



# The Mystery Unveiled

An excerpt from the sixth chapter of the *Mystery of Zion – Israel and the Last Days*

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Throughout the Scriptures, the Word of God makes reference to Israel and the Jewish people from the time of Abraham to the end of the ages. Through it all, they are there in some form or another. At times they have been a nation, and at other times, sadly, they have been a people without a homeland, dispersed to the winds of time—but they have never been a people without an identity. Replacement theology proclaims that the Church has replaced Israel within the confines of God’s plan for humanity. There is no more truth to this false doctrine than there is to those who proclaim a dual covenant theology, believing Christians gain salvation through one covenant and Jews are redeemed through a different means. There is only one way to salvation, and that is through Jesus Christ. He confirmed this when He said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6 NIV).

There can be no other conclusion to the Mystery of Zion other than the realization that God still has a plan for Israel and the Jewish people. The biblical records provide conclusive evidence that Israel and the Jewish people will play a significant role not only during the end times but also in Christ’s Millennial Reign as well as within God’s eternal kingdom after the creation of the New Heavens and New Earth. Many of the covenants that God made with His chosen people, Israel, are eternal and will never be broken or expire. However, there will come

a day when God will virtually transform these previous covenants into an all-inclusive “New Covenant.” The prophet Jeremiah proclaimed this thousands of years ago:

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more (Jeremiah 31:31–34 NKJV).

Both the Old and New Testaments mention Israel’s role in future events. Historical events over the past sixty years regarding Israel and the Jewish people provide irrefutable evidence of God’s divine plan for His chosen people and His nation. There can be no other explanation for Israel, or even the descendants of Abraham, to have any notable form of cultural identity after thousands of years in exile. Israel’s rebirth as a nation, the Jews return to their homeland, and the re-establishment of their ancient language should, at the very least, make the world sit up and take note that God still has a plan for His chosen race. The divine protection afforded Israel from the threat of foreign invaders during its short modern-day life once again provides evidence that something bigger is at work within the confines of this tiny nation. Israel and the Jewish people are intricately woven into the fabric of God’s blueprint for humanity in the past, in the present, and in the future!

The Bible provides evidence for Israel’s purpose throughout the end of this age and the ushering in of the Tribulation, the Millennial Reign of Christ, and God’s eternal kingdom. Of course, there will be those who argue the validity of the Bible. But what other book could even come close to providing accurate prophecy regarding not only the rebirth of this nation and the return of its people to their homeland but also the destruction of Israel and Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago? No other book written in the history of the world even comes close to approaching the accuracy and validity of biblical prophecy. Attempting to dispel the accuracy of this divinely inspired work just because a prophesied event hasn’t yet occurred is ludicrous. Just because some prophecies haven’t come to pass at this moment in no way means that God won’t see to their fulfillment sometime in the future.

God has granted the world limited access into His future plans. Through the Scriptures, He provides a glimpse of the things He wants humanity to know and understand. However, there are still many untold mysteries involving the “final days.” If God believes future events require a greater understanding and more thorough knowledge for the good of His purpose, He will provide the revelation to the appropriate entities at the appropriate time. There are many mysteries in this time that are before us. God has shared the “need-to-knows,” and fortunately He is keeping many of the particulars to Himself. Personally, I prefer it that way.

So, what can we take away from all of this material and pondering? First, God has a plan of salvation that He wants to share with the world so that no one should perish (see 2 Peter 3:9). Second, God has a divine appointment for Israel, the Jewish people, and the Church. Third, there are mysteries of God that won’t be revealed until God deems it appropriate, either as they come to pass or as He provides further revelation. Fourth, somehow, in some way, in the not-so-distant future, God will enact a New Covenant with Israel that will lead to *all* of Israel being saved. (The question that arises from this is how can all of Israel be saved collectively, if all of Israel isn’t saved individually?) Fifth, Gentiles and Jews will have a significant role in the 1,000-year Millennial Reign of Christ and the Age of Ages—eternity. Finally, we are still living in the Church Age, which means that currently the only way to find salvation is through the acceptance of God’s free gift that comes by the acceptance of His Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord. When we accept this sacrifice of God’s love and ask Him into our hearts, we will be grafted into the cultivated olive tree. Within this “grafting in,” we also must realize the life-giving sap of Israel will one day “flow” a second time, through the purpose and design of a loving, gracious, sovereign God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

John Hagee said it well when he proclaimed, “All roads of Jewish history have to lead back to Genesis 17, where God established an everlasting covenant with the father of God’s chosen people, Abraham.”<sup>i</sup> This is obviously true, but I would contend that all roads lead specifically back to the scripture contained in Genesis 17:6–7: “I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you” (NIV). For if we are grafted into the holy root of the cultivated olive tree, then we too must look back to this passage of Scripture to celebrate the source of our faith and the promise of God’s New Covenant—one that offers salvation through the redeeming blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

As Christians, what do we do with this information regarding times that we may or may not be around to witness? It is apparent that God has a purpose for not only His Church during these days but, more importantly, His chosen people, Israel. So, to that question, there is only one response: we are called to share the amazing revelations of God through the proclamation

of His gospel message to those we encounter throughout our lives. With that being said, I believe it is relevant to share a quote from Theodore Epp, an American Christian clergyman and radio evangelist who lived during the twentieth century: “Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow.”

In the meantime, we need to recognize that God still has a divine appointment—or maybe I should say a divine destiny—for Israel, even though much of that destiny is shrouded in a cloud of mystery. We must support Israel’s right to exist as a sovereign nation. We must pray for the coming of the Prince of Peace, all the while praying for the Peace of Jerusalem as we look forward to that great and glorious Day of the Lord!

For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: “AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,” God says, “THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT and they shall prophesy. AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED” (Acts 2:15–21 NASB).

However, what is even more important to this theological study is the realization that God still has a plan for Israel. When He made a covenant with Abraham, it was everlasting. God’s covenant with His chosen people had a beginning, but it was one without an end! What is obvious throughout the premise of this study is the fact that while Christians share an eternal covenant through the gift of salvation by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God’s plan for our purpose on this earth will terminate long before His plan for the nation of Israel comes to an end. After the rapture of the Church, Israel will once again take its rightful place at the forefront of God’s plan and purpose for all humanity. All the Christians in this world will have departed through a miraculous Rapture. At that time, regardless of whether we believe in a Pre-tribulation, Post-tribulation or even Mid-tribulation Rapture, the Church will no longer be the means through which God deals with humanity. Once again, it will be up to Israel to serve as the conduit for the fulfillment of the final biblical prophecies.

John Walvord notes, “Isaiah 43 shows that God, who created Israel, would be with the nation through the deep waters as well as the fires of her affliction (vv. 1–2). The ultimate purpose of God is to bring the people of Israel back to the Holy Land from being scattered all over the world (vv. 3–7). This has been fulfilled only partially in return from the captivities and

awaits its complete fulfillment at the second coming of Christ (Ezek. 39:26–28). In supernaturally restoring Israel, God will make the nation a testimony to His own deity and power (Isa. 43:8–13). In the immediate future, God would deliver Israel from Babylon (vv. 14–21). But in spite of God’s goodness, Israel would not respond (vv. 22–24). God reminded her that only He would be able to blot out her transgressions or punish her for her sins (vv. 25–28). This prophecy will be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom.”<sup>ii</sup>

When the Age of Grace culminates on that glorious day when the dead in Christ rise from the grave with a final trumpet call (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18), the stage will be set for the ushering in of a final age—one that will culminate with the Millennial Reign of Christ. At that time, He will reign for 1,000 years upon this earth as He takes His rightful place within the most sacred of places in the rebuilt final Temple. He will sit upon His throne from within the Holy of Holies. There will no longer be a need for the Ark of the Covenant to be a part of this final Temple. There will no longer be a need for sacrificial blood to be poured over the Mercy Seat within the Temple. Jesus’ blood has already been poured out for the final forgiveness of sins and the redemption of humanity. He is the sacrifice, the Mercy Seat. He is “Emmanuel,” God with us, no longer in just a spiritual sense but also in a physical sense. It is here that He reigns not only for that 1,000-year age, which is known as the Day of the Lord, but also, when that final earthly age is complete, forevermore with all His beloved followers—those who proclaim He is who He says He is: the Lord God Almighty.

It is from this place in the Messiah’s Millennial Kingdom that the nation of Israel will finally find the peace and fulfillment spoken through God’s prophets. For thousands of years, Israel prayed for the peace of Jerusalem. It is a peace they will never claim until that great and glorious Day of the Lord when they look on the One whom they pierced and realize that He not only was, but is, their promised Messiah (see Zechariah 12:10). At that time, another prophecy will find fulfillment: “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:10–11 NIV).

So, what does all this mean? There are many ramifications. It means that God *still* has a plan for the nation of Israel, both as a political and spiritual body. It means God’s covenant with Abraham is still intact. It means the holy city of Jerusalem is God’s holy city—it doesn’t belong to any religion other than those who follow the one true God. Currently, it could be said this includes both Christians and Jews, but in reality, the only reason Christians could be considered in this mix is because we have been grafted into the Vine that provides eternal life.

God’s holy city never belonged to the Jews, the Christians, or any other religious entity. It has been God’s holy city from the ancient of days. The covenant God made with Abraham was about the land and His chosen people. According to 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” (NKJV).

Zion is the city of God: “And they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 60:14 NKJV). It is where the Lord has dwelt and will dwell again: “For the LORD dwells in Zion” (Joel 3:21 NKJV). During Christ’s Millennial Reign, Zion will continue to play a significant role. After the Millennial Reign, we are advised that God will build a New Jerusalem: “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Revelation 21:2 NIV). John described it this way:

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Revelation 21:10–14 NIV).

It will be at this time—and this time only within the confines of human history—that God will be finished with the earthly nation of Israel. Until that time arrives, God’s plan is still intact. He still has a purpose for His chosen people and His chosen nation. The significance of this serves as a warning to any and all who attempt to take a stand against it. As long as God is in control—and you are naïve if you think He isn’t, or there might come a time when He isn’t—Israel will maintain its rightful place among the nations. Woe to any nation or politician who takes a stand against the sovereignty of God’s chosen! Israel was literally born in a day in modern history, as I discussed in an earlier chapter. It is the only nation in history to come into existence, fall into desolation and destruction—with its native inhabitants cast to the four corners of the earth—and then miraculously revive thousands of years later in an instant.

As long as God has a plan for Israel’s existence, it will continue on. It will never be destroyed again. It will continue to exist and maintain its rightful place among the nations of the world because of God’s covenant with Abraham. Jerusalem is the holy city. God, in His sovereignty, will never allow it to be divided, invaded, or destroyed, regardless of the world’s preference and interference, until His Millennial Reign is accomplished. Those who curse Israel will be cursed. Those who bless Israel will be blessed! Those who attempt to interfere with God’s purpose for Zion, or with His covenant with Abraham, will meet their untimely demise.

Israel will continue to survive and maintain its place among the nations of the world not because of the significant role it plays in the secular world but because of God's divine destiny for His chosen people and His plan for the salvation of humanity. Israel's survival is attributed to God's divine sovereignty. Israel survives because of God's promise. Israel will continue in this world until God's purpose and plan for the Messiah's Millennial Reign is complete. The miracle of Israel will continue because God's hand is still upon this tiny nation of the world. Israel is here to stay until the end of the ages. Israel's final days will lead us all into eternity!

Israel will play a leading role long after the rest of us have departed from this world and the secular world powers have ceased to exist. Why? Because God entered into a covenant with His beloved servant, Abraham. Until God's purpose is accomplished, there is nothing the world can do to change the course of Israel's divine destiny! Ultimately, this is the Mystery of Zion that separates Israel from the other nations this world has ever known. With that being said, remember to continually pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! After all, the promised Messiah is the Prince of Peace! He is the Lion of Judah, the Holy One of Israel, and at His name, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord! At His Second Coming, He will usher in the final fulfillment of Israel's purpose and promise! Until that time, Israel will continue to not only exist but also stand as a testimony to the divine sovereignty of God.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is alive and well! His hand of protection and promise remains on His chosen people. The assurance that we find to the Mystery of Zion is that for more than 4,000 years, God has been intimately involved in the affairs of His chosen nation, both corporately and individually. As Dennis Prager has often stated in his speaking engagements, "Zion is the miner's canary for the human race!"

The Mystery of Zion and Israel's Final Days are critical factors that are intertwined in the ultimate destiny of humanity. This reality will never change as long as this world continues to exist in its present state and as long as the remainder of biblical prophecies await fulfillment in accordance with God's divine purpose. It began with a covenant that God entered into with a man named Abram. It will culminate within the realization of the New Jerusalem. For Zion's sake, and for the salvation and redemption of humanity, we must never forget God's promise!

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.  
The nations will see your vindication,  
and all kings your glory;

you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.  
You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God (Isaiah 62:1–3 NIV).

Shalom!

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<sup>i</sup> John Hagee, *Jerusalem Countdown* (Lake Mary, FL: Frontline, 2006), p. 55.

<sup>ii</sup> John F. Walvord, *End Times Prophecy* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2016), p. 115