

Isaiah 34:8, *“For it shall be the day of the LORD’s vengeance and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.*

Matthew 23:37-39, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. 38 And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. 39 For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Psalm 118:26)*

If Zion, if Jerusalem features the **jugular** of Israel’s story, then its **heartbeat** is what **began** eighteen miles south in the Judean hills under the trees of Mamre in the city of Hebron where God made a covenant with Abraham.

Genesis 23:17-20, *So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.*

When **Isaac died**, years later, **his estranged sons**, who were divided by that same covenant, came back to lay their father to rest in that same cave.

GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS PEOPLE TO THE LAND

Genesis 12:1-5

*The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the **land** that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great **nation**. I will **ble**ss you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”*

[Then they arrived in Canaan.]

7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, *“I will give this **land** to your descendants.[a]”*

Genesis 13:14-17, *“After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. 15 **I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants[a] as a permanent possession.** 16 And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! 17 Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.”*

18 So **Abram moved his camp to Hebron** and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the Lord.”

Genesis 15:7 Then the Lord told him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to **give you this land as your possession.**”

8 But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?”

9 The Lord told him, “Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half. 11 Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

12 As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a **deep sleep**, and a terrifying darkness came down over him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. 14 But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. 15 (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) 16 After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.”

17 After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. 18 So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said, “**I have given this land to your descendants**, all the way from the border of Egypt[a] to the great Euphrates River— 19 the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

Genesis 17:1-8, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. 2 I will make a **covenant** with you, by which I will **guarantee** to give you countless descendants.”

3 At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, 4 “This is **My covenant** with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! 5 What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham,[a] for you will be the father of many nations. 6 I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

7 “**I will confirm my covenant** with you and your descendants[b] after you, from generation to generation. This is the **everlasting covenant**: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 And **I will give the entire land of Canaan**, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. **It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God.**”

A covenant built on grace. Not dependent upon what Israel does or doesn't do.

Jeremiah 31:35-37, *"It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day
and the moon and stars to light the night,
and who stirs the sea into roaring waves.*

*His name is the Lord of Heaven's Armies,
and this is what he says:*

*36 "I am as likely to reject my people Israel
as I am to abolish the laws of nature!"*

37 This is what the Lord says:

*"Just as the heavens cannot be measured
and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored,
so I will not consider casting them away
for the evil they have done.
I, the Lord, have spoken!*

The New Testament writers point to this COVENANT OF GRACE

Romans 11:5-6 *So too at the present time there is a remnant, **chosen by grace**. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*

Romans 11:11-36, *So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. 12 Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!*

*13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. In as much as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry 14 in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. 15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but **life from the dead**? 16 If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.*

*17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root[c] of the olive tree, 18 **do not be arrogant toward the branches**. If you are, remember **it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you**. 19 Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." 20 That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. 22 Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. 23 And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.*

The Mystery of Israel's Salvation

25 **Lest you be wise in your own sight**, I do not want you to be unaware of **this mystery**, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
27 “and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now[e] receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”
35 “Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Two of the most-quoted psalms in the New Testament are **Psalm 2** and **Psalm 110**.

Psalm 2

Why do the nations **rage** and the peoples **plot** in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, **against the Lord** and against **his Anointed**, saying, 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 “As for me, **I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.**” 7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break[b] them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

Psalm 110:1-2, *The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." 2 The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!*

Jerusalem will be a **rock of stumbling** because God will **drive the nations** to the utter place of **frustration** because all of **their plans will fail**. It will drive them to an absolute place of insanity, to the point where they'll be **handed over to drunkenness**. They will lose all sense of reality. They will lose all sense of truth. They will lose all sense of sobriety because they have completely exhausted all of their abilities to resist God's holy plan to give that city as an inheritance to His radiant Son.

Zechariah 12:1-3, *This message concerning the fate of Israel came from the Lord: "This message is from the Lord, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit. 2 **I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah.** 3 On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves.*

So many Biblical prophecies require and affirm a Jewish people in the land.
And here is the **Scriptural basis for this reality:**

Ezekiel 37:11-14, *Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And **I will bring you into the land of Israel.** 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."*

Ezekiel 37:19-28, *Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah,[e] and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. 20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will **gather them** from all around, and **bring them to their own land.** 22 And I will make them **one nation in the land**, on the mountains of Israel. And **one king** shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their*

transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

*24 "My servant David [the Messiah, Jesus] shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. 25 They shall **dwell in the land** that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall **dwell there forever** , and David my servant shall be their prince forever. 26 I will make a **covenant of peace** with them. It shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them. And **I will set them in their land** and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."*

Zechariah 14:9-21, *And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.*

*10 **The whole land** shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But **Jerusalem shall remain aloft** on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. 11 **And it shall be inhabited** , for there shall **never again be a decree of utter destruction** .^[f] Jerusalem shall dwell in security.*

Psalms 137:7, *Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites, the day of **Jerusalem** , how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!"*

Isaiah 14:1, *"For the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will **set them in their own land** , and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.*

Isaiah 60:21, *"Your people shall all be righteous; **they shall possess the land forever** , the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified."*

Ezekiel 11:16-17, *Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' 17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and **I will give you the land of Israel** .'*

Ezekiel 39:25-29, *"Therefore thus says the Lord God: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and **I will be jealous for my holy name** . 26 They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, 27 when **I have brought them back** from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. 28 Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God,*

because I sent them into exile among the nations and then **assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore.** 29 And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God.”

Zechariah 8:1-8, And the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying, 2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: **I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.** 3 Thus says the Lord: **I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain.** 4 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. 5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. 6 Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts? 7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, 8 and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”

Zechariah 8:20-23, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. 21 The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.’ 22 **Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord.** 23 Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

Hosea 3:, And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech[a] of barley. 3 And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.” 4 For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward **the children of Israel shall return** and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

Amos 9:11-15, “In that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,”[c]
declares the Lord who does this.

13 *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord,
 “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
 and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
 the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
 and all the hills shall flow with it.*

14 *I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
 and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
 they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
 and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.*

15 **I will plant them on their land,
 and they shall never again be uprooted
 out of the land that I have given them,”**
says the Lord your God.

Joel 2:30-32, *“30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.*

Joel 3:1-4, *“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have **scattered them among the nations** and have **divided up My land**, 3 and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.*

Haggai 2:6-9, *“6 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. 7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And **in this place I will give peace**, declares the Lord of hosts.”*

Satan is doing everything he can to stir up resistance to this vision and plan.

Ever since the first prophecy in the Bible, where Satan found out that a seed of Eve would crush his head in **Genesis 3:15**, he not only has been consumed by killing the capital “S” seed, the Messiah, he’s been hell-bent on snuffing out the lowercase “s” seed of all the Jewish people.

Revelation 12:1-2, “Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth.”

Revelation 12:12-17, “Therefore, rejoice, O heavens!

And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!

But terror will come on the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you in great **RAGE**,
knowing that he has little time.”

When the dragon (Satan) realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman (Israel) who had given birth to the male child (Jesus). 14 But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon[c] for a time, times, and half a time.

15 Then the dragon tried to drown the woman with a flood of water that flowed from his mouth. 16 But the earth helped her by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that gushed out from the mouth of the dragon. 17 And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children—all who keep God’s commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus (Christians, that’s us). 18 Then the dragon took his stand on the shore beside the sea.

OUR RESPONSE IN THESE DAYS AHEAD

Psalms 122:6, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.””

Ask the Holy Spirit the question: “**What is my part now? What can I do now?**”

The Lord is inviting us to the collective agony of God and His people, and from this place of travail, we speak, sing, and pray comfort over Jerusalem.

Isaiah 40:1-2, ““Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. 2“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...”

We must continue to **pray**, **declare**, and **sing** the message of God’s purposes for Israel so that all the nations hear it clearly.

Jeremiah 31:7-10, “Thus says the Lord: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord save Your people, the remnant of Israel!’ ...¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’” (Jer. 31:7-10)

Isaiah 62:11, “Indeed the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world [Gentiles in the nations]: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him...’”