

One Story One King

Week Twelve: 3-15-2026

## What is Israel: Understanding the Nation's Identity[1]

### The Unifying Story

There is a central idea— **"One Story"**—that runs through the pages of Scripture. God used **"One King,"** the Lord Jesus, to redeem, rescue, and restore creation and humanity so that his kingdom might return to earth and man might rule and reign with him forever.

### Book Overview – Judges

#### *The Big Idea*

*The book of Judges explores humanity's tendency to trust themselves over God and do what is right in their own eyes. This habit highlights humanity's need for God's grace and a future king who will rescue people from their self-centeredness.*

#### *Summary*

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel begin a downward spiral. The book of Judges highlights six judges and their increasing corruption during this time. The central verse that summarizes this says, "In those days Israel had no king, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

#### *Book Outline*

- . Judges 1-2: Israel's Moral Compromise in the Promised Land
- . Judges 3-16: Israel's Six Judges, Including Gideon and Samson
- . Judges 17-21: Israel Descends Into Self-Destruction

### Session Theme – Israel

## ***God's Chosen People***

- Part of God's covenant with Abraham is that he would make him into a great nation.
- Our planet is made up of many nations, ethnic groups, religions, philosophies etc. Why do you think we have different nations on our planet?
- How is the nation of Israel different from other nations?

## ***The People***

- The people of Israel are first and foremost a group of people who share the same lineage starting with Abraham.
- God is the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This is a way for the Israelites to trace their lineage. Abraham had many sons, Isaac had many sons but Jacob was the one God chose to establish his nation through. God made sure His nation would come from the seed of faith.
- Jesus ethnically comes from the people of Israel. Making Israel essential to God's plan of redemption for the world.
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## ***The Nation***

- After the Exodus the people of Israel became the Nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai. It is here that they receive the laws and customs they are to adhere to as a nation.
- The Mosaic Covenant governed the religious, social and legal life of the Nation of Israel. (Exodus 19-24)
- Most nations rise and fall based on their policies and political climate, but Israel went up and down based solely on their obedience to GOD and obeying the covenant between them and GOD.

## ***The Land***

- God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12 includes the land that he would show him. In Genesis 15:18 God gives the full details on this land.
- Every nation has its own homeland and we dedicate time, money and power to protecting them.
- Israel's land is an everlasting inheritance given to them by God, but their ability to occupy and stay in it is based on their obedience to Him.
- It is important to note that even when the people aren't occupying it, it's still the land God promised to them but it's up to God when they will be restored to it.
- As God restores earth and humanity to its perfect state the land of Israel will serve as GOD's headquarters on earth, for all eternity.

## **How Should the Church Think about Israel Today?**

- Part of growing as a disciple of Christ is learning to hate what he hates and to love what God loves. God loves his people even when they mess up ,and their sin doesn't stop His promises or love for them. Romans 11 is essential to this understanding.
- We should be grateful for Israel and be praying for a great awakening amongst the Israelites.
- In the same way that GOD is going to restore the earth that was messed up by Adams, sin, He's going to do the same thing with the Nation of Israel.
- Israel is not above reproach, critiquing and calling out the wrong that they are doing is good, but we must keep in mind the ultimate goal is for them to come to Christ, and God will do it no matter what it takes.

### **Storyline Focus**

"Israel is a real, chosen nation with ethnic, national, and territorial identity, central to God's plan to bless the nations."<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Reflection<sup>[3]</sup>**

What three dimensions define Israel's identity in Scripture, and why is it important not to reduce or redefine her role in God's plan?

How should understanding Israel's enduring role in God's purposes shape the way you pray for, speak about and relate to the Jewish people today?

### **Student Q&A**

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[1] The title of this lesson is taken from Michael J. Vlach, *The Bible Storyline: God's Unstoppable Plan to Defeat Evil, Restore Creation, and Establish His Kingdom on Earth*, (Cary: Theological Studies Press, 2025), 20.

[2] Vlach, *The Bible Storyline*, 50.

[3] Reflection questions taken from Vlach, *The Bible Storyline*, 51.