

Israel and the Nations

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✓ Israel in the Bible

The name "Israel" occurs over 2500 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, and 75 times in the New Testament. This fact is indicative of the importance of Israel in the Bible. So let's look at what the Bible has to say about Israel and the nations of the world.

The significance of Israel starts in the very first book of Genesis, and continues through to the last book of Revelation in the New Testament. Over and over again there are prophecies spoken concerning the nation of Israel and her people.

In Genesis 32 we read that Israel is the name that God gave Jacob after Jacob wrestled with a heavenly being and prevailed. The place where Jacob wrestled all night he named Peniel, meaning "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Israel both means "overcomer" and "prince of God." Israel is also the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob's twelve sons, which means the people (*descendants*) of Israel (*Jacob*).



✓ When Day and Night Cease

*Question: Would your faith in God be shaken
if Israel were to disappear?*

If you answered NO, or were not sure, then you need to study more about what God emphatically says regarding Israel. Because if Israel were to disappear, then believing God's Word could not be trusted. Why? Because God would be a liar if he did not fulfill all his promises concerning Israel.

*"This is what Adonai says,
who gives the sun as light for the day,
who ordained the laws for the moon and stars
to provide light for the night,
who stirs up the sea until its waves roar
Lord of Hosts is his name,
'If these laws leave my presence,' says Adonai,
'then the offspring of Israel will stop being
a nation in my presence forever.'
This is what Adonai says,
'If the sky above can be measured
and the foundations of the earth be fathomed,
then I will reject all the offspring of Israel
for all that they have done,' says Adonai."
Jeremiah 31:34-36*

✓ God's Establishment of Israel

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 says, *"For you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure. Adonai did not set his heart on you or choose you because you numbered more than any other people - on the contrary, you were the fewest of all peoples. Rather, it was because Adonai loved you, and because he wanted to keep the oath which he had sworn to your ancestors, that Adonai brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from a life of slavery under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. From this you can know that Adonai your God is indeed God, the faithful God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his commandments, to a thousand generations."*

Isaiah 41:8-9 says, *"But you, Israel, my servant; Jacob, whom I have chosen, descendants of Abraham my friend, I have taken you from the ends of the earth, summoned you from its most distant parts and said to you, 'You are my servant - I have chosen you, not rejected you.'"*

Isaiah 43:1 reads, *"this is what Adonai says, he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel, 'Don't be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I am calling you by your name and you are mine.'" In Isaiah 43:5-7 we read, "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. I will bring your descendants from the east, and I will gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Don't hold them back! Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who bears my name, whom I created for my glory.'" And in Isaiah 43:15 it says, "I am Adonai, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."*

The same God who established the heavens and the earth in chapter 1 of Genesis, established Israel.

✓ God's Covenant with Israel

In Genesis 17:7-9 says, *"I am establishing my covenant between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation, as an everlasting covenant, to be God for you and for your descendants after you. I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land*

of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God." God said to Abraham, "As for you, you are to keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation after generation."

Psalm 89:34-37 adds: *"I will not profane my covenant or change what my lips have spoken. I have sworn by my holiness once and for all; I will not lie to David his dynasty will last forever, his throne like the sun before me. It will be established forever, like the moon, which remains a faithful witness in the sky."*

Psalm 105:8-11 says, *"He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded to a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac, and established as a law for Jacob, for Israel as an everlasting covenant. To you I will give the land of Canaan as your allotted heritage."*

Isaiah 45:3-5 says, *"I, Adonai, calling you by your name, am the God of Israel. It is for the sake of Jacob my servant, yes, for Israel my elect, that I call you by your name and give you a title, although you don't know me. I am Adonai, there is no other; besides me there is no God."*

Scripture repeated refers to the covenant that God has made with Israel. Satan, the god of this world, has done his utmost to destroy that covenant, by turning the nations against Israel, and working for the destruction of the nation and people of Israel.

✓ God's Redemption of Israel

Adonai says this to Israel in Isaiah 43:25, *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and will not remember your sins."* In Isaiah 44:22 we read: *"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed you."* Isaiah 45:17 says, *"But Israel shall be saved in Adonai with an everlasting salvation."* Isaiah 45:25 states, *"In Adonai shall all the seed of Israel be justified."* And in Isaiah 46:13 we read, *"I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory."*

Although Israel has often been disobedient to God and turned away from Him, God has never forsaken them, and He is ready to forgive and grant them pardon. This is what God speaks to Israel in Isaiah 44:21-22, "Remember this, O Jacob and Israel; for you are my servant: I have formed you and you are my servant: O Israel, you shall not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and as a cloud, your sins. Return to me for I have redeemed you."

Isaiah 53:5-6 provides this salvation summary: *"But he (Messiah) was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Adonai has laid on him (Messiah) the iniquity of us all."*

And Isaiah 62:11 adds: *"Behold Adonai has proclaimed unto the end of the world, 'say to the daughter of Zion, behold, your salvation cometh; and his reward is with him, and his work before him.'"*

*"Who ever heard of such a thing?
Who has ever seen such things?
Is a country born in one day?
Is a nation brought forth all at once?
For as soon as Zion went into labor,
she brought forth her children.
'Would I let the baby break through and*

*not be born?' asks Adonai.
'Would I, who causes the birth, shut the womb?'
asks your God. Rejoice with Jerusalem!
Be glad with her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice with her."*

Isaiah 66:8-9



The country of Israel was
'born in one day'
by a vote of the United Nations
on November 29, 1947

► [Click to listen and view UN Resolution 181](#)

✓ God's Blessing Upon Israel and the Nations

Isaiah 41:13-14 says, *"For I, Adonai your God, will hold your right hand, saying unto you, 'Fear not, I will help you. Fear not, you worm Jacob and you men of Israel; I will help you,' says Adonai, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."*

Isaiah 43:2 speaks of more blessings to Israel. *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you; when thou walk through the fire, you will not be burned: neither shall the flame kindle upon you."*

Isaiah 48:16 emphatically states, *"Behold, I have engraved you upon the palms of My hands."*

Isaiah 40:5 says, *"And the glory of Adonai shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Adonai has spoken it."* Isaiah 43:21 adds, *"This people have I formed for myself and they shall show my praise."* Isaiah 49:3 says, *"You are my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified."* Isaiah 60:21 prophecies, *"Your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."*

In Isaiah 46:11 God states, *"I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purpose it, I will also do it."* Again God speaks in Isaiah 55:11 and says, *"So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth, and it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where I send it."*

Over and over again God promises to bless the descendants of Israel and to fulfill his word concerning them. And how the nations treat God's inheritance, will determine their ultimate fate when God judges the world.

*Question: When nations come against Israel,
will you stand with the people of Israel?*

The survivors from among the nations who recognize God's blessing upon Israel will inherit God's blessings in the world to come. Christians who believe that God will somehow rescue and rapture them apart from Israel, have a non-Jewish theology that does not appreciate or support the theology of Isaiah 56, Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 37, John 10, Romans 11, Ephesians 2, Revelation 7, and many other Scriptures.

*"Finally, everyone remaining from all the nations
that came to attack Jerusalem will go up every year
to worship the king, Adonai of hosts,
and to keep the festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles).
If any of the families of the earth does not go
up to Jerusalem to worship the king, Adonai of hosts,
no rain will fall on them. If the family of Egypt doesn't go up,
if they refuse to come, they will have no overflow;
moreover, there will be the plague with
which Adonai will strike the nations that don't
go up to keep the festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles)."
Zechariah 14:16-18*

