

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 8 – How Has God Been Using Israel...And Will Be Using Israel To Bless the World?

October 27, 2026

Why should we care about Israel? Why should we consider Israel significant? So what about Israel?

CONSIDER: “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!!! Would you say that Israel is significant? In Gen. 12 – where part 2 of the OT begins...the pivotal chapter! After we read of God’s promises to Abram and his physical descendants, we read that Abram, Sarai, and Lot, Abram’s nephew, Gen. 12: 5-10 ...and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. ¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

Gen. 12:13-20 — Abram to Sarai - *Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that may live because of you.* ¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. ¹⁵ The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷ **But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.** ¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram and said, ‘What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way.’ ²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had...much treasure/much wealth from Pharaoh!!??

There’s something significant about Israel to God!!!

In Gen. 18:18, God promised Abraham and his physical descendants that He/God would use Israel as His instrument to bless the world! Have we read the unfolding of that promise in Scripture?

Gentiles coming to faith through the Jewish people. This is not an exhaustive list:

- Jethro (Reuel), Moses’ Midianite father-in-law – A “priest of Midian” who, after hearing of the exodus, rejoiced, blessed the LORD, and confessed, *Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods* (Ex. 18:11). And, he offered sacrifices with Israel’s elders.
- Rahab of Jericho – A Canaanite who heard of the LORD’s mighty acts, confessed to the 2 Jewish spies that came to her home, that *the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above*

and on earth beneath (Josh. 2:11), and she cast her lot with Israel, and was spared (Heb. 11:31).

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- Ruth the Moabitess – Explicitly left her people and her gods, pledging to Naomi, her Jewish mother-in-law, *Your people shall be my people, and your God my God* (Ruth 1:16).
- Naaman the Syrian – After being healed, he declared, *‘Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel*, (II Kings 5:1-19)
- The widow of Zarephath - A Gentile widow who obeyed Elijah in faith during famine...showing genuine trust in Israel’s God.
- The sailors in the book of Jonah – were initially pagan. After connecting with Jonah, the sailors greatly feared the LORD, offered sacrifice, and made vows to the LORD.
- The people of Nineveh (Assyrians) – after Jonah's preaching to the Ninevites (Jonah 3) all came to faith!! Jonah preached, *forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!* Jesus noted it as salvation (Matt. 12:41; Luke 11:32)!
- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon – After being humbled, he blessed, praised, and honored “the King of heaven,” confessing the LORD’s eternal dominion and justice (Dan. 2:47).

In the Bible the actions of Israel directly preserve or bless people from other nations:

- God used Joseph to spare the nations from famine (Genesis 41): As a descendant of Abraham, Joseph was elevated to power in Egypt. Gen. 50:20 – Joseph told his brothers, *...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” of non-Israelites left Egypt with the children of Israel (Exodus 12:38): Had this mixed multitude smeared lamb’s blood on their lintel and doorposts? Or, had the “mixed multitude” joined a Jewish home to celebrate Passover?
- God used the two spies in Jericho to deliver/rescue Rahab...and her family (Joshua 2).
- Under King Solomon’s rule, Israel’s peace and Solomon’s wisdom became a global beacon (I Kings 10). The Queen of Sheba and rulers from "all the earth" traveled to Jerusalem to learn from Solomon’s God-given wisdom and praise the God of Israel.
- The early Church and the global gospel (Acts 1-15): The first Jewish followers of Jesus brought the message of salvation beyond Judea to the Gentile world.

Israel blessing the world during end times/latter days:

- Matt. 23:39 – Jesus will return at his physical second coming when Israel calls upon Him in the future...Zech. 12:10 – and God will pour out His Spirit on the Jewish people left alive at the end of the tribulation!!!
- 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.'*
- Matt. 19:28 – When the Jewish disciples asked Jesus what they will receive, having left all and followed Him, He told them, *Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (Genesis again), when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

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- Israel will serve as the head and not the tail – 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 promised 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).
- 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.

Israel as the apple of God's eye (Deut. 32:10).

- Zech. 2:8 - For thus says the Lord of hosts: *He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.* (During the Armageddon Campaign) He who touches Israel touches the center of God's eye. **“The one who knowingly mistreats Israel pokes God in the center of His eye!”** We must see through God's eyes and then hold dear to our heart the things that are closest to the heart of God. This is about a promise-keeping God who is faithful to fulfill His plan for a people, a city, and a nation through which He has chosen to display His splendor. This is about God's faithful nature and character being on lavish display for all to observe and know. This is about seeing properly through God's eyes.

QUESTIONS:

How does this lesson impact you?

What are your take-aways?

Will you be understanding the Bible from a new perspective? How?
Will you share this with others?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 8 with Bible references.

Jot down observations and questions.

Pray about sharing this lesson with others.

Read the Week 9 handout when you receive it.