



## Why Israel Matters

### I. A Unique Authority

Psalm 8:4-9 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup> You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup> You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: <sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### II. God's Objective

Matthew 25:31-34 (NASB®)

<sup>31</sup> "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup> "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

#### A. The Intrusion of Sin

Romans 5:12 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

#### B. The Resolution ---a redemption story

Romans 5:17 (NIV®)

<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

### III. God's Plan

#### A. Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant)

Genesis 17:6-8 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, **I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you**; and I will be their God."

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Exodus 2:24 (NIV®)

<sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning and he remembered **his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.**

## B. Central Role of Jewish People

John 4:22 (NIV®)

<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for **salvation is from the Jews.**

Revelation 5:5 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 21:12 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Romans 9:4-5 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> ...the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup> Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

## C. An Adversary ---persistent hatred

### 1. Antisemitism

Zechariah 12:3 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

### 2. The spirit of anti-christ

Matthew 24:9 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

## D. The Resolution

Revelation 5:5-6 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." <sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne.

## IV. Know the Signs of the Times

Matthew 16:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' <sup>3</sup> and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, **but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.**

Prayer,

Almighty God we turn to You asking for mercy and grace that we might serve You. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, may her inhabitants dwell in safety. Open the eyes of the people of the Land to their King. Awaken the Church to complete the assignment You have given. May the leaders of the United States make decisions regarding Israel that will enable Your blessings to come upon us. All this we ask in Jesus' name, amen.

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