

Why Israel Matters

A Chosen People

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **February 09, 2025**



**“Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky.
How is it that you don’t know how to interpret/analyze this present time?”** Luke 12:56

Jesus made that bold declaration before thousands who had gathered before Him. It’s clear He expected His audience was biblically literate, understanding their world in the light of Scripture’s teaching. But even though they were the people of God, they did not recognize Messiah in their presence, even considering His miraculous works. They were unable to interpret their times. Likewise, Jesus expects *us* to be able to recognize our times in the twenty-first century, but we are likely not paying attention. We need to change, and we need to be aware—watch, listen, think, and act. That’s particularly true regarding what’s happening with Israel and the Jewish people. God chose these people for Himself, and He identified with them so they could be a testimony to all the other peoples of the earth. It’s time to recognize God’s perspective and how He is moving in the earth today.

****What does it mean to be "chosen" by God, and how does this truth relate to the Jewish and Christian people?**

I. A CHOSEN PEOPLE

A. Two Primary Qualifiers

****When God gives assignments in His Kingdom, He considers our hearts. He trusts those who are willing to listen to Him and follow Him, focused on pleasing Him instead of other people. That means moving beyond what our minds can understand and being willing to step out in faith, even when it doesn’t make sense—and this takes spiritual awareness. How would you define spiritual awareness? How can you cultivate more spiritual awareness in your daily life?**

B. God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

Genesis 17:3–4 ³ *Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.”*

Genesis 17:7–8 ⁷ *“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. ⁸ 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.”*

Matthew 22:31–32 [Jesus’ Words]

³¹ *“But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ³² ‘I am **the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”*

C. Treasured Possession

Exodus 19:5–6 ⁵ *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then **out of all nations you will be my treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ **you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”*

In Christ/Messiah

1 Peter 2:9–12 ⁹ *But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, **as aliens and strangers in the world**, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

****What are some potential consequences of prioritizing worldly relationships over our relationship with God?**

D. Dwell in the Midst of a People

Leviticus 26:9–13 (NIV[®])

⁹ “I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will still be eating last year’s harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. ¹¹ **I will put my dwelling place among you**, and I will not abhor you. ¹² **I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.** ¹³ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.”

1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NIV[®])

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ **Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

****What are some examples from the Bible or our current world of how sin can lead to destruction and chaos?**

E. “My People”

2 Samuel 7:8 *“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over **my people Israel.**”*

Isaiah 43:20–21 ²⁰ *The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹ **the people I formed for myself** that they may proclaim my praise.*

Esther 7:3 *Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life—this is my petition. And **spare my people**—this is my request.”*

****How do you recognize God’s presence and movement in your life? What signs or cues do you look for?**

F. God’s Attentive Concern (Parental)

Joel 3:1–3 ¹ *“In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for **they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.** ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.”*

Psalms 121:3–4 ³ *He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

1. Discipline does not imply rejection
2. Refusal of discipline results in forfeiture

Genesis 12:3 *“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

****What are some ways God restores and revives His people today?**

PRAYER Isaiah 30:18–19

The Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion.

For the Lord is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more.

How gracious he will be when you cry for help!

As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Amen.