THE STATE OF ISRAEL
HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD SEE THE JEWISH STATE AND THEIR STANDING WITH GOD

*"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is,
that they might be saved."*

~ Romans 10:1

1. **Christians and the State of Israel**
   a. Evil has occurred. Israel is at war with Hamas. *How should we think of it?*
   b. Christians have had a troubled and often confused relationship with Israel.
   c. The subject of Israel is at the heart of differing Biblical interpretations.
   d. Israel's return is the third rail for dispensationalists (1948, 1967, 1988, 2023?)
   e. When it gets personal, political, emotional, traditional, it is hard to rightly divide.
   f. Getting it wrong can affect the gospel, our identity, God's will, proper judgment.
   g. *What does the Bible say about Israel and their standing with God today?*

2. **Must we Bless Israel?**
   a. This not about fighting terrorists, helping the hurt, or praying for people.
   b. Would we give attention if atrocities happened elsewhere? Sudan, Nigeria, Burma?
      i. America has given ~260 billion to Israel over the years, more privately.
   c. Must Christians bless Israel to receive God's blessing? How does God bless?
   d. Israel: 2600+ Bible mentions, a means of blessing - Num 24:9, Gen 12:3, Mat 25:40
      i. Gaza 20x Bible mentions - Amos 1:6-7, Zech 9:5, Judges 16:21, Acts 8:26
   e. It is not enough to be Biblical, we must be dispensational - discern the times
      i. *"I will be an enemy unto thine enemies"* - Exo 23:22
      ii. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law - Gal 3:10-14
      iii. 'Blessing Israel' and tithing have the same problem - distorting the gospel.
   f. Our blessing from God comes from Jesus Christ not Israel. Gal 3:14, Eph 1:3,Ti 2:13
   g. If we must bless Israel to receive blessing, then we fail to communicate the gospel

3. **Are They God's People?**
   a. Lauren Daigle, Dove awards - "we stand with the people of God"
   b. Psalm 122:6 - "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem…"
      i. Because the house of the Lord is in Jerusalem. To give thanks.
      ii. 1 Cor 3:16 - "Know ye not,… ye are the temple of God" - 1 Tim 3:15
   c. Dispensationalists forget dispensations regarding this issue. Hos 1:6-9
      i. Paul says to this day Israel is blinded - 2 Cor 3:14
      ii. Israel is fallen… off the tree, cut off - Romans 11:11, 11:28, 32
      iii. Haredi Jews (minority) acknowledge this to this day.
   d. If Israel is God's people today, then who are we?
   e. "neither circumcision availeth anything… but a new creature" - Gal 6:15, Col 3:11

4. Does This Fulfill Prophecy?
  a. Wars do not indicate the end - Matt 24:6-7
  b. Netanyahu refers to Bible 2x about fulfilling prophecy - Luke 16:18, Isaiah 60:18
  c. Jesus prophesied Jerusalem's destruction - Luke 21:10-24
  d. No future prophecy of God's mandate for a kingdom of Israel before Messiah.
      i. The 'state of Israel' not mentioned in Revelation: but the city is.
      ii. No one in Israel wants the Christian end times events to occur on them.
  e. Restoring Israel's temple and nation is trying to build something God will judge!
  f. Are they fulfilling prophecy in unbelief?
      i. Not by God acc. to the mystery of his will, and the disp. of grace to all.

5. Israel Today
  a. Not about Israel in the past (OT) or Israel in the future (kingdom), but Israel today.
  b. In that day, Israel will repent - Isaiah 53, but that day is not today.
  c. Paul deals with this subject in Romans 9-11 - Romans 9:5
  d. The new covenant with the house of Israel, but not now - Heb 2:8
  e. Israel is fallen, enemies of the gospel, blind - Romans 11:1-4, 23-32
  f. God wants us to have mercy on them for the gospel's sake, for Christ's sake.
  g. How should Christians view Israel? With their eyes open, not blindly.
      i. Eyes open to what the Bible says dispensationally.
      ii. Eyes open to what the gospel of blessing is today through Christ.
      iii. Eyes open to who we are as Christ's ambassadors of grace to them.
      iv. Eyes open to that they will be saved, and can be today if they believe.
      v. Eyes open to see Israel acc. to mid-Acts Pauline dispensational right division