

Session 13

# Israel and the End Times

## – Part 2: What will Israel Go Through and Why? –

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### A. Introduction

1. As laid out in Scripture, the nation of Israel will be the vortex and central issue of the End-Time drama.
2. This is important for the Gentile church to know so that we will align with God's heart and plan when it comes to the nation of Israel instead of resisting His will.
  - a. We also need to understand what she will go through as a nation in the End Times so that we can stand with her and pray for her.

### B. What Will Israel Go Through?

Zechariah 12 – 14 and Matthew 24 are key chapters that give a picture of what Israel will go through in the End Times. There are five things that will happen to Israel in the End Times from these few passages.

1. Nations led by the Antichrist will attack Israel (Zech. 14:2)
  - a. Nations will gather under Antichrist's leadership to lay siege to Israel and especially Jerusalem;
  - b. Many nations will have an irrational and illogical hatred for Israel
    - i. Israel will be a "cup of drunkenness" for all nations (Zech. 12:2), referring to the irrational nature of the hatred;
    - ii. Currently, anti-Semitism is on the rise globally and will only escalate until it culminates with this attack on her.
  - c. Israel will also be the vortex and central issue that all nations will become entangled in, whether politically or militarily
    - i. She will be a "very heavy stone" for all peoples (Zech. 12:3).
2. Half of the Jewish people will be taken captive (Zech. 14:2);
3. Some Jewish people will flee Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15–21)

- a. This will happen during the Abomination of Desolation. In Matthew 24:15–21, Jesus exhorts the Jewish people who are in Jerusalem/Judea to flee to the mountains when they see the Abomination of Desolation occur;
  - b. Many will flee to the surrounding nations due to the oppression and persecution that they will face by the Antichrist;
  - c. It will be so sudden and their escape so urgent that Jesus told them to not even take their belongings with them
4. Some will stay in Jerusalem, through God’s supernatural protection (Zech. 14:2)
- a. God promises that He will preserve a remnant of Jewish people who will “not be cut off from the city”.
5. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will be killed (Zech. 13:8)
- a. There will be another Holocaust of the Jewish people;
  - b. While we are not clear if Zech. 13:8 refers to Jewish people around the world or just those in Israel, we can consider the global population to give us an idea of what will happen
    - i. As of 2020, there are close to 15 million Jewish people around the world;
    - ii. Two-thirds would mean that 10 million Jewish people will be killed.

### **C. Why will Israel Go Through Such Persecution?**

1. Satan’s Rage — Satan has a 3-fold strategy during the End Times:
  - a. To exterminate the Jewish people and destroy Israel
    - i. From the start, he has set out to destroy Israel because Israel is God’s vehicle to restore His divine order to the earth.
    - ii. He knows that when Jesus returns, he will be cast into prison and then into the lake of fire for eternity. His first desire is to avoid this imprisonment and unbearable eternal punishment.
    - iii. Satan is seeking to exploit Jesus’ “prophetic loophole”. Jesus, pronouncing a judgment upon the blind leaders of the Jewish people at the end of His ministry, declared that He would not return for His

second coming until the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem welcomes Him back as the Messiah and the Son of God (Matt. 23:39).

iv. From Genesis until now, Satan has sought to stop the prophesied “Seed”, Jesus, from coming forth. While this battle is inevitably futile, it is still very real (Rev. 12:3–17).

- Throughout history, God has narrowed the way in which He would come, and each time, Satan has set out to destroy the people through whom Jesus would come.
- Revelation 12:13–17 describes how throughout history, Satan (the dragon) has always and will make war with the Jewish people (the woman) in order to stop Jesus (the male child) from coming forth.

b. To deceive Israel into making an alliance with the Antichrist

- i. Many nations, including Israel, will make a peace treaty with the Antichrist.
- ii. This is actually a counterfeit of the covenant that Jesus has with Israel and is referred to as Israel’s “covenant with death” (Isa. 28:15).
- iii. This deception will cost Israel dearly when Antichrist reveals his true nature and character and begins aggressive persecution of Israel and the Jewish people.

c. To cause the Jewish people to be so offended with Jesus that they will not welcome Him back

- i. Many Jewish people will be offended as they do not understand why God would allow them to go through such persecution again.
- ii. Therefore, it is vital for the Gentile church to pray for the nation of Israel — for their hearts to be softened toward their Messiah and see who He is, and also how they have turned away from Him as a nation.

2. God’s discipline — God’s desire and zeal for Israel to return to Him and for her fullness.

- a. At Jesus’ First Coming, the nation of Israel rejected Him as their King and Messiah, and has largely been in rebellion against Him ever since.

- b. As a result of their rejection of Him, God partially blinded Israel (Rom. 11:8, 25) and also partially and temporarily rejected them, while the Gospel went to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:17).
- c. However, He has not broken His covenant with her and His heart is still for her to turn back to Him, so that He can restore her, and also through her fullness, bless the nations of the world (Rom. 11:15).
- d. It is because of His desire and zeal for her, that God will discipline and refine Israel through orchestrating the End-Time events surrounding her, in order to force her to turn back to Him.
- e. God is ultimately sovereignly orchestrating the coming crisis, with Satan's rage working in cooperation with and under His sovereign leadership to refine and ultimately redeem Israel (Zech. 12:2–3; 14:2).
  - i. The many times that God says "*I will*" in Zechariah 12 – 14 shows that He is the One who will discipline Israel, so that she will turn back to Him.

#### **D. Conclusion**

1. As God's Gentile church, it is crucial for us to develop understanding of the nation of Israel and what she will go through in the End Times, as she is God's main vehicle of salvation and redemption for mankind.
2. God has called us to stand with her and pray for her, and understanding the issue of Israel will help us pray in greater alignment and agreement with God's heart.