

Briefing Document: Israel's Position in the Tribulation

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Executive Summary

This document synthesizes the core arguments and scriptural evidence presented in the lesson “Israel’s Position in the Tribulation.” The central thesis is that God’s covenants with the nation of Israel are unconditional and unbreakable, ensuring Israel a pivotal and distinct role in end-times prophecy that has not been superseded by the Church.

The analysis concludes that Israel’s presence in its land during the Tribulation is mandated by two foundational covenants: a divine covenant originating with Abraham that guarantees national restoration, and a satanic covenant with the Antichrist that initiates the seven-year period. The Tribulation is portrayed as a period specifically designed to deal with and ultimately restore Israel. The first half is marked by a false peace treaty, which the Antichrist will break after three and a half years. This act, called the Abomination of Desolation, triggers the Great Tribulation—a time of unprecedented persecution against the Jewish people, also known as “the time of Jacob’s trouble.” A correct understanding of Israel’s prophetic future is presented as essential for a literal and accurate interpretation of the Bible and of God’s unchanging nature.

1. The Divine Covenant: God’s Unbreakable Promises to Israel

The Unconditional Abrahamic Covenant

The covenant established with Abraham is the cornerstone of Israel’s prophetic future.

- The Promise: Genesis 22:16–18 — God swears by Himself to bless Abraham, multiply his descendants, and bless all nations of the earth through his seed.
- The Unconditional Nature: God made a promise with Himself to keep His covenant with Israel. “He’s sworn by Himself. Therefore, nothing can violate that promise.” Abraham’s obedience confirmed the unconditional character of this covenant.

God’s Unchanging Character

God’s immutability ensures His promises to Israel remain intact.

- Romans 3:4: “Let God be true but every man a liar.”
- James 1:17: God is the “Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- Psalm 89:34–35: “My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.”

The New Covenant and National Restoration

Prophecy points to a future restoration and full forgiveness for Israel.

- Jeremiah 31:31–34 — God promises a “new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,” writing His law on their hearts and forgiving their iniquity. This is interpreted as the future salvation of Israel that will occur in the coming Kingdom.
- Rebuilding and Re-grafting: Jeremiah 31:28 parallels Romans 11, where Israel’s “natural branches” are grafted back into the root of blessing.

2. The Tribulation: Israel’s Necessary Path to the Kingdom

Israel must pass through the Tribulation before entering the Kingdom. The period centers on Israel’s purification and restoration.

Scriptural Mandates for Israel’s Presence

- Matthew 24:34 — “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” The Greek term γενεά (geneá) is explained to mean “race” or “nation,” interpreted as “this race—Israel—will not pass away until all these things occur.”
- The Abomination of Desolation — This event occurs in the Temple in Israel, presupposing Israel’s national presence in the land. Israel will again be the center of global attention.
- Instructions to Judea — Matthew 24:16 — “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” This is directed specifically to Jews living in Israel during the Tribulation.

Israel’s Unique Preservation

- Numbers 23:9 — “A people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations.”
- An Enduring Nation — Israel’s survival is likened to Jonah: “They get swallowed up a lot, but they never get digested—they keep coming back.”
- The Davidic Covenant — Luke 1:31–33 — “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus... and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.”

3. The Satanic Covenant: The Tribulation’s Initiating Treaty

A second, satanic covenant necessitates Israel’s presence in the land—an agreement made between Israel and the Antichrist.

The Seven-Year Treaty

- Daniel 9:27 — “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.” This “week” represents seven years.
- Israel’s Involvement — Israel’s participation means they will be physically present in the land throughout the Tribulation.
- Antichrist’s Motives — The treaty is a political maneuver by the Antichrist, who hates Israel, hates Christ, and hates God. His goals include gaining control over Israel’s wealth, establishing Jerusalem as the center of global power, and permitting religious worship on the Temple Mount temporarily.

The Abomination and the Great Tribulation

- Midpoint Betrayal (Daniel 9:27) — “In the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.” The Antichrist breaks the covenant, ends the sacrifices, and desecrates the Temple, initiating the Great Tribulation.
- Abomination of Desolation — 2 Thessalonians 2:4 — He “opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God... so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”
- Global Worship Enforced — Revelation 13:12; Revelation 13:8 — The False Prophet causes the world to worship the beast, and all who dwell on the earth will worship him.
- The Time of Jacob’s Trouble — Daniel 7:25 — “He shall persecute the saints of the Most High... and they shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”

4. Addendum: The Exclusion of the Tribe of Dan in Revelation

Theory for Exclusion	Description
Deep Idolatry	The tribe of Dan fell into severe idolatry. The city of Dan, along with Bethel, became centers of corrupt worship in the northern kingdom.
Origin of the Antichrist	A speculative theory suggests the Antichrist may come from the tribe of Dan, based on Deuteronomy 33:22 and Jeremiah 8:16.
National Assimilation	The tribe of Dan may have lost its national identity after assimilation into Phoenicia during Solomon’s reign.

Greek Words

Greek Term	Transliteration	Phonetic	Meaning
γενεά	geneá	ghen-eh-AH	Generation; in context, race or nation—used in Matthew 24:34 to refer to the Jewish people.