaper. If you do not know the biblical story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you cannot possibly understand the miracle of the modern state of Israel.

- **Let's keep looking at what our Bible tells us concerning Israel.**

Ezekiel 36:25-32 (NKJV)

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. 29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. 30 And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. 32 Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord God, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

- **Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NKJV)**

Ezekiel 37:21-23 (NKJV)

21 Then say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 37:26-28 (NKJV)

26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 28 The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' "

Joel Rosenberg – “Epicenter” page 28.

"If the rebirth and repopulation of Israel described in Ezekiel 36 and 37 were coming true in my lifetime, was it not at least remotely possible that the peace and prosperity – and future war and divine rescue – described in chapters 38 and 39 could soon come true as well?"

Mark 13:28-31 (NKJV)

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near — at the doors! 30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.