"Israel ... God in the past, present & future"

'May peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good." (Psalm 122: 6-9)

9.30a.m. Sunday 24 September, 2017

Delivered by Senior Pastor Marshall Muller @
the Laidley Baptist Church (Qld).

Introduction - Quiz on Israel

- Population – 8.547 million
- Hats - Kipa
- 6 Day war year – When? 1967
- How many world wide – around 15 million
- Dead Sea – how far below sea level? Surface is 423m below sea level. 377m deep.
- Borders with what other countries? (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt)
- Capital of Israel? Tel Aviv (Half a million population)
- Major River that runs from Sea of Galilee to Dead Sea – Jordan River
- 3 major religions (Judaism, Christianity & Islam)
- When was the first temple destroyed? 586 AD By whom? Nebuchadnezzar & Babylonian army.
- When was the 2nd Temple destroyed? 70 AD By whom? Romans
- Who is the Prime Minister of Israel? Benjamin ‘Bibi’ Netanyahu
- What does the city Jerusalem mean? (City of peace / shalom)

Last Week

Last week I spoke on the importance of Israel, God’s chosen people, to every person on the planet. Today we want to look at Israel past, present & future and God’s plan for Israel. But first let’s pray ...
Gracious Heavenly Father,

We come today as ones who You have graciously revealed the Good News of Jesus Christ to. We thank you for the nation of Israel and your hand of providence upon her. Thank you that out of her came the Messiah – Jesus Christ, your Son. Without whom no one could enter heaven or have eternal life. May you open your holy Word to us today so that we might worship you and know you deeper. Blessed be the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. Blessed be your name forever.

Amen.

The God of the universe has revealed Himself in the Holy Scriptures. Man is utterly dependent upon God’s self-revelation. Unlike the movie, 2010, A Space Odyssey, mankind will not discover God and His abode by space travel. Our Creator is not a finite or local deity. God is omnipresent. He is omnipotent. He is transcendent from His creation (He upholds creation at every point – He is not a part of it.)

God’s ultimate revelation of Himself to mankind is the incarnation and work of Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son (Hebrews 1). (Jesus Christ was tangible to human senses – 1 John 1:1-4.)

The majority of the O.T. consists of God’s revelation of Himself through the medium of redemptive history. God chose to give the knowledge of Himself through the nation He chose, the nation of Israel.

Let’s have a quick look at the nation that God chose and what has happened in her past, what is happening presently, and what will be occurring in the future.

Israel PAST

Key Events in Israel’s past:

COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM – I will make you a great nation (Genesis 12). Covenant between God & Abraham. And it was counted to him as righteousness (God’s grace).

EZEKIEL’S PROPHECY Chapter 17, Verse 11 gives the interpretation: “these bones are the whole house of Israel.” This was her condition for the past 2,000 years. She was
scattered to the ends of the earth, and it appeared that she was dead and finished. But God had other plans – there is always a remnant.

586 B.C. The First Temple was destroyed by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar as punishment for Israel’s sin.

63 B.C. The Roman armies conquered Jerusalem and Emperor Pompey rode his horse into the Jewish Temple

1866 Jews become a majority in Jerusalem for the first time in 1,200 years. Making Aliyah (returning to the Holy Land) – occurring since then. Thousands and thousands are returning to their spiritual homeland.

BACK IN THE LAND The Six-Day War 1967 Israel faced Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, with Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria contributing troops and arms.

BACK IN THE LAND • Israel faced 250,000 troops, 2,000 tanks, and 700 aircraft. America and France imposed an arms embargo on Israel, but the Soviet Union flooded the Arabs with war materiel.

THE HOLOCAUST – 6 million Jews exterminated by Hitler & the Nazis. More than half the World’s Jewish population decimated. No one really wanted the rest of them either! But God had a plan – the remnant.

EVIDENCE AT THE SHRINE OF THE BOOK - It contains scrolls found in caves near the Dead Sea. The roof is in the shape of the lid of the clay jars that protected the scrolls; the corridor leading into the museum resembles a cave.

EVIDENCE AT ISRAEL MUSEUM Items in ivory excavated from Ahab’s palace in Samaria. The Bible mentions Ahab’s ivory palace (1 Kings 22:39), and many fragments of carved ivory items have been found. Also found in the palace area was an opal signet ring containing the name Jezebel. Seal of Jezebel, Israel Museum

Inscription “To Herod King of the Jews” on a piece of pottery that was used to import wine.

PHYLACTERY God instructed the Jews to wear the Scripture on their foreheads (Deut. 6:8). This is called a phylactery (Matt. 23:5). Traditionally they contain four tiny scrolls inscribed with the following Scripture portions: Exodus 13:1-10; 11:16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21.
BLINDNESS Israel is blinded to the reality of their Messiah. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs says, “Even today, there is no regular study of the Bible itself in ultra-Orthodox yeshivas”

1948 Becoming a Nation

1967 – 6 day Arab/Israeli War to recapture the Holy City

Today – defence, technology, blessed by God.

Israel PRESENT

THE TEMPLE MOUNT – most fought over 35 acres of land on the whole planet.

2005 Sanhedrin re-established. On October 13, 2004, the Sanhedrin, the highest tribunal of the Jewish state and religion, was re-inaugurated by a group of rabbis in Tiberias after 1,600 years of absence. According to Jewish sources, last notice of the Sanhedrin dates around 425 A.D., also in the city of Tiberias. After that, it ceased to exist (Israel National News online edition, October 13, 2004).

An attempt to rebuild the Temple was made by the Jews with the approval of Emperor Julian the Apostate in the 4th century. The project came to a halt after natural catastrophes in Jerusalem made construction impossible. God’s message was understood, and no new attempt was made until today. It is common knowledge that a plan is underway at present time to rebuild the Temple. The only obstacles in way of executing the project are the two mosques that stand on the original Temple site.

Israel FUTURE

ISRAEL: PRESENT Conclusion: Israel’s present is evidence of the truth of God’s Word. She is back in the land but is spiritually blind. She hosts a false Christianity. And she is unwittingly preparing for the coming of the Antichrist.

THE VALLEY OF JEZREEL - where the Battles (campaigns) of Armageddon are foretold will take place.
IMMINENT The Third Temple will be built during the reign of Antichrist. “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” — Matthew 24:15-16 (ESV)

The abomination of desolation (Daniel 9:27) – when the Antichrist is present in Jerusalem and defiles the temple.

**Conclusion:**

Israel’s place in the future/Prophecy/Revelation – will be my subject for next week’s message. We will be going in deep about what Revelation says, and what Jesus says about the end times and what will occur, to the Church, but particularly to the nation of Israel. Israel is important in the prophetic fulfilment of the Scriptures.

We’ll talk about the Olivet Discourse. We will look at Romans 11 and all will be revealed. You will all be experts on Israel and end times. That’s next week.

**Let’s pray …**

*God of Israel and our Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word and how you have loved your nation Israel (your wife) and how you are waiting for your Bride the Church in these coming days. May we have our lamps trimmed and burning ready for your arrival. May you remind us that you are sovereign. May you remind us that you love us so deeply. Thank you for freeing us through the sacrifice of your only son Jesus. We desire His long-awaited arrival. Praise your glorious name. Give us patience and faithfulness and obedience as we serve and wait your return. In the glorious name of Jesus our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**Closing Song – Glorious Day**
EXTRA NOTES - Why the Messiah had to come before 70 AD:

Interestingly, we know that the Messiah HAD to come prior to the destruction of the second Temple in 70 AD. So why are the Jewish people still looking for their Messiah?

Let me explain why. In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) we read prophecies about the suffering, death and resurrection of Yeshua our Lord; the promised Messiah (Mashiah). In Daniel chapter 9 we read about important events that were predetermined in heaven for the benefit of the Jewish People;

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish transgression, to make an end of sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
Daniel 9:24 HSV

The angel Gabriel brought an important communique from heaven to Daniel, foretelling that sin would be atoned for in the future and that everlasting righteousness is available for those who have faith like Abraham. Gabriel prophesied that the Messiah would make an end of sin and finish transgression, and be put to death. Yeshua our Savior redeemed us from the debt of our sin with His own blood. The prophet Isaiah wrote extensively of the suffering and crucifixion of God’s Righteous Servant, Yeshua the promised Messiah in Isaiah chapter 53. Gabriel gives Daniel these significant points in Daniel chapter 9 verse 24;

- To finish transgression.
- To make an end of sin.
- To atone for iniquity.
- To bring in everlasting righteousness.
- To seal up the vision.
- To seal up prophecy.
- To anoint the most Holy.

Then Gabriel explained that a decree would be made to restore and rebuild Jerusalem;

Therefore know and understand that from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Yerushalayim) until the Messiah Prince there will be seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens’. The streets will be rebuilt, and the wall, despite treacherous times. Daniel 9:25 HSV

From the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah comes there will be a certain period of time. The period of time is given in weeks of years, similar to a decade only in seven year periods. There will be seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens’,
for a total of sixty-nine ‘sevens’. Sixty-nine ‘sevens’ or sixty-nine weeks of years is equal to 483 years. So after the decree is issued to restore and rebuild Jerusalem there will be 483 years and then the Messiah will come.

From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem on March 14, 445 BC by Artaxerxes Longimanus until Yeshua arrived and was presented in Jerusalem riding on a donkey as the Messianic King on April 6, 32 AD. This is celebrated by believers of Yeshua the Messiah on Palm Sunday. We discover that when we calculate 69 weeks of years (or 483 years and correct for leap years) it figures out to be 173,880 days to the day.

How is this possible, to announce the coming of the Anointed One, the Lord’s Messiah, the King of Zion; almost five centuries before the historical event transpires in precise detail? The Tanakh is an amazing collection of books, our awesome God orchestrated it. YHVH our Elohim is omniscient, the future is as clear to Him as the present and the past; He knows the beginning from the end.

After sixty-two ‘sevens’ the Messiah will be put to death, and will have nothing. The people of the prince that will come, will destroy the city and the temple. The end will come with a flood. War and desolation are determined until the end. Daniel 9:26 HSV

So after the sixty-two ‘sevens’ and the before mentioned seven ‘seven’s (483 years) the Messiah will be put to death. Then the people of a future prince will come and destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. YHVH Elohim sent Gabriel to tell His people that an Anointed Prince, who is the promised Messiah must come, atone for sin and be put to death before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish temple. The destruction of Jerusalem and the second temple occurred in 70 AD, during the siege of Jerusalem; when the Roman legions fought under Titus Vespasian and the Roman army leveled the city. The Siege of Jerusalem in the year 70 AD was the catastrophic and crucial event of the First Jewish-Roman War.

The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus and Tiberius Julius Alexander second-in-command, along with the enlisted soldier legionnaires in Judaea, conscripted provincial soldiers from Syria, other soldiers from Alexandria and in collaboration they besieged, destroyed and conquered the city of Jerusalem.

Josephus wrote that “Vespasian sent his son Titus [who], came by land into Syria, where he gathered together Roman forces, with a considerable number of auxiliaries from the kings in that neighborhood.” Josephus goes on to give us these details; “Malchus also, the king of Arabia, sent a thousand horseman, besides five thousand footmen, the greatest part of which were archers; so that the whole army, including the auxiliaries
sent by the kings, as well as horsemen and footmen, when all were united together, amounted to sixty thousand.”

Publius Cornelius Tacitus was a Roman senator and historian. He wrote extensively on the history, of this period of the Roman empire. Tacitus includes the Roman attack on Jerusalem and gives details of the specific legions and the peoples that comprised the attacking army: “Titus Caesar . . . found in Judaea three legions, the 5th, the 10th, and the 15th . . . To these he added the 12th from Syria, and some men belonging to the 18th and 3rd, who he had withdrawn from Alexandria. This force was accompanied . . . by a strong contingent of Arabs, who hated the Jews with the usual hatred of neighbors.”

The siege ended with the sacking of the city and the destruction of the Second Temple. The destruction of both the first and second temples is mourned each year at the Jewish fast Tisha B’Av. The Arch of Titus, celebrating the Roman sack of Jerusalem and the Temple, still stands in Rome. The Arch of Titus, was built in 82 AD by his younger brother Emperor Domitian to commemorate Emperor Titus’ victories, including in the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

The Jewish People Did Not Recognize the Visitation of the Messiah

Tragically, most of the Jewish people did not recognize the time of their visitation by Yeshua the Mäshiach, God’s promised Messianic King. As the Messiah King approached Jerusalem, He wept over the city and He gave the reason why the city of Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed as predicted by the angel Gabriel in Daniel 9:26;

41When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

42For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Luke 19:41-44 NASB

Both God’s envoy the angel Gabriel and Yeshua the Son of God, the promised Messiah prophesied the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. In the Bible we see both the severity of God’s judgment and the mercy and love of our Father who is in
heaven. Yeshua the Messiah explained God’s plan for our redemption and salvation, and how to receive eternal life.

14“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,

even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
15so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.
16“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
17“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world,
but that the world might be saved through Him.
18“He who believes in Him is not judged;
he who does not believe has been judged already,
because he has not believed
in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:14-18 NASB

In the fullness of times, Messiah did come and was presented as King in Jerusalem. In the Gospel of John we read how God blesses all those who believe in and receive His Son, Yeshua the promised Messiah.

11He came to His own,
and those who were His own did not receive Him.
12But as many as received Him,
to them He gave the right to become children of God,
even to those who believe in His name,
13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:11-13 NASB

In the book of Daniel 9:26 we read how God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel in response to his fasting, repentance and contrite prayer to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Gabriel told Daniel that the Messiah will come and be put to death before the destruction of the Jewish Temple and the city of Jerusalem. We know from history that the siege of Jerusalem by Emperor Titus happened in 70 AD; and this is when the temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed. So the Messiah had to come before 70 AD. Why then are so many Jewish people still looking for the coming of the Messiah?

Is it because they put more faith in the oral traditions of the Talmud taught to them by the rabbinic community; rather than the Word of God in the Scriptures?