



## Why Israel Matters

### Teaching Outline

#### I. A Glimpse of God's Plan

##### A. Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant)

Genesis 17:6-8 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, **I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you**; and I will be their God."

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Exodus 2:24 (NIV®)

<sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning and he remembered **his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.**

##### B. Central Role of Jewish People

John 4:22 (NIV®)

<sup>22</sup> "You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for **salvation is from the Jews.**"

Revelation 5:5 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."



Revelation 21:12 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Romans 9:4-5 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> ...the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup> Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

## C. An Adversary ---persistent hatred ---evident on contemporary stage

### 1. Antisemitism

Zechariah 12:3 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> "On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."

### 2. The spirit of anti-christ

Matthew 24:9 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be **hated by all nations** because of me."

## D. A Response

Psalm 122:6-9 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

<sup>7</sup> May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.



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### Discussion Questions

#### Abram & the Jewish People

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

1. List 7 things God promised to Abram in these verses.
2. Do you think God has changed his mind?

The covenant God made with Abram resulted in the Jewish people being the delivery system for God's redemption for all humanity.

Romans 9:4-5 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> ...the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup> Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen

3. The Apostle Paul reminds us of some of the things we have received through the Jewish people. How many can you identify?

#### The Church

Ephesians 3:10-11 (NIV®)

<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,<sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB®)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the



Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

4. The Church is of equal importance in fulfilling God's plans for humanity. What do these two passages reveal about God's intent and our responsibility?

## An Adversary

### Antisemitism

Zechariah 12:3 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> "On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."

5. God tells us two things about Jerusalem. What are they?

6. How do current world events support or contradict Zechariah?

### The spirit of anti-christ

Matthew 24:9 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be **hated by all nations** because of me."

7. Hatred of the Jewish people and hatred of Christians are both satanic expressions of opposition to God's purposes. Describe the trends and treatment of Christians in the USA and Europe, the Islamic world, China, Russia. How do your conclusions correspond to Jesus' statements in Matthew 24?

### Prayer,

Almighty God, we turn to You asking for mercy and grace that we might serve You. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may her inhabitants dwell in safety. Open the eyes of the people of the Land to their King. Awaken the Church to complete the assignment You have given. May the leaders of the United States make decisions regarding Israel that will enable Your blessings to come upon us. All this we ask in Jesus' name, amen.