

Keep Watch! Biblical Signs Related to Israel, Mark 13.34-37, 6.18.17

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Many today neglect the subject of the biblical signs of the times despite many Scriptures that emphasize how important these signs are. Jesus, more than any of the apostles, emphasized the need to discern the times (Mt. 24:32-44).

1. Mark 13.34-37.

B. **Big Idea: The clearest indicators of Jesus' return pertain to Israel and the Jews.**

1. 50th Anniversary of the Six Day War which ended yesterday, June 10, 1967.

II. **Biblical Signs That Pertain to the Nation of Israel & the Jews.**

A. Introduction

1. We do not believe in Replacement Theology. Now, all the promises of natural Israel no longer apply to them, but to the Church/Christianity.

a. Rom.9-11 is a clear revelation that God is not finished with the Jews.

b. Rom.11.28f – God chose them as a people and He is not rejecting them.

2. Jews find salvation with God the same way everyone does, through faith in Jesus. There is no two covenant relationship, i.e., the Gentiles have a covenant with God through faith in Jesus and the Jews have a covenant with God through obeying the OT Law.

a. Rom.10.2-4

B. **Satan increasing attacks against the Jews**

1. Gen.3.15 – the warfare betw Satan and Humanity. Satan actively opposes God's plan to bring salvation to the world.

2. Throughout Israel's Biblical history, there have been those who sought her annihilation.

a. Ex.1 – Phar is a type of anti-Christ (explain anti-Christ) and he was inspired to destroy Israel's deliverer, Moses, both after his birth and during his life.

b. The Book of Esther. Haman is a type of anti-Christ and he instigated an edict that allowed people to kill all the Jews.

c. King Herod – Matt.2. Inspired by Satan to kill all the young boys living in the region of Bethlehem so the Savior of the world would not be born.

d. Throughout Jewish history: **A Rabbi looks at the Last Days, p.28-31**

(1) Where would Israel be today if the US and other militarily strong nations did not exist? The anti-semitism is staggering!

(2) UN Sec Gen said: The denial of Israel's right to exist is anti-semitism.

3. Why the hatred?

a. Rom.11.11f – Israel’s salvation will mean great salvation throughout the world and the return of Jesus! You kill the Jews or foster an animosity around the world towards the Jews so that they do not have a chance or are resistant to receive the gospel. Historically, Christians have been some of the biggest opponents to Jews. It has only been in the last 40 years that Christians have really stood with Israel.

(1) As more Jews come to faith in Jesus, greater #s of Gentiles and therefore greater advancement of the Kingdom of God around the world.

(a) **Illustrate: Salvation of the Jews=Greater #s of Gentiles → Hastening the Return of Jesus!**

(2) Satan’s strategy is to exploit Jesus prophecy of Matt.23.39 by seeking to keep the leaders of Israel from receiving Jesus as their King. Satan knows that Jesus cannot violate His own prophetic word. Therefore, Jesus cannot return to earth to rule from Jerusalem until Israel leaders beckon Him to be their King.

(a) Satan wants to exterminate them so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah. John uses a prophetic pic of Isr as a woman being attacked by satan as a dragon; god will protect her from total annihilation.

(i) Rev.12.13-17

(3) Anti-semitism is nothing more than Satan’s attempt at self-preservation. If he can kill the Jews or keep them in a hardened state then he provides himself with more time to frustrate God’s End Time plan.

C. **The Return of the Jews to Israel**

1. Jesus prophesied the destruction of Israel in Mt.23.37-39; Mt.24.1-2. The Jews rejection of Jesus led to their dispersion , Diaspora, in the world, when in AD 70 Rome came into Jerusalem and destroyed the city and sent its inhabitants to the four winds of the earth. Rome did this b/c local radical leaders had resisted Roman authority over their city and province. Just as they rejected Jesus authority as their King, they rejected Rome’s authority and then found themselves in the midst of destruction.

2. **Isa.11.11-12 , 66.8-9; Jer.16.14-15, Zech.8.4-7** prophesied of their return.

3. Never in the history of humanity has a nation been dispersed and then almost 1900 years later been restored as a nation. This happened to Israel. In May 1948, Israel was given their homeland and since then millions have returned.

a. I believe this is a fulfillment of Rev.12

b. Almost half of all Jews now live in Israel. This is incredible considering only 60K lived there in 1948, but today the # is over 6 Million.

c. Jer.16.14f – promises a return from the North...to date over 1 million Jews from Russia have returned to Israel.

d. The preservation of their language, cultural practices and religion is astounding. Every other ethnic group would have been absorbed into whatever culture they were near, and there would have been no need for them to have a nation, but not so with the Jews. They were persecuted and pushed from one nation to the next. No other nation has ever survived so long w/o a geographic nation.

(1) Illustrate with Native Americans placed on reservations to maintain their heritage and cultural practices. It's only been 150 years and have they been able to maintain their identity. Every year more are being assimilated into the American culture. What will it be like 1500 years from now?

4. **Zech12.10-13.2** is referring to a future day when the Jews living in Jerusalem would come to a point that they would finally accept Jesus, "the one they had pierced", as their Messiah. This did not happen in Jerusalem when Jesus came the first time and until 1948 and truly until 1967 this was not even possible, b/c the Jews were neither back in the nation of Israel or in control of Jerusalem until then.

a. **Illustrate on white board or ipad.**

D. **Jerusalem under Jewish Control=the Times of the Gentiles Being Fulfilled- Luke 21.24**

1. Luke 21.24 – Jerusalem would be under Gentile control until their time of control comes to an end. It was sacked by Rome in 70 AD and it was under Gentile control until June 10, 1967.

a. Significant End Time Event – on June 10, 1967. Jerusalem was no longer under Gentile control. During the "6 Day War" Israel regained control of all Jerusalem. The "times of the Gentiles" came to an end.

(1) I do not believe this means God is done with His work among the Gentiles, but rather we will begin seeing a more distinct work among the Jews.

(a) The significance of 1967 – the summer of love but also the beginning of the Jesus People movement. There was a major outpouring of the Holy Spirit and you had the charismatic renewal and the Catholic Charismatic renewal which literally touched millions and its impact continues.

(b) I believe all of this is connected to Rom.11.12. As God does His work among the Jews it means greater salvation to the world.

(2) I also believe there is a connection between Luke 21.24 and Rom.11.25. Whenever a certain # of Gentiles come to faith in Jesus, then there will be an accelerated movement of God's Spirit among the Jews. I believe we are in the build-up to that time.

(a) I do not think this means God stops working among the Gentiles, but that a distinct work starts among the Jews. In my opinion this was not even possible until Jerusalem came under their control in 1967.

- (b) The promise is that most of Israel will come to faith in Jesus – Rom.11.25b-27.
- 2. Another reason Jerusalem is important is b/c Jesus is returning to it to establish His earthly throne.
 - a. Mt.23.37-39
 - b. Satan resists anything that has the clear sign of God on it, i.e., the family, sexuality, Christians, the Bible. NYC, Moscow, London, Hong Kong, Beijing are centers of power, yet this city of ½ a million commands such a center stage in world events. Why?
 - c. The city is important to God for it will be the geographic location that Jesus reigns during the millennium.
 - d. Zech 14.1-9 is clear that the nations will gather against Jerusalem, and Jesus will defeat her enemies.
- (1) Rev.19.11-20.2 is a parallel description of Jesus' defense of the city.
- E. **1000's of Jews turning to Jesus as their Messiah**
 - 1. Rom.11.22-24: God is grafting the Jews back into the tree of faith.
 - 2. **Ill on Ipad:** From the book, A Rabbi Looks at the Last Days: 50 years ago not a single Messianic Jewish congregation existed anywhere and at best several 1000 Jews professed faith in Jesus. By 2012, more than 500 Messianic Jewish congregations exist around the world.
 - 3. Worldwide, it is conservatively estimated that there are between 250,000 – 500,000 Jews who are followers of Jesus.
 - 4. In Israel in 2011, the Baptist Press reported: Now there are 150 Messianic congregations in Israel with the # of believers estimated to be 20,000.
 - a. In Israel in 1948, there were 12 Jews who believed in Jesus, in 1987 3000, and in 1997 5000 and 2017 20,000.
 - b. Rom.11.12 – As more Jews come to faith in Jesus, more Gentiles will come to faith in Jesus.
 - c. The Jews are God's benchmark for what he's doing in the world as it pertains to the End Times. As we see God's activity accelerate among the Jews we will witness a parallel work in the nations.
 - 5. Sid Roth – It's Supernatural. He's a Messianic Jew who is working to facilitate Eph 2.14-16.

III. Conclusion

- A. **We must stand with Israel.** This does not mean we have to approve of her policies or decisions or stand with her political leadership, but they we stand with her right to exist as a nation. We proclaim the Jews unique position before God – Rom.11.28-31. WE aren't caught in the political machinery, but we declare God's redemptive plan for natural Israel.
 - 1. **God blesses those who bless Israel – Gen.12.3**
 - 2. **We are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem – Ps.122**
- B. Are you ready to meet the Lord?

