

Israel
And The Rapture
Genesis 12:1-3

Israel is a nation around 9,000 square miles. About the size of New Hampshire. And is surrounded by some 5 million square mile area of Arab nations that want to see its destruction. In 1948 Her status as a legally reformed nation has resulted in a constant state of attacks. Thousands of Israelis have been killed by Palestinians and thousands of Palestinians have died as a result of Israel's response to the terror attacks. Israel has never been the aggressor in the Arab-Israel conflict. Israel has been willing to find a solution and even making concessions to the Palestinians, but her offers are always because they want Israel to cease to exist.

1) An _____ Covenant

- a) Listen God says "I Will" _____ times in Genesis 12:1-3
- b) God will later confirm the unconditional nature of this covenant in a unique ceremony in Genesis 15
- c) This was not an agreement between equals, this was God promising to do something for Abraham and his descendants

2) A _____ Covenant

- a) When God made the promise to Abraham, He made the statements personal
- b) God uses the personal pronouns "you" and "your" _____ times in verses 1-3
- c) Abraham was revered in his own day as a powerful leader and the personal promise of the land to Abraham's descendants through Isaac and Jacob was never rescinded and still remains in force today

3) A _____ Covenant

- a) Part of the promise to Abraham was that God would make a great nation from his descendants in verse 2
- b) In spite of the millions of Jews who have been killed through the centuries, the Jews are indeed a great nation
- c) Although it is minute in size, and only a sliver of Mediterranean coastline, Israel has withstood continuing Arab onslaught, wars, boycott and terrorism. It has turned itself from a poor, rural country, to an industrial and post-industrial powerhouse...it has reduced social, educational and health gaps between Arabs and Jews and some of its achievements are unprecedented

4) A _____ Covenant

- a) In verse 1 God promised a homeland to Abraham
- b) Abraham was promised a huge grant of land—all of modern Israel, Lebanon, the West Bank of Jordan and large parts of Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia
- c) This land in this promise is the most important block of real estate in the world
- d) As such, it will be the most hotly contested land in the world until Christ returns
- e) Israel has been removed from the land three times
 - i) 1—When _____ people travel to Egypt
 - ii) 2—During the _____ and _____ captivities
 - iii) 3—The _____ after AD 70
- f) Other places give this promise to the people: Jeremiah 32:37, 41; Ezekiel 11:17, 20:42, 34:13, 37:2-25, 39:28; Amos 9:14-15
- g) This is a promise that we should take at face value
- h) Israel regaining the central part of her homeland in 1948 is a sign for all who know biblical prophecy
- i) It is an indication that we are moving into the period to the Second Coming of Israel's King

5) A _____ Covenant

- a) God promised to protect and bless Abraham and also bless those who bless Abraham and his descendants
- b) It is very simple: nations that bless Israel will be blessed and nations that curse Israel will be cursed
- c) In ancient times, powerful nations like Egypt, Midian, Moab, Babylon, and Greece were ruined by raising their hand against Israel
- d) In the modern era, Communist Russia was dissolved and Nazi Germany was crushed
- e) The most foolish thing any modern nation could do is to stand against Israel in its foreign policy

6) A _____ Covenant

- a) We have to understand that the promise to Abraham was not to exclude but to include
- b) Abraham's descendants would be the rich repository of the knowledge of God that all humanity needs
- c) For example, almost all of the writers of the Bible were Jewish

- d) _____ was a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- e) The land of Israel and city of Jerusalem exist because of the promises to Abraham being fulfilled through his descendants

7) An _____ Covenant

- a) God's promise to Abraham came in three stages:
 - i) _____ in Genesis 12:1-3
 - ii) _____ in Genesis 15:1-21
 - iii) _____ in Genesis 17:1-18
- b) We even see that in in Ezekiel 37, when the vision of the dry bones come back to life and reunited to inherit the blessing of Abraham's covenant
- c) That is what we are seeing today
- d) But rebuilding the "bones" of the nation is not enough
- e) Israel has not been made totally spiritually alive yet
- f) But Ezekiel say the breath of God coming into the resurrected physical bodies (Ezek. 37:8-10) and that will happen (Zech. 12:10, Romans 11:27-28)
- g) Two prophecies are yet to be fulfilled: Israel needs to inhabit all the land promised to her, and she needs to turn to her Messiah
- h) But all those will be fulfilled in God's time
- i) Israel is indeed a sign to the world that God keeps His promises and the end of the age is approaching