

## **ISRAEL – WHOSE LAND IS IT? – BIBLE STUDY**

**12-31-23**

**Pastor David Nehrenz**

**Trinity Lutheran Church – Norman, Oklahoma**

[www.tlcnorman.org](http://www.tlcnorman.org)



### **Basic New Testament Premise:**

#### **THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS NOW THE “NEW ISRAEL”**

Thus the words in the Old Testament especially in the Psalms about “Zion” and “Israel” now apply to the whole Christian Church on earth and in heaven, made up of Jewish and Gentile believers through all of time.

#### **See these Biblical references:**

Acts chapter 2

Romans chapters 9-11

Galatians 6:15-18

Ephesians 2:12-14

Revelation chapter 7

#### **A sad reality, and why we must witness to our Jewish and Muslim friends:**

The Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah and the whole New Testament.

They want to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

The Muslims reject the Trinity and the Deity of Jesus and follow Mohammed,  
the false prophet and his book the Koran.

Both of them consider the land of Palestine to belong to them. The Jews because it was the land promised to the descendants of Abraham. The Muslims because they believe Mohammed ascended into heaven from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

In 70 A.D. the Romans tore down the Jewish temple. In 691 A.D. the Muslim built the Dome of the Rock which is a mosque dedicated to the worship of Allah. Both the Jews and the Muslims lay claim to the Temple Mount. Since neither group acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the whole world, they will continue to fight over the land of Israel until our Lord Jesus returns.

Thus we pray for them to come to faith in Jesus as the Christ, and turn away from their spiritual delusions.

The LCMS actively witnesses to both groups of people.

**JEWISH EVANGELISM** - “Apple of His Eye Mission Society” <https://www.appleofhiseye.org/>

(Our former Vicar, Pastor Jordan Peiser works with this outreach in addition to serving as Pastor in New Jersey.) <https://www.appleofhiseye.org/connect/blog/60-jordan-peiser/400-2023-11-01>

**MUSLIM EVANGELISM** – “People of the Book Lutheran Outreach to Muslims” (POBLO)

<https://www.poblo.org/>

(We had their director Pastor Khan conduct a seminar on Muslim Evangelism for our district at our church about 10 years ago. My Master’s Thesis at Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne was written in 1982 and is entitled: “How to Communicate the Muslim University Students.”)

## A Quick History of the Holy Land

Some scholars use Bible lineages to date Abraham around this time. Commanded by God, he leaves Ur, a wealthy, corrupt city in today's southern Iraq, and later, leaves Haran in today's southern Turkey. He receives God's word to "give you this land." By Dr. R. Reed Lessing was associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

### (Before Christ)

**1450:** Egypt's pharaohs subjugate the Canaanites, including Abraham's descendants.

**1250–1200:** A probable period when the Israelites enter the Holy Land after their Exodus from Egypt and reclaim the land from diverse Canaanites.

**980 to 935:** Kings David and Solomon build a rich Israel empire. Solomon's Temple is built.

**930:** Shortly after Solomon's death, the Kingdom is divided between North (Israel) and South (Judah).

**722–721:** The Assyrians conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The 10 tribes are deported and disappear from history.

**606–581:** King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army conquers Judah, destroys Jerusalem, including the Temple. Judeans are taken to Babylon.

**539:** The Medes and Persians (from modern-day Iran) capture Babylon. God induces King Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to their land. They rebuild the Temple.

**332:** Alexander the Great's Greek army sweeps across the Holy Land.

**323:** After Alexander's death, his generals, Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucid in Syria battle for the land.

**63:** Roman armies under Pompey overrun the land and begin a 600-year rule. Herod the Great becomes ruler of Judea.

### (After Christ)

**4 B.C. to A.D. 27:** Christ's life and ministry in Israel.

**A.D.30–300:** The new faith reaches out vigorously to gentiles, answering Christ's call to "teach all nations, baptizing them."

**330:** The Christian Byzantine Empire begins when Emperor Constantine is converted to Christianity.

**By 640:** Muslim armies drive Byzantine Christians from the Holy Land; they rule for a while from Baghdad. Jerusalem is recognized as a holy city in Islam and the Temple Mount as the place where Muhammad ascended to heaven.

**1099 to 1291:** European crusaders establish the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.

**1516:** Ottoman Turks overwhelm the Holy Land. It remains in Muslim control until World War II.

**1920:** Britain installs monarchies in Iraq and Transjordan. The latter governs Palestine. Fleeing Europe and Russia, Jews flood into Palestine from 1920 on.

**1947:** The United Nations divides Palestine into two states, one Jewish, one Arab. Jerusalem to be administered by the UN to avoid conflict.

**1948:** Israel, populated by Jewish refugees from Europe, Africa, and Asia, proclaims itself a nation. Open warfare between the new Israel and its Arab neighbors makes refugees of Palestinians.