

“God’s Covenant with Abraham”

Introduction – Genesis 15:1-7 (NIV1984)

15 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” **2** But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” **4** Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” **5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6** Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. **7** He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV1984)

12 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. **2** “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. **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.”

Today we are going to look at the covenant that God made with Abraham and look at how this is impacting the world today!

I. WHAT IS A COVENANT?

In the Old Testament, a covenant (*berith* in Hebrew) is a solemn, binding promise or formal agreement between two parties when used to describe the relationship between God and mankind. It is a sacred commitment initiated by God that establishes a deep relational bond, complete with specific promises, expectations and obligations.

The concept of covenant is significant in the bible. In fact, the word testament is really another word for covenant. The bible is comprised of two parts, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant (Old and New Testaments). Covenant was a well-known concept in ancient times, and covenants could be made between two equal parties or between a king and a subject. The king would promise certain protections and the subject would promise loyalty to the king. A covenant could be conditional or unconditional.

The Old Testament is more than a history of Israel. It is really a history of the covenant in which God revealed, little by little, His character and His plans and purposes for mankind. Most Bible scholars recognize several major covenants in the Old Testament in which God promises to do something.

1. **NOAHIC COVENANT**

After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah that He would never again destroy the world by a flood, and He also gave some basic principles for humanity to live by (Genesis 8:20—9:17). Although humanity soon descended into rampant disobedience once again, **THE PROMISE NOT TO DESTROY THE EARTH BY ANOTHER FLOOD WAS UNCONDITIONAL.**

2. **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

God made a covenant with Abraham in which He promised, “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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:1–3). This covenant was reiterated in Genesis 15 and 17. **THIS WAS ALSO AN UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT.**

3. MOSAIC COVENANT

God made a covenant with Israel regarding their use of the Promised Land (Exodus 19—24). The land had been given to Abraham's descendants unconditionally; however, the use of the land by any specific generation of Israelites **WAS CONDITIONAL UPON THEIR OBEDIENCE**. As a result, at times they lived in the land but were oppressed and not able to enjoy the full benefits of it, as seen in the book of Judges. Later, the Israelites were exiled from the land due to their disobedience and idolatry. **HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH ONE GENERATION WAS DISOBEDIENT, GOD PROMISED TO BRING A LATER GENERATION BACK TO THE LAND (ISAIAH 11:11–12). HE KEPT HIS WORD, AS RECORDED IN EZRA AND NEHEMIAH.**

4. DAVIDIC COVENANT

God made a covenant with David that he would have a descendant who would sit on his throne forever (2 Samuel 7). **THIS WAS AN UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT, ALTHOUGH THE LENGTH OF REIGN FOR ANY SPECIFIC DAVIDIC RULER COULD BE LIMITED BY HIS DISOBEDIENCE. SOLOMON'S SON REHOBOAM LOST A LARGE PART OF THE KINGDOM DUE TO HIS FOOLISH CHOICES. THIS COVENANT IS ULTIMATELY FULFILLED IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID.**

5. THE NEW COVENANT

In Jeremiah 31, God promised a New Covenant with Israel. Israel repeatedly violated the terms of all the previous covenants, but God promised this would be different because the hearts of the people would be changed so they would want to be faithful. This is fulfilled in

the New Testament with the coming of Christ and the indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit, who gives the people of God the desire to obey Him. What was a surprise to some is that Gentiles were also included in this covenant.

The concept of covenant has been lost in modern society. Promises are broken when new circumstances arise. Contracts are broken, and one party simply says, “Sue me.” Marriage is supposed to be a covenant between a man and a woman for life, but divorce is commonplace today. Regardless of how unfaithful people may be, God will never be unfaithful to His covenant promises.

II. WHAT IS THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT?

As we read earlier about God establishing His covenant with Abraham, we need to understand the importance of this in being unconditional! It was not based on Abraham keeping his end of the covenant, it is based on the character and integrity of God Himself! Abraham was a man of faith! Yet, he was imperfect. We know he had a problem with lying about Sarah not being his wife but his sister! This covenant is a foundation for all of us who believe in Jesus! His word is settled! It is eternal! God keeps His word to us! He does not vacillate!

So, let's read on in Genesis chapter 15:

Genesis 15:9-21 (NIV1984)

9 So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” **10** Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. **11** Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. **12** As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. **13** Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a

country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. **14** But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. **15** You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. **16** In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” **17** When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. **18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— **19** the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, **20** Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, **21** Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

This ancient ritual known as “cutting a covenant” signifies that if the covenant is broken the party passing between the pieces should suffer a similar fair.

THE RITUAL

God instructs Abram to take a heifer, a goat, and a ram (all 3 years old), along with a dove and a young pigeon. Abram cuts the larger animals in half, arranging the pieces opposite each other creating a path, though he doesn’t divide the birds.

THE PASSING

As the sun sets, a “smoking firepot and a blazing torch” (representing the presence of God) passes along between the pieces.

SIGNIFICANCE

This indicates an unconditional covenant, where God takes the obligation entirely upon Himself, promising land and descendants regardless of human performance.

This is a blood covenant! To many today this is gross, cruel and nasty! But to the people in ancient times in biblical history we are told:

Hebrews 9:18-22 (NIV1984)

18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. **19** When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. **20** He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” **21** In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. **22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Because of sin entering the world, blood had to be shed to pay the price for forgiveness:

Leviticus 17:11 (NIV1984)

11 FOR THE LIFE OF A CREATURE IS IN THE BLOOD, AND I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR YOURSELVES ON THE ALTAR; IT IS THE BLOOD THAT MAKES ATONEMENT FOR ONE’S LIFE.

So, this covenant is being guaranteed by God Himself! As the writer of Hebrews declares:

Hebrews 6:13-19 (NIV1984)

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, **14** saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” **15** And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. **16** Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. **17** Because God wanted to

make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. **18** God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. **19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

I hope and pray that you see the intricate design of this eternal plan of God being set in place! Especially as next week we are going to be taking up the sad departure from our faith called “replacement theology” where the church has replaced Israel in God’s plan! Not at all!

So, let’s finish out this week’s topic:

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant. The actual covenant is found in Genesis 12:1–3. The ceremony recorded in Genesis 15 indicates the unconditional nature of the covenant. When a covenant was dependent upon both parties keeping commitments, then both parties would pass between the pieces of animals. In Genesis 15, God alone moves between the halves of the animals. Abraham was in a deep sleep. God’s solitary action indicates that the covenant is principally His promise. He binds Himself to the covenant.

Later, God gave Abraham the rite of circumcision as the specific sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:9–14). All males in Abraham’s line were to be circumcised and thus carry with them a lifelong mark in their flesh that they were part of God’s physical blessing in the world. Any descendant of Abraham who refused circumcision was declaring himself to be outside of God’s covenant; this explains why God was angry with Moses when Moses failed to circumcise his son (Exodus 4:24–26).

God determined to call out a special people for Himself, and through that special people He would bless the whole world. The Lord

tells Abram, “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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:2–3).

Based on this promise, God later changed Abram’s name from *Abram* (“high father”) to *Abraham* (“father of a multitude”) in Genesis 17:5. As we’ve seen, the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional. It should also be taken literally. There is no need to spiritualize the promise to Abraham. God’s promises to Abraham’s descendants will be fulfilled literally.

The Abrahamic Covenant included the promise of land (Genesis 12:1). It was a specific land, an actual property, with dimensions specified in Genesis 15:18–21. In Genesis 13:15, God gives Abraham all the land that he can see, and the gift is declared to be “forever.” God was not going to renege on His promise. The territory given as part of the Abrahamic Covenant is expanded in Deuteronomy 30:1–10, often called the Palestinian Covenant.

Centuries after Abraham died, the children of Israel took possession of the land under Joshua’s leadership (Joshua 21:43). At no point in history, though, has Israel controlled all of the land God had specified. There remains, therefore, a final fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant that will see Israel occupying their God-given homeland to the fullest extent. The fulfillment will be more than a matter of geography; it will also be a time of holiness and restoration (see Ezekiel 20:40–44 and 36:1—37:28).

The Abrahamic Covenant also promised many descendants (Genesis 12:2). God promised that the number of Abraham’s children would rival that of “the dust of the earth” (Genesis 15:16). Nations and kings would proceed from him (Genesis 17:6). It is significant that the promise was given to an aged, childless couple. But Abraham “did not waver through unbelief” (Romans 4:20), and his wife Sarah

“considered him faithful who had made the promise” (Hebrews 11:11). Abraham was justified by his faith (Genesis 15:6), and he and his wife welcomed Isaac, the son of promise, into their home when they were 100 and 90 years old, respectively (Genesis 21:5).

God reiterates the Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac and to his son Jacob, whose name God changes to *Israel*. The great nation is eventually established in the land where Abraham had dwelled. King David, one of Abraham’s many descendants, is given the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:12–16), promising a “son of David” who would one day rule over the Jewish nation—and all nations—from Jerusalem. Many other Old Testament prophecies point to the blessed, future fulfillment of that promise (e.g., Isaiah 11; Micah 4; Zechariah 8).

The Abrahamic Covenant also included a promise of blessing and redemption (Genesis 12:3). All the earth would be blessed through Abraham. This promise finds its fulfillment in the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34; cf. Luke 22:20), which was ratified by Jesus Christ, the son of Abraham and Redeemer who will one day “restore everything” (Acts 3:21).

Five times in Genesis 12, as God is giving the Abrahamic Covenant, He says, “I will.” Clearly, God takes the onus of keeping the covenant upon Himself. The covenant is unconditional. One day, Israel *will* repent, be forgiven, and be restored to God’s favor (Zechariah 12:10–14; Romans 11:25–27). One day, the nation of Israel will possess the entire territory promised to them. One day, the Messiah will return to set up His throne, and through His righteous rule the whole world will be blessed with an abundance of peace, pleasure, and prosperity.

Conclusion

This is so foundational for us in understanding next weeks topic that God has not replaced Israel with the church! We are ingrafted into the descendants of Abraham who have the faith Abraham!

As Paul excitedly declares:

Romans 11:33-36 (NIV1984)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! **34** “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” **35** “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

“What Is Replacement Theology”

Introduction – Romans 11:25-32

Last week we looked at the covenant that God made with Abraham and that covenant was unconditional, not being based on how Abraham’s descendants were going to behave! It was based on the integrity and character of God! It was His plan for the redemption of mankind. That through Abraham, all the nations on earth would be blessed! That the “seed or the woman would crush the head of the serpent”. (ref Genesis 3:15)

Sadly, a theology has developed over the years that has led a lot of Christians down a path that rejects this covenant with Abraham begin unconditional! That Israel is no longer a special part of God’s eternal plan! It’s called Replacement Theology/Supersessionism/Fulfillment Theology

I. WHAT IS REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY?

Replacement theology teaches that the New Testament church has replaced Israel in God’s plan. The promises made to Israel in the Old Testament are now fulfilled in the church, not in anything to do with Israel.

Our emphasis today will be on showing that this is not what the New Testament teaches! Our passage this morning is a major answer against replacement theology!

There is a lot of positions in regard to the nation of Israel today as being the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) the twelve tribes. What we want to do is look at what the Bible truly teaches about Israel and the church. How do we relate to the nation of Israel today?

I appreciate how Gary Hamrick (a Pastor of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, VA) brings across about the relevance of our subject today!

“In the year following the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel by HAMAS, over 10,000 antisemitic incidents were recorded in the U.S. – an increase of 140% over the previous year – and the most ever since the Anti-Defamation League began tracking antisemitic acts in 1979. On college campuses, in work places, among “influencers” and politicians, even in some circles of the church, antisemitism is raising its ugly head.

The Israeli people have been the target of hate, oppression, murder and genocide throughout history. Hitler’s attempted annihilation of the Jews during World War II took an estimated 6 million Jewish lives. Satan has been inciting nations and people to hate Israel ever since the tiny Jewish nation became the conduit for God’s redemptive plan for mankind. Israel is central to the story of the Bible. God birthed an ethnic people group through the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to introduce the savior to the world, whose name is Jesus, Yeshua – a Jewish Messiah, sent on a mission to save all who would receive Him.

God’s unconditional covenant (which we looked at last week) is the basis for why we should support and bless the Jewish people while we continue to pray for their salvation.”

I’ll add, sadly, professing Christians throughout history have called the Jewish people Christ-killers and therefore we are to fight them and oppose them. They are rejected from the promises of God given in the Old Testament and the church has replaced them as the people of God.

Gary Hamrick again, “The bible makes it clear that this savior – Jesus Christ – was born in Israel, died in Israel, rose from the dead in Israel and is coming again to Israel! But Satan has always tried to dilute, disrupt, or destroy the redemptive plan of God! And he is still at work today.”

Yes, in Revelation 12 we see a description of this epic battle brought across:

Revelation 12:1-13, 17 (NIV1984)

1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. **2** She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. **3** Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. **4** Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. **5** She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. **6** The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. **7** Then war broke out in heaven.

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8** But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **9** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. **10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **11** They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **12** Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” **13** When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. **17** Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring —those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

**** LISTEN TO GOD’S PROMISE TO HAGAR:**

Genesis 16:7-16 (NIV1984)

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. 9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” 10 The angel added, “I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.” 11 The angel of the Lord also said to her: “You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.” 13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi ; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. 15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Now does this mean we hate Muslims, Hindus Buddhists or any of the other belief systems in the world? Not at all! We are called to pray for them all! For Israel, for Palestinians, for Iranians, Egyptians, etc., every tribe, language and nation! This is our calling as Christians:

Matthew 5:43-47 (NIV1984)

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

And the results of this eventually will be:

Revelation 7:9-12 (NIV1984)

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. **10** And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." **11** All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

II. UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL'S HISTORY

Moses writes about why Israel was chosen as the group of families through which Messiah would come:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (NIV1984)

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. **7** The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. **8** But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

He could have chosen other family groups from all the nations on earth but He chose the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel), the twelve tribes we know as Israel!

We must remember **THE MOSAIC COVENANT IS**
CONDITONAL. Israel had a responsibility to follow in obedience the
command of God!

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT WAS UNCONDITIONAL!
God was going to work through the nation of Israel and eventually the
Deliverer, the Messiah would come!

We see Moses spell it out in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Listen to
Moses in his parting words to the children of Israel:

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NIV1984)

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or
beyond your reach. **12** It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask,
“Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may
obey it?” **13** Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will
cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” **14** No,
the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you
may obey it. **15** See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and
destruction. **16** For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to
walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you
will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land
you are entering to possess. **17** But if your heart turns away and you are
not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and
worship them, **18** I declare to you this day that you will certainly be
destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan
to enter and possess. **19** This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses
against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and
curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live **20** and
that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to
him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the
land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

So, we see the presentation of life and blessing or in disobedience
problems and judgment! Life or death!

Let's just take a look at the times in history when the Jewish nation has been slated for what seems to be its end.

After years of warning by the prophets of the children of Israel being taken captive and deported out of the land God gave them through Joshua and King David's victories we see the track of times that Israel was deported:

1. The Assyrian conquering of the 10 tribes of Israel the northern kingdom in 722 BC
2. The Babylonian taking of Jerusalem, burning and destruction of Solomon's temple. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin taken into exile (586-587 BC). As Jeremiah prophesied that would last 70 years

Jeremiah 25:1-14 (NIV1984)

1 The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. **2** So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: **3** For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened. **4** And though the Lord has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention. **5** They said, “Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your fathers for ever and ever. **6** Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not provoke me to anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.” **7** “But you did not listen to me,” declares the Lord, “and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves.” **8** Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: “Because you have not listened to my words, **9** I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,” declares the Lord, “and I will bring them against this land and its

inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. **10** I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. **11** This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. **12** “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the Lord, “and will make it desolate forever. **13** I will bring upon that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations. **14** They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

3. THE MEDES AND THE PERSIAN EMPIRE in October of 539. The Medes and Persians under the leadership of Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon and restored Israel to its land! Listen to the prophet Isaiah speak of this 150-200 year prior to Cyrus being on the scene. Isaiah ministered between 739-681 BC. Take note here *** DO YOU BELIEVE GOD KNOWS WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN IN WORLD AFFAIRS? ***

Listen to these words:

Isaiah 44:24 - Isaiah 45:7 (NIV1984)

24 “This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, **25** who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, **26** who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, ‘It shall be inhabited,’ of the towns of Judah, ‘They shall be built,’ and of their ruins, ‘I will restore them,’ **27** who says to the

watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,' **28** who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'" **1** "This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: **2** I will go before you and will level the mountains ; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. **3** I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. **4** For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. **5** I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, **6** so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. **7** I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

WOW!

Now in this time when Israel was being treated kindly and nicely by the Medes and Persians, during this time period the book of Esther brings across a plan by Haman, who is a descendant of King Agag of the Amalekites! The Amalekites were one of the first ones to attack Israel on their journey out of Egypt. (ref Exodus 17:8-16, Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

Esther takes place in Persia in approximately 479 BC where the Jews were slated to be wiped out! The Jewish festival of Purim celebrates this deliverance even today!

4. THE ROMAN EMPIRE in 70 AD came and destroyed Jerusalem and the second temple! Dispersing the children of Israel again into all the nations of the world.

As was warned by the prophets and Jesus Himself:

Luke 19:41-44 (NIV1984)

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it **42** and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. **43** The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. **44** They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Matthew 23:37-39 (NIV1984)

37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. **38** Look, your house is left to you desolate. **39** For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

This is just a quick summary of the chronology of the nation of Israel!

MOSES DECLARED:

Deuteronomy 30:1-10 (NIV1984)

1 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations, **2** and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, **3** then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. **4** Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. **5** He will bring you

to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. **6** The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. **7** The Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. **8** You will again obey the Lord and follow all his commands I am giving you today. **9** Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, **10** if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

THE PROPHET EZEKIEL DECLARED:

Ezekiel 36:22-28 (NIV1984)

22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. **23** I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. **24** “‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. **25** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. **26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **28** You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

The Valley of Dry Bones:

Ezekiel 37:4-6, 9-14 (NIV1984)

4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! **5** This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. **6** I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord. ’” **9** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. **11** Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ **12** Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13** Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. **14** I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord. ’”

So, from 70 AD on, Israel was scattered to all the nations on earth, just as was prophesied! A period of almost 1900 years!

5. HITLER’S WAR ON THE JEWISH PEOPLE

6 million killed in the World War II time period of 1939-1945!

6. THEN IN MAY 14, 1948, THE DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Listen to Isaiah:

Isaiah 66:8 (NIV1984)

8 Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

Listen to Amos:

Amos 9:13-15 (NIV1984)

13 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills. **14** I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. **15** I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,”

Absolutely amazing!

7. The continued wars against Israel

1948 – The War of Independence

1967 – The 6 Day War

1973 – The Yom Kippur War

October 7, 2023 – The attack on innocent Israeli civilians

SO, WHAT ABOUT HAMAS AND IT’S BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL?

A. Hamas’ extremism is rooted in Ideologies that predate the establishment of Israel in 1948. THE PREAMBLE TO HAMAS’ FOUNDING CHARTER contains the following quote from the found of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hassan Al-Banna:

“Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.”

B. Peace is not an option for Hamas, only violence: “there is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. (Hamas Charter, Article 13)

C. Ismail Haniyeh stated in 2020 “we cannot, in exchange for money or projects, give up Palestine and our weapons. We will not give up the resistance... we will not recognize Israel. Palestine must stretch from the (Jordan) river to the (Mediterranean) sea.”

D. Hamas official, Hamad Al-Regeb in an April 2023 sermon: “He prayed for annihilation and paralysis of the Jews whom he described as filthy animals.”

I bring these quotes out for us to realize the hellish hatred there is for the Jewish people in these terrorist organizations. We need to realize the seriousness of this battle. Israel is willing to dwell peacefully and co-exist, the terrorist groups are not.

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking on the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, proclaimed the fulfillment of Ezekiel 37, that the rise of the modern nation of Israel fulfills Ezekiel's famous prophecy of the dry bones. He said,

“the Jewish people rose from ashes and destruction, from a terrible pain that can never be healed. Armed with the Jewish spirit, the justice of man, and the vision of the prophets, we sprouted new branches and grew deep roots. Dry bones became covered with flesh, a spirit filled them, and they lived and stood on their own feet. As Ezekiel prophesied:

‘Then He said unto me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost; and we ourselves are cut off!’ Therefore, prophecy and say to them: Thus said the Lord God: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and bring you to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.’”

So, all this leads us to our passage in Romans 11.

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL

1. THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL

Romans 11:1-10 (NIV1984)

1 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: **3** "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? **4** And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." **5** So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. **6** And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. **7** What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, **8** as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day." **9** And David says: "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. **10** May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever."

Israel is not rejected! God knows their hearts as He knows ours! Yes, they have been stubborn, disobedient and sinful! Just as we are! God knows how and when their hearts will turn fully to their Messiah and our Messiah: Jesus Christ our Lord! All of us are saved by God's AMAZING GRACE!

2. THE INGRATED BRANCHES – THE CHURCH

Romans 11:11-24 (NIV1984)

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. **12** But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! **13** I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry **14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. **15** For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? **16** If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. **17** If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, **18** do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. **19** You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” **20** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. **22** Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. **23** And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **24** After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

The church has not replaced Israel! We are ingrafted into the olive tree in Israel – the true children of Abraham.

As Paul explained earlier in Romans:

Romans 2:28 – 3:4 (NIV1984)

28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. **29** No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. **1** What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? **2** Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God. **3** What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? **4** Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."

Romans 4:1-17 (NIV1984)

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? **2** If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. **3** What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." **4** Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. **5** However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. **6** David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: **7** "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **8** Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." **9** Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. **10** Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! **11** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. **12** And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also

walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. **13** It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. **14** For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, **15** because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. **16** Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. **17** As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Abraham is the father of us all! He is the one who set the example to believe in the promises of God first and then backed up that faith with his actions!

Listen to Paul explain to the Galatians:

Galatians 3:6-9, 23-29 (NIV1984)

6 So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." **7** Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. **8** Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." **9** So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **23** Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. **24** So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. **25** Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. **26** So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there

male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Paul to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:11-22, 3:1-4 (NIV1984)

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— **12** remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17** He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. **19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. **3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—**2** Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. **4** In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

This is exciting stuff! All these differences and battle lines of nationality, culture, language and customs – whether Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female - through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we are one body! One tree! One in Christ Jesus!

So, we pray for Jews, for Arabs, for Ukrainians, for Russians, for Chinese, for Japanese, for Koreans, for Africans, for South America, for Central America, for Mexico, for Canada, for Africa, for Australia, for Europe, Asia and every tribe, language and nation on earth!

Christianity was birthed out of Judaism! It has not replaced the plan of God for Jewish people but we are part of the process in which God is going to bring all things together in Christ Jesus!

3. EVENTUALLY ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

Romans 11:25-32 (NIV1984)

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. **27** And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” **28** As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, **29** for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. **30** Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, **31** so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. **32** For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Jewish people can be very openly hostile to the gospel just as any other group can be! I cannot emphasize enough the need for us to pray for Israel and all people to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus!

Satan hates the church, he hates Israel and he hates all people! We are called to recognize this battle and fight the good fight of faith:

Revelation 12:10-12 (NIV1984)

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **11** They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **12** Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

All the prophetic events that are set before us are going to take place in God’s timing!

1. There is coming a one world government with a new world order leader biblically known as the anti-Christ.
2. There is going to be a false prophet. A religious leader professing to be a representative of Jesus Christ who is going to work with the political leader, the anti-Christ.
3. Listen to Jesus’ words about these days ahead of us:

Matthew 24:4-22 (NIV1984)

4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. **6** You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7** Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of birth pains. **9** “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because

of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13** but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **15** “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— **16** then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. **18** Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. **19** How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! **20** Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. **22** If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

4. There will be a red heifer sacrifice!

5. There is going to be a third temple rebuilt

Daniel 9:27 (NIV1984)

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

6. Everything that can be shaken is going to be shaken!

Hebrews 12:25-28 (NIV1984)

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? **26** At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I

will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” **27** The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. **28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

7. When all these things come together as God has laid it out as pieces to a puzzle then as in the writings of the prophet Zechariah brings across:

Zechariah 12:10, 13:1, 14:3-9 (NIV1984)

10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. **3** Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. **4** On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. **5** You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. **6** On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. **7** It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. **8** On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. **9** The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Conclusion

Yes, these are the tip of the iceberg of the prophecies before us!
Are we to worry and fear? Not at all!

As Paul told Timothy:

II Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

We have been brought into the kingdom for such a time as this:

We are the people on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come!

As Daniel said:

Daniel 12:1-4, 8-10, 13 (NIV1984)

1 “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book —will be delivered. **2**

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. **3** Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. **4** But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.” **8** I heard, but I did not understand. So, I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” **9** He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. **10** Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. **13** “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”