ISRAELU

LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES:

SEEING ISRAEL THROUGH THE FATHER'S EYES

COURSE STUDY GUIDE

COURSE ONE | LESSON SEVEN




THE WILDERNESS AND THE DESERT WILL REJOICE, AND THE DESERT WILL SHOUT FOR JOY AND BLOSSOM... THEY WILL SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD, THE MAJESTY OF OUR GOD.
ISAIAH 35:1-2
ISRAELU

Welcome to Lesson Seven, *Israel's Future Hope: The Coming Revival*

In this lesson, we'll explore the prophetic hope for restoration and fulfillment of God's covenant promises with both Israel and the Church, and consider what that means for the days ahead.

ISRAEL'S FUTURE HOPE: THE COMING REVIVAL

IN ESSENCE

Hope is central to our stories, because we serve a God of great hope.

The same prophets who prophesied Israel's discipline, prophesied their restoration to the land and to the Lord. Israel's natural deliverance and spiritual salvation are intertwined. Difficult days ahead will culminate in the Lord's return. Jesus will destroy His enemies, unveil Israel's eyes to fully receive Him, and present to Himself a spotless Bride from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Jerusalem will dwell securely as King Jesus will reign in justice and peace, fulfilling His covenant with David.

There is coming a day that Peter called the "restoration of all things" about which God spoke to the prophets of old. God will complete what He has started. He is not done with the Church, He is not done with Israel, and He is not done with us, individually.

GETTING STARTED

Group leader, read the In Essence *summary as you begin your time together. This will help set up the direction for this lesson.*

As you open the group time, give everyone an opportunity to answer this question.

- What do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?

Thinking about the future may inspire and/or unsettle us. The truth is, for Israel and all believers, our futures are anchored in hope. Let's join Kayla and Michael as we look at Israel's future hope, and then see throughout the lesson how all believers have a shared destiny.

LESSON SEVEN VIDEO

Group leader, stream the video teaching.

As you watch the video teaching, use the following prompts and space provided to record anything that stands out to you.

1. **Israel's return to the land is a predominant theme of prophecy and a witness of God's faithfulness to Abraham.**

2. **Israel does not yet resemble the glorious picture the prophets painted. We see partial fulfillment...**

> *We have been unfaithful to our God... yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this.*
> **Ezra 10:2**

3. **Israel will also experience a restoration to the Lord.**

4. **Tumultuous days ahead will demand a mighty deliverance for Israel. The realm of war is both natural and spiritual – so will be the realm of victory.**

5. **This cataclysmic time will bring about both the Lord's return to Israel, and Israel's return to the Lord. A key: Matthew 23:39**

6. **Israel will experience a profound awakening, a turning of hearts toward their long-awaited Messiah.**

7. **The Bible emphasizes both heavenly (spiritual) and earthly (natural) dimensions of God's kingdom.**

8. **God's restoration of Israel to the land, to the Lord, and to usher in the reign of King Jesus – is for the sake of His holy name.**

9. **Israel's future hope gives us great assurance for God's promises to all believers.**

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Group Leader, read aloud the questions and prompts below and lead the discussion.

A working definition of hope is desire with expectation for a positive future.

1. **What are the top two things you are hoping for, spiritually?**

   On a scale of 1-10 (10 being high) how would you rate your hope of seeing these?

2. **What is the believer's hope?** After your group discusses possible answers, then read the following verses. Would you change any of your answers?
   - **Titus 1:2; 2:11-13; 3:7**
   - **1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-17**
   - **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**
   - **Acts 3:20-21**

3. **The Lord apportioned to the Jewish prophets revelation of His plan for salvation, the scope of His reach, and His kingdom reign.** Look up the following verses and summarize what is prophesied.

   Hope of the Messiah
   - **Isaiah 53** the "Servant" (Isaiah 52:13-14)
     - **Verses 3-5 –** How is He described?
     - **Verses 6, 8, 11, 12 –** What would be placed upon Him?
     - **Verse 9 –** Was He guilty?
     - **Verse 10 –** Who put Him to death, and would He live again?
   - **Jeremiah 23:5-6; Isaiah 9:6-7** – How is the Messiah described here?

   Hope of a Messianic People
   - **Isaiah 49:6 –** Who will His salvation reach?

Hope of a Messianic Kingdom – the King will have a kingdom
- **Isaiah 2:2-4**
- **Isaiah 11:6-9**

This was Israel's hope: the Lord Himself (Jeremiah 17:13) and His full purpose and plan for a Savior and restoration of all the prophets had spoken. It's a redemption plan involving Israel and the nations. Some of it has been fulfilled and some remains. If He has been faithful to the first part, will He be faithful to what remains?

- **Read Acts 26:6, 22-23.** What was Paul on trial for?

- **Also read Acts 28:20, 23.** Paul was in chains for what reason?

The prophets prophesied Israel's discipline, exile, and restoration. Jesus was the "stone of stumbling" the "rock of offense" that Israel stumbled over and fell into a long season of disobedience. Will there be a recovery? Will they see what the prophets foretold?

5. **What does the Lord promise in Jeremiah 29:10-14?**

6. **Is the hope of the believer and the hope of Israel different or the same?** Give a reason for your answer.

CONCLUSION

In this course, we want to be stirred to love what God loves and see Israel through the Father's eyes. As we consider the prophetic promises given to Israel we must ask, Will the prophecies that are presently unfulfilled come to pass? Does Israel have a future and a hope in God? The answer is yes. Regardless of the delay, God will complete what He promised.

That principle is true for Israel, it is true for the Church, and it is true for you, personally.

Israel has been, and is being, restored to her Promised Land, and one day, when Jesus returns for His own, the veil will be lifted from Israel's eyes and all that the prophets prophesied, for all nations, will be ushered into fulfillment. (Acts 3:20-21)

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you close your time together, see if anyone within your group has a need for prayer, and take a few minutes to cover those.

Pray into the areas where hope is lost or deferred. Take time to encourage one another and to bear one another's burdens.

PERSONAL STUDY FOR BETWEEN SESSIONS

This section is designed for your personal study to help you dig deeper into some of the themes from the teaching and discussion.

DAYS ONE & TWO

This will be a larger topic than normal for our Personal Study sessions, so feel free to divide your time over two days.

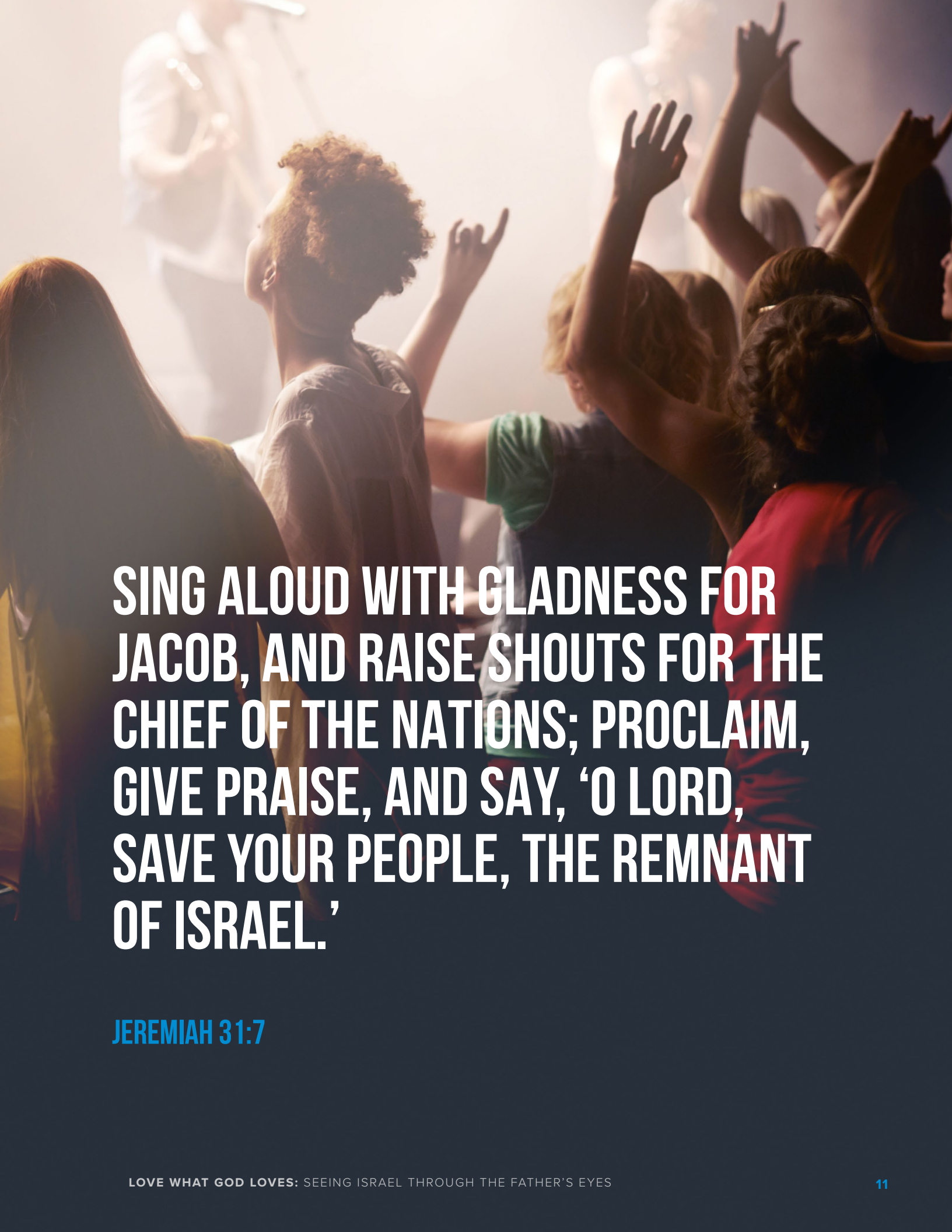
THE COMING REVIVAL

There were many times in the Old Testament when a prophet spoke of an event or detail that would have a near fulfillment, and in the next breath reached to the distant future and prophesied of the last days. All in one sentence – keeping us on our toes. There is an "already and not yet" reality in biblical prophecy. Some things have already been fulfilled, and some not yet.

In the lesson this week, Michael spoke of Israel's prophesied restoration to the Promised Land and their restoration to the Lord. In both areas "already and not yet" realities are in effect.

Beginning in the late 19th century, the Jewish people began to make a concerted, passionate effort to return to their ancient homeland. The miraculous rebirth of Israel as a sovereign state in 1948 is not inconsequential, but biblical prophecy being fulfilled. Yet, Israel doesn't currently have sovereignty over all the land promised to Abraham's descendants, so Israel's restoration to the land is "already and not yet." It's partially fulfilled with more to come.

The same pattern is true for Israel's restoration to the Lord. In every generation there has been a remnant of Jewish believers faithful to the Lord and looking to the Messiah, however it's not just a remnant that is promised, but a day coming when all Israel will be saved. There is an "already and not yet" reality today for the salvation of Israel. Jewish believers are alive and well in Israel and around the world, but there is still a future hope for *all Israel.*



SING ALOUD WITH GLADNESS FOR JACOB, AND RAISE SHOUTS FOR THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONS; PROCLAIM, GIVE PRAISE, AND SAY, 'O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL.'

JEREMIAH 31:7

ISRAEL'S RETURN TO THE LORD

In the first two days of the Personal Study this week, we will look at what remains to be fulfilled as we wait in hope for the day when Israel will be restored to the Lord, spiritually. This is critical to us as believers because Israel's spiritual restoration will coincide with the fullness of the Gentiles, when Abraham's family – natural and spiritual sons and daughters – will all come into their fullness. We have a shared destiny. It will be a miraculous, glorious time – so let's see it in the Word.

1. **The salvation of Israel is the hope of the prophets.** Read these passages and note what you learn.

- **Jeremiah 31:33-34**

O Lord, the hope of Israel, . . . heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for You are my praise.
Jeremiah 17:13-14

- **Isaiah 59:20-21**

- **Zechariah 12:10; 13:1**

- **Isaiah 4:2-5**

Paul writes in Romans 8 that nothing can separate us from the love of God (vv. 38-39) and then anticipates the church in Rome's next question: What about Israel? As a nation, they rejected Jesus, have the Jewish people been separated from God? In Romans 9-11 Paul brilliantly addresses the questions and answers with a resounding, "No, God forbid. May it never be." (Romans 11:1, 11)

In Romans 11 Paul writes of the "fullness" of Israel (v.12) and the "fullness of the Gentiles" (v.25).

The word fullness in Greek is pleroma, and means complete, filled up, and overflowing.

The term was used to speak of a ship filled with everything needed for the voyage. It was used of God being full of goodness, and of Him filling all of earth and heaven. There is no shortfall, but everything in place, filled to overflowing, and complete. There is coming a day when Israel and the Gentiles (even all of creation!) will be in a state of God's intended fullness.

In the fullness of time
God sent forth His Son.
Galatians 4:4

2. Read Romans 11:11-12, 15. Paul is writing about natural Israel – the Jewish people.

- **By their sin of rejecting Jesus, what came about?**

- **What is Paul's line of reason in verse 12?**

We find Israel's fullness spoken of here. If Israel's "failure" led to salvation for the Gentiles, what will happen when Israel's prophesied salvation, their fullness, is realized?

- **What will Israel's fullness, their acceptance of Jesus, be according to verse 15?**

Life from the dead, in a word, is *resurrection*. When is the resurrection of the dead? Within the believer's hope, are we looking forward with expectation to a resurrection? *Indeed, we are!*

- **What does Paul teach in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23?** Who will be raised and when?

Israel's fullness – Israel's salvation, the "all Israel" that is prophesied - is connected to the resurrection of the dead, which coincides with Jesus's return.

Back to Romans 11. What did Paul write concerning the fullness of the Gentiles and how that relates to Israel's *fullness*?

3. Read Romans 11:25 and write out your answers.

- **What is the mystery?**

- **How long will the mystery last?**

What is the *fullness of the Gentiles?* There are different interpretations.

a. Some scholars believe it's a number – as in we're waiting for all the Gentiles who will be saved, to come to salvation. Revelation 7:9 presents the scene of people from every nation, tribe, people and tongue before God's throne, yet today there are still people who have never heard the gospel.

b. Some believe the fullness speaks of unity and coming to the fullness of the knowledge of God (John 17; Eph. 4:13). That certainly hasn't happened yet.

Either way – the fullness of the Gentiles is not yet complete and therefore the partial hardening of Israel is still in effect.



YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 6:10

IT'S A PROCESS

What is certain is the fullness for both Gentiles and Israel is a process that is presently involved.

How are we sure? Because every day more and more people from every nation and tribe of the world are receiving the gospel in their own language and coming to salvation in Jesus. Entire ministries are devoted to translation and distribution of the Bible. We're in an "already and not yet" continuum.

The fullness of Israel is also in process. In 1948 there were approximately two dozen Jewish believers living in Israel. Today, some estimate the number to be 150,000, plus Jewish believers living outside of Israel. There are more Jews coming to faith in Jesus today than in all the centuries combined since Jesus's day. But it's still a remnant of believers, not all Israel yet. Israel's fulfillment is in an "already and not yet" state.

Oh, but there is hope for both!

In astronomy, Venus is called the morning star. It's the planet closest to Earth and appears brightest in our eastern sky right before dawn. Astronomers say if you see the morning star, take hope because it's the promise that the full day is coming.

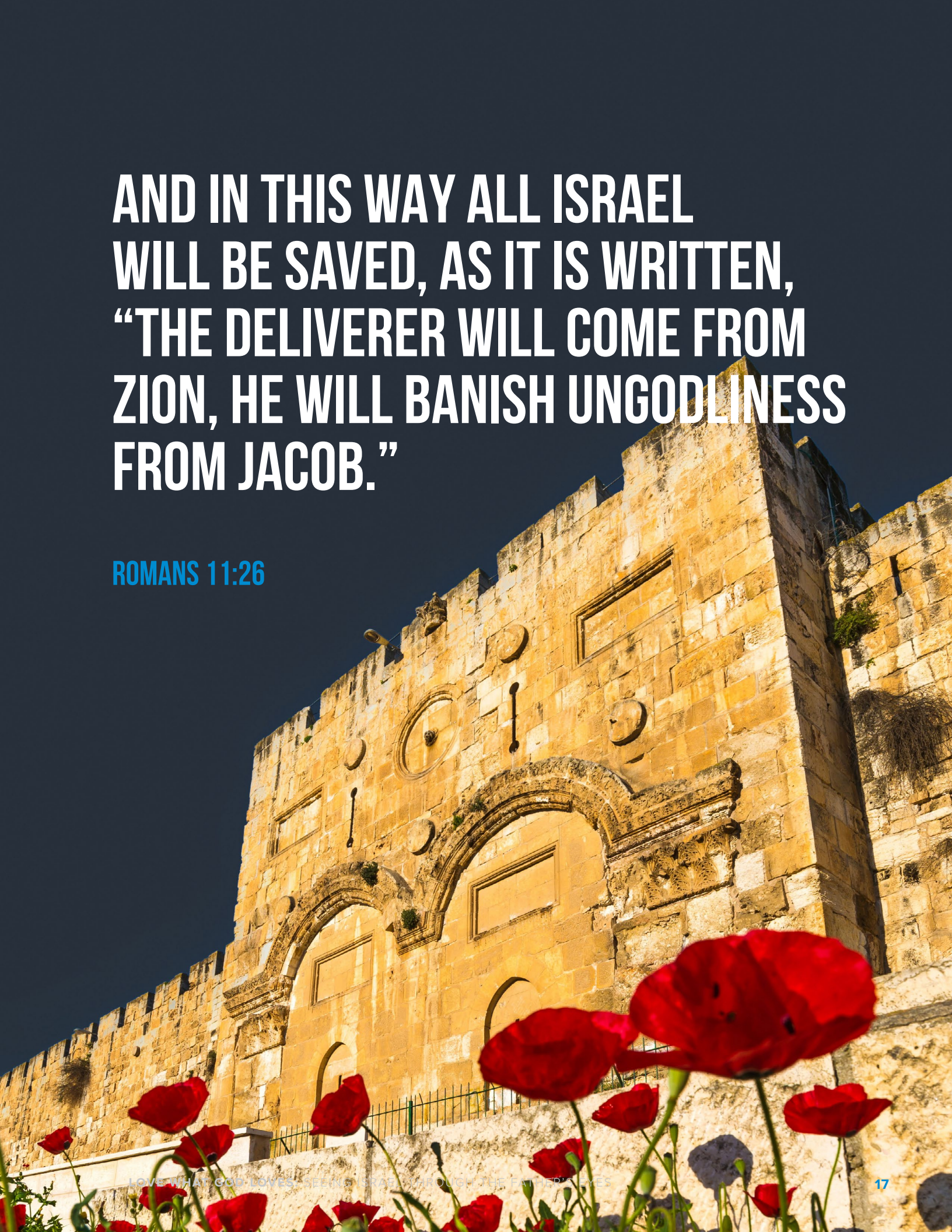
4. What does Jesus call Himself in Revelation 22:16?

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If our Morning Star came the first time and fulfilled His assignment as the Lamb of God, take hope and be sure the fullness is coming, He will return and fulfill every good purpose and promise as King! His righteousness will be established, and His family will come to its fullness – Jew and Gentile, sons and daughters of Abraham by faith, who are the sons and daughters of God. It's one family with distinctions.

AND IN THIS WAY ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED, AS IT IS WRITTEN, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL BANISH UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

ROMANS 11:26



JESUS'S RETURN

> *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.* **Romans 8:18-19**

Even if some people don't know of the hope of the coming fullness when Jesus returns, the earth knows it!

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached that Jesus would remain in heaven *"until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."* (Acts 3:21)

The earth is waiting; Jesus is waiting. Are you waiting for Him?

Listen to the cry of the prophet Isaiah.

> *Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence* – **Isaiah 64:1**

Jesus said before His return the gospel will be preached in the whole world, to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24:14)

He said He will not return until the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem call for Him saying, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matt. 23:37-39)

The greatest spiritual awakening is about to happen; the greatest revival is on its way! Things are building up to it now, and we will continue to see everything take shape. The birth pangs will intensify before the Lord's return and, yes, there will be perilous days, but Jesus said, "Do not fear!" Isaiah cried out *"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you."* (Isaiah 60:1-2)

Imagine the explosive effect within creation when the fullness is as it needs to be – whatever exactly that is. King Jesus will arise from His throne and the heavens will be split; the clouds will be rolled back like a scroll. *What kind of moment will that be?!*

5. **We encourage you to read this progression of the Lord's return.** Let the Word of God speak.
   - **Revelation 19:7, 11-16.**
   - **Matthew 24:29-31**
   - **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**
   - **Isaiah 63:8-16:** Note how verse 11 begins: *Then His people remembered…*
   - **Zechariah 12:3, 8-10; 13:1**
   - **Ezekiel 39:29**
   - **Ezekiel 36:25-28**
   - **Romans 11:26-36**

The fullness of the Gentiles will be realized. The partial and hardening of Israel's heart will be removed! Abraham's natural family, alive at that time, will all receive Jesus: *all Israel will be saved.* Regarding these natural branches of the olive tree that had been broken off because of unbelief, Paul writes *"God is able to graft them in again."* (Romans 11:23).

REFLECTION

The future hope of Israel is intimately tied to the future hope of the believer. The coming revival and great awakening will crescendo until the sky splits apart and the King comes in the clouds.

The family, in its *fullness,* will be the pure and spotless Bride of Jesus, whom He will present to Himself (Ephesians 5:27).

6. **Read Matthew 24:6; Matthew 25:13; 1 Corinthians 15:58.** What is our posture to be while we wait for the fullness to come?

7. **Write out your thoughts, perhaps a prayer to the Lord, regarding all you've read in the Word these two days.**

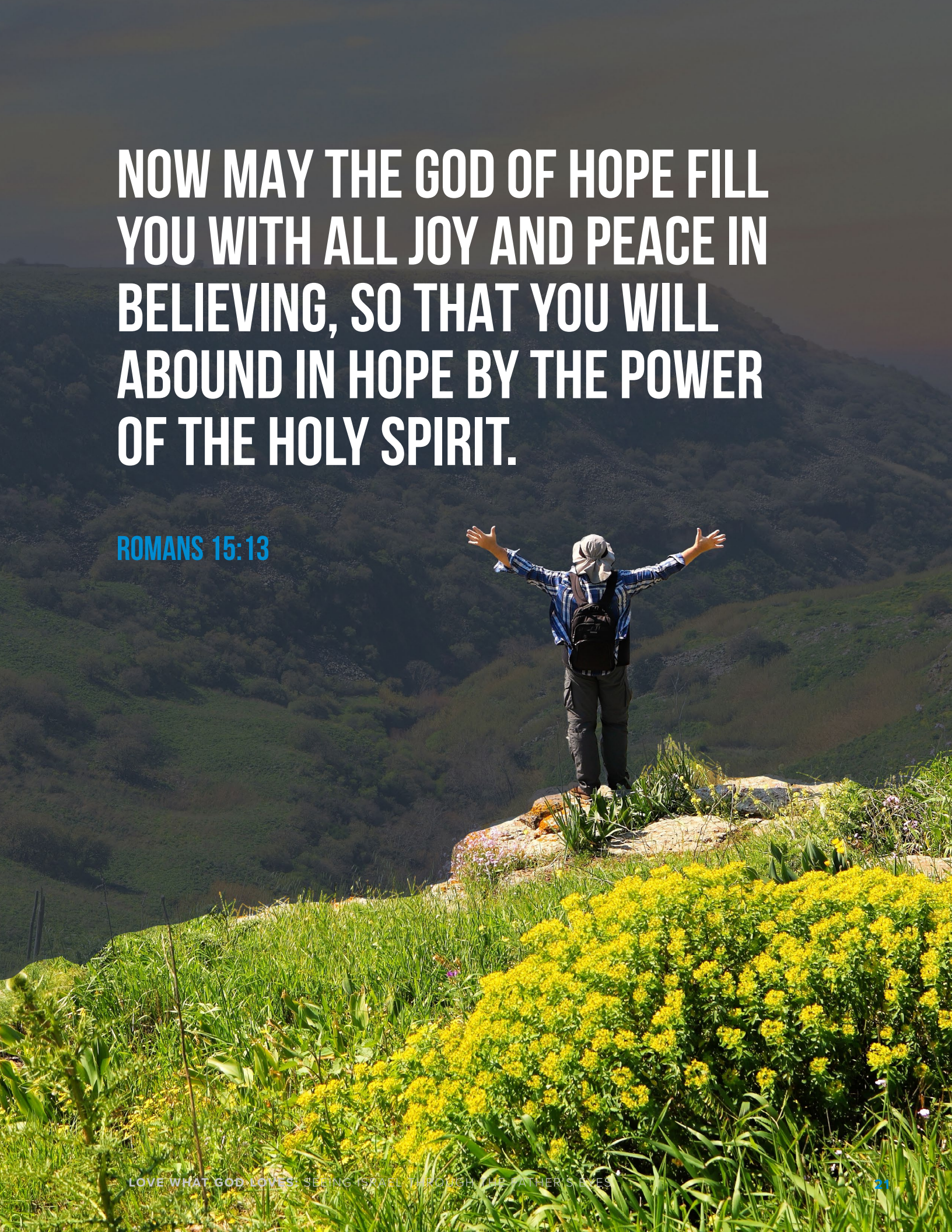
Friends, we recognize and deeply respect the various interpretations and opinions that exist regarding the last days, the Church's place in them, and Israel's salvation. In no way do we intend to be dogmatic in our presentation of this material, but rather to evaluate key scripture passages and concepts with humility and hope for the days ahead. We recognize no one has every detail, timing, or progression nailed down perfectly. That said, it's also been a disservice to believers, and to the lost world, over the years to not talk about the Lord's return and His kingdom for fear of getting it wrong or offending anyone. *It's the Good News! This is the hope of Israel, and the great expectation of the Church.*

FURTHER STUDY

If you'd like more on our shared hope for the coming revival, scan this QR code, or click on this link for an article written by Jürgen Bühler, titled "God's Promises for Israel's Restoration."

NOW MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT YOU WILL ABOUND IN HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ROMANS 15:13



DAY THREE

HOPE IN THE WAITING

Maybe you've heard this statement: *What you believe will determine how you live.* It's true.

We've highlighted Abraham throughout this course because he is the father of Israel, and the father of all who are of faith, Jews and Gentiles. He's called the "friend of God" in the context of honoring Abraham's belief in all God promised, which resulted in righteousness (James 2:23). What did Abraham believe that so ordered how he lived?

Today, we'll focus primarily on Abraham's example of holding on to hope even when the period of waiting for the fulfillment is long-delayed.

1. **What is the definition of faith according to Hebrews 11:1?**

2. **What would strong faith look like?** Conversely, how would a lack of faith affect how someone might live?

Before we get into Hebrews 6, let's think again about the believer's hope. What does it entail? Yes, the answer is Jesus. That's usually the great answer, isn't it, but let's expand it to include what Jesus has done and what He will do, according to the very broad brush of prophecy.

THE BELIEVER'S HOPE

- **Jesus died for our sins, was raised again to life, and defeated sin and death.** (Acts 2:23-24)
- **He removed our curse of sin and clothes every believer with His righteousness and eternal life.** (Romans 6:22-23; Colossians 3:10)
- **He has given us His Holy Spirit who is with us forever.** (John 14:16-17; Acts 2:33)
- **He's at the right-hand of the Father in heaven, ever living to make intercession on our behalf.** (Hebrews 7:25)
- **He will return to earth for His own and to judge the unbelieving world.** (2 Thess. 1:6-10)
- **He will gather the saints to Himself and we will always be with Him.** (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
- **There will be a resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved.** (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Revelation 20:12)
- **He will establish His eternal kingdom.** (Daniel 7:27)
- **He will destroy Satan and death. (Revelation 20:10, 14)**

There could certainly be more listed here, but the above is part of what the Bible describes as our hope.

> *There is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.* **Hebrews 7:19**

3. Read Hebrews 6:11-20 and answer the questions.

- **(v.11) What was the writer's desire?**

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Note: The writer speaks of a "full assurance of hope," or a "sure hope," depending on your translation. The idea means to have complete confidence, conviction, being fully convinced of something. In this case, of the hope of all things that accompany our salvation, the list above, and there's more!

- **(vv. 12, 15) Why is diligence in laying hold of the full assurance of hope important?** How are the promises obtained?

- **(vv. 13, 16-18) According to what did God swear?** Just God speaking the promises to Abraham would have been enough, for He cannot lie, but to underscore that He would do what He promised, God took an oath.

We don't know exactly what Abraham knew in terms of the full scope of God's plan. He knew enough, though. He saw Jesus's day (John 9:56). He believed in God's ability to raise the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). He looked for God's eternal city with foundations whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10).

The promises and truths of God are a progressive revelation. Not one prophet or biblical writer received the full picture, but carried that which God entrusted to them. We live in the remarkable day of having the complete Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Things Abraham didn't have. It's breathtaking.

- **(v.19) What is our hope likened to and how is it described?**

Note: Your soul is the combination of your mind, will, and emotions.

REFLECTION

No matter what storms come our way, we are anchored in the immutable, unchanging, sure Word of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can have a sure hope that He will do what He says.

> *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
> **Romans 5:5**

4. **What does it mean that our souls are anchored by the hope set before us (Heb. 6:18)?** What might an "anchored" soul look like?

5. **If we do not lay hold of the hope set before us and let go of the truths listed above in *The Believer's Hope,* how will our souls (mind, will, emotions) be affected?**

6. **Have you laid hold of the hope set before you - all of it?** How's your soul?

7. **Read the In Essence lesson summary provided at the beginning of Lesson Seven.** As you have considered Israel's Future Hope have there been further questions come to your mind, or perhaps poignant moments when some dots were connected for you? If so, write them out.

FURTHER STUDY

If you'd like more on hope in the Bible, scan this QR code, or click on this link for an article written by Esther Kuhn, titled "Hope in Hebrew: Tikvah—Hope that Does Not Disappoint."

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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