

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#39 Evidence For A Literal Millennial Kingdom: Israel

Why is there still a nation of Israel and why are there still Jews in the world?

The covenants of God sworn in the oath of God demand the preservation of God's people.

God made very great, comprehensive and specific promises to a people known as Israel.

If Israel no longer existed there would be no way for God to fulfill His covenants.

God has caused perpetuity in the Jewish race. He has caused them to outlive all other peoples contemporaneous with them in ancient times. He must maintain their existence.

His character, integrity, trustworthiness and faithfulness depend on it. It is a matter of divine integrity. If God has eliminated, cancelled, or changed His promises to Israel, we have a God who can't be trusted and who may as readily change His promises to us as He did to them.

Ultimately, God promises to redeem them, give them a glorious kingdom, give them peace from all their enemies and the fullness of blessing.

Israel's very existence as a nation is tied to the promises of God. They were elected by God as His chosen nation and by His own sovereignty. He promised to bless them unconditionally.

The basis for the belief in the Messianic Kingdom is twofold.

1. There are Unfulfilled Promises of the Jewish covenants which can only be fulfilled in a Messianic Kingdom.

2. There are Unfulfilled Prophecies of the Jewish prophets.

a. When is the Messiah coming? Who will reign on David's throne and over a peaceful Kingdom?

Note: The OT contains a great amount of material on this future Kingdom. [~1845 references in 17 OT Books] It reveals much of the various features and facets of the Messianic Kingdom.

Two things not revealed in the OT are revealed in Revelation.

1. Rev. 20:1-7 tells us 6 times the duration of the Kingdom is 1000 years.

2. Revelation also reveals the circumstances by which the Kingdom would come to an end and lead into the Eternal Order.

Why Must There Be A Millennium?

I. God's Promises to the Jews Will Be Fulfilled During the Millennial Kingdom.

A. God has promised He will gather to the land of Israel the remnant of Jews who accept Jesus as their Messiah at the end of the Tribulation.

1. This is the occasion for the Physical and Spiritual restoration of Israel.

a. It includes regeneration, re-gathering, reclaiming of the land and re-establishing the Davidic throne. The nation will be re-united.

Jer. 3:18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.

Zech. 10:6, 8 "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I *am* the LORD their God, and I will hear them. ⁸ I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased.

One Kingdom, One King: Ezek. 37:15-23 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.' Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand. ¹⁸ "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you *mean* by these?'— ¹⁹ say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" ²⁰ And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. ²¹ "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; ²² and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. ²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Ezek. 36:22-28 Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

B. He Will Pour Out His Spirit Upon This Remnant.

Isaiah 32:15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
 And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest.

Isa. 44:3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground;
 I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;

C. He will greatly expand their numbers and their land [Ezekiel 48:1-29],
Ezek. 36:10-11 I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹ I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better *for you* than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

D. He Will Make Them The Prime Nation In The World [Isaiah 60-62].

Deut. 28:1-2 Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

Micah 4:2 And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. 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

Zech. 14:16-17 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

E. They will serve as an object lesson of the grace and mercy which God bestows upon those who turn to Him in repentance.

1. The Gentiles will desire to keep close to the Jewish people and go where they go.

Zech. 8:13 *"And it will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing."*

Zech. 8:23 Zechariah says the blessings of God upon the Jewish remnant will be so great in those days that *"ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"*

[Also: Isa. 14:1-3; Isa. 49:22-23; Zephaniah 3:20]

F. Israel will be the Jewish missionaries God intended them to be.

1. God intentionally created the nation of Israel from the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac & Jacob to bless all mankind.

2. Israel had the knowledge of the true and living God. They were to make Him known by worshiping Him only and living for Him so the Gentile nations would come to know Him.

a. King Solomon articulated the call when he dedicated the nation's first Temple which stood in Jerusalem for 373 years. [959 BC - 586 BC]

b. He asked God to "maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel...that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other." [I Kings 8:59-60]

c. Israel was infected by the heathen nations and drawn to their pagan deities. God declared: Ezek. 36:19 So I scattered them among the nations [Gentiles], and they were dispersed throughout the countries I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.

d. Eventually the situation so deteriorated that God sent judgment.

II Chron. 36:15-17 And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending *them*, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till *there was* no remedy. ¹⁷ Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave *them* all into his hand.

e. Just as most of them failed to accept the prophets, most failed to accept their Messiah.

Matt. 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! ³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

f. Someday Israel will be a lighthouse, with Messiah Jesus sitting on His throne in Jerusalem.

Isa. 61:6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God:

G. There are 4 Unfulfilled, Unconditional Covenants

1. God spoke to fallen man through His prophets. He made promises of redemption which will only be fulfilled in literal Israel.

a. Israel's rejection of the Messiah placed the fulfillment on hold.

b. Israel's obedience and acceptance of Messiah, Jesus Christ, reinstates Israel and God will fulfill His promises to their descendants.

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

1. God promised 3 things: a. Abraham would have many descendants,

b. This nation would own and occupy a land.

c. A universal blessing would come to all mankind out of Abraham's line - the Jews.

Gen. 15:8 And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? [~10 years later]

Gen. 15:9-17 God ratifies His covenant with Abraham. It is UNCONDITIONAL.

1. God commands Abram to make preparations for the proper ceremonial practice regarding covenant agreements.

- a. When parties were to enter into a covenant, animals were killed, divided in half and laid on the ground with each half of the animal mirroring the other half.
- b. The parties who were entering into the covenant would then walk between the pieces.
- c. This symbolized that if either party broke the covenant made, the same that happened to the animals, being killed and divided, would happen to the party who broke the covenant.
- d. Abram never passed between the pieces. After he prepared the animals for the ceremony, divided them and laid them out, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Abram.

Question: If Abram was asleep, how could the covenant be actualized?

Gen. 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

2. God was the "smoking fire pot" and the "flaming torch" which passed between the pieces.

a. God made an oath to Himself that He would keep His promises.

Key Point: This means that only God is responsible for the covenant if it is broken due to the second party's failure to keep their end of the covenant.

- No man could keep such a covenant - so God went through the pieces in Abram's place.
- Nothing Abraham did or failed to do would void the covenant.
- Jesus Christ suffered the consequence of the second party's failure to keep their end of the covenant due to sin.

2. The Abrahamic Covenant contained within its terms 3 aspects.

- a. The Land aspect is developed in the Land Covenant.
- b. The Seed aspect is developed in the Davidic Covenant.
- c. The Blessing aspect is developed in the New Covenant.

God also set the boundaries for the land the Jews will eventually occupy.

[Deut. 34 details the boundaries. Also see Deut. 30:3-5; Ezek. 20:42-44]

The Land Covenant consists of 8 provisions:

1. Moses spoke prophetically of Israel's coming disobedience to the Mosaic Law with her consequent scattering all over the world. [Deut. 29:2-30:1]

The remaining 7 provisions speak of Israel's FINAL RESTORATION.

2. Deut. 30:2 Israel will repent.
3. Deut. 30:3a The Messiah will return.
4. Deut. 30:3b-4 Israel will be re-gathered.
5. Deut. 30:5 Israel will possess the Promised Land
6. Deut. 30:6 Israel will be regenerated [saved].
7. Deut. 30:7 Enemies of Israel will be judged.
8. Deut. 30:8-20 Israel will receive her full blessing and specifically the blessings of the Messianic Age. This blessing will include possession of all the Promised Land.

[Gen. 12:1, 7; 13:14-15, 17; 15:17-21; 17:8]

The Davidic Covenant - Made by God through the prophet Nathan with David and "his seed"
II Sam. 7:10-17 We see the promise made by God to King David that he would have descendants and out of those descendants God would establish an eternal kingdom.

Note: Some believe the rule of Solomon was the literal fulfillment. However, the territory over which Solomon ruled is not held by Israel today nor is Solomon ruling over Israel today.

1. God promised Abraham that his descendants would possess a land FOREVER.
2. God would establish a king who would rule for ETERNITY.

Note: Many OT prophecies have an immediate and ultimate fulfillment.

1. Initially, Solomon did "build an house for My name."
2. The complete fulfillment must wait for the future coming of David's greater Son, The Messiah.

a. David is to have a child, yet to be born, who shall succeed him and establish his kingdom.

b. This son, Solomon, shall build the temple instead of David.

c. The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever.

d. The throne will not be taken away from him, Solomon, even though his sins justify chastisement.

e. David's house, throne and kingdom shall be established forever.

3. The angel, Gabriel, confirmed the Davidic covenant to Mary in Luke 1:32-33:

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Consider: Neither the Abrahamic or Davidic Covenants has been fully or permanently fulfilled.

A literal, physical rule of Jesus Christ is the only way the covenants can be fulfilled. Applying a literal method of interpretation results in the pieces of the puzzle coming together. All of the OT prophecies of Jesus' first coming were fulfilled literally. Therefore, we should EXPECT the prophecies regarding His 2nd coming to be fulfilled literally. Pre-millennialism is the only system that agrees with a literal interpretation of God's covenants and end-times prophecy.

New Covenant Jer. 31:31-34 Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that 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 in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, says the LORD:

³³ But This Shall Be The Covenant That I Will Make With The House Of Israel; After those days, says the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezek. 36:28 gives more specifics: "You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people and I will be your God."

Isa. 59:20-21 explains this covenant is possible because of the Redeemer, and the reconciliation His provides will last forever. Israel as a nation will worship their Messiah.

Note: The OT prophets who spoke of this covenant, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea & Ezekiel, all wrote that it will be fulfilled in the future. From their time on, Israel has yet to be an independent nation that worshiped its Messiah. [Rom. 9-11]. They will in the 1000 year reign.

H. Israel will again be related to Jehovah by Marriage [Isa. 54:1-15; Isa. 62:2-5]

Hosea 2:14-18 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her. ¹⁵ "Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi and will no longer call Me Baali. ¹⁷ "For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.

"In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety.

Zech. 9:10 He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Ps. 46:9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.

Isa. 62:5 As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Israel had broken their covenant even though He was a husband to them

However, a day is coming and God promises unfaithful Israel...

Hosea 2:19-20 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in loving-kindness and in compassion,

²⁰ And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.

Ps. 130:7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is Full Redemption.