

# Unbroken (Part 2): The Covenant God Never Canceled

SERMON SERIES

## 01. INTRODUCTION AND RECAP

Last week, we began a two part series, entitled Unbroken: The Covenant God Never Canceled. Today, we'll be continuing that journey.

We are pausing to consider a topic that really is central for any Christian, Church, or Pastor who takes The Bible and God's promises seriously... that topic is Israel.

Whether you realize it or not, when you pull the Israel thread, it touches every other thread in your worldview: history, theology, eschatology, politics, notions of justice, and more.

As disciples of Jesus and responsible interpreters of scripture, we can't leave our beliefs about Israel up to chance, unexamined and unchallenged. We must actively bring our thinking into collision with the council of God through scripture.

Last week, we defined Replacement Theology and described why we must challenge it.

## 02. MESSAGE

**Today, we're going to talk about why Christians must support Israel.**

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## 1. The People and the Land of Israel was Established by God.

**Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)** 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. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup>**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.”

**Genesis 15:18-21 (NLT)** “So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said, ‘**I have given this land to your descendants**, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.’”

**Deuteronomy 1:8 (NLT)** “Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants.”

After the flood, after the tower of Babel, he makes a covenant with one man, whose seed will create one nation, and that nation would be a blessing to every other nation of the world.

And within that blessing we see **“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt.”**

From Abraham God is going to create a new Nation through whom, God will bless all the rest.

## 2. The God We Serve is the God of Israel.

### Old Testament Examples:

We see it from Joshua:

**Joshua 7:13 (ESV)** Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the **Lord, God of Israel**, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

We see it all over the book of Judges:

**Judges 6:8 (ESV)** the Lord sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says the **Lord, the God of Israel**: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery.

We see it all over 1st and 2nd Samuel:

**1 Samuel 10:18 (ESV)** And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says **the Lord, the God of Israel**, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.'

We see it in the confirmation of the Davidic Dynasty:

**2 Chronicles 6:14-17 (ESV)** "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, <sup>15</sup>who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. <sup>16</sup>Now therefore, **O Lord, God of Israel**, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.'

<sup>17</sup>Now therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

We see it when Solomon Dedicated the Temple:

**1 Kings 8:22–26 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup>Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, <sup>23</sup>and he prayed, **“O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you** in all of heaven above or on the earth below. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. <sup>24</sup>You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father. You made that promise with your own mouth, and with your own hands you have fulfilled it today. <sup>25</sup>“And now, **O Lord, God of Israel**, carry out the additional promise you made to your servant David, my father. For you said to him, ‘If your descendants guard their behavior and faithfully follow me as you have done, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.’ <sup>26</sup>Now, **O God of Israel**, fulfill this promise to your servant David, my father.

When Elijah is in a confrontation with the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel – who does he cry out to?

**1 Kings 18:36–37 (ESV)** And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, **“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel**, let it be known this day that **you are God in Israel**, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”

Now, before you start thinking, that’s all Old Testament, isn’t it different now? Not really. Let’s close out the Old Testament examples with this one and then we’ll go to New Testament and see what we find there.

**Malachi 3:6 (ESV)** For **I the Lord do not change**; therefore you, O **children of Jacob, are not consumed**.

This scripture is one of the reasons we can know that the people of Israel will **never, fully or completely be destroyed**. Because the God of Israel does not change and has said that they will not be consumed.

To the Mullahs in Iran and to Hamas in Gaza and to the terrorist sympathizing United States political leaders... **I'm telling you right now, Israel will never be consumed, because the God who does not change has decreed it such!**

### What about the New Testament?

The first thing you have to know and always remember is that **you can't separate Jesus from the God of Israel**. All over the Gospels God is referred to as, "The God of Israel."

Even after Jesus came, we find the apostle Paul in Antioch saying this:

**Acts 13:16–19 (ESV)** So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup>**The God of this people Israel** chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. <sup>18</sup>And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, **he gave them their land as an inheritance**.

Woah! Even in the Church Age we find **Paul speaking** about the **God of Israel**, and the **land that he had given the people as an inheritance!**

Paul is saying- whether you like it or not, this **God of Jesus**, is the **same God of Israel**.

He's the one that:

- **chose the fathers** and
- he's the one who **brought them out of slavery** and
- he's the one that **gave them the land** as an **inheritance**.

**Paul** also makes sure to **let us know** that **God put up with them** in the desert, **even though they were not totally faithful**.

That's an important point because we have **a lot of people today that say:** "Israel is a secular country, a secular government, they aren't the people of God".

**If that were true, God would have abandoned them long ago.** But his promises are more about Himself than they are about Israel.

**God isn't a liar; he keeps his word.**

It's not just the name of God on the line here. It's the name of the messiah as well.

### 3. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah.

While we are talking about Jesus being the Jewish Messiah. We have to debunk something.

Jesus is not a Palestinian.

There is this **ridiculous idea** out there floated **by Jew haters** that **Jesus was a Palestinian refugee**.

First let's look at prophetically what was said about this Jewish Messiah:

**Genesis 49:10 (NLT)** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

**Isaiah 11:1-3 (NLT) Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.**

<sup>2</sup>And the **Spirit of the Lord** will rest on him— the **Spirit of wisdom** and understanding, the **Spirit of counsel** and might, the **Spirit of knowledge** and the **fear of the Lord**.

Here we see that the Messiah will come from David, and he will embody the "Seven Spirits of God". In other words, **the fullness of God will dwell in him.**

Now to the New Testament. Look at the events around the birth of Jesus.

**Luke 2:4, 21-22 (NLT)** And because Joseph was a **descendant of King David**, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.<sup>21</sup> **Eight days later**, when the baby was **circumcised**, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived. <sup>22</sup>Then it was **time for their purification offering**, as required by the **law of Moses** after the birth of a child; so his parents **took him to Jerusalem** to present him to the Lord.

Jesus was thoroughly Jewish. Born in the City of David, circumcised and purified according to the law of Moses, and then dedicated in the temple.

Then, when he was older:

**Luke 4:14-16 (NLT)** Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. <sup>15</sup>**He taught** regularly in their **synagogues** and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, **he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath** and stood up to read the Scriptures.

He preached in the synagogues on Sabbath... why? Because he was a Jew!

He would go on to quote from Isaiah 61, a prophecy about the Jewish Messiah and he would read it in First person about himself.

**Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, <sup>19</sup>and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

Fast forward to the book of Revelation, we read this from John's vision in heaven.

**Revelation 5:4-5 (NLT)** Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. <sup>5</sup>But one of the twenty- four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne**, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."

I showed you the prophecy about the **Jewish Messiah** from **Genesis** and **Isaiah**. In **Luke 4 Jesus** is saying "I am he".

And then in **John's revelation**, that as the **end of days unfold**, it is this **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, connecting to Genesis, this **heir to Davids's throne**, connecting to Isaiah – that has **won the victory** and is the **only one worthy** to open the scroll and the seven seals.

If for no other reason than this, **you cannot be a follower of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah** and **turn your back on the Jewish people** or the promises given to them by **the Lord God of Israel, who is your God!**



#### 4. Jesus is Coming Back to Israel.

Did you know when Jesus comes back. He's not coming to our hometown, not to Los Angeles, or Dallas, or Washington DC, or New York City, or Salt Lake City, and he's certainly not returning to Mecca.

The bible teaches us that **when Jesus, the Jewish Messiah returns he will physically put his feet down in Jerusalem.** Look at this!

#### **Zechariah 14:4a, 6-9 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup>On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.** <sup>6</sup>On that day the sources of light will no longer shine, <sup>7</sup>yet there will be continuous day ! Only the Lord knows how this could happen. There will be no normal day and night, for at evening time it will still be light. <sup>8</sup>On that day **life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem**, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, flowing continuously in both summer and winter. <sup>9</sup>**And the Lord will be king over all the earth.** On that day there will be one Lord—his name alone will be worshiped.

Not only is:

- The **one true God, the God of Israel**,
- not only did he **promise the land to his chosen people**, the Jews,
- not only did the **savior of all the world** come through the Jewish people as **a Jew himself**.
- But **when he comes** again, he is **coming back to Jerusalem**, to reign as **King of the whole earth**.

And you expect me to believe that that land, promised by God to his people, and the future throne of the Jesus you serve... shouldn't matter to Christians who are called by his name!?

## 03. CLOSING & PRAYER

I mentioned Romans 11 and the graphed olive branch earlier. But let me show you the rest of the story.

### 5. God Will Use the Church to Point Israel to the Messiah.

#### Romans 11: 12, 25-27 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup>Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it. <sup>25</sup>I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, "The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. <sup>27</sup>And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins."

In the end, **the faithfulness and support of Gentile Christians play a crucial role in the salvation of Israel.** Our future is their future, and their future is our future.

We must not shrink back, their people are our people, their God is our God, their salvation is our salvation, and our salvation is theirs. Salvation comes through Jesus alone. There is only one way, one truth, one life. But we play a part in the manifestation of that way, truth, and life.

May we never cease to follow our Jewish Savior and support the Jewish People

#### Let's Pray

Quotes from US Presidents may be of interest in this message. Here are a few.

"For I really wish the Jews again in Judea an independent nation. I believe ... once restored to an independent government & no longer persecuted they [the Jews] would soon wear away some of the asperities and peculiarities of their character & possibly in time become Christians for your Jehovah is our Jehovah & your God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is our God."

**John Adams, 1819**

"I believe in the rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation."

**John Quincy Adams, 1825**

"It is impossible for one who has studied at all the services of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity."

**Warren Harding, 1921**

"Israel is a light unto the world. The hearts and history of our people are woven together. The Land of Israel is an ancient home, a sacred place of worship, and a solemn promise to the Jewish people that we will never again repeat history's darkest hour."

**Donald Trump, 2018**