Musing #71: Israel—Chosen

Israel is special! Israel was chosen before the foundation of the world, just as everyone in the body of Christ was chosen before time began. Today, the United States and more specifically, the Christian body of Christ, was also chosen from the beginning of time.

Since my Musings are personal notes that go only to close friends, this paper contains several inspiring insights taken from a recent book by Dr. David Jeremiah—*God's Heart For Israel.* I would encourage you to pick up the book since it is filled with insights that go well beyond the few I have quoted herein. I have put the quotes from his book in the blue bold text on the first two pages for appropriate credit.

There has been a noticable rise of antisemitism in our country in recent years and **the United Nations passes more resolutions about Israel than any other nation on earth.** It is clear that through all the hatred, **a people who constitute less than a quarter of a percent of humanity continue to stand at the center of human history.**

More space is allotted in Scripture to Israel and her relationship with God than any other subject. In the book of Genesis, two chapters are given to the creation of the whole world. Another chapter covers the record of the fall into sin. Eleven chapters span the entire history of the world from Creation to the time of Abraham. But 38 chapters deal with the founding fathers of the Jewish people. And, it was through the people of Israel that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, our very Savior, Lord, and Eternal Life were given.

Genesis 12:1-3 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

To this day, God's blessings have gone to those who bless Israel, and His curses have gone to those who curse Israel. It is also a fact that not only did Israel benefit from the laws given them by God, but those rules and the Ten Commandments are the very foundation of our country, and all the Western world, who look to those principals for better living, ethics, and direction. **Every book in the Bible, with the possible exception of Luke and Acts, was written by Jewish hands. When you hold your Bible, you're holding a Jewish book.**

I would also add that Scriptures like the following have established God's purpose through his promises, warnings, and potential for blessings from His Word to us. Israel's history and promises in a nutshell in Psalm 106, 146:10, Isaiah 43:6-7 and 10, 46:3-4, are just a few examples. In the New Testament, **Acts 2 tells us that the first three thousand converts** (to Christ) **were Jews.**

When we see headlines today of those who want to destroy Israel because they are back in their land, much of which was re-established in 1948, we must also be aware that there was much more land given them by God originally than they currently hold.

If Israel were currently governing all the territory God gave her in the Abrahamic Covenant, she would control land holdings in present-day Israel (including Gaza), Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. That promise is still waiting to be fulfilled. (See Genesis 17:7-8).

Today, the world's Jewish population is just under 16 million, with about 7 million of that total living in Israel and nearly 7 million live in America. Satan, of course, hates the Jewish people, and he hates all of Christianity because of Jesus. His battle goes on and is very active in the spiritual realm. Not only was Jesus born a Jew and was circumcised on the eighth day, but the very sign over the cross He hung on noted, "King of the Jews." From Pharaoh's order to kill all Jewish male children, to Herod's work to destroy Jesus, to the move in the Book of Esther to destroy all Jews, to the Roman's destruction and scattering of the Jewish people in A.D. 70, to Hitler's Third Reich's persecution and destruction of millions of Jews, to the attacks on Jews today in our cities and states—**history is replete with tyrants and movements that sought to destroy the Jewish people, but all inevitably failed.**

On the positive side of what Israel's people have meant to the world and in light of the fact that ¼ of 1% of the entire human population of the earth is Jewish, yet the tiny nation and people have given us incredible technical and general knowledge and gifts for the world at large. Consider just a few…

Science & Medicine
- Albert Einstein - space, time, energy
- Sigmunder Freud - psychoanalysis
- Milton Fredman - economist and educator
- Jonas Salk - polio vaccine
- Paul Ehrlich - immunology, chemotherapy

Literature and the Arts
- Leonard Bernstein - classical music
- Irving Berlin - popular song writer
- Felix Mendelssohn - wedding march
- Steven Spielberg - films

Technology
- Mark Zuckerberg - technology and finance
- Sam Altman - open AI
- Sergey Brin - Google co-creator

International
- Jared Kushner - international peace diplomat
- Josh Shapiro - state governor

And so many more!

The end of times is gradually coming upon us. All of the prophecy of the end times hinges on the nation of Israel. The city of Jerusalem is mentioned about eight hundred times in our Bible. The Biblical name for Jerusalem is Zion.

Psalm 132:13-14 For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his home. "This is my resting place forever," he said. "I will live here, for this is the home I desired."

The events that bring the "rapture"—the taking away of the Church which is the body of Christ and leads to the seven dreadful years of the Tribulation and Great Tribulation, and the reign of the AntiChrist. Satan will then be bound for the Millennium. After the thousand year reign of Christ on Earth, it is time for God's full judgement to be poured out on planet earth. The "Day of the Lord" will begin—the final reckoning of planet earth. Ray Stedman notes, **The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that the energy of the present universe is running down. There is a strong suggestion in these verses that the New Jerusalem is to be the capital city of the whole new universe.**

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

In the events that then follow there will be a new heaven and a new earth, no more sea, and all will become new.

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

Stedman explains why our present earth needs water. **Over 70 percent of the surface of our world is covered with salt water. Why does our planet need a covering of salt water? Answer: To cleanse and preserve our planet, making it fit to live in.**

The holy city—the new Jerusalem will come down from Heaven and it will have high walls with angels at each of the twelve gates.

It is interesting to note that the city will have high walls with twelve guarded gates. That speaks to the need to set and protect its borders to maintain its culture and laws. It also infers we will be going in and out of our home city to the new universe.

John continues—**21:2-4 I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."**

John MacArthur notes in his description of the area the holy city covers as written in Revelation 21:16-21… **The city would be over fourteen hundred miles cubed** (width, depth, and height) **or over two million square miles, offering plenty of room for the glorified saints.** (1,400 miles is roughtly the distance from Atlanta to Denver).

21:5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

Heaven will then be our home, in an entirely new dimension. History will end. Time is no more! And so it will be!

Amen, and Amen!