

# Israel: a Chosen People

## Outline

Paul, apostle, imprisoned preacher of the gospel declared! "For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain".

- Why did he choose Israel for his hope?
- Why did so many in later centuries choose Israel as the object of their personal and national hatred - anti-Semitic hatred?
- Why have so many Jews returned to the State of Israel, choosing it as their home?

We will explore these questions and offer Biblical responses.

## Background

*God remembers Israel*

Ex 2:23-25

23 Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

*God chooses Israel*

Ex 19:4-8

4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." 7 So Moses.. called for the elders..., and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. 8

Then all the people answered together, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

### *God Blesses Israel*

People of Israel delivered from Egypt

Joshua takes them into the land of Canaan

God chooses David and his sons to be Israel's kings

Kingdom of Israel worships God from Jerusalem until time of Jesus and Paul

### *God Warns Israel*

Luke 21:20-24

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near... these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Mark 13:1-2

Then as He (Jesus) went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

## **Paul's Declaration**

- Why did he choose Israel for his hope?

### *Bound for the Hope of Israel*

Acts 28:17-20

17 And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews (in Rome) together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, 18 who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. 19 But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation. 20 For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, **because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**"

*Hope = expectation of good; something waited for*

*Knowing Jesus warning, how could still Paul hope?*

*The Apostles knew Jesus words and still hoped!*

Acts 1:4-8

4 And being assembled together with them (the apostles), He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... they asked Him, saying, **"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"** 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own power.

*Their hope fuelled by the Angel Gabriel who spoke to Mary*

Luke 1:29-35

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.** 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the **Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** 33 **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

Paul knew this promise and believed good things about Israel's future

Paul chose the hope of Israel and died before he saw the good promises happen

## After Paul's generation

- Why did so many in later centuries choose Israel as the object of their personal and national hatred - anti-Semitic hatred?

*So many did hate the Jews – let's review some of the atrocities*

*Why did these things happen?*

Deut 28:15-16

15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

16 "Cursed shall you be... "

64 "Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other.... 65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you heart, a trembling failing eyes, and anguish of soul. 66 Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. 67 In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

*How terribly all this was fulfilled!*

*(Open "Anti Semitism File")*

## Now in our Time

- Why have so many Jews returned to the State of Israel, choosing it as their home?

*Paul's hope came from the ancient prophets*

Jer 33:25-26

25 "Thus says the Lord: 'If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, 26 then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.'

*Israel has become a nation, prominent in the twenty-first Century!*

*Consider this message from the State of Israel ([Open YouTube Video](#))*

*Can we join Paul in choosing Israel and believing in its future?*

Jer 31:31-34

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers ... which they broke... 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

*Paul knew Israel's future would be good for all nations!*

Mic 4:1-3

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days...

2 Many nations shall come and say,

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

To the house of the God of Jacob;

He will teach us His ways,

And we shall walk in His paths."

For out of Zion the law shall go forth,

And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He shall judge between many peoples,

And rebuke strong nations afar off;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

Neither shall they learn war anymore.

*Let us all join Paul in the "hope of Israel", a chosen people.*