

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 16 – JROC – The Kingdom of God – God’s Purpose

September 6, 2026

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As we ended the class last week I mentioned that in our coming to the understanding of the meaning of the Bible, we need to realize that the Bible covers the entire scope of history from eternity past through to eternity future including the “what” and “why” of the future. The Bible teaches that history (HIS story) has an ultimate goal and purpose.

Psa. 33:11 - *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.*

Prov. 19:21 - *There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’s counsel—that will stand.*

Isa. 46:10-11 - *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’ ...Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.*

What are your OBSERVATIONS?

What do we know thus far? We KNOW WHO GOD IS and WHO GOD IS goes hand-in-hand with the one story of Scripture! From what we’ve already studied in Genesis, we know that Noah’s three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, brought forth 70 nations...comprised of the rebellious people who built the Tower of Babel – who rebelled against God when He had told them to *...be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth!* NAH! They wanted to hunker down and settle in and make a name for themselves (Gen. 11:4).

Gen. 11:8-9 - *God scattered them abroad from there (at Babel) over the face of ALL the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of ALL the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of ALL the earth.*

Tucked away in Gen. 10:21ff - *And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber... Shem of whom it was said in Gen. 9:26 - Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem. This was NOT said of Ham or Japheth. ...²⁵ To Eber* were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan. All these were the sons of Joktan.... ³⁰ And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east (aka Arabia). In Peleg’s days the earth was divided...divided between the Jewish people and the Arab people.*

*Eber – “one who has crossed over” – “from beyond” as in a body of water, usually thought of as the Euphrates River. Eber is the great-great-great grandfather of Abraham. In Gen. 14:13 Abram is called *the Hebrew*.

In Gen. 11:10ff Shem's genealogy is expanded and we read...lo and behold...Gen. 11:25-26 – additional physical descendants of Shem - *After Nahor begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters. ²⁶ Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.* OBSERVATIONS?

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Gen. 12:1-3 – *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.'*

Regarding God's plan of redemption, God narrows His attention to one man, one family, one people – and, in so doing, opens the door of blessing to every family on earth. God did not choose the Jewish people because He stopped caring about the nations. God chose Israel...He created Israel (Isa. 43:1) – because God CARES for the nations!

Israel was created to receive God's word (Ex. 19-20), to be witnesses to the Gentiles regarding the one true God of Israel (Isa. 43:10; King David to Goliath – I Sam. 17:46 - *This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...*).

Israel was created to be the channel for the Messiah...

Isa. 7:14 - *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel* (God with us; God in the flesh). NOTE: "the" virgin – "the" is the antecedent reminding us of Gen. 3:15 – "the Seed of the woman" – a woman does not have a seed; she has an egg. Gen. 3:15 is speaking of a supernatural birth – with a man not being in the equation.

Isa. 9:6-7 - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.,*

AND, in Gen. 18:18 God declared that the nation of Israel would serve as a conduit through whom God's blessing would flow to all of mankind! Choosing Israel was not excluding the nations. Choosing Israel was INCLUSIVE! *For God so loved the world....!!!*

The return of Jewish people to their ancestral land that we read throughout Scripture, against all historical odds, proves the faithfulness of God and His promises regarding the restoration of the children of Israel who had been scattered throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

This does not mean that every policy of the Israeli government is acceptable. This does not mean that support for Israel requires indifference to the suffering of others. It DOES MEAN that the existence and security of Israel carry a weight of biblical significance... I'm strongly suggesting that we should ask people WHY we should take note of Israel? Let them answer. We should always listen. We might then inform the person w/ whom we're speaking, "If you take any nation within the Bible and erase it from the face of the earth...it will not eradicate God's message of the Bible. Try to do that with Israel! If Israel is ERASED – the Bible's message would be changed!!"

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So Israel is an instrument of blessing to the world? Even today – before the nation is restored during the Millennial Kingdom? Have we forgotten that the NATION of Israel was NOT restored during the days Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Samuel, David, Solomon...!?!?

BUT, we need to remember there was always a remnant of Jewish people who individually came to faith in the God of Israel and His promises of the Messiah. READ HEBREWS 11 – and highlight Heb. 11:13!! Remnant: Gen. 45:7; Ezra 9:14; Isa. 1:9; Isa. 6:13; Isa. 10:20-22; Isa. 11:11; Rom. 11:5; Rom. 9:27.

The Bible contains several prominent accounts where the actions of Israel, or specific individuals from Israel, directly preserve or bless people from other nations. This is not an exhaustive listing.

- God used Joseph to spare the nations from famine (Genesis 41): As a descendant of Abraham, Joseph was elevated to power in Egypt. Through God's wisdom, Joseph stored grain during years of plenty, ultimately saving both Egypt and the surrounding nations from starvation during a severe global famine. Gen. 50:20 – Joseph told his brothers, *But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*
- The "mixed multitude" left Egypt with the children of Israel (Exodus 12:38): When the children of Israel were redeemed from slavery, a "mixed multitude" of non-Israelites left Egypt with them. Had this mixed multitude perhaps smeared lamb's blood on their lintel and doorposts?
- God used the two spies in Jericho to save Rahab and her family (Joshua 2).
- God's gift of wisdom to King Solomon attracting the nations

(1 Kings 10): Under King Solomon's rule, Israel's peace and Solomon's wisdom became a global beacon. The Queen of Sheba and rulers from "all the earth" traveled to Jerusalem to learn from his God-given wisdom and praise the God of Israel.

- Jonah's preaching to the Ninevites (Jonah 3): Jonah runs from God's call on him to go to Nineveh. In the meantime, sailors on the boat in which Jonah was fleeing came to faith in God (Jonah 1:14-16). Then GOD caused Jonah to be swallowed by a great fish and spit up on the shore near the pagan Assyrian capital of Nineveh. His message led to repentance and the sparing of the entire city from destruction. Jesus noted it as salvation (Matt. 12:41; Luke 11:32)!

- The early Church and the global gospel (Acts 1-15): The first Jewish followers of Jesus, including the Apostles and Paul, took the Gospel out of Judea. Their missionary journeys brought the message of salvation to the Gentile world, directly fulfilling the Abrahamic promise globally.
 - Matt. 23:39 – Jesus will return at his physical second coming when Israel calls upon Him...Zech. 12:10!
 - The 144,000 tribulation evangelists (Revelation 7 & 14): 144,000 individuals from the twelve tribes of Israel will be sealed by God during the tribulation. They will serve as global evangelists, resulting in a multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue coming to salvation.
 - Evangelism during the Millennial Kingdom (Zech. 8:23): *Thus says the Lord of hosts: '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.'*
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- Israel will serve as the spiritual, political, and economic center of the world, bringing peace and blessing to all nations during the Millennial Kingdom (Deut. 28:13):
 - Isaiah 2:2–4 / Micah 4:1–3: In the "latter days," the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest mountain in Jerusalem. All nations will stream to Jerusalem where they will learn God's ways and walk in His paths.
 - Zechariah 14:16: *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (the Feast of Ingathering [Ex. 23:16]).*
 - Isaiah 56:6–7: God promises that foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord will be brought to His holy mountain. He declares that His temple *shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples*.
 - Isaiah 19:23–25: a radical prophecy of reconciliation: Isaiah foresees a highway connecting Egypt, Assyria (modern-day Iraq/Syria), and Israel. Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the earth, and God will say, *"Blessed be Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance (possession). Isa. 43:1 - ...O Israel, fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:14; Jer. 31:3)*
 - Ezekiel 47:21–23: In the vision of the future divided land, God commands that the resident foreigners receive an inheritance of land right alongside the tribes of Israel.