

Briefing Document-Israel's Position in the Tribulation – Lesson 1

September 28, 2025

Executive Summary

This document synthesizes the core arguments from a theological lesson on the role of the nation of Israel during the prophesied seven-year Tribulation period.

- **Central Thesis:** The Tribulation is a time of judgment focused almost exclusively on Israel, following the removal of the Christian Church from the world in the Rapture.
- **Hermeneutic Approach:** Literal biblical interpretation is emphasized, directly refuting Replacement Theology (the view that the Church has superseded Israel in God's plan).
- **Key Point:** References to "Israel" during the Tribulation mean the literal, ethnic, and national entity. Spiritualizing or redefining "Israel" as the Church is presented as undermining the character of God, since it portrays Him as breaking unconditional promises.
- **Theological Anchor:** The Abrahamic Covenant—an everlasting, unconditional divine promise—remains unfulfilled in its entirety, especially the land grant from the Nile to the Euphrates. This anchors Israel's central role in the Tribulation and beyond.

Foundational Premise: The Church's Absence and Israel's Centrality

The lesson presents a clear sequence for end-times events:

- **Pre-Tribulation Rapture:** Christ appears to "catch up" the Church, removing it from the world before judgment begins.
- **Shift in Focus:** With the Church removed and rewarded in heaven, God's focus returns to Israel.

Defining the Tribulation

- **A Seven-Year Period:** Divided into two halves (3.5 years each), with the latter called the "Great Tribulation."
- **A Time of Judgment:** God's wrath is poured out on the world.
- **Israel-Centric:** Jeremiah 30:7 ("the time of Jacob's trouble") identifies this period as Israel's time of suffering and testing.

Scriptural Basis for Israel's Role in the Tribulation

Scripture Reference

Description of Israel's Role

Deuteronomy 4:29–30

Prophesies a future time of "distress" in the latter days when Israel will return to God.

Daniel 9:27

Describes a covenant involving Israel that initiates the "70th week," understood as the Tribulation.

Matthew 24	Jesus' Olivet Discourse gives signs and events of the Tribulation as they pertain to Israel.
Revelation 7:4	Details the sealing of 144,000 from the tribes of Israel, who preach the gospel.
Revelation 11:8–13	Jerusalem is the Antichrist's center; the two witnesses are killed there, and an earthquake kills 7,000 leaders.
Revelation 12:13–14	Israel is symbolized as the woman persecuted by the dragon (Satan), yet protected by God in the wilderness.

Rejection of Replacement Theology

Replacement Theology (Supersessionism) claims the Church has permanently replaced Israel. The lesson refutes this as follows:

- Denial of Inspiration: Some dismiss prophecies concerning Israel's future.
- Spiritualizing the Text: Literal references to Israel are reinterpreted symbolically. Example: Jehovah's Witnesses once claimed the 144,000 were from their denomination.
- Redefining "Israel": Teaching that "Israel" after the crucifixion refers to the Church.

Counter-Argument: Such views "destroy the character of God" by making Him appear unfaithful. If God nullified unconditional promises to Israel, His reliability in all promises would be called into question.

The Spiritual vs. Physical Seed of Abraham

- Spiritual Seed: Christians are Abraham's children by faith through union with Christ.
- Physical Seed: Jews are the physical descendants, possessing what is called "Abrahamic DNA."

Believers inherit spiritual blessings, but this does not invalidate the land covenant reserved for Abraham's physical descendants.

The Abrahamic Covenant: God's Unconditional Promise

Outlined in Genesis 12, 13, 15, and 17, this covenant is unconditional, everlasting, and divine.

Covenant Feature	Description
Personal Promises	Abraham's name will be great; he will be personally blessed.
National Promises	A great nation will arise from his descendants, including kings.
Geopolitical Stance	"I will bless those who bless you, and curse him who curses you."

Universal Blessing	“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
Land Grant	Everlasting possession of Canaan.
Divine Relationship	God will be the God of Abraham’s descendants forever.

The Land Covenant and Geopolitical Implications

Genesis 15:18 defines the land promise as extending from Egypt’s river to the Euphrates. This encompasses:

- Israel, Gaza Strip, parts of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan.

Modern Application:

- International support (over 140 nations) for a two-state solution is framed as opposing God’s declared will.
- The speaker stated: “If your nation supports the two-nation settlement in Palestine, you have to just take your Bible and throw it away.”

The Unconditional Nature of the Covenant

- God swore by Himself when making this covenant (Genesis 22).
- This makes it an unbreakable, self-binding commitment.
- Since Israel does not yet possess the full land grant, fulfillment must be future.
- This requires Israel’s presence after the Tribulation.

Outline of Future Study Topics

This is the first lesson in a six-part series:

1. The Covenants with Israel
2. The Collecting of Israel
3. The Chastisement of Israel
4. The Comfort of Israel
5. The Conversion of Israel
6. The Commission of Israel

Greek Words

No Greek terms were used in this lesson.