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# The People, The Land, And The Future Of Israel: Israel And The Jewish People In The Plan Of God



## Synopsis

What does the Bible teach about the role of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel today? What is God's plan for the future of Israel and the neighboring countries? How can believers in Jesus be part of God's peace process in the Middle East? *The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel* walks through the Bible's account of the role of Israel and the Jewish people—both now and in the future. Each contributor offers a profound insight into God's unfolding plan and purpose for the nation of Israel as the Scripture depicts them. Readers will gain a deeper understanding of both current and future events in the Middle East as described in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Features an extensive foreword by best-selling author Joel Rosenberg who addresses the question, Will there ever be peace for Israel and her neighbors? Each chapter includes a scannable QR code that links to a short video introduction by the author of that chapter, introducing its topic. Discussion questions in each chapter aid book group and classroom discussion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I truly benefitted from and thoroughly enjoyed reading *The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel*. The great selection of contributors speaks for the quality and theological depth of the book. I read them all with great interest. I was especially gripped by the two chapters that dealt with the task of applying the theological insights to today. . . . You are to be congratulated for putting together the conference and for getting this volume published at just the right time. What a great service and what forward looking hope for Israel and the church! Isn't it great that the replacement theology

is being replaced! (Friedhelm Radandt, President Emeritus The King's College 2015-01-29)

Darrell L. Bock is Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. A former president of the Evangelical Theological Society, he is the author of the best-selling *Breaking the Da Vinci Code* and numerous works in New Testament studies, including *Jesus According to Scripture*. Mitch Glaser is the president of Chosen People Ministries. Mitch and his wife, Zhava, are Jewish believers in Jesus and have each labored for more than twenty years in ministry among the Jewish people. Mitch holds a PhD in Intercultural Studies.

This book has all the information you could ever want if you want to sort out two visions of the future: will the Church of Jesus replace the Jews in receiving the promise of God that they will get the promised land back in the end? Or will the Church and the Jews share that promise? Loads of Scripture references. The biggest flaw is the use of so many great big words, which make for a challenging read. I am using it for a small lady's group Bible study, we all find it interesting, but lots of complaints @ ten dollars words when 50 cent ones would be just as good!

Since my teenage years I've been interested in what the Bible has to say about the past, present, and future of the Jewish people and the land of Israel. I've read many commentaries on the subject in the past two plus decades and I can't think of one which has explored the subject from as many different perspectives as I found in this book. Like the multiple layers and rich colors of a vibrant painting, each author in this book added a valuable perspective to the whole. Just a little advice though, don't let the impressive titles of the authors put you off because you'll find the words in this book written in the spirit of a carpenter, of fisherman, a tent maker, and a tax collector. As a high school educated plumber, I found the authors were able to share their extensive knowledge in a manner which anyone with a genuine interest in the subject could understand. This is not to say the book was just a cursory look at the subject, on the contrary, you'll find a depth and insight in this book which you'd be hard pressed to find outside the cloistered halls of a theological seminary. Some of the highlights of the book: \* Dr. Merrill's chapter on Israel According to the Torah. In this chapter Dr. Merrill looks at the importance the Bible places on establishing the lineage of the promised "seed" through Adam, Abraham, David, and ultimately the Messiah Yeshua. He mentioned the omission of the 4 kings in the list of Matthew 1 with the result that the lineage shows a symmetry of 14, 14, 14. I can't help but believe there is a deeper significance intended by this

arrangement. If the names in Matthew 1 are counted out there were only 41 names given (14+14+13). This would make Yeshua the 13 generation, as given by Matthew, and upon his resurrection the 14th as well. This also brings to mind the words of the apostle Paul in Eph. 2:13-14 where he talks about Yeshua breaking down the "middle wall of partition" which separated the Gentiles from the temple proper and by implication the presence of YHWH. How appropriate then that during the 2nd temple era the "wall of partition" was accessed by 14 steps and entry to the temple was granted by one of 13 gates.\* My favorite part of the book was written by Pastor Epstein. In this chapter on Israel and the Local Pastor, Mr. Epstein shares a heart warming and inspiring perspective on why he loves the Jewish people and land of Israel. To put it in his words:"To love Israel and the Jewish people is personal (it's my thing); it's moral (it's the right thing): it's political (it's the smart thing); and ultimately, it's biblical (it's God's thing)."In summary, the central question of this book is, can YHWH, the God of the Bible, be taken at his word? If He can, then the final act of The People, The Land and the Future of Israel is yet to be played out. With this hope in mind, Maranatha!P.S.I have a question I'd like to ask Dr. Kaiser or Dr. Feinberg if they ever happen to read this review and are inclined to respond. Both of you gentlemen mention Daniel 9 and the prophecy of 70 weeks in your essays. What do you believe to be the strongest Biblical chronological evidence for the claim that Ezra and Nehemiah were contemporaries of "Artaxerxes" Longimanus. As I am sure you are aware this chronology is the foundation upon which the 70 Weeks rests, yet surprisingly little is written about it.

The depth of the authors in the book that I have read so far are on par with the readings that I became familiar with in Seminary. Their references are well researched and abundant as well. For the average reader the book might present a challenge, but it is a worth-while one.

Excellent presentations. I was at the conference.

The book under review is the result of a conference that was held in New York in support of the special place of Israel in the Scriptures. Seventeen contributors put forth various articles under the headings of New Testament, Old Testament, Hermeneutics, Theology & Church History, and Practical Theology. A Forward is provided by popular writer Joel Rosenberg. The Introduction is by Glaser, and a short Conclusion is by Bock. The purpose of the book is to bring together studies advocating the place of "Israel and the Jewish People in the Plan of God' as the subtitle has it. The presenters come from the broadly premillennial camp; many are dispensationalists. On the whole the

articles are brief - about 12 to fifteen pages on average, but for the most part each author has made good use of their allotted space. It may be helpful to give a few general remarks about the contributions rather than choosing one or two to pieces for extended comment. In the first place I found Rosenberg's *Forward* to be off-putting. It is written in a journalistic parlance which is at odds with the tenor of most of the articles. It also focuses on biblical prophecies being fulfilled in our time, which seems a questionable assertion. That said, I agree with the statement that the existence of the State of Israel today is testimony to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (17). Nevertheless, I think the book could have done with a less popular opening. Eugene Merrill's survey of the Torah is not as good as I expected from such an author. His advocacy of a 'Creation covenant' is unpersuasive, omitting mention of the crucial covenant-oath. He surprisingly holds that the land grant, nationhood, and blessing "were fulfilled in biblical times" (35). Although saying this does not mean that there is no future for national Israel, the references he uses (e.g. Gen. 15:18 & 22:17) do not really find fulfillment until the kingdom age. Walter Kaiser's chapter on "Israel according to the Writings" is well done and includes helpful treatments of the Davidic covenant, prophecies in Daniel, and providence in Esther. Robert Chisholm's chapter on the Prophets spends a lot of time arguing for "essential fulfillment which allows for human freedom" (54). Chisholm refers to the prophecy to Ahab about the dogs licking his blood "in the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth" (1 Kings 21:19). He observes that the dogs licked Ahab's blood at Samaria, not Jezreel where Naboth was killed (59). He believes the discrepancy shows that "God makes room for human freedom in the outworking of even irrevocable prophecy." (60). In other words, he holds that prophecy can be fulfilled somewhat differently than written. I found this article perhaps the least satisfactory of all the chapters in the book. It sows doubt where there ought to be confidence. In response to the Ahab prophecy it should be noted that Ahab's repentance did seem to impact the pronouncement; the doom being transferred over to his son (1 Kings 21:29 with 2 Kings 9:25-26). Further, 1 Kings 22:38 says the dogs licked Ahab's blood "according to the word of the LORD", which was true. It does not mention the place where Naboth's blood was licked up, most likely because of the change in Ahab's outlook. But this incident should not be used, as Chisholm uses it, as paradigmatic of long-term prophecy. Chisholm states, "When fulfillment transcends the prophet's time and context, the language takes on archetypal status and one should expect essential or generic, not exact or literal, fulfillment of prophecy." (61). There then follows examples of such "contextualized" "partial fulfillment." Unsurprisingly, Ezekiel's Temple sacrifices are one such example (65). In my opinion this chapter hardly helps the aims of the book. The next chapter, by Michael Brown, discusses Jewish traditional interpretations. Since these are often speculative and sometimes wacky (a 150

foot tall 'shrunken' Adam on p. 81!), Dr. Brown's talents might have been utilized better on another subject. If the OT contributions are uneven, the NT contributions are much better. The pieces by M. Wilkins (Matthew), and D. Bock (Luke-Acts), are both valuable. Not far behind is M. Vanlaningham's coverage of Romans, although strangely he doesn't attend to the Olive Tree figure in Romans 11. Craig Evans on the General Epistles spends too much time discussing authorship. He even inserts the idea that Paul begrudged calling James one of the pillars of the early church (135). His chapter is too generic to offer much solid help. Craig Blaising on "Israel and Hermeneutics" is one of the best chapters in the book. One gets the impression that he would have liked more space to really bring out his points. But he does succeed in showing why supersessionism fails in regard to being comprehensive, congruent, and (too briefly) consistent and coherent. His use of the argument from performative language hits home (160-162). Next follow two strong chapters from M. Saucy and J. Feinberg. This part of the book is the best in my opinion. The last part of The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel includes M. Vlach on "Israel in Church History" - a solid treatment. There is also a fine chapter about Israel as an evidence for the truth of Scripture from M. Rydelnik. Another interesting chapter, the last of the book, is a study of the positions on Israel taken by theological schools. The survey is by Gregory Hagg. As no school or denomination is mentioned the chapter lacks decisiveness, but is still worth reading. The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel is a mixed bag. The highlights are the chapters by Kaiser, Wilkins, Bock, Vanlaningham, Blaising, Saucy, Feinberg, Vlach, and Rydelnik. The impression left by most of these authors is that they would have benefited from more space. Chisholm's chapter was most disappointing. I could have done without the pieces by Brown and Evans didn't do much for me. The other chapters are quite good, but not great. The decision to use endnotes instead of footnotes was unfortunate. Despite some bright moments, all in all the work falls behind similar works such as David Larsen's Jews, Gentiles, and the Church; Barry Horner's Future Israel, and Israel, the Land and the People, ed. by H. Wayne House.

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