

ISRAEL: THE CENTER OF GOD'S END-TIME PLANS

UHOP AWAKEN SERVICE – JEFF MOOTZ 4/10/17

I. THE CENTRALITY OF ISRAEL IN GOD'S PLANS

- a. Israel is at the center of all of God's purposes on the earth. They have a leadership calling over the nations that will ultimately be fulfilled by Jesus during His millennial kingdom. They have been set apart by their covenants, the priesthood, the Word, and by the promise of the Messiah that would come through their nation (Rom 3:1, 9:4-5). God promised to bless the nations through Israel as a servant nation (Gen 12:2-3). This signified a servant leadership calling over the entire nation. Jesus is the full expression of the servant call of Israel (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:7-8).

“For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: This is My dwelling place forever, here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” (Psalm 132:13-14)

- b. The land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem have been chosen by God as His eternal dwelling place. He has chosen to place the headquarters of His kingdom in this city. Jerusalem is so important to God that the heavenly city is called the New Jerusalem. The Promised Land that Abraham was shown is the only land that God has ever committed to a people group in the earth. Jesus will physically reign from Jerusalem forever (Zech 8:2-3, 2 Sam 7:13-16, Psalm 132:13-18).
- c. The land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem have always been the center of spiritual warfare in the earth and will continue to be in the end-times. The Devil and the Antichrist Empire will focus their efforts on Jerusalem because Israel is a chosen people and Jerusalem is a chosen city (Revelation 11:2, 12) Their warfare will be a strategic effort to stop the coming of the Messiah and His physical kingdom.
- d. The Great Tribulation is called “Jacob’s Trouble” by the prophet Jeremiah because Israel is the focus of all the events (Jeremiah 30:7). Israel is the main character in the story of God. Israel will be the focus of the Great Tribulation. God will have many purposes for the Church in the Tribulation but even they are related to seeing Israel saved. God will refine Israel through the Great Tribulation so that Israel can walk in her full destiny in the millennial kingdom.
- e. Israel will be refined as a nation of priests and those that say yes to Jesus will be filled with gratefulness and praise at His coming (Isaiah 12, 25:9, 30:29, 35:10).
- f. We must understand Israel's importance to God's plans in order to rightly understand the end-time scriptures.

II. THE WAR OVER JERUSALEM

- a. The Antichrist will wage war on Israel and the Jews. They will be his primary target of warfare during the entire Great Tribulation (Revelation 12, Zechariah 14:2). Jerusalem will be one of the major headquarters of the Antichrist.
- b. The nation of Israel will be desolated by war in the end-times. Some will flee to the nations, some will be taken captive, and some will be supernaturally protected. Many will be provoked by the Gentile Church in the nations and receive salvation (Revelation 12:6, 14-16, Romans 11:11-14, Zechariah 14:1-2, Matthew 24:16, Isaiah 61:1-5, Micah 2:12-13).
- c. The Antichrist will gather all the nations to wage war on Israel in order to destroy and fully control the nation. Satan's rage will primarily be directed at the Jews in all the nations and this will be manifested through the military plans of the Antichrist.

“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.” (Zechariah 14:2)

- d. All the nations will gather in one final battle against Jesus and His army after His 2nd coming (Revelation 16:12-16, 17:14, 19:11-21, Zechariah 9:14-16, 12:1-9, 14:3-15)
- e. Jesus will make a military march through the middle-east after His 2nd coming. He will march with His army through the middle-east killing people, releasing the 7 bowls of wrath, and freeing Jewish captives from prison camps. He will end His military march by entering into Jerusalem and delivering the Jews from the armies of the nations (Habakkuk 3, Isaiah 62, Revelation 19:11-21).

III. ISRAEL’S ROLE IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

“Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers.” (Isaiah 49:22-23)

- a. Jesus will call all the governments of the nations to return the surviving Jews to Israel. There will be an incredible ingathering of Jews from the nations after Jesus’ 2nd coming. This ingathering is one of the main themes of Jesus’ 2nd coming. The ruined cities of Israel shall be rebuilt by the nations (Isaiah 43:5-7, 11:11-16, 44:26, 49:11-13, 60:3-7, 61:4, Jeremiah 16:14-15)
- b. Every Jew that survives the Great Tribulation will receive Jesus’ work of salvation (Isaiah 4:2-3, Zech 14, Romans 11:26-27, Zechariah 12:10-14). Every Jew will be radical in their loving devotion to Jesus (Isaiah 60:21, Zechariah 13:1-6, 14:20-21). Even the materials of the city will be set apart unto the Lord. The city will be like a temple of His presence.

“People shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.” Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD....In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” (Zechariah 8:20-23)

“Then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering.” (Isaiah 4:5-6)

- c. Jesus’ throne and temple in Jerusalem – The city of Jerusalem shall be filled with the manifest glory of God and physically raised up on a mountain. The entire city shall be consecrated unto the Lord. The New Jerusalem shall be divinely connected to this city. Jesus will rebuild a temple complex for His governmental throne. All the nations will flow here to be discipled in the ways of the Lord and to celebrate the feasts of the Lord. Jesus will be a priestly-king on His throne and His government will still be released through worship and intercession (Zechariah 6:12-13).
- d. Israel will be set apart as a holy nation of priests unto God. They will walk in their full destiny as the chief of nations through the priestly ministry. They will minister to God in prayer and worship and they help disciple the nations in the ways of God. They will help lead the restoration of the nations after the Tribulation. The nations of the earth will serve the nation of Israel as Israel leads the nations with Jesus as the head. Jesus is the full expression of the priestly calling that is upon Israel (Isaiah 61:6, 62:1-3).

“Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.” (Isaiah 27:6)