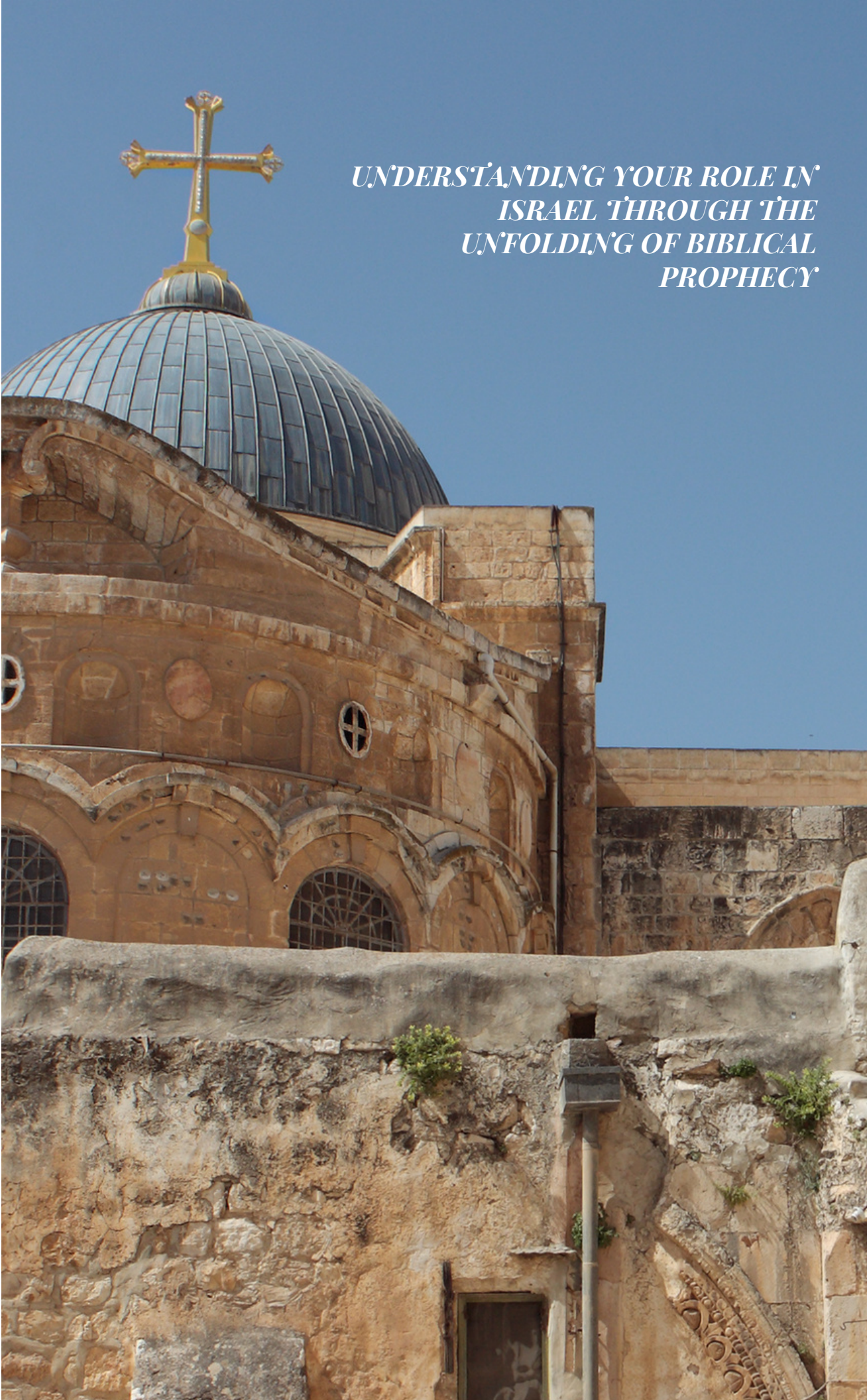


*UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE IN
ISRAEL THROUGH THE
UNFOLDING OF BIBLICAL
PROPHECY*

WHY ISRAEL, WHY NOW?

BY JH ISRAEL



WHY ISRAEL?

We have made it our responsibility at JH Israel to carefully consider the scriptures regarding the Jewish-Christian relationship in order to align ourselves with God's heart and His present-day work. We learn from scripture of His ongoing plan for the Jewish people as it relates to the Gentiles and that the best days are yet to come.

Our role involves friendship. We feel that this unique relationship, where opposing views of the Messiah exist, should not breed enmity or neglect. JH Israel has realized that a platform of prayer, cooperation, and openness leads to friendship and a creative pathway for God's redemptive purposes.



**"I HAVE POSTED WATCHMEN
ON YOUR WALLS, JERUSALEM;
THEY WILL NEVER BE SILENT
DAY OR NIGHT. YOU WHO CALL
ON THE LORD, GIVE
YOURSELVES NO REST, AND
GIVE HIM NO REST TILL HE
ESTABLISHES JERUSALEM AND
MAKES HER THE PRAISE OF
THE EARTH."**

ISAIAH 62:6-7



THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL

The rebirth of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, sent waves into the Church's nearly 2000-year-old interpretation of biblical prophecy regarding Israel. Theologians and reformers who once adhered to the widely acclaimed Replacement Theology, which views the Church as Israel, had to reconsider their stance as millions of Jews returned from out of the nations into their biblical homeland.

The modern-day ingathering of Jews from over 100 nations not only fulfills significant portions of prophetic scriptures but also confirms that original Israel is still Israel in God's mind. He has neither replaced nor forgotten them. Romans 11:29 says, "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

It is not far-fetched that the Church would consider herself the new Israel of God, which is a guiding foundation for Replacement Theology. While this idea may have a ring of truth to Christians, the repercussions have yielded centuries of ungodly consequences, especially in the Jewish-Christian relationship.

As far back as the early second century, church councils legislated to end social and religious contact with the Jews except for the purpose of converting them. The scenario only worsens with each passing century.

One such example is The Protestant Reformation initiated by Martin Luther. Who would have imagined that the man who led one of the most famed periods in Church history would also pen *On the Jews and Their Lies*? This defamation treatise against the Jews would later be used by Adolph Hitler to justify his Holocaust. It was not only Luther's voice but also the chorus of many well-known, pace-setting church leaders dating back to the second century, who perpetuated these views. The Lutheran and Catholic Church of modern history repudiated these anti-Semitic remarks. However, the deep, infecting poison of these writings is a continuing stronghold that must be dismantled.

Historians, such as Paul Johnson in his book *The History of the Jews*, reveal the constant confusion the Church has had in regards to Israel.

The apostle Paul warned Gentile believers not to adopt an arrogant attitude toward the Jewish people because of the debt they owed to them (Romans 11:17-18). In reflection, how can we properly respond to the almost complete Christian silence during the holocaust of six million Jews and the centuries of conquest by the established Church?



THE CHURCH IS AWAKENING TO HER PROPER ROLE WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE

A BIBLICAL CALLING

In reflection, how can we properly respond to the almost complete Christian silence during the holocaust of six million Jews and the centuries of conquest by the established Church?

Yet the tide is slowly changing; The Church is awakening to her proper role with the Jewish people. Trust is being established through sincere friendship and biblical understanding.

***“For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.”
Romans 15:27***

Our proactive posture at JH Israel toward Israel is due to a biblical calling. The Jews have been God’s sovereign vessel for our spiritual blessings. In Romans 9:1-5, Paul is forlorn over the prospect of his fellow brothers, the Jews, not accepting the Gospel. He honors them by saying,

“Theirs is the adoption as sons, theirs is the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.” Romans 9:4-5.

It is no small wonder that Jesus also wanted future generations to be fully aware that: **“... salvation is from the Jews..” John 4:22**

Jesus revealed His expectation that each generation should be responsible for understanding the times in which they live. He rebuked the religious leaders of His day saying,

“You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” Matthew 16:3

Presently, Israel is in a watershed time of prophetic fulfillment in her history. Indeed, the book of Isaiah has never been so historically relevant as it is in this generation. As believers, we need to understand the biblical prophecies currently being fulfilled.

Reference verses: *Isaiah 11:11-12; Ezekiel 36; Ezekiel 37; Isaiah 43:5-6; Jeremiah 16:14-16; Isaiah 60:9-11; Isaiah 49:22-23*

“See I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.” Jeremiah 31:8-9

The Old Testament foretells this important time in history, and Jeremiah even refers to Israel’s final ingathering as a miracle that would surpass their deliverance out of Egypt.

“However, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, ‘when men will no longer say, “As surely as the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt,” but they will say, “As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He banished them.” For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers.” Jeremiah 16:14-15 (also Jeremiah 23:7-8)





Some staggering statistics on the "greater-than-exodus-from-Egypt" Jewish return are conclusive. Jews have returned from over 100 nations, milestones which can be seen throughout the last century.

1882

24,000 residents are in the census of Israel in 17 agricultural colonies

1948

Less than 1 million Jews occupy Israel at the beginning of its statehood

1948

3 million Jews living in Israel

2008

5.4 million Jews living in Israel

2023

7.1 million Jews living in Israel

Data taken from Jewish Virtual Library (2023).

SCRIPTURE PRESENTLY BEING FULFILLED

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the North, Give them up!' And to the south, Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth."
Isaiah 43:5-6

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. Ezekiel 36:24

In keeping with scripture, this massive Jewish return to their homeland has involved Gentile participation.

"See I will beckon to the Gentiles. I will lift up My banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons (Israel) in their arms and carry your daughters (Israel) on their shoulders."
Isaiah 49:22

"He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth." **Isaiah 11:12**



**THE MASSIVE JEWISH RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND
HAS INVOLVED GENTILE PARTICIPATION.**

THE CHURCH'S UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The Church is called to show God's love to the Jewish people ***"for the sake of the Patriarchs"*** (Romans 11:28) because without them we would not have God's Word or our Savior, Jesus. We are to show God's mercy to them (Romans 11:31), give our material gifts to help them (Romans 15:27), pray for them (Psalm 122:6), be as watchmen on the walls to protect them (Isaiah 62:6-7) and help with the immigration of Jews to Israel and the building up of Zion (Isaiah 60:11; Jeremiah 16:14-16; Isaiah 49:22-23).

God has allowed Gentile believers to be grafted into the tree of Israel (Romans 11) to experience spiritual blessings. As Gentile believers, we have a responsibility to the Jewish people to stand by them as they are returning back into their land. It is clear in Hosea 3:5 that they will come ***"trembling to the Lord in the last days,"*** and that we, Gentiles, will be a vital support to them in that process (Isaiah 49:22).

God still has a plan for Israel because ***"the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable"*** (Romans 11:29).



"This is what the Lord says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar- the Lord Almighty is His name: Only if these decrees vanish from My sight, ' declares the Lord, will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before Me. 'This is what the Lord says: 'Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done, 'declares the Lord. Jeremiah 31:35-37



WE INCUR
GOD'S
BLESSING
WHEN WE
BLESS THE
JEWISH
PEOPLE

THE BLESSING OF HELPING THE JEWISH PEOPLE

God's plan was to bring a blessing to the nations on earth-through a specific people - the Jews. He said to Abraham,

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2-3

God entrusted the Jewish people into the hands of all peoples on earth. He promised to bless those who bless them and curse those who curse them. In original Hebrew, 'bless' means prosper - ***"I will prosper those who prosper you."*** The two words 'curse' have two separate meanings. "Whoever curses (lightly esteems or takes for granted) you, I will curse (bitterly turn against)."

We incur God's blessing when we bless the Jewish people, whether individually or as a nation.



Photo: Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman at the National Leadership Center's Grand Opening in 2010.

HOW JH ISRAEL IS INVOLVED

In 1997, our friendship began with Mayor Ron Nachman and his wife, Dorith, founders of the city of Ariel, Israel. Ariel is the location of the ancient city of Joshua and is situated on the hills of Ephraim in Samaria, the epicenter of Old Testament history. From Ariel, one can easily see Shechem, where Abram built an initial altar to the Lord; Shiloh, the site of the ark of the covenant for over 350 years; Mt. Gerazim and Mt. Ebal, the mountains of blessing and cursing (Deuteronomy 28).

In 1979, Ron Nachman and 30 other families founded Ariel, which has grown to over 18,000 residents. Notably, 53% of the city is made up of Jewish-Russian immigrants who fled persecution from their native northern land.

As a result of Mayor Nachman's leadership over the years, Ariel's citizens are well integrated into Israeli society.

The city proudly has The University of Judea and Samaria, top elementary education systems and is deemed Israel's "Smart City" because of its wireless infrastructure.

Over the past 10 years, JH Israel has actively participated in building the city of Ariel, helping to fund their radio station and purchase computers for their schools. However, we feel our greatest investment has been into the youth of the city.

Our friendship with Ariel has developed into a cultural exchange, where JH Ranch sponsors Ariel's youth to attend our National Second Wind leadership program. In return, JH Ranch college staff travel to Israel each winter, staying in homes of Ariel families. As a result of the positive influence on the youth of Ariel, Mayor Nachman expressed his desire to have a JH Ranch leadership program in his city. In 2006, we cast a vision for how Ariel could become a center for national youth leadership.



Photo: Israeli student on the Alpine Tower at the National Leadership Center

Subsequently, Mayor Nachman was elected Israel's National Youth Leadership Chairman. JH Ranch, with a strong team from the 2007 Israel Delegation on The Odyssey, and JH Ranch supporters, participated in this endeavor by purchasing five large team-development climbing and ropes courses.

Coinciding with the adventure leadership courses, the content of JH Ranch has been expanded into a curriculum called Take 5: Becoming a Leader. This curriculum, housed on an e-learning website, approaches leadership through the development of character, problem-solving skills, and relational building with an emphasis on the love of God and others. The interactive curriculum will lead students to reflect on their biblical predecessors (such as Abraham, Esther, David, etc.) in an effort to develop an authentic leadership lifestyle.

JH Israel's relational involvement with this national endeavor involves Ariel's youth supervisors, students, and the officials of Israel's Ministry of Education.

JH ISRAEL:

A MINISTRY OF

RECONCILIATION

The ministry of reconciliation reaches many levels, indeed the most obvious, parents and their children. Not so obvious, however, is the original intent of Malachi 4:5-6 which is the turning of the hearts of the Jews (our spiritual fathers) to the Gentiles (their spiritual children). The meaning of Malachi 4:5-6 is being realized on different levels at JH Israel, with Israel being a primary focus of our commitment.

We realize that we are only participants in a much larger work of reconciliation that is going on around the world today. It is our privilege to be a small part of that work. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the fulfillment of biblical prophecy concerning the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Favor has been given to us in our relationships with them and has enabled us to be relevant to their needs. It is our privilege.





IT IS OUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO
ENDEAR OURSELVES
TO WHAT THE LORD
IS DOING
PROPHETICALLY
REGARDING THE
NATION OF ISRAEL.

PARTNER WITH US

Our relationship with Ariel has evolved from a cross-cultural student exchange into a national youth leadership program. We believe JH Israel is a wonderful platform for sowing practical seeds of blessing into the nation of Israel: financially, prayerfully, and personally.

It is our responsibility to endear ourselves to what the Lord is doing prophetically regarding the nation of Israel. Each generation has been tested as to how they relate with the Jews, and we are wise to invest in His purposes for them in our day.

GET INVOLVED



SCAN HERE TO LEARN
HOW TO GET INVOLVED



“Being a small part of the JH Israel family has transformed the way we view Israel and our role as Christians. As we come along side modern Israel, we desire to help foster and facilitate the need for their people to understand the historical heritage of their forefathers, as well as how it ties into biblical prophecies that are being fulfilled right in front of our eyes.”

Traveling through the streets of Israel, walking on the same ground as Jesus and His disciples, there has been a greater awakening of how small a window we have here in this life. Yet what an opportunity we have to understand our place in history and how great an impact we can have to play our part in God’s plan, no matter how small or how large.”

JAN AND KYLE WARE, GIDEON'S 300 PARTNERS, HISTORY MAKERS TOUR PARTICIPANTS

