

God and Israel

Israel's Special Place

- God made a covenant with Abraham that promised that the descendants of Abraham would be a special people – Genesis 12:1-3
- Also attached to this promise is the Land of Canaan – Genesis 15:18-21
- That promise flowed through the line of Abraham to Isaac (Genesis 17:21) to Jacob (Genesis 25:21-28) to Jacob's sons (Genesis 49) whose families became the tribes of Israel.
- Israel was chosen to be a special people (Deuteronomy 7:6-8) as priests of God (Exodus 19:3-6) for all the nations.

God's Covenants with Israel

- Four Key Covenants God made with Israel.
 - **Abrahamic Covenant** – Genesis 12:1-3, and reiterated in 13:14-17, 15:1-21, 17:1-18
 - Summary: God would multiply and bless Abraham's descendants and through them the entire world would be blessed
 - **Palestinian Covenant** – Deuteronomy 30:1-10
 - Summary: Possession and blessing of the land of Canaan to Israel
 - **Davidic Covenant** – II Samuel 7:4-17
 - Summary: The house of David would rule over the kingdom of Israel.
 - **New Covenant** – Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Summary – Israel will be restored to God.
- We see the fulfilment of these promises at times in Israel's history, but there are elements yet unfulfilled.

Has God Forsaken Israel?

- There are some Christians that believe that God has finished his work with Israel, usually concluding that the Christian Church has replaced Israel in God's plan.
- Paul deals with this question in Romans 11 after discussing the universal Gospel message of salvation by grace through faith that most Israelites rejected.
 - First, not all Israelites had rejected God – Romans 11:1-10
 - Second, the Gentiles were "grafted in" because of their faith and Israelites rejected because of their lack of faith – Romans 11:11-24 Third, Israel is still promised a future restoration – 11:25-27, referencing Isaiah 5:20-21
- I believe that the very existence of Israel points to the fact that God is not finished with them yet.

- Note the many prophecies that center on Israel, the people or the land – Daniel 9:24-27 and Revelation 7:1-8 are examples that God has unfinished business with Israel.