

Session 9

# Israel's Redemptive Role in God's Salvation Plan for Mankind

## – Part 2 –

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### **A. Introduction**

1. God has sovereignly chosen Israel as the vehicle of His salvation and redemption for mankind.
2. Israel plays an important, crucial and irreplaceable role in God's redemptive story for nations and the world. This is something that many Gentile believers are unaware of.
3. This redemptive role of Israel has to be understood by seeing God's big picture concerning His eternal purpose for mankind, the restoration of Creation, and the heart of the Gospel.
4. Ultimately, choosing Israel to play a crucial redemptive role is within the context of God's heart for the salvation and redemption of all of humanity.
5. She is not only the vessel through which Jesus was born, but also plays an irreplaceable role in the Second Coming of Jesus, the End Times, and the Millennial Kingdom.

### **B. The Centrepiece of God's Eternal Purpose**

The centrepiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to establish His Kingdom over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together (Eph. 1:9–10).

1. Jesus will establish the Kingdom of God here on earth (Matt. 6:10), reversing what has been lost in Eden.
2. God is a spiritual Being who created a physical world, and it is His desire to bring the two together. It is when the heavenly and earthly realms come together that the fullness of God for mankind happens.
3. Only a Person who is both God and Man — Jesus — could bridge the gap between Heaven and Earth.

### **C. The Role of Israel in the Context of God's Plan in the Gospel of the Kingdom**

1. God's heart in the Gospel is the full redemption and restoration of mankind to Himself and as His co-rulers over Creation.

2. As part of this redemption and restoration plan to bring the fullness of His Kingdom on earth as in heaven, God the Father has chosen to express His authority in two ways — through His choice of the King who will rule nations and the designated location of this King's throne on earth.
3. God has determined that in the Millennial Kingdom, it is Jesus who will rule all nations from His throne of glory in Jerusalem (Matt. 25:31–32; Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:6–7).
  - a. God's chosen King — Jesus
    - i. The Messiah is God's chosen King upon the earth. This Messiah-King is being referred to as God's Son in Psalm 2:6, 7, 12.
    - ii. God has determined that Jesus Christ will be the King through whom He will establish His authority on earth.
  - b. God's chosen city — Jerusalem
    - i. God has also chosen a certain place for His throne — Jerusalem in Israel. There will be a dynamic convergence of the two Jerusalems, the heavenly and earthly (Rev. 22:3), at Jesus' Second Coming.
    - ii. Jesus will rule in heaven as the Son of God (i.e. in the New Jerusalem) and on the earth as the Son of David (earthly Jerusalem). It is only Jesus who has the authority to bring the governments of heaven and of the earth fully together at His Second Coming.
4. The second half of Isaiah 61 reveals the fullness of God's heart of redemption which will see His plan come to completion at Jesus' Second Coming. When He returns, Jesus will concentrate on establishing the Kingdom of God. He will appear as a roaring Lion to punish those who have rebelled against God, execute justice, and bring joy to the earth.
5. With God's choice of Jesus (a Jewish Man) as King and Jerusalem as the location for His throne, God's Kingdom on earth is closely connected with the restoration of Israel. Her redemptive role is irrevocable and irreplaceable in God's will and plan.
  - a. The restoration of Israel is the overall context for Isaiah 60 – 62, which contains the heart of the Gospel.
  - b. The Jewish people viewed the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven" as synonymous with the "Kingdom of Israel" (Acts 1:6). Jesus affirmed this view by not correcting His disciples. Instead, He answered that the time for the restoration of Israel would not be until the Gospel was preached to all the nations of the world (Acts 1:7–8).
  - c. The Apostle Paul knew that Israel's restoration and spiritual return to Yeshua her Messiah would usher in the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth (Rom. 11:15).

## **D. The Redemptive Role of Israel in the End Times and Millennial Kingdom**

Israel plays a key role in the Second Coming of Jesus, the transition of the earth from this age to the Millennial Age, and in the leadership over nations in the Millennial Kingdom

1. The Jewish leadership and the people of Israel have to, from the land of Israel, invite Jesus back to rule over them as their rightful King (Matt. 23:37–39; Ps. 24:7–10; Lk. 19:11–28).
  - a. In Matthew 23:37–39, Jesus has “bound” Himself by His own prophecy to only come back to Jerusalem after Israel’s leadership asks Him to reign over them out of their own free will.
  - b. Only upon this covenantal invitation from Israel will Jesus establish Himself as King over Jerusalem and Israel. After that, He will expand His government over all the nations (Isa. 2:1–4; Mic. 4:1–5; Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 37:28; 43:4–7).
  - c. Satan understands this truth and therefore, seeks to exploit this “loophole” in God’s prophetic plan. His plan is to see to it that no Jewish person is alive and in the land of Israel who can invite Jesus back to be King over Israel.
2. Israel will be the prototype of a holy nation under God in the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 2:2–3; Deut. 28:1–2).
  - a. Under Jesus’ leadership, Israel will finally fully step into her call to be a “light” to the Gentile nations (Isa. 60:1, Deut. 28:1).
  - b. She will be the perfect example of how a godly nation should be run. Her laws, society, economy, education, agriculture, entertainment etc. will align with and reflect God’s heart for nations.
  - c. Most importantly, she will live in and walk out God’s commandments in the Torah and the Sermon on the Mount, and express who God is.
3. Israel will play a lead discipleship role in bringing salvation to nations and discipling all nations in the ways of the Kingdom.
  - a. Nations will flock to Israel to learn from her so that they can walk in the same blessings and abundance that she will be walking in (Isa. 2:2–3, 60:3).
  - b. Israel will play a leadership role in fulfilling the Great Commission to its fullness. All nations will be gradually discipled in all aspects in the ways of God by her (Matt. 28:19–20).
4. Israel will have the unique privilege of being the inaugural government that will govern the whole earth in the Millennial Kingdom.
  - a. Together with Gentile believers who have overcome, Israel will partner with Jesus to extend His rulership and government over nations across the earth (Isa. 9:7).

- b. The “commonwealth of Israel” (Eph. 2:12) will be a reality in the Millennial Kingdom.
- c. This will be the fullness of restoration of the “dominion mandate” that was given to man in the Garden of Eden.

## **E. Conclusion**

1. There will be an explosion of God's glory when the government of heaven is joined together with the government of the earth. This will usher in:
  - a. God's fullness and restoration for mankind will see God's Kingdom and glory gradually spread forth to cover the earth from Jerusalem and Israel (Hab. 2:14);
  - b. The resurrection of the dead and the created order being delivered from its bondage (Rom. 8:17–23; 11:15; Isa. 11:6–9; 35:1–8; 65:17–25).
2. This is closely related to Israel's role that God has ordained for her in His salvation plan. God does not love Gentiles any less; this is a role that He has chosen for Israel as a vessel for His blessings to eventually reach the nations.
3. As Gentiles, it is important for us to align with God's sovereign grace and election of Israel to fulfil this role, so that we can be part of the unravelling of His heart and purposes in this hour.