

# WHAT ABOUT ISRAEL?

THE EIGHT ESSENTIALS

WEEK 8

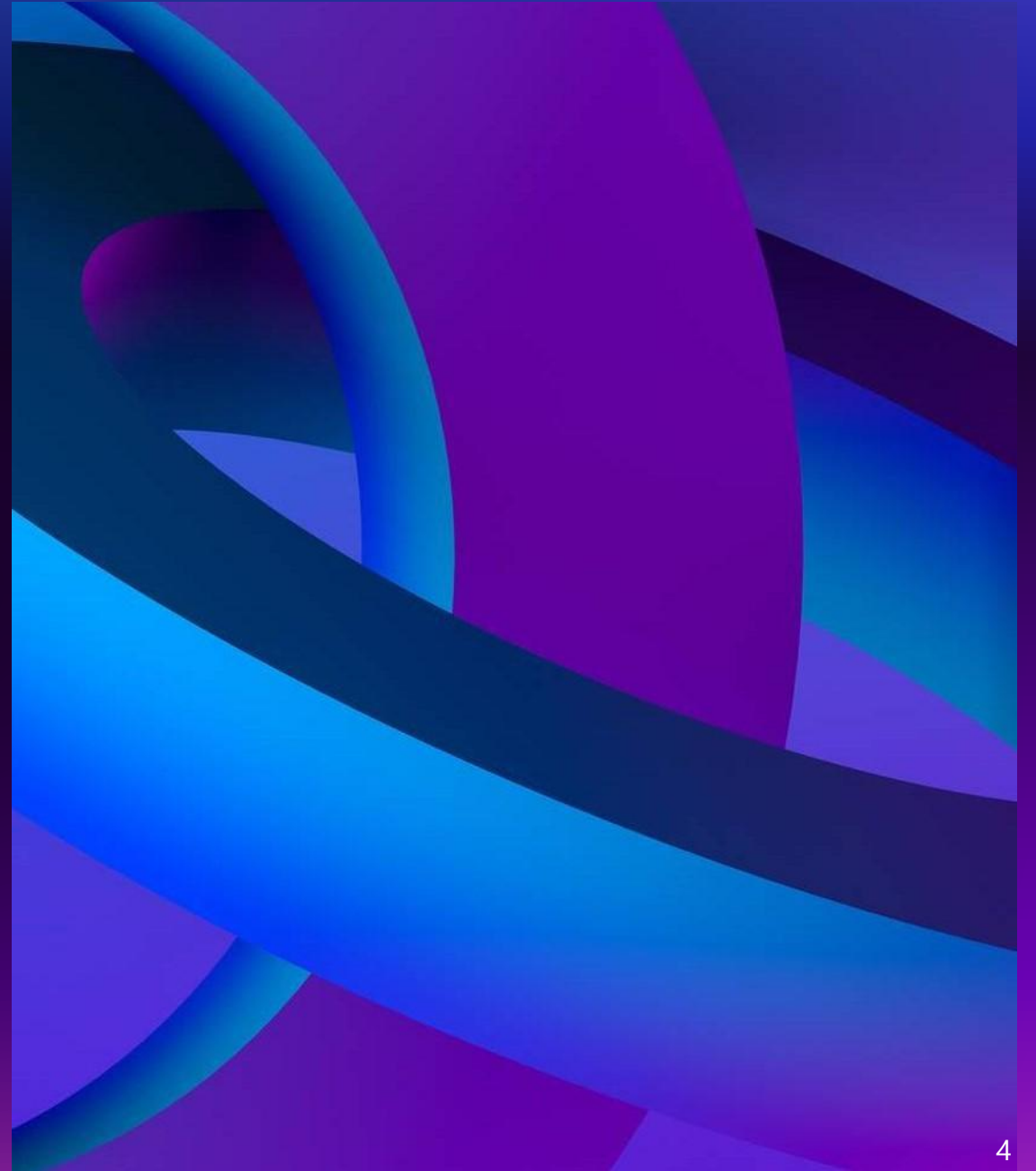
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“Every anti-God movement from Haman in the Old Testament to the Bolsheviks to the Nazis all sought to destroy the Jewish people because they are a people, regardless of their religious practice.”

-Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries

WHY DID GOD CHOSE A  
PARTICULAR PEOPLE?

# GENESIS 12:1-3



# THE INITIAL CALL

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- Genesis 11:31-32 seems to place the initiative with Tera, Abram's father
- Acts 7:2 clarifies that it was God who first appeared to Abram "before he lived in Haran"
- This is an intentional work of God
- God chose one man that He might make a nation from him
- It was for the purpose of blessing "all the families of the earth"

# THE CLARIFIED CALL

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- Genesis 17:1-8
- The repetition of the “multiple nations” as an intended purpose
- The importance of the coming Seed
- God chose one man that He might raise up a separated people to draw the world to Himself. Greater still is the reality that God ordained from the beginning the very family He would use to enter into our world that He might be a blessing to all nations.

# HOW DOES THE CHURCH FIT IN?

DID SOMETHING CHANGE BETWEEN THE OT  
AND THE NT?

# THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH

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How we see and interpret the origin of the church is of great importance.

- Is the church the reaction of God to the failings of His people Israel?
- Is the church the very things which God had planned from the beginning?

This helps us to consider where the church fits in.

- Did the church replace Israel?
- Is the church a part of the plan which God began in Israel?



## ROMANS 9:6-8

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But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "Through Isaac your descendants will be named." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

# THE CHILDREN OF PROMISE

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- Paul reminds us that the covenantal promise of God was for a multitude of nations
- The church has been grafted into the nation of Israel by faith (Romans 10:1-20)
- Multiple passages in the NT imply that the church is now a part of Israel (Hebrews 8, James, 1 Peter)
- It is clear that the church has not replaced Israel, but rather it has become a part of the Israel we see in Scripture.

# WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE?

HOW SHOULD WE THINK OF ISRAEL TODAY?

# ROMANS 11:25-36

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- First there is the caution that this is a “mystery” which we must approach with care
- It does not have to be a matter of division among believers
- Paul declares that a “partial hardening has happened” and that this work is the work of God
- It is through this hardening that the gospel message was taken to the Gentiles

# ROMANS 11:25-36

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- There is a divine timetable connected to this partial hardening
- “until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”
- If this is the purpose for the hardening, then it would follow that when the purpose has been achieved it would bring an end to the hardening of Israel.
- For clarity we see in Romans 9:18 that this hardening is indeed the work of God
  - “So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires”

# ROMANS 11:25-36

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- “and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written...”
  - The quotes that follow are from Isaiah 59 and Jeremiah 31
  - While in the Babylonian captivity God spoke numerous times through varying prophets concerning His plan for the national restoration of His people.
  - Historically we have not yet seen the fullness of these promises
- The events of the book of Revelation appear to focus on the nation of Israel

# ROMANS 11:25-36

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- The 144,000 that are called from the tribes of Israel
- The two witnesses that are martyred and three days later called into heaven
- We properly understand a number of these events by interpreting them through the lens of the OT prophecies such as those found in the book of Daniel.
- “for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable”
  - In Scripture God uses trials and tribulation to call His people back to Himself

# ROMANS 11:25-36

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- Still we do not know if “all Israel” is to be taken literally or to be understood as all those who place their faith in Christ.
- Either way, none will be saved by the works of the flesh for all are saved through faith in Christ alone.
- “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”  
Romans 11:33

# FINAL WORD

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- Regardless of our interpretation of these events, any anti-Semitism among the people of God should be shunned.
  - First, this is the very historical people group we have been grafted into in the Gospel.
  - Second, hatred for any people group simply because they are a people group is of the enemy.
- We do not have to endorse or even accept everything we see being done today. However, we must acknowledge the sovereign favor of God in calling Abram to Himself and raising up the Israeli people.

QUESTIONS?

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