Israel
Seeing the Hand of God Move Through the Fulfilling of the Abrahamic Covenant
A Time-Line of Israel’s History and Current Events in the Middle-East

Philip DelRe
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A Time-Line of Israel’s History and Current Events In the Middle-East
In the Year of our Lord 2019

Philip DelRe

Unless otherwise specified, all scriptures are taken from *The New King James Bible* © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

This is an edited (and amplified) transcript of a message given by Philip DelRe at a local church—the response was off-the-charts!

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“The highest science, the loftiest speculation . . . which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work . . . and the existence of God.”

—Charles Spurgeon
Introduction

A study of Israel’s past, present, and future in light of God’s Word is one of the most fascinating, spiritually enriching, and relevant studies imaginable!

Why? Because:
• You can see the hand of God moving through history
• You discern where you are on the prophetic time-clock
• Where God is moving, you see Satan right behind
• It’s a great encouragement to know that God cannot fail and the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church

The Abrahamic Covenant (made to Abraham and his descendants some 4,000 years ago) allows us to see the future by looking at the past. Reading the Bible is like reading tomorrow’s newspaper today!

In this easy-to-read booklet, we will examine an ancient prophecy in light of current events. These supernatural revelations found in the Bible, provide us with an unshakable conviction about our origin, purpose and destiny!

You might be amazed to discover that one of the oldest books in the world (and the best-seller) predicts the future of the human race, (not in vague generalities like a fortune cookie), but in stunning detail and perfect accuracy. Such is the case with the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

This information makes an excellent resource for sermons, Bible studies, small groups, family devotions, discipleship, or Sunday school lessons. To God be the glory!
CHAPTER ONE

The Blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant Are for You

Genesis chapter 12 takes us back 2,000 years before Christ. God has chosen one man, Abraham, to separate himself from his family, his country, and his pagan roots to begin a new nation.

The historical context makes this even more interesting. God had just scattered all mankind over the face of the Earth and confused their language—making many new nations.

This nation was to be a royal and a holy nation, entrusted, empowered and chosen by God for a mission; to declare His plan of redemption (and His Redeemer) to the world!

Here is the word of God to Abraham from Genesis 12:1-3:

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
These 5 promises fall into 3 categories: national, personal, and universal. The Abrahamic Covenant included the promises of:

- Land to build the nation
- A great name for Abraham
- A blessing to whomever blessed Abraham and his descendants
- The ultimate blessing to all the families of the Earth.

Did these 4,000-year-old promises come true? And if they did they apply to you. Let's consider them one at a time:

Did Abraham Become A Great Nation?

Nation indeed. Abraham was 100 and his 90 year old wife, Sarah, was barren when this promise was given. That is why their first-born son, Isaac, is called, “The son of promise.” The nation began with a miracle! This was a prophetic picture of another miraculous birth to come in the future. In theological circles it’s called a “type,” which has an antitype. In this case, the antitype is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ!

How The Nation Began

Abraham had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob had 12 sons who became the 12 Tribes of the nation of Israel. Five hundred years later, Abraham's descendants were 2-3 million strong.

The book of Exodus is the most monumental picture of redemption in the Bible (apart from Jesus on the cross). God shows us His plan of redemption by presenting Egypt as a model of the world and all its harshness, Pharaoh as a model of Satan and Moses as a model of Jesus!
God brought ten plagues on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites from 400 years of slavery. God’s people were instructed to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts to protect them from the last plague, the Angel of Death. This symbolized the blood of Christ on the cross being the doorway to Heaven.

Marching through the Red Sea is a picture of baptism. Mt. Sinai is where God gave us the greatest moral code known to man (the Ten Commandments). His first words were, “I am the Lord your God (which speaks of a personal relationship with our Creator) who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (this typifies redemption from slavery to sin).

God’s desire for a personal love relationship based on His grace was emphasized before a word of law was spoken. This is something many people (even some theologians) have never realized before! Even the giving of the law itself was an act of grace. The moral law defines sin and shows us why we need God’s mercy and grace (Rom. 3:20, 31, 7:7, Gal. 3:24). That’s a gift.

Then they came to the Promised Land—a picture of Heaven!

In 1,500 B.C. God gave Israel their bill of rights, and their constitution, in the greatest moral code known to man—the Ten Commandments—the Perfect Law of Liberty (James 2:12)!

By 1,000 B.C. the Jewish monarchy had become a world power under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon.

David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel, and Solomon built the most magnificent (and expensive) temple in history.
So much gold and silver were used in the construction of Solomon’s Temple; if it were built today the estimated cost is 150 billion dollars! To put that number in perspective, the tallest skyscrapers in the world today cost about 1.5 billion dollars.

Today, Abraham’s decedents comprise less than 0.2% of the world’s population. Yet, amazingly:

- Israel has the highest per capita income and the highest standard of living in the Middle East.
- They are number two in the world with new technology start-up companies, second only to Silicon Valley in California. This makes Israel a world leader in developing the world’s most advanced technologies.
- Of the 800 individuals who have been awarded the Nobel Prize (an international prize awarded annually for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology, and literature), 160 have been Jews!
- Albert Einstein is still considered the most brilliant
physicist in the history of science. His Theory of Relativity is still the basis of all science and contributed to the discovery of atomic power.

- The Israeli Defense Forces are among the most capable, confident, best trained, best equipped and highly motivated militaries on the planet.

Let’s put Israel in perspective. The United States was born in 1776. As of this writing (2019) the U.S. is 243 years old (and in deep decline). Israel can trace its roots back 4,000 years and they are now a world power once again!

**Israel’s True Greatness is God**

*For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day (Deut. 4:7-8)?*

The complete fulfillment of God’s promise to make Abraham a great nation is still moving forward. Remember, the promise is to Abraham *and his descendants*. Today, Israel is more powerful than ever before in history!

Does that qualify as a great nation?

**Was Abraham’s name made great?**

Virtually all the empires of the ancient world were polytheists. They worshiped many gods, usually in the form of idols. Abraham and his descendants were the first to proclaim the doctrine that so profoundly impacted our world—the astounding legacy of monotheism—one God!
How did the Israelites alone, surrounded by paganism, come up with such a radical idea? Abraham did not create one God; the one God created (and revealed Himself) to Abraham!

All three of the world’s great monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; 3.5 billion people) claim that Abraham is the founding father of their religion.

Does that qualify as a great name?

How have all the families of the Earth been blessed?

Israel is the birthplace of the Word of God—written and living (the Bible and Jesus Christ). The prophets and the apostles were Jewish. Jesus, the Savior of the world, was Jewish.

There are no possible terms of comparison between the Bible and Jesus Christ and any other so-called “holy book” or religious leader in the history of the world.

- The Bible is the runaway best seller of all time.
- Jesus Christ is the most famous person who ever lived.
- Christianity is the largest religion in the world.

The Bible is read by more people and published in more languages than any other book, by far. Wycliffe Bible translators now say that by 2025 they will have portions of the Bible translated in every language in the world. No competitor even comes close!

How was the whole world blessed by Jesus?

In Leviticus 1-17, God instructed Moses to begin the sacrificial system in order to atone for sin. In the Bible’s book of Hebrews God’s Word says,
The life is in the blood and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

Since the penalty for sin is death (all men die because all men sin), in order for a savior to save you, he would have to be sinless and die (shed his blood) for you. That is precisely what Jesus did. If you come to God without a blood sacrifice, your own life is required!

- The sacrificial system provided the world with 1,500 years of literal, historical, and theological context; so when the sinless Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) died on the cross, His sacrifice would make sense.
- A perfect sacrifice is the only way God can legally forgive sin without compromising His justice.
- Justice and mercy were reconciled when Jesus paid our sin debt for us.
- Jesus Christ satisfied God’s perfect justice once and for all the families of the Earth!
- Jesus Christ conquered death through His resurrection.

Does that qualify as a blessing to all the nations?

Don’t believe the resurrection? Then you will have to produce a more compelling argument than this one...

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853) was the famous Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University, and succeeded Justice Joseph Story as the Dane Professor of Law in the same university upon Story’s death in 1846.
H. W. H. Knott says of this great authority in Jurisprudence: “To the efforts of Story and Greenleaf is to be ascribed the rise of the Harvard Law School to its eminent position among the legal schools of the United States.”

Greenleaf produced a famous work entitled *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence* which is still considered the greatest single authority on evidence in the entire literature of legal procedure. In 1846, while still Professor of Law at Harvard, Greenleaf wrote a volume entitled *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice*. In his classic work the author examines the value of the testimony of the apostles to the resurrection of Christ. The following are this brilliant jurist’s critical observations:

The great truths which the apostles declared, were, that Christ had risen from the dead, and that only through repentance from sin, and faith in Him, could men hope for salvation. This doctrine they asserted with one voice, everywhere, not only under the greatest discouragements, but in the face of the most appalling errors that can be presented to the mind of man.

Their master had recently perished as a malefactor, by the sentence of a public tribunal. His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teachings of His disciples. The interests and passions of all the rulers and great men in the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them.

Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, reviling’s, bitter persecutions, stripes,
imprisonments, torments, and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing. As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution.

The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the like heroic constancy, patience, and unblenching courage. They had every possible motive to re-view carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency.

It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact. If it were morally possible for them to have been deceived in this matter every human motive operated to lead them to discover and avow their error.

To have persisted in so gross a falsehood, after it was known to them, was not only to encounter, for life, all the evils which man could inflict, from without, but to endure also the pangs of inward and conscious guilt; with no hope of future peace, no testimony of a good conscience, no expectation of honor or esteem among men, no hope of happiness in this life, or in the world to come.1

Why have the Jews been the most persecuted people in history and why is Israel the most disputed piece of real estate on Earth?

Take a look at this striking statement by Jesus Christ in John 4:22:

*You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*

The fact is the Savor of the world was born to a Jewish mother who was a direct descendant of King David. He was born in Israel and shed His blood on Israeli soil as a sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

If Satan Would Have Succeeded In Destroying The Jews In The Old Testament The Savior Could Not Have Come The First Time

If Satan Can Destroy Israel Now, The Prophecy Of Jesus Returning To Rule From The Throne Of David Cannot Be Fulfilled!

Jerusalem must be in Jewish hands for these prophecies to be fulfilled. This is clearly spelled out in both the Old and New Testaments. In Isaiah 59:19-20 we read,
When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. “The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the Lord.

And in Luke 1:31-33,

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 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. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

Notice these terms: “Zion,” “the throne of David,” and “the house of Jacob.” The prophetic significance of these names is unmistakable. The passage in Luke speaks of both the first and the second coming of the Messiah to Israel.
Why is Israel the most disputed piece of real estate on Earth?

Don’t expect to get un-biased reporting from the mass media. Here is the truth on who the land belongs to, from the one who gave it to them. In Genesis 12, the Bible says God gave the land to Abraham and his descendants. In Genesis 17:17-22 God’s Word tells us to who those descendants are and who they are not!

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!”

Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”

And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.

According to the Bible, God promised the land to Abraham, to his “son of promise” Isaac, and to his descendants—and to no others!.

Almost 2,600 years after God promised the land to Abraham and to his son Isaac, Mohammed came along and claimed in
the Koran that Ishmael (not Isaac) was the rightful heir, and therefore the land belonged to the Arabs!

That is why radical Muslims are so hell-bent on destroying Israel and taking the land. If Israel prevails (or even exists), Muslims will be forced to the inescapable conclusion that Allah is not God, Mohammed was not a prophet, and the Koran is false. That is why they refuse to acknowledge Israel’s right to even exist!

In A.D. 135, Rome (after putting down a Jewish revolt (and thinking Israel was history), changed what they named “The Province of Judea,” to “Syria Palestina.” The English version of the Latin was shortened to “Palestine.” Yet King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel a thousand years before the Roman Empire came to power!

Why can’t Israel be defeated?

Today there are 350 million Arabs surrounding 6 million Jews, and they cannot defeat tiny little Israel! Why do you suppose that is? As usual, God’s Word has the answer.

The Bible says you’d have a better chance of changing the course of the sun, moon, and stars than from removing the Jews from Israel.

Jeremiah 31:35-37 is crystal clear,

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His name:
If this fixed order departs from before me, “declares the LORD, Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever.”

Thus says the LORD, “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you.”

History demonstrates how every world power that has come against Israel (one of the smallest nations on Earth) has failed. None have been able to take this strategic piece of real estate from its rightful owners or destroy the Jews. For more on the story, let’s open our prophetic history book to chapter three.
A careful reading of Deut. 28 and Lev. 26 reveals that God told the Israelites, if they would trust and obey Him, He would exalt them above all the other nations. But, if they rebelled, just the opposite would happen. History verifies that Israel has experienced both the blessing and the curse, unlike any other nation in history!
The bar was higher for Israel because God revealed Himself to them at Mt. Sinai. He entrusted the Israelites with His law, and His plan of redemption for the world! The principle applies to all of us: “To whom much is given, much is required.”

After Solomon died, the Kingdom was divided into Israel and Judah, Israel (the northern kingdom) lasted 240 years. They forgot God and suffered the consequences.

God judged His people by allowing them to be conquered by their enemies, who were more wicked than they were. Then He judged that nation for their evil. Here are the facts...

In 926 B.C. Solomon’s death marked the end of the united monarchy. They forgot about God and look what happened.

The Assyrian Empire

In 720 B.C. the northern kingdom of Israel was crushed by the Assyrian Empire. They forced 10 of the 12 tribes into exile. From 900 to 600 B.C. the Assyrian Empire conquered and ruled the Middle East.

In 612 B.C., Nineveh itself was completely destroyed by the Medes, the Persians, and the Babylonians. The great Assyrian empire came to an end.

The Babylonian Empire

In 586 B.C. Judah (the southern kingdom) was conquered by the Babylonian Empire. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple and the once great nation of Israel was now living in exile. Today, Babylon is war-torn and in ruins.
The Persian Empire

In 538 B.C. Cyrus, the Great King of Persia conquered the Babylonians. The rebuilding of Solomon’s Temple was authorized by King Cyrus. Then, it was Alexander the Great who invaded Central Asia. King Darius lost three battles with Alexander and was defeated in 331. He was murdered in 330 B.C. The great Persian Empire fell.

Greece under Alexander the Great

In 333 B.C. Alexander the Great conquered the world for Greece. After Alexander died, the kingdom was divided into four territories. This was prophesied in spectacular detail 200 years earlier in Daniel Chapter 11. Today, Greece is virtually bankrupt.
In 168 B.C. a Syrian king by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes occupied Jerusalem. He wanted to Hellenize the world. He desecrated the Temple by entering the Holy of Holies; then, slaughtered a pig on the altar. That was an abomination to the Jews. Once again, the Temple was in ruins.

The Roman Empire

In 64 B.C. the Roman General Pompey conquered Judea. Rome began its domination of the known world for almost 500 years, and was steeped in paganism.

The Jews and Christians insisted there was only one God. This understandably irritated the Romans since they attributed their success as a world power to the gods!
The Roman Empire ruled the world with an iron fist. It won all its arguments by killing its enemies. At the Roman Coliseum, Christians were fed to the lions.

Providentially, there are more Christians alive at this moment than the total number of people who made up the Roman Empire over its entire 500 year history, and the lions and the tigers are on the endangered species list! The fall of the Roman Empire was not a result of Rome being conquered militarily but she imploded from within, based on her own immorality.

Christianity Begins

In 30 A.D. the Church Age began. The very first verse in the New Testament is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that all the families of the Earth would be blessed.

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1).*
Jesus Christ had such a profound impact on the world by what He said and did, we divide time by His life: B.C. speaks of the number of years, “Before Christ”, and A.D. is the Latin “Anno Domini,” meaning “In the Year of our Lord.” That Lord is Jesus Christ. In Hebrew it is YSHUA, the Messiah.

**In A.D. 70,** 40 years after Christ ascended back to Heaven, General Titus (later to become Emperor Titus) destroyed Jerusalem, and many of the surviving Jews ran for their lives to the four corners of the Earth.

**In 330,** Emperor Constantine, believing Jesus could help him win battles, decriminalized Christianity. He developed his own version, and made it the official state religion of Rome.

He mixed the pagan practices of Rome with Christianity, and that is how the Roman Empire became the “Holy Roman Empire.” Today we know it as the Roman Catholic “church.” That is the real Genesis of Roman Catholicism!

The Arch of Titus is a memorial to the “destruction” of Jerusalem. Two thousand years later, Italy is bankrupt, and Israel is thriving!
The Muslims

In 638, Muslims took control of Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock was built on the Temple Mount in 691.

More than 600 years before Mohammed was born, in John 16:2-4, Jesus prophesied,

…the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

There are 123 verses in the Koran that call for fighting and killing anyone who does not believe the statement, “There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.” Jews and Christians are specifically named and targeted as “infidels.”

Sura 5:33 says, “They [the infidels] shall be slain or crucified, or have their hands and feet cut off.” In 9:5 it says, “Wage war against the infidels, and lie in wait for them...” and in 47:9 a Muslim who cuts off the head of an “unbeliever” is promised Paradise! The Bible says, “Do not be deceived. God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows this shall he also reap.”

Roman Catholicism and the Crusades

In 1095 Pope Urban II sanctioned a military force called “The Crusaders.” Their mission was to recapture the Holy Land from the Muslims. Sadly, the plan was not to return it to the Jews or the Christians, but to take it for Rome. To this day, the Vatican refuses to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The Crusaders were promised an indulgence (the promise of forgiveness for past sins, guaranteeing them a place in heaven)
if they would fight for Rome. Unfortunately for those who fought, they were not aware that the Pope does not have that authority. That belongs to God alone.

During the Crusades, not only Muslims, but Jews and Christians were robbed, raped, massacred, and sold into slavery. This went on for more than 300 years!

The Crusades spread to Europe as Rome sought to rid the land of “ecclesiastical heretics.” In this case that meant anyone who refused to acknowledge the Pope’s (self-imposed) authority!

Following the Crusades, there were widespread expulsions of Jews in Europe:

• Beginning in England in 1290
• Then by France in 1306
• Then came the Spanish Inquisition of the 15th century

It is uncertain how many were killed in the name of “Jesus.” The world needs to know the Crusaders were not following the Jesus of the Bible. In Luke 6:27, the real Jesus said,

*But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you.*

The Turks

In 1453 the Ottoman army stormed Constantinople, the Turks converted the Hagia Sophia (the former Greek Orthodox patriarchal cathedral) into the city’s leading mosque. The fall of Constantinople marked the end of the era for the Byzantine Empire. The Turks were now in control of “Palestine.”

The British Empire

In 1917 the British defeated the Turks in World War I and took control of “Palestine.” The Brits promised they would
help the Jews back into their ancient homeland under the Balfour Declaration but broke their promise under pressure from the Arabs.

After WWI the British Empire controlled a quarter of the world. Today, England is bankrupt morally, spiritually, financially and is being overrun by radical Muslims!

Adolph Hitler and the Nazis

In 1933 Satan handed the torch to a young man by the name of Adolph Hitler.

Germany invaded Poland in 1939, marking the beginning of World War II. Hitler is quoted as saying,

The final solution is the extermination of the Jews.

He also said,

How fortunate for governments that the people they administer don’t think.

In 1945 Germany surrendered and Hitler (supposedly) committed suicide. More than 59 million people died in the war Hitler started. Hitler is remembered today only in infamy.
THREE YEARS LATER ISRAEL WAS BORN—AGAIN

From 1945–1947 there was a Jewish uprising against British rule. The State of Israel was reestablished on May 14, 1948, after nearly two thousand years of Jewish dispersal.

More than 2,500 years ago, God spoke through the Prophet Ezekiel. In 36:23-24 He said,

*And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst.*

*Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.”*

*For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.*

The Very Next Day Israel was Attacked by the Arabs

On May 15th, 1948, one day after Israel was recognized as a sovereign state, five Arab countries—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq - united in an all-out attack against a country that was only one day old—Israel.

Israel has suffered five full-blown attacks by her Arab neighbors since 1948 and each time, although vastly outnumbered, Israel emerged with stunning victories, utterly defeating her enemies. And, with each victory, Israel captured more of the land that God said belonged to her in the first place!
Jerusalem Back in Jewish Hands

In the 1967 Six Day War, the Israelis captured the ancient city of Jerusalem from Jordan. In Luke 21:24, 40 years before the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome, Jesus said,

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.

The ancient city of Jerusalem is now back in Jewish hands for the first time in more than 2,000 years. But there is one more site in Jerusalem still under Arab control that must be returned.

The most hotly contested piece of real estate on Earth is a thirty-five acre parcel in the southwest corner of Jerusalem. This is where the Dome of the Rock stands today. This is also the original site of Solomon’s Temple, the holiest place in Israel. Now Islam wants to take its turn.
In Genesis 16:11-12 we read, “And the angel also said, ‘You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.’”
Current Events In The Middle East

Was the Bible right about the Ishmaelite’s? Just *look* at the Middle East right now. What do you see? As of this writing (2019), most of the Middle East (and other nations in the region) is completely up-for-grabs. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan -- the Arab countries that surround Israel are engulfed in civil war.

Sunnis killing Shiites; Shiites killing Sunnis, moderates fighting with radicals, Iraqis fighting with Iranians, and governments using poison gas to kill their own civilians. The Saudis are afraid of the Iranians, and the list goes on and on. As of this writing, it is reported that more than 100,000 are dead in Syria alone!

As of this writing there are nine nations (that we know of) that have nuclear weapons, and a tenth has just been added. Iran has vowed to use nuclear weapons to destroy Israel as soon as they are ready! The Bible says that the last war of the world will be fought over Israel (See Joel 3; Ezek. 36-38; Zack. 12; 14; Matt. 24; Mark 13; & Luke 21.)
Modern Day Iran

The prophet Daniel spoke of the “Prince of Persia” (a territorial spirit in Dan. 10:13) who did battle with Michael the Archangel for 21 days. Persia is modern day Iran—to this day that nation is the leading sponsor of anti-Semitism and terrorism world-wide! How does the Bible know these things? Her doom is sure.

**Do you know who holds the record for the largest number of murders in history?**

Adolph Hitler murdered 11 million in 12 years. Joseph Stalin is responsible for 20 million in 30 years. Mao Tse-tung is responsible for 60 million Chinese in just 41 years!

Beginning with Mohammed in the 7th century, the Ishmaelite’s have murdered an estimated 270 million people.

The killing has continued for 14 centuries and the numbers are now growing exponentially (especially in Africa), no one else even comes close!

These numbers are well documented at: markhumphrys.com/islam.killings.html

There is no need to worry about this being biased reporting or, anti—Islamic propaganda. Mark is an avowed atheist, he hates all religions equally.

We are not picking on the Arabs, many of them love Jesus. There were times when God called the Jews themselves a “stiff-necked and obstinate people.”
Jesus’ harshest words were reserved for the Jewish leaders known as the Pharisees. Not because they were so far from God but because they were so close to God and they missed Him! To whom much is given much is required.

The real battle is not between Jews and Arabs—God loves them both—the real battle is between the forces of darkness and the prince of peace!

In John 3:16-17, God’s Word says,

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

If the Bible is right about prophecy, it’s right about everything else, too: God, Jesus, Heaven, Hell, Satan, sin, the final judgment—all of it!

The Bible says Jesus died on the cross according to the Scriptures, and on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone, plus nothing! Our good works are the result of our salvation, never the cause of it.

You cannot be good enough to earn your salvation since one sin disqualifies you. Salvation is a free gift to all who believe the one, true, living God.
CHAPTER FIVE

What Does it Mean to Believe?

The Ninivites
A Convicting Answer From The Men Of Nineveh and The Queen Of Sheba . . .

There is a curious story told by Jesus to a group of people who wanted Him to provide more proof of His authority. This was just after He demonstrated absolute power over the demonic realm by casting the demon out of a man and setting him free.

Jesus was speaking to a group of self-righteous, religious hypocrites who wanted God on their own terms.

They said, “Give us another sign; do a miracle!” In Matthew 12:41-42, Jesus answered with this story:

The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians were infamous for their cruelty and barbarism in the treatment of their conquered enemies. They were far from God.
Nineveh is described in Genesis 10:11 as having been founded by Nimrod, the mastermind behind the tower of Babel. They worshiped Ishtar (Easter), the fertility goddess.

Jonah preached a one-line sermon on the judgment of God to a city of 600,000-plus, and the entire city repented in sackcloth and ashes!

**The Queen of the South**

When the Queen of Sheba heard about the wisdom of Solomon, she headed off on a dangerous 1,500-mile journey, not by plane or train, but by camel!

This had to take 6 months to a year (or more): day and night, in the cold, the heat, the rain, facing the danger of robbers, crossing rivers, uphill and down. Who knows all she had to go through to get there? One thing is sure; this was a dangerous and costly sacrifice.

The point is: she was willing to go to that much trouble, even risking her life, to hear a man who had wisdom from God—King Solomon. It was in this context that Jesus said, . . . And a greater than Solomon is here!

How much greater? The Creator is infinitely greater than the creature.

If the cruel men of Nineveh repented after hearing one sermon on the judgment of God, and if the Queen of the South was willing to travel across land and sea by camel to get wisdom, how would the effort you put forth to find truth compare to theirs? Will they testify against you on Judgment Day?
Have you sought the wisdom of God with the passion of a man searching for hidden treasure, willing to risk your life if necessary to get it? Have you truly repented in deep contrition for your sin like the men of Nineveh?

Many people who name the name of Christ have never read the Bible from cover to cover, and many more have never even attempted to lead another person to Jesus for salvation.

It was your sin and mine that nailed Jesus to the cross—it was His love for you and me that held Him there!

More on What it Means to Believe

David and Goliath

Remember the story of David and Goliath? Goliath was mocking the Israelites and their God. Do you know what the difference was between David and the Israelites? The Israelites believed in God, but David believed God!

There is a huge difference between believing in God and believing God. Believing that God exists is not the same as taking Him at His word. Even the demons believe in God!

David remembered (and believed) God’s promise to Abraham (and his descendants). The promise was:

*I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you.*

Goliath cursed the Israelites (and their God) in clear violation of the Abrahamic covenant. David knew this battle and its
outcome belonged to the Lord. Sadly, many of our churches are filled with people who give intellectual assent to God’s existence, but live as if He did not.

What does it mean to be blessed?

Here it is from the lips of Jesus Himself, from The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12). The blessings include:

• Citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.
• Eternal comfort.
• Inheriting the New Heaven and New Earth.
• Being filled with the righteousness of God.
• Receiving God’s mercy.
• Seeing God in all His glory.
• Being called Children of God.
• To rejoice and be exceedingly glad, knowing that your reward in heaven is great.
CHAPTER SIX

What Time Is It On God’s Prophetic Time-Clock?

Jesus came 2,000 years ago. Abraham lived 2,000 years before Jesus, and Adam and Eve lived 2,000 years before Abraham. Most scholars believe the Garden of Eden was 6,000 years ago.

The book of Genesis says; God created the heavens and the Earth in six days, and He rested on the seventh. In 2 Peter 3:8 the New Testament says, “with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day.”

Prophetically speaking, six days have passed, and the seventh day is dawning. So, what time is it? It’s time to wake up! The night is almost over, and the day is almost here when no man can work.

Soon it will be too late to say you’re sorry, too late to forgive your brother, too late to live and love, too late to give, and too late to share God’s love with the world. It will be too late to pray, too late to read God’s Word, and too late to stop living as if God does not exist. It will be too late to seek His forgiveness.

The Greatest Life You Could Ever Live

To be truly satisfied, you need 3 things: faith, hope, and love

• Something worth living for
• A hope worth dying for
• Someone to love and be loved by (unconditionally)
The greatest satisfaction in life is to love and serve your Creator. You fulfill your destiny by doing what you were created for—to be an ambassador for the kingdom of God. An ambassador is the highest ranking official representing one nation to another; in this case, one kingdom to another.

God’s ambassadors are entrusted and empowered to deliver His message of reconciliation to a lost and dying world. There is no greater joy!

The message of redemption gives you:
Something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for!

The rewards for those who faithfully carry God’s message of redemption will be exceedingly great beyond anything they can ask or imagine! Here are just a few:

- Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever (Dan. 12:3).
- Whoever keeps and teaches God’s commandments shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:19).
- Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:3).

The Abrahamic Covenant promises a blessing to those who bless God’s people. And, in Psalm 122:6-7, the Spirit of God says...
“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.”

Our desire to bless Israel flows from a heart of loving gratitude for the immeasurable blessings we have received from her. When you love God’s children, you bless the heart of God—our Father.

To pray for the peace of Jerusalem is to pray for Jewish people to come to know their great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Yshua the Messiah). To pray for the peace of Jerusalem is to pray for His return. Only He can save us. Man will never solve his own problems because man is the problem.

The God of Israel is the vine; we are the branches. We draw our life from God, and apart from Him, we can do nothing. We live because He lives!

In Zachariah 12:10 and 13:1, the Bible says, “…in that day, they will look on Him, whom they pierced, and “in that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.”

The Redeemer Is Coming To Israel

Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm
brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; the coastlands He will fully repay. So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

“The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, “Says the Lord. “As for Me,” says the Lord, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore” (Isa. 59:14-60).
CHAPTER SEVEN
The History of Empires Rising and Falling

“We look back upon history and what do we see? Empires rising and falling, revolutions and counter-revolutions, wealth accumulating and wealth dispersed, one nation dominant and then another. Shakespeare speaks of ‘the rise and fall of great ones that ebb and flow with the moon.

“I look back on my own fellow countrymen ruling over a quarter of the world, the great majority of them convinced, in the words of what is still a favorite song, that, ‘God, who’s made the mighty would make them mightier yet.

“I’ve heard a crazed, cracked Austrian announce to the world the establishment of a German Reich that would last a thousand years; an Italian clown announce that he would restart the calendar to begin his own ascension to power.

“I’ve heard a murderous Georgian brigand in the Kremlin acclaimed by the intellectual elite of the world as a wiser than Solomon, more humane than Marcus Aurelius, more enlightened than Ashoka.

“I’ve seen America wealthier and in terms of weaponry, more powerful than the rest of the world put together, so that had the American people desired, could have outdone an Alexander or a Julius Caesar in the range and scale of their conquests. All in one lifetime. All gone with the wind.
“England, part of a tiny island off the coast of Europe, threatened with dismemberment and even bankruptcy.

“Hitler and Mussolini dead, remembered only in infamy. Stalin a forbidden name in the regime he helped found and dominated for some three decades.

“America haunted by fears of running out of those precious fluids that keep her motorways roaring, and the smog settling, with troubled memories of a disastrous campaign in Vietnam, and the victories of the Don Quixotes of the media as they charged the windmills of Watergate. All in one lifetime, all gone, gone with the wind.

“Behind the debris of these self-styled, sullen supermen and imperial diplomats, there stands the gigantic figure of one person, because of whom, by whom, in whom, and through whom alone, mankind might still have hope—the person of Jesus Christ.”

—Malcom Muggeridge

Rome hid the Bible for a thousand years.

The Church was born in the 1st century and headed west from Jerusalem. For hundreds of years the blessings of God followed the Gospel wherever it was embraced. But, in 330 the newly formed “Holy Roman Empire” hid the Bible in Latin, making it illegal to own or translate it into modern languages. “Coincidentally” the world entered “The Dark Ages,” where it remained for a thousand years!

Then in the 14th century, God’s Word was translated into English, and “coincidentally” the world entered “The Age of Enlightenment!” The great reformation of the church was
followed by the “Industrial Revolution” which produced the greatest advances in science, medicine, communications, transportation, economic, and in spiritual growth the world has ever seen!

Sadly, sometime around the turn of the 19th century, liberal theologians in many mainline, denominational seminaries began to teach the Bible out of context. An epidemic of biblical illiteracy followed, and we are losing power once again. Today, the “Post Modern Age,” denies absolute truth and universal moral law. Ironically, all of this actually serves to vindicate Scripture (Matt. 24:12, 1 Tim. 4:1, 2 Tim. 4:3-4, 2 Cor. 11:13-15).
CHAPTER EIGHT

The New Jerusalem

Before there was time, space, matter, sun, moon, stars, or elements, there was a plan in place to redeem, not just mankind, but the entire universe. The Bible says the cosmos itself has been subject to corruption and is in need of being recreated. Scientists (discovering what the Bible said thousands of years ago) call it “heat death” and “The second law of thermodynamics.” Only Bible believers know what caused the process that subjects the universe itself to death (Rom. 8:1-22).

The first sin in the universe occurred in Heaven when Lucifer wanted the glory that belonged to God alone (Isa. 14, Ezek. 28). It was then that his name was changed from Lucifer (which means the light one) to Satan (which means the adversary). It was then that sin (the corruption which leads to death) entered the cosmos.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Someday, sooner than later, Jesus Christ will return to Earth to judge the world. Then there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth where righteousness dwells. The New Jerusalem will come down out of Heaven like a bride, and God will rule and reign with His loyal subjects in a kingdom that will never end.

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her; Nor the voice of crying. Isa. 65:17-19

The New Jerusalem is referred to as the Tabernacle of God, the City of God, the Holy City, the Celestial City, the City Foursquare, and Heavenly Jerusalem, and is referenced in numerous places in Scriptures.


Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure
of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

The New Jerusalem will be a place of unfathomable glory, unimaginable splendor, and eternal bliss. It is in Heaven on Earth where the pure in heart shall see God.

According to Revelation 22:3, the curse of the first Earth will no longer exist. In the New Jerusalem God’s people will eat from the tree of life (the same one forbidden to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) which is “for the healing of the nations.” Here the Saints of God will also drink freely from the river of the water of life and live forever and ever!
If you have not yet repented and sought God’s forgiveness with all of your heart, we beg you to be reconciled to God. Need an invitation to the wedding? Here’s yours,

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life (Rev. 22:17).
Books by Philip DelRe:

- *God’s Master Plan of Salvation*
- *God the Final Frontier—How to Cultivate a Personal Relationship with Your Creator*
- *Answering Atheism with Questions*
- *Answering Islam with Questions*
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- *Perfect Love* (Gospel tract)
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The Bible is the greatest story ever told and Israel and her messiah is the story within the story.

If you want to see the power of God and know where we are on the prophetic time-clock, look to the Middle-East!

Thousands of years ago God spoke through the prophets, prewriting Israel’s history. In Ezek. 36:22-32 the Bible tells us why...

_These things were written so the nations may know that I am the Lord._

According to Ph.D. astrophysicists and other qualified American scientists, the odds of the Bible’s more than 2,500 prophecies being fulfilled by chance is one out of a number expressed as 1 with 2,000 zeroes after it!

According to the mathematical science of probability, if a number has more than 50 zeroes after it, the odds of that happening by chance are virtually impossible.

If the Bible is right about prophecy, it’s right about everything else, too: God, Jesus, Heaven, Hell, Satan, sin, the final judgment—all of it!

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