

Israel

Since I think Israel will attack Iran soon, it might be a good time to look at how Israel fits with Christianity and how Israel fits in with end-time Bible prophecy. Let me be very clear, God is on Israel's side; they are the covenant people.

God made promises to Abram.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father's house,

To a land that I will show you.

² I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Note in verse 3; this is why I say God is on Israel's side. As we read about Abram and later Abraham's life, we can see how this works out. Nations and people that bless Israel are blessed and nations that persecute the Jews end up being cursed.

The promise goes through Isaac.

Genesis 21:12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

God also said that Ishmael would have many descendants. The Muslims claim that God's promises go through Ishmael not Isaac.

Genesis 25:11 And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

Genesis 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Genesis 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba. **24** And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I *am* the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I *am* with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.”

The blessing goes through Jacob.

Genesis 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. **14** Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. **15** Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

You may be able to argue that since Ismael was Abraham’s seed he had some rights to the land of Israel. Ismael was not a descendant of Jacob and God told Jacob he would get the land.

Genesis 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Genesis 30:27 And Laban said to him (Jacob), “Please *stay*, if I have found favor in your eyes, *for* I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake.”

God blessed Laban because of Jacob.

Genesis 30:43 Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

We start reading about Joseph in Genesis 37. Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery. Potiphar bought him and the Lord blessed everything Joseph did.

Genesis 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **3** And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. **4** So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority. **5** So it was, from the time *that* he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. **6** Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

Joseph got put in jail because of Potiphar’s wife.

²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who *were* in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not

look into anything *that was* under *Joseph's* authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper.

The study of Genesis gives us a good insight into what God has planned for us and the nation of Israel.

We look at Psalm 23 and since we have heard it so many times; we don't pay attention to what it says. I am going to look at the Hebrew words and put the meaning next to the word.

Psalm 23

¹**The LORD is my shepherd**(to pasture, tend, graze, feed); **I shall not want**(lack, be without, decrease, have a need).

²**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

³**He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

⁴**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

⁵**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

⁶**Surely goodness**(pleasant, agreeable, excellent, rich, better, glad, happy) **and mercy**(goodness, kindness, faithfulness) **shall follow**(to be behind, pursue, run after, chase, harass) **me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

This is for the Jewish people and Christians; anyone who claims Jesus or God as their shepherd.

Deuteronomy 4

⁷**“For what great nation *is there* that has God *so* near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him? ⁸ And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?**

This is Moses reviewing to the Israelites the laws. God will bless any nation but Israel is special.

Psalm 147 is a Psalm with a lot of good things for Jews and Christians. In the end it says that he has not dealt with any other nation like he deals with Israel (and I will add the Church).

Psalm 147:20 He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

Galatians 3: 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We are Jews through the shed blood of Jesus. This is why I say "Israel and the Church." God may not agree with everything Israel does, but he also doesn't agree with everything I do.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We are the seed of Abraham.

The Jews will have a major part in the end-times.

Here is what I believe is going to happen at the rapture and the seven years tribulation. If someone sees it differently I am not going to argue.

The Christians will be caught away.

Now Satan has a free hand and Russia or a country north of Israel will attack the Jews.

God will miraculously fight for Israel and Israel will win.

The Jewish nation will repent and believe in Jesus.

At present the church is responsible for proclaiming the Good News; the Jews will be the ones responsible for evangelism during the first 3½ years.

At 3½ years all Christians, Jews and Gentiles, will be taken away.

The job of evangelism will then be carried out by angels.

Now I will add Scriptural references to the above.

The Christians will be caught away.

1 Thessalonians 4:

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. Read in context

Now Satan has a free hand

2 Thessalonians 2:

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. Read in context.

*Russia or a country north of Israel will attack the Jews along with other nations.
God will miraculously fight for Israel and Israel will win.*

Ezekiel 38 & 39 I am not as sure about this. This could be at the end of the 7-year tribulation, but I believe it is at the start. Magog is southern Russia or Turkey.

The Jewish nation will repent and believe in Jesus.

Zechariah 12: 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

At present the church is responsible for proclaiming the Good News; the Jews will be the ones responsible for evangelism during the first 3½ years.

Zechariah 8:23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

Revelation 7:4-8

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

At 3½ years all Christians, Jews and Gentiles, will be taken away.

Revelation 14:1-5

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. Since we see these Jews in Heaven it seems to me that they were taken out after 3 1/2 years.

The job of evangelism will then be carried out by angels.

Revelation 14: 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 20, 21, 22 say what is going to happen next and it is a great read. It covers the 1000-year time that Jesus is king of the earth before the judgment, the judgment, the New Jerusalem, and our life in the New Jerusalem.

God is on Israel's side and the Jews play a big part in the end of this age.

Our eternal home is the New Jerusalem, not Heaven like we talk about all the time. Heaven is the holding place for us until the earth is recreated.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.