ISRAELU

LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES:

SEEING ISRAEL THROUGH THE FATHER'S EYES

LEADER GUIDE

COURSE ONE

WELCOME

Welcome to the leader's portion of our group study guide for the IsraelU course, *Love What God Loves: Seeing Israel through the Father's Eyes!* Each lesson in this course addresses common questions or misconceptions about Israel, leading participants to turn to the words of scripture to better understand God's heart as a Father for Israel. As the facilitator of this journey, you have the unique opportunity to guide your group in exploring the profound connections between the Bible, Israel, and our faith.

This Leader Guide serves as an addendum to the individual lesson study guides, and is an essential resource for guiding participants through each lesson with clarity and depth. This guide provides a full outline of each lesson, offering a comprehensive course overview to facilitate review and assist in navigating questions or discussions that may arise during the video portions of the course. This resource is intended to help you as the leader foster engaging discussions, deep reflection, and a sense of community among the group.

We've provided the following course outline, with individual lesson summaries and objectives to help you navigate the rich content of this course. Designed to help leaders grasp the big picture, the leader guide enables you to effectively summarize the flow of content each week, ensuring that participants engage with the material in a meaningful and cohesive way. We hope this will serve as an effective means to simplify potentially challenging topics and focus on the primary takeaway points of each lesson.

As you lead, remember to create a welcoming environment where each member feels valued and heard. Your role is crucial in encouraging openness, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of God's Word and His chosen people, Israel.

Let's embark on this transformative journey together, discovering the richness of our faith as we learn to love what God loves and see Israel through the Father's eyes.



SEEING ISRAEL THROUGH THE FATHER'S EYES BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL WAS SOVEREIGNLY CHOSEN WITH YOU IN MIND. ABRAHAM'S FAMILY IS GOD'S FAMILY.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This 8-part IsraelU study addresses key questions and misconceptions related to Israel. The primary course goal is to help participants develop a Biblical worldview for seeing Israel through the Father's eyes.

Each lesson includes a 20-minute video teaching with a complementary story segment. Video lessons are accompanied by supplemental study guide PDFs for participants, including group discussion questions and mid-week self-guided study content.

- Course **TRAILER**
- Course **PROMOTIONAL VIDEO**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Love What God Loves: Seeing Israel through the Father's Eyes is an 8-week video-based Bible study that takes you on a transformative journey into the heart of God by exploring the vital role of Israel in His salvation story. Designed for small groups or individual study, this course reveals how a Biblical understanding of Israel is key to unlocking the full narrative of Scripture and deepening your faith.

Throughout the course, you'll engage with video teachings by Michael Mistretta that unravel God's eternal promises to Israel and their profound connection to your life. Each lesson is accompanied by powerful testimonies, a comprehensive digital study guide, and thought-provoking discussion questions that encourage meaningful dialogue and personal reflection.

We'll tackle common misconceptions about Israel, explore God's covenant-keeping nature, and discuss the controversies that have shaped the Church's relationship with the Jewish people. By the end of the course, you'll see how God's covenant with Israel directly connects to His faithfulness to you and His heart for the world.

Join us on this journey to see Israel through the Father's eyes, embrace your role in God's redemptive plan, and experience real transformation as you learn to love what He loves.

LESSON 1

CHOSEN FOR PURPOSE: *The Family of God*

This lesson explores God's deep desire for an intimate relationship with us as His children, and how His plan to remove the barrier of sin and to restore us to Himself forms the central narrative of the Bible. Through Abraham and his family lineage, Israel, God orchestrated His salvation plan, choosing Israel as the vessel to reveal His character and bring the hope of salvation through Jesus to the world. By seeing Israel through the Father's eyes, we gain a fresh perspective on the Bible and a deeper understanding of our own value to God.

- **Misconception:** "Chosen" is connected to preference, favoritism
- **Truth:** God wants a family. He chose Israel as His firstborn for the purpose of taking the message of God and Messiah to the world – with an international family of faith in His heart.
- **Takeaway:** Israel is God's chosen vessel, entrusted with a unique purpose of taking the gospel to the nations – connecting me to God.
- **Story:** Steve Carpenter shares how God captured his heart for Israel and invited him and his family into the story.

> Israel has been chosen not from preference but for a purpose —
> a divine purpose that has everything to do with your salvation story.

LESSON 1

OUTLINE

1. **GOD'S INTENTION: Desire for a close relationship with His people, from the beginning.**
   a. He uses "Family" terms: Father, children
   b. Original sin caused mankind to be separated from the Father
   c. God promised to destroy the sin barrier and restore us to life and to Him.
   d. The redemption/restoration story is the story of the Bible

2. **THE CONCEPT OF CHOSENNESS: God chose to orchestrate His plan of salvation through one man, Abraham, and his family, Israel. God chose Israel for a purpose.**
   a. Deut. 7:6-8: Israel was not superior in number, but fewer. God as sovereign, loves and chooses family roles.
   b. Ex. 4:22; Deut. 7:6: *Israel is My son, My firstborn. Israel is My own possession.*
   c. They are an imperfect family with a difficult history (like many of ours)! Their disobedience didn't deter God's decision to use them in the salvation story. 2 Cor. 4:6-7: *Light will shine out of the darkness...But we have this treasure* (the revelation of God) *in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

3. **GOD'S PLAN THROUGH ISRAEL: What were they chosen for?**
   a. Israel was chosen to **SERVE the NATIONS** by being a vessel for God in His plan to restore humanity to Himself.
   b. Israel was chosen in **LOVE**, to be a **WITNESS** that God would keep His promises. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be a **BLESSING** to all people - that a seed - the Messiah - would come from his family line (Gen 12:1-3).
   c. Israel was called to be a **HOLY NATION**, set apart from the sin and darkness of a world far from God.
   d. They were called to be a **LIGHT to the NATIONS** and a **KINGDOM of PRIESTS**, drawing the other nations toward God.
   e. They were chosen to carry the **REVELATION of GOD** to the world. God gave Israel the prophets and prophecies, all the scriptures. The revelation of how to worship God.
   f. Israel was chosen to bring the **HOPE of SALVATION** through Jesus to the ends of the earth.

3. **HOW THIS CONNECTS TO US: Hopefully, it's becoming clearer how significant Israel's role is in the gospel, even as an imperfect vessel.**
    a. Because Israel was chosen in **LOVE**, I can know that **I am loved by God**, grafted into this family by grace through faith. Israel's story reveals that I'm precious to God.
    b. Because God **BLESSED** Israel and has kept His promises - they are a **WITNESS** of God's faithfulness. Their story shows me that **I can have confidence that God will keep all of His promises** in the Scripture. This gives us hope. God's redemption story isn't finished, so neither is theirs.
    c. Because Israel was chosen to be a **SERVANT**, a **LIGHT** to the **NATIONS** - I am blessed to receive the **REVELATION of GOD** as a holy, merciful and loving Father.
    d. Through Israel - we have received the **HOPE of our SALVATION**, Jesus.

As we see Israel through the Father's eyes, our Bible opens up in a new way. We see that Israel was chosen from a heart of love, with us in mind. And for this, we are so grateful!

LESSON 2

ESTABLISHED IN COVENANT:
God Keeps His Promises

This lesson delves into the Abrahamic Covenant, an eternal agreement established by God with Israel through Abraham. This unconditional promise ensured that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation, be blessed, and be a blessing to all families on earth, with a homeland of their own. The covenant, upheld by God's faithfulness, laid the foundation for Israel as God's chosen people and opened the door for people from all nations to join Abraham's family through faith. The enduring chosenness of Israel serves as a powerful reminder that we have a heavenly Father who keeps His covenants, no matter how circumstances may appear today.

- **Misconception:** Israel's chosen status is inoperative today. The purpose/calling for ancient Israel is no longer true for modern Israel.
- **Truth:** God's relationship with Israel was established through an unconditional, everlasting covenant. The validity of the covenant relies wholly on God's fidelity, not Israel's merit.
- **Takeaway:** God established Israel's calling through an eternal covenant that He alone will uphold.
- **Story:** Elisha Lazarus shares his testimony as a prodigal son returning to the Father.

> The enduring chosenness of Israel, God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham, is a resounding proclamation that we have a Father in heaven who keeps His word. If God keeps His promises to Israel, we can be assured He will keep His word to us.

LESSON 2

OUTLINE

In our culture, when we enter a serious agreement, we use a written contract. In the cultural setting of the Bible, they used a binding agreement called covenant.

1. COVENANT FEATURES

a. Terms & conditions: conditional or unconditional, temporary or permanent
b. The covenant was "cut" or confirmed through the shedding of blood.
c. The party obligated to uphold the terms of the covenant walked between the pieces of animal, through the blood. The message illustrated: *May what happened to this animal happen to me if I break this covenant with you.*

2. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

a. God uses covenant as the foundation of His relationships.
b. 3 cameos from Genesis
   - Genesis 12:1-3, 7 — God promises Abram descendants, land, and blessing
   - Genesis 15:2-6 — Cutting of the covenant / Abram believed God's promise
   - Genesis 17:4-7 — Name changed to Abraham - "father of a multitude" / Everlasting covenant confirmed with Abraham's descendants, through all Israel's generations

c. The Abrahamic Covenant:
   - Laid the relational foundation through which God would establish a family, a people, for Himself.
   - Formed Abraham's physical family, the Jewish people, AND opened the door of hope to people from every nation who could be grafted into Abraham's family through faith.
   - Opened the way for the New Covenant, cut and confirmed with the blood of Jesus and is the only means by which God's family is ultimately formed.
   - Paul said Abraham is the father of all who believe. Abraham's family is God's family. (Galatians 3:8-9, 29)

3. A GOD WHO KEEPS COVENANT

a. Key Question: Is Abraham's physical family, Israel, still chosen?
b. God demonstrates His unconditional and eternal nature through the Abrahamic Covenant.
c. Romans 11: The Olive Tree and the Family of God, natural and wild branches
d. Israel, as a nation, will return to the Lord (Hosea 3:4-5, Romans 11)

LESSON 3

ONE STORY IN TWO TESTAMENTS:
The Old Testament Still Matters

This lesson highlights the Bible as one unified story of God's love and His plan to redeem humanity, with Israel playing a central role in both the Old and New Testaments. Neglecting the Old Testament leaves us with an incomplete understanding of God, His purposes, and our shared future. The gospel, God's eternal plan of salvation through Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, is first revealed in the Old Testament, where Jesus is the central figure. By embracing the full context of Scripture, we gain a deeper understanding of key truths like righteousness, worship, restoration, and mission. This comprehensive view allows us to clearly see God's ongoing work with Israel and the nations today.

- **Misconception:** Many Christians believe that most of the Old Testament doesn't apply to the New Testament believer. OT is for the Jews; NT is for Christians.
- **Truth:** The entire Bible tells one story.
- **Takeaway:** Embrace the entire Bible as one story. If we neglect the Old Testament, we're left with an incomplete picture of God, His purposes, Israel and our shared future.
- **Story:** Rebecca Kroese shares how a teaching about the tabernacle changed her perspective on the Old Testament.

> The Bible is one continuous story. If we neglect any part, we're left with an incomplete picture of God, His eternal purposes for all people, and of Israel and our shared future.

LESSON 3

OUTLINE

1. **Understanding the Old Testament Narratives:** How can Israel's story apply to us?
   a. Israel, her allies and enemies, the miracles, were all literal, but they are also illustrations or foreshadows of spiritual truths designed for our learning. (1 Cor 10:11 - these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.)
   b. The OT is about Israel, but it also carries important spiritual applications and prophetic promises for us today – never at the expense of Israel, not instead of Israel, but in addition to them.

2. **Jesus Revealed in the Old Testament: When you study the Old Testament, you'll find Jesus.**
   a. Jesus and the apostles mentioned "the Scriptures," they meant the Hebrew Bible – the Old Testament.
   b. Jesus spoke of Himself as the main character in the Hebrew Scriptures. (John 5:39, 46; Luke 24:44-47)
   c. Jesus seen in theophanies in the Old Testament
   d. Jesus is foreshadowed in the Old Testament (Moses, Joseph, Tabernacle, Psalm 22, Daniel, etc.)
   e. There are over 300 prophecies of Jesus's first advent — every prophecy fulfilled to the detail.
   f. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the prophets – to be the fulfillment - not to nullify them. (Matt. 5:17)

3. **God's Eternal Plan Revealed in the Old Testament**
   a. The Great Commission is first in the OT. Jesus's final charge to His disciples wasn't a shift in the divine plan, but a continuation of God's design from the beginning.
   b. God promised the Messiah, Jesus, would come through Abraham's family line (Gen 12:3 "in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.")
   c. God spoke promises about the Gentiles, in Isaiah 56, who join themselves to the Lord (to never separate them from His people, to give the foreigner a place and an everlasting name. The Lord declared His house will be called a house of prayer for all people.
   d. Paul knew he was part of the mission stated in the OT. Rom 1:1-3

4. Israel Revealed in the Old Testament

a. If we neglect the OT, we can develop a skewed picture of Israel.

b. True about ancient Israel:

- Ancient Israel went into idolatry, persecuted, and killed the prophets God sent to warn them.
- God banished Israel from their land
- Many first century Jews accepted Jesus as Messiah, yet most Jews, including the leadership, rejected Him.

c. Also true regarding Israel:

- The same prophets that foretold Israel's rejection of God and chastisement for sin ALSO prophesied the restoration of Jewish people to their land and to the Lord.
- The sin and consequences have been literal, as will be the physical and spiritual restorations.

CONCLUSION

The Old Testament is rich with eternal significance and truth. Let's embrace the entire Word of God, using all the puzzle pieces to see Jesus more clearly, understand God's plan more fully, and perceive what God is doing presently with Israel.

LESSON 4

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ISRAEL GOD INTENDED?
The Error of Replacement Theology

This lesson explores the spiritual battle over our God-given identity as His children, focusing on how Satan has used Replacement Theology to distort Israel's true identity and create division between the Church and the Jewish people. Replacement Theology falsely claims that due to Israel's sin, God has replaced Israel's unique role with the Church, transferring His promises and rejecting Israel. This doctrine undermines God's covenant faithfulness, fosters indifference towards reaching the Jewish people with the gospel, and breeds antisemitism within the Church. As Israel has been partially blinded to her Messiah, much of the Church has been blinded to God's enduring plan for Israel. However, the family of God is reawakening to see Israel through the Father's eyes—not as rejected, but as loved and with a future.

- **Misconception:** Israel had their chance with God and blew it. Because of their rejection of Him, He has rejected them. OT references to "Israel" can be interpreted as "the Church."
- **Truth:** Replacement Theology has been a tool in Satan's hand to stir confusion and division between the Church and the Jewish people.
- **Takeaway:** God has not rejected national Israel. The Gentile Church has been grafted into the story, but not at the exclusion of Israel.
- **Story:** Dr. Gerald McDermott, an Anglican priest who taught replacement theology for years shares how God turned his heart toward Israel.

> Replacement Theology has been a two-pronged weapon distorting the identities of Israel and the Church with much pain, confusion and division as a result. Let's be rightly aligned to see Israel and the Church through the Father's eyes.

LESSON 4

OUTLINE

1. **Introduction:**
   a. Israel's story is crucial to understanding foundational biblical truths.
   b. Satan is the ultimate identity thief — by the second century, Satan began distorting Israel's identity.
   c. What does it say about God's character if Israel's identity is compromised?

2. **Replacement Theology: A Dangerous & Divisive Doctrine**
   a. Definition: The belief that due to Israel's sin, God has rejected their unique role, transferring biblical promises to the Church.
   b. Questions: Has God rejected Israel? Have the biblical promises been transferred to the Church?
   c. Consequences: Replacement Theology has distorted Israel's identity and caused deep division in the Church

3. **Satan's Strategy: Pursue, Overtake, and Divide**
   a. Pharaoh's declaration in Exodus 15 reflects Satan's strategy: "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil."
   b. Satan targets the Church, composed of Jewish and Gentile believers, to cause division. Jesus emphasized that a house divided cannot stand.
   c. Early Church Division: debates over Gentile and Jewish conformity (Acts 15)

4. **Church History and the Spread of Replacement Theology**
   a. Ideology, false doctrine and anti-Jewish sentiment in the Church led to grave atrocities done to the Jews in Jesus's name.
   b. Contributing Factors:
      - Allegorizing scripture to extremes
      - Persecution & Jewish rejection of Jesus: Gentile Church leaders concluded that God had rejected Israel. Church began identifying as the "new Israel" and "true spiritual Israel."
      - Forced Conformity: Jewish believers marginalized, forced to abandon their heritage and adopt Gentile practices.
      - Early Church Leaders like Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Origen, Augustine, and John Chrysostom contributed to anti-Jewish rhetoric.

- Accusations Against Jews: Terms like “Christ-killers” and “deicide” became widespread

c. Consequences of Replacement Theology:

- Undermines God’s faithfulness to Israel
- Disrupts the unity of the Church.
- Leads to antisemitism and indifference towards Jewish salvation.

d. Historical Streams of Support for Israel: the Moravians, Puritans, and theologians like Charles Spurgeon upheld biblical truths re Israel.

5. God’s Sovereign Plan: Pursue, overtake, and recover all

a. Biblical Example at Ziklag (1 Samuel 30)

b. God’s Faithfulness to Israel and the Church

- God’s plan is to recover all that Satan has attempted to steal from Israel and the Church.
- Romans 11: God’s gifts and callings are irrevocable; Israel’s restoration and the Church’s maturity will come to pass.

6. Conclusion: Where will you stand?

a. The Church is awakening to the importance of Israel’s role in God’s plan. Stand with Israel and the Jewish people, recognize their irrevocable calling and identity.

b. Strive to become the Bride of Christ, prepared for Jesus’ return (Eph 5).

LESSON 5

ISN'T HE OBVIOUS? Why it's Difficult for Jewish People to See Jesus

This lesson addresses the complex reasons why Jesus's identity as Messiah is not immediately obvious to the Jewish people. Both divine and satanic strategies have played a role in partially and temporarily veiling Jesus (Yeshua) and the gospel from much of the Jewish community. Satan has blinded unbelievers and used the Church's history of antisemitism to distort Jesus's image, presenting a negative testimony. Simultaneously, God has temporarily hardened Jewish hearts as part of a divine mystery, yet this hiddenness is neither total nor permanent. Believers are called to partner with God through prayer and witness, helping to make the Messiah irresistibly attractive to the Jewish people, as we look forward to the day when the veil will be lifted and God's grace fully revealed to Israel.

- **Misconception:** Jesus is obviously the Messiah! The stubborn condition of the Jewish people has led to their inability to see Jesus.
- **Truth:** Jesus's identity is NOT clear to most Jewish people, and major factors play into why.
- **Takeaway:** Divine and demonic strategies have partially and temporarily hidden God and the gospel from most Jewish people.
- **Story:** Dr. Nina Baratiak shares her salvation story as a Jew who encountered the love of Yeshua.

> Multiple strategies have partially and temporarily hidden Jesus and the gospel from most Jewish people. When we understand the reasons for this, it should give us compassion to pray and take action on behalf of our Jewish brothers and sisters.

LESSON 5

OUTLINE

1. Introduction: The Challenge of Jewish Recognition of Jesus

a. Common Christian Assumptions: Why can't they see Jesus if...

- The Jewish people have the Hebrew Scriptures prophecies pointing to Jesus.
- Israel is the land of the Bible, with archaeological evidence verifying Scripture.
- The gospel story is part of Jewish history ("Salvation is from the Jews").

b. Statistics Indicate: Most Jewish people today 95% of the global Jewish population (& 97% in Israel) hasn't heard the gospel

2. Satan's Role in Blinding Jewish Understanding

a. Jewish perception of Jesus is hindered by both Satan and the historical actions of the Church.

- Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers to prevent them from seeing the light of the gospel (2 Cor 4:4). He hates the Jewish people and has historically targeted them for destruction to prevent them from fulfilling their divine calling.
- Antisemitism within Church history has marred Jesus's face for Jews, presenting a negative testimony.

3. God's Role: The Hidden Face of God

a. Biblical Basis for Hiddenness: After the idolatry with the golden calf, God hid His face from Israel as a consequence of their sin (Exodus 33).

b. Theme of Hiddenness in Scripture:

- The Psalms and Isaiah speak of God hiding His face, causing Israel to be spiritually deaf and blind.
- Jesus's teaching in parables and the partial revelation of His identity linked to God's hidden face.
- The Mystery of the Veil: A veil lies over Jewish hearts when reading the Scriptures, but it can be lifted in Jesus (2 Cor 3:14-15).

c. Clarification: God's hiddenness and the partial hardening of Israel's heart are often misunderstood as rejection, but

d. The Partial and Temporary Hardening of Israel: God has not rejected His people; the hardening is partial and temporary. It is about God's sovereignty and compassion, not rejection (Rom 9-11).

e. God's Compassion and Promises of Restoration:

- Isaiah 54: God's hidden face was temporary, with great compassion, He will gather Israel.
- When the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, all Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25-27). The Deliverer will come from Zion, and God will remove ungodliness from Jacob.
- Ezekiel 39 and Zechariah 12-13: Prophecies of a future day when God will no longer hide His face from Israel, leading to their national restoration and salvation.

4. Implications and Call to Action

a. Recognize the Divine Mystery: Understanding the forces working against the Jewish people should silence criticism and indifference within the Church.

b. Partner with God's Plan:

- The Church should be moved to compassion and action on behalf of the Jewish people.
- Christians are called to live in a way that makes Jesus irresistibly attractive to Jewish friends and family.
- Sacrificial Love: Jesus emphasized that love is essential in drawing others to Him.

c. The Power of Jewish Conversion:

- When the veil is lifted and a Jewish person comes to faith in Jesus, the transformation is powerful, and they carry a unique light on earth.
- Encourage and support efforts to share the gospel with the Jewish people, doing so lovingly, patiently, consistently, and prayerfully.

LESSON 6

JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM! *The City of the Great King*

This lesson centers on Jerusalem, the City of the Great King, which holds a special place in God's heart as His chosen dwelling and the site where Jesus's sacrifice secured our peace. Until Jesus returns to reign, a spiritual battle rages over this city, which serves as a threshing floor of sifting and separation. Satan seeks to corrupt and destroy Jerusalem, perverting worship in the very place God chose to be exalted. This conflict is spiritual, not political, as Satan leads a global assault against God's authority. We are called to partner with God's redemptive plan for Jerusalem, praying for its peace and declaring His eternal purposes until His will is accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

- **Misconception:** This lesson on Jerusalem, doesn't address an obvious misconception as much as it speaks into the lack of understanding within the Church to why Jerusalem is so significant.
- **Truth:** Jerusalem is not first a political, social, historical, or even primarily a biblical site – it is the place God has chosen, set apart, for Himself where His redemptive plan will be fully accomplished.
- **Takeaway:** Jerusalem is like a threshing floor, a place of sifting and separation. God has chosen it for Himself and Satan leads a rebellion against it.
- **Story:** Reuven Doron, a Messianic leader in Israel shares his experiences of Israel and the importance of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is like a threshing floor, a place of sifting and separation. God has chosen it for Himself and Satan leads a rebellion against it.

LESSON 6

OUTLINE

1. Introduction: The Unique Significance of Jerusalem

a. Historical and Spiritual Importance:

- Jerusalem's 5,000-year history and unparalleled spiritual significance.
- Millions of tourists visit annually to experience the city and connect with biblical history.

b. The Complex Reality of Jerusalem: Many visitors are surprised by the modern aspects of the city that contrast with biblical expectations. Jerusalem is complex and multifaceted, both historically and in the present day.

2. God's Plan for Jerusalem

a. Divine Purpose:

- God's plan for Jerusalem as the "foundation of peace" ruled by a righteous King (Gen 14).
- Zion as a dwelling place for God, forever (Psalm 132:13-14). God set Jerusalem at the center of the nations (Ezek 5:5).

b. Jerusalem in Biblical Events:

- Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac and God's provision.
- King David's purchase of the threshing floor on Mt. Moriah and Solomon's construction of the Temple.
- Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection took place in Jerusalem, securing peace with God for all believers.

c. Future Prophecy: Prophets foretold that Messiah will reign as King in Jerusalem (Psalm 2:6; Matthew 25:31). Jerusalem as the place of final judgment and separation of the righteous from the unrighteous.

3. Satan's Rebellion and Resistance: He hates what God loves

a. Satan's Origin and Goal: Once an angel created to serve God, Satan's pride led to his fall and ongoing rebellion (Isaiah 14:13-14) Satan's desire was to ascend and take God's place and authority.

b. On the Mountain of the Lord: he wanted God's place of authority and worship (Is. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:14-17)

c. With Jesus: he offered the nations (place) if Jesus would worship him. Matt. 4:8-9

d. With Us: he seeks a "place" (Eph. 4:27) in our lives and to disrupt our worship of God. He seeks to confuse, disrupt, and take "place" in the spiritual realm, on earth, and in individual lives.

e. With Jerusalem: Satan is leading the nations in an assault against the authority of God.

- Historical Conflict: Satan has sought her physical destruction and the corruption of worship through idolatry. Jerusalem, often a stronghold for enemies of Israel. Reclaimed by modern Israel in 1967 but remains embroiled in conflict.
- Future Conflict: Prior to Jesus's return as King, the antichrist, in Satan's authority, will set up his throne on the temple mount and require the world's worship (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). Zechariah 12:2-3: Jerusalem will be a cup of reeling for all people.
- At His return, King Jesus will destroy the rebellion, but we're invited into the story today on His behalf.

4. Call to Action:

a. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). God appoints watchmen to intercede for Jerusalem's righteousness and peace (Is 62:6-7).

b. Partner with God's Purposes: Join Christians worldwide in praying for Jerusalem and actively proclaiming salvation and pursuing the removal of barriers that hinder Israel from recognizing Jesus as their Messiah (Isaiah 62:10-11).

LESSON 7

ISRAEL'S FUTURE HOPE: *The Coming Revival*

This lesson highlights the central role of hope in Israel's story, and for every believer, focusing on Israel's prophetic future of restoration to the land and the Lord, which prepares the way for the return and reign of the King. While flawed theology has sometimes diminished Christian hope for Israel's national and spiritual restoration, the prophets and Jesus affirm God's plan to regather and restore His people. Israel's natural deliverance and spiritual salvation are deeply connected, leading to the Lord's return to Israel and Israel's return to the Lord. As Jesus reigns in justice and peace from Jerusalem, God's faithfulness to Israel's hope reassures all believers of His promises. We are called to share the gospel and pray for Israel's future—a hope that is intricately linked to our shared destiny in God.

- **Misconception:** There is no further prophetic plan for national Israel. Many are unaware there will be a national turning of Israel to Jesus, and a return of the Kingdom of God through Israel.
- **Truth:** Israel's story, her times – good and painful, past, present, and future – have been foretold. Everything is being fulfilled.
- **Takeaway:** The same prophets who warned sinful Israel of God's chastisement and their exile, wrote of both physical and spiritual restoration.
- **Story:** Pastor Wayne, a pastor who has served over 4 decades in Israel, shares about the future hope of Israel.

> The prophets spoke of Israel's two-fold restoration in the last days: to the LAND and to the LORD. The King will return to reign in righteousness, dwelling among His people forever — bringing justice and peace to the nations.

LESSON 7

OUTLINE

The Bible consistently speaks of Israel's future hope. The promise of restoration to the Land and restoration to the Lord. Our hope as believers actually hinges on both of these promises. Israel's future hope is:

1. RESTORATION to the LAND

a. The prophets foretold Israel's chastisement, partial hardening, and exile from the Land. They also foretold her restoration to the land.

b. We see partial fulfillment of this today with a regathering mostly in unbelief (Ezekiel 37-38). The Land of Israel was a key part of the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant.

c. Throughout Church history, Israel's restoration to the Land wasn't always clear. Supersessionism, allegorization of Scripture.

d. Christians know that Israel's restoration to the land is somehow significant, connected to our hope for Jesus' return - but don't always know why or how it plays out

2. RESTORATION to the LORD

a. Opinions abound as to HOW and WHEN this will happen. Scripture has much to say on this. NATURAL DELIVERANCE and SPIRITUAL SALVATION for "all Israel" will go hand in hand.

b. Israel will experience natural DELIVERANCE from her enemies & the Lord's enemies

- Israel has carried the Messianic hope for a conquering King
- The Remnant of Jewish believers is key. Jesus will not return UNTIL the leaders in Jerusalem say "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matt 23:39).
- Israel's hope involves the return of the King. Jesus will physically descend to Jerusalem. His feet resting on the Mount of Olives. It will be split in two (Zech 12-14)
- Christians hold a great hope for Jesus' return

c. Israel will experience spiritual SALVATION

- They will look upon Him and mourn for Him - Zechariah 14
- There will be a fountain opened for cleansing and salvation
- Romans 11:26 - all Israel will be saved, the Deliverer will come to Zion

3. REIGN of the KING

a. The Jewish Messiah, King of Kings, & Prince of Peace will rule from His Kingdom in Israel.

b. The Righteous Branch will reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem, in Israel. Davidic Covenant (Jer 3:17)

c. Millennial Reign: Israel will dwell securely. No more war. Jesus will rule over the nations with righteousness, justice, & peace. Nations will go up to Jerusalem to honor the King and to celebrate the Feasts.

d. Ultimately leading to new heavens, new earth, eternal Kingdom of God.

4. CTA & Conclusion

a. Israel's glorious future gives us ASSURANCE of salvation, confidence in our hope for the return of Jesus, bodily resurrection, rule and reign with Him, and a new creation.

b. REJOICE with His people, Gentiles. Abound in hope with the root of Jesse (Rom 15)

c. Bring the GOSPEL to the Jew First (especially). Jewish repentance and restoration to the Lord brings about the Messianic Kingdom of God, our shared hope.

d. DECLARE - the prayer of the early church "Maranatha, come Lord Jesus." Amidah prayer excerpts reflecting Israel's hope.

LESSON 8

WHAT'S MY PART? *The Not-So-Fine Print of the Great Commission*

This session urges Christians to align their hearts with Jesus, which naturally aligns them with the Father's love for Israel. The key question posed is: What is our role concerning the Jewish people? The answer involves two actions based on Ezekiel 37: prophesying to the bones (sharing the gospel with the Jewish community) and prophesying to the breath (praying for the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual life to Israel). Christians are encouraged to speak the truth about Jesus lovingly and boldly, recognizing that withholding the gospel is more offensive than sharing it. Additionally, they are called to pray for the salvation of the Jewish people, asking God to lift the veil from their eyes. The lesson challenges believers to allow their hearts to break for Israel, aligning their compassion and prayers with God's own heart. Ultimately, the call is to pray, go, and help bring God's firstborn, Israel, back to the Father, trusting in God's unceasing love and faithfulness to His people.

- **Misconception:** Prioritizing Israel is for people who God has specifically burdened. It's fine for me not to have Israel, the Jewish people, on my radar.
- **Truth:** Seeing Israel restored is a high priority to the Father and if we love what He loves, we'll align with His priority. The Church has been commissioned to take the gospel to all people – to the Jews first (Rom. 1:16).
- **Takeaway:** Israel, God's firstborn, is today far from home and with limited ability to find the way back. The Father has asked you and me, His children by faith, to go, and bring His son home.
- **Story:** Casey Tait shares how the Lord used hope deferred in her story to connect her to the Lord's longing for His family to truly know Him.

> Prioritizing Israel is a central part of the Great Commission. When we love God, we start loving, caring about, and prioritizing the same things He does. God loves Israel and the Jewish people and we have been invited to step into our role to bring God's firstborn, Israel, back home.

LESSON 8

OUTLINE

1. Introduction: The Call to Be Conformed to the Image of Jesus

a. Biblical Mandate: Believers are called to be conformed to the image of Jesus, meaning to represent Him and follow His example.

b. Jesus's Life: Jesus lived fully surrendered to the Father, with no personal agenda, only doing the Father's will.

c. Aligning our lives with Jesus aligns us with the Father's heart, including His love for Israel.

d. The Critical Question: What is our role as Christians concerning the Jewish people?

e. Simple Truth: Israel, God's firstborn, is far from home and needs help finding the way back. The Father calls us to bring His son home.

2. Prophesy to the Bones: Sharing the Gospel with the Jewish People

a. Ezekiel 37 - The valley of dry bones represents the whole house of Israel.

b. Ezekiel's Mandate: Prophesy to the bones, speak the word of the Lord over Israel, and bring them back to life.

c. Our Role: Develop authentic, loving relationships with Jewish people and share the gospel. Timing and approach are important, but the message of Jesus must be shared.

d. Paul's Challenge (Romans 10:14-15): How will they believe if they haven't heard? It's our responsibility and privilege to share the good news.

3. Prophesy to the Breath: Praying for the Salvation of Israel

a. The Breath Represents the Holy Spirit: Call for the breath, the Holy Spirit, to bring spiritual life to the Jewish people.

b. Prayer Focus:

- Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people and the removal of spiritual hindrances.
- Pray for God to bring Jewish people into your life to share the gospel.
- A Courageous Prayer: Ask God to break your heart for Israel and see their plight as if it were your own child at risk.

c. Biblical Examples of Grief and Intercession:

- Jesus wept over Jerusalem for not recognizing Him.
- Paul had unceasing grief for his kinsmen and was willing to give up his salvation for their sake.
- Jeremiah's Lament (Jeremiah 8:21-22; 9:1, 17-18): Jeremiah wept for Israel, but the Lord's heart was also mourning – Jeremiah had aligned with God's grief.
- The Father's Call to Bring Israel Home

4. The Role of the Church

a. Prophesy to the Bones: Share the gospel with the Jewish people lovingly and sensitively.

b. Prophesy to the Breath: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual life to Israel. Pray for the lifting of the veil over their eyes so they can see Jesus as their Messiah.

c. God's Promise to Israel (Isaiah 49:14-16, 22): Despite Israel's suffering and feelings of abandonment, God has not forgotten them. God will lift up His hand to the nations, and they will bring Israel's sons and daughters back to Him.

5. Conclusion: Our Role in Israel's Restoration

a. Pray: Pray for the peace and salvation of Israel.

b. Go: Engage with Jewish people, share the gospel, and be part of God's plan to bring Israel back to the Father.

c. Bring Israel Home: Fulfill the mandate to help Israel find their way back to God, acting as agents of restoration and reconciliation.

ISRAEL IS GOD'S CHOSEN VESSEL, ENTRUSTED WITH A UNIQUE PURPOSE THAT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH CONNECTING US TO GOD.

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