

BIBLE STUDY

LEARNING THE BIBLE WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO SUPPORT

SERMON SERIES

The foundation of all Truth and Knowledge

BIBLICAL PROPHECY DIVINE DESTINY OF AMERICA

Forward

The story of Ancient Israel is powerfully recorded and preserved for man in God's Holy Word. It is the history of God's Holy people, their sins, and the redemption of Israel from bondage beginning with ancient Egypt, through the times of the Judges, the Kings, and the Prophets. Israel was the descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and finally Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel. Israel had twelve

sons who eventually became the nation of Israel, consisting of the twelve separate tribes.

God's Word gives us an accurate history of the sins of Israel and their rebellion against God and His ways. Following the death of King Solomon, Israel was divided into two separate nations. To the north, the northern ten Tribes; to the south, the tribes of Judah, Levi, and Benjamin. These two nations became known as the House of Israel, and the House of Judah.

DIVINE PROVIDENCE OF THE ETERNAL

The Northern Ten Tribes (Israel), went into captivity in successive waves; the final captivity came in 721-718 BC. One hundred and thirty-one years later the Southern Tribes (Judah), went into captivity approximately 587 BC.

The Southern Nation established as Judah has always been in existence even unto this very day. But what happened to the tribes of the north? In particular the sons of Joseph - Ephraim and Manasseh; whom was pronounced to be the most powerful and wealthiest nation to ever exist?

Approximately 130 years after the fall of Israel, God sends the prophet Ezekiel to warn Israel that if they didn't repent of their sins they would go into captivity.

Why would God send a prophet to warn a nation to repent or they would go into captivity, one hundred and thirty years "after" they had already gone into captivity? Could that warning belong to a later, re-stabled Israel? A nation that is prophesied to "exist" just before the return of Jesus Christ?

This Bible Study goes into detail about who modern day Israel is, and why the warning message is for us today. The story of a later day Israel is even more compelling than the one of ancient Israel, because it is a story about us, the American people. Yet without the understanding of Ancient Israel, the truth would never be known. Take your time and cover each of the scriptures. You will be amazed at the secrets God has revealed to those called to understand this little understood end time warning and witness just before the return of Jesus Christ.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before you begin, we recommend you first view the DVD in its entirety. These sermons / studies are terrific for sermon messages for Sabbath Services. They are also the perfect way to lead into a group Bible Study. If you prefer, you can view them privately or with your family for your own personal studies. Once you have viewed the DVD, test your knowledge by answering all the questions in the accompanying materials. Be sure to read all the scriptures quoted in the materials or on the DVD. This way you won't be taking our word for it, you will be proving God's Word for yourself. Finally, view the DVD again with the questions and answers in hand; pausing the DVD from time to time finding all the answers to complete your study.

Whether you use this study personally or with a group, God's Holy Spirit will lead you into truth and understanding that will open your mind to a greater and deeper understanding. Each study you complete will enrich your life as only God can do. May God bless you as you learn more of His Way and His Holy Word. Finally, as with all things, we recommend you begin your study with prayer, asking God to open your mind to understand His Way and guide your every step.

The Church of God, Ministries International

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THE BIBLE STUDY SERMON SERIES

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This material has been paid for by others called out by God Almighty to proclaim the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God, and the return of Jesus Christ as the ruling King.

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Divine Destiny of America

To understand the ascent of America's greatness, you need to begin by understanding a promise made to the ancient patriot Abraham. It is found in Gen 12:1-3 "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

The key to understanding Biblical prophecy is by the understanding of who the nations are today as referred to in Scripture. Notice the very specific wording in Gen. 12:3 "... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." There is no mistaking, that this means "all families." If we are to understand what this means, we must follow the lineage of Abraham through his sons, Isaac, and Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel.

Therefore if we are to understand prophecy today, we must follow the blessings promised through his descendants.

Note: In the Bible Study DVD you will find maps of Abraham's journeys. It shows the time beginning when God spoke to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3, until Abraham settled later. Notice the countries that Abraham had to travel through to get to the land where he settled.

God's Covenant Passed on to Abraham's Descendants

1. Does God pass on the promises to Abraham's son Isaac? Gen 26:3-5
2. Were the promises later passed on to Isaac's son Jacob also? Gen 36:9-12

We can see that God passed on His covenant to Abraham's descendants Isaac and Jacob.

3. But where does the name Israel come from? Gen 32:24-28, Gen. 35:9-12

FINDING THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Each question is designed to let the Bible answer the question for you. Be sure to read each scripture and let the Bible give you the answers to interpret itself.

Comment: Following the night when Jacob wrestled with God, his name was changed to Israel, which means "he who prevails with God."

4. What did God prophesy would come from Jacob? Gen 35:11-12

Comment: We see that the promises become more specific here. We will be able to trace nations, and a company of nations, as well as kings as descendants of Jacob.

Covenant Passed on to Joseph, Jacob's Descendants

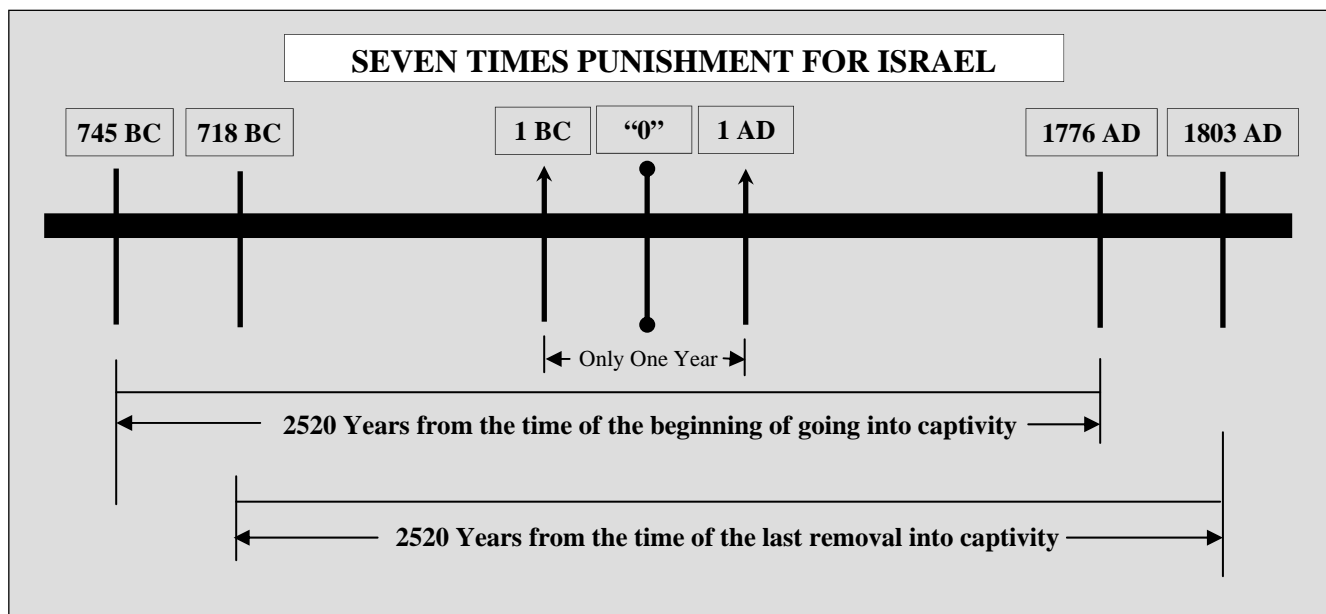
Jacob had twelve sons. Of them you will find the lineage of the original twelve tribes of Israel. In the Bible Study DVD, you will find maps showing the 12 tribes and their locations as given by instruction to Moses.

1. Were the blessings passed on to Joseph? Gen 49:22-26
2. Was the covenant also passed on to Joseph and his sons? Gen 48:11-16

You see as you study the lineage of the descendants of Abrahams, that the covenant was confirmed to each of the generations. Later God reconfirms the covenant, and the promises of blessings to Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

3. Does God reconfirm the promises, and the blessings at a later time? Deut. 33:13-17

These blessings were never fully realized in the Old Testament. The fulfillment would not come until a later time. A time when a Modern Day Israel would become the greatest, wealthiest, and most powerful nation that ever was. When you consider Israel of the Middle East, you can see immediately that the promises cannot be realized from that nation. Therefore there must be more than what may appear as an obvious Israel.



The Name of Israel Passed on to Joseph

When you look at the maps on the DVD, you find that the land distribution is different from the original twelve tribes. You see that there isn't any land given to Levi or to Joseph. Levi was to be the Priesthood and would not be given any land heritage. You find this in Josh 13-14.

Joseph's blessings and land was passed onto his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. This is the double portion God promised. They were given two parcels of land. (You find this in the maps on the DVD's.)

1. What were the blessings upon Joseph? Gen 48:1-4
2. Was the name of Israel also passed on to Joseph's Sons? Gen 48:11-16

At the time of the end, just before the return of Jesus Christ, we should be able to find a nation that exemplifies the promises of God and will be of the lineage of Abraham.

The Punishment of Israel

As surprising as it may seem, the promise of blessings, and our ability to understand who the United States is in prophecy, comes from our understanding of the punishment that would come upon Israel for their sins.

1. Did God prophesy that Israel would go into captivity? Gen 15:12-14

God told Abraham that Israel would go into captivity, in their fourth generation. God also said He would bring them out with a high hand and give them the Promised Land. We know that prophecy is dual. Heb. 11 tells us that all of these died in faith never having received the promises. Therefore the promises are for a latter day Israel.

2. What did God warn would happen to Israel if they continued to sin? Lev. 26:18

Understanding What the Term "Times" and "Seven Times Punishment" means in the Bible

The Bible gives us some very specifics as to what it means as a time. It also gives us some powerful information of calculating days and years. Lets look at days and years first.

1. Does the Bible give us time frames for days and years? Ezk 4:5-6, Num 14:33-34

2. What is the Biblical understanding in prophecy for the word times? Rev 12:14, Rev. 12:6, Rev. 13:5

Comment: All Bible scholars agree that these three scriptures are referring to "The 3 ½ year Tribulation." Notice how God reconfirmed this in three different ways.

1. Time, times, and a half time
2. Twelve hundred and sixty days
3. Forty two months

We now have two very important points to work with. The first showing that God interacts punishment as a day for a year, and second that the Bible term of "time" means one year. From this we can calculate the seven times punishment to come upon Israel and when those seven times would be complete.

Israel's Captivity

We know from history that Israel went into captivity in successive wave over a number of years. The final wave of captivity came in 718 BC.

1. When did the beginning of the captivity start? II King 15:29

History records that this event took place in 745 BC. These two dates pinpoint the precise time of Israel's captivity, and will give us precisely when the seven times punishment would be complete.

God's calendar year has 360 days. (Some years have a thirteenth month) Using the Biblical understanding of a time as a year, we simply multiply seven years by 360 days. You

