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Jesus Christ - Living in Israel Doing the Work of God



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #298 ~

To truly know where things are headed in this world, you must understand God's purpose and plans for Israel. It started about 4,000 years ago when God promised to Abraham and his descendants that they were to be His people, that He would give them a special piece of land, and that He would greatly and eternally bless them. Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-16, 17:1-8

It was around 1845 BC when Israel was born in the nation of Egypt. She grew to be about 2,000,000 people, and then in 1445 BC, Moses miraculously led her out of Egypt. And 40 years later, Joshua led her into the promised land. For about 800 years, she lived in this good land, but God drove her out because of all her sins. In 538 BC, exactly 70 years after she was exiled, God sovereignly brought a Jewish remnant

back to Israel. Indeed, God kept His promise to His people – *"When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place,"* Jeremiah 29:10-14

What was the main reason God brought some Israelites back to their land? Because He wanted His Son to save people from their sins. And for that to happen, His Son, Jesus, needed to be the Son of man, a descendant of Jewish people, and be born in this land of Israel. For the next 500+ years, God was getting everyone and everything in place, and it all went according to His plans. *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His inheritance."* Psalm 33:10-12

The 2000-year history of the Israelites was culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ, of God's Son to earth. And Jesus came to the land of Israel, not to Persia, Magog, Edom, Italy, Greece, Assyria, Egypt, Ethiopia, or any other place. It was in Israel that God would accomplish His most important work, the suffering, death, and resurrection of His own Son, so as to save souls from sin, death, and hell. Matthew 26-28; Romans 3:23, 6:23

Finally, *"when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman"* (Gal. 4:4). The Son of God was born of a woman and, thus, was also the Son of man, and He had to be God and Man to fulfill His most important work. The last 3 years of Jesus' 33-year life were the most critical, for He was completely focused on the people and carrying out God's work. *"I brought You glory by completing the work You gave Me to do."* John 17:1-4

During those last few years of His earthly life, Jesus was crisscrossing the land of Israel, going from villages to cities, to places like Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana, Bethany, Jericho, Bethsaida, Bethesda, Chorazin, and Jerusalem. Jesus dearly loved the people; He was always gentle, patient,

and kind; He worked extremely hard; He healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead; He was continually teaching the truth; He was devoted to training disciples; and He *“would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”* Luke 5:16

Jesus was also fulfilling prophecy, predictions about His life when He was in the land of Israel, ones God had made 100’s of years earlier. Mic. 5:2 said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Is. 9:1-2 told us He would be a great light in the land of Galilee. Is. 35:5-6 spoke of miracles being performed in Israel, which Jesus did. Zech. 9:9 predicted that that this Messiah would come to Jerusalem riding on a donkey. These prophecies and many others came true, confirming Jesus’ identity, and the plans God had for His Son. Matthew 1:18-2:6

By all He said and did, Jesus proved that He was God in the flesh. Jesus made it clear that He was and is the greatest man ever, not just in Israel, but in all the world. Yet, for loving people and sharing the truth, He was mocked, slandered, beaten, flogged, and killed. In all this, Jesus wasn’t thinking about Himself but others – He was humbly, willingly, and lovingly sacrificing His life for the lives of others. Philippians 2:1, 5-8

It was just outside the city of Jerusalem where Jesus Christ, a perfect man, died on a cross to pay for the sins of all those who would repent and believe in Him. Shortly after He died, He was buried, and three days later He was raised from the dead, proof that He had gained the victory over man’s sin by satisfying God’s demands for justice. Rom. 3:21-26, 4:24-25, 5:6-11, 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He lifted off from Israel and went to heaven to be with His Father. His work to save people’s souls was completely finished. Ten days after His ascension, Jesus, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, began building the church. (Matt. 16:18, Eph. 2:19-22). It’s now close to 2000 years later, and Jesus is still in heaven

and the church is still growing. But is He returning to earth and to Israel? Yes, He is! Jesus kept telling us He would come back, and He will definitely keep His word! Matt. 24:27, 30-31, 37-42; John 14:1-3; Rev. 22:12

Why is Jesus Christ coming back? He's coming back to rapture the church, those on earth at the end of this age, and take them to Himself and then home to heaven. *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also"* (John 14:3). *"He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to another"* Matthew 24:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

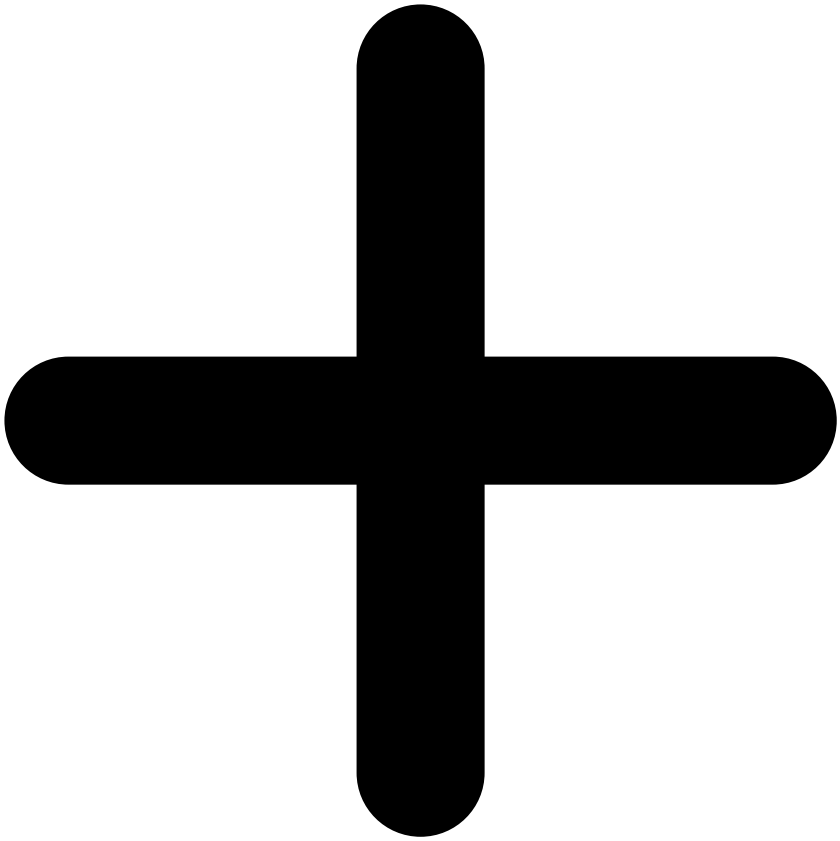
Jesus is coming back to judge an unbelieving world, those on earth after the church is raptured. *"The Lord will go forth and fight against those nations*" (Zech. 14:3). *"I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, He judges and wages war... From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations... and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty."* Revelation 19:11-21

Jesus is coming back to Israel so as to reign over her and the entire earth. "*... In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem... the Lord will be King over the whole earth"* (Zech. 9:4, 9). *"Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth."* Psalm 67:4. Psalm 2:7-9, Psalm 47:2-4, Matthew 19:28

What a great time to be alive! Now we can look back over the last 4000+ years and see all that God has done with the nation of Israel and with the church. And now we live in the end-times, the final years before Christ returns to rapture the church, judge the world, and begin reigning over this earth. Be excited and rejoicing! Be worshiping Christ,

working for Him, and waiting for His coming! *“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; may Your glory be over all the earth.”* Psalm 57:11

P.S. Jesus Christ came to the land of Israel, the land where He would do the work to save us from our sins, and the land He will return to in the near future. The following post will help you see the importance of the land of Israel in the past, present, and future – *“God Promised ‘The Land’ to Israel.”*



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