

NOTES

~ *History of Israel: Why Care?* ~

God first formed a covenant with Noah after mankind walked away from Him in the Garden of Eden. He tried again with Israel through Abraham in 1945 BC and again through Moses in 1445 BC. His final attempt was through Jesus in about 27 AD. This covenant will last for all time.

Why is the history of **Israel** important to Jesus' followers?

1. They were the 'bride of God' in covenant with Him as we are the 'bride of Jesus' in covenant with God through *Him*.
2. Prophecies given to Israel concerned the coming Christ (Jesus) and kingdom of God on earth. Jesus fulfilled (and is fulfilling) them.
3. Israel was an example of obedience *and* disobedience to God.
4. The only way to truly understand what God desires or hates is to look at the Old Testament records of God's covenant with Israel and how He responded to that obedience and disobedience.

So, why study this *today*? One of the Old Testament prophecies was that God would bring Israel back to her homeland in the last days (i.e. **Amos 9:14-15**). This indeed happened on May 14, 1948.

Let's look at Israel's history as we explore why we should learn their history. By the way: the following conquerors (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greek, and Rome) are six of a total of eight that must come before God's eternal kingdom.

- Birth of a Nation (1945 - 1660 BC)
- **Egypt**, the Exodus, and Beyond (1660 – 722 BC)
- **Assyrian** Rule (722 – 605 BC)
- **Babylonian** Rule (605 - 539 BC)
- **Mede-Persian** Rule (539 – 331 BC)
- **Greek** Rule (331 - 63 BCE)
- **Roman** Rule and dispersion (63 BC – 1948 AD)
 - Final covenant with mankind through Jesus (about 27 AD)
 - Israel dispersed among the nations (70 – 110 AD)
- Homecoming: Israel as a nation again (1948 AD - Present)

What's next? We're in a 'betrothal', as Jesus and we fulfill a type of traditional Jewish wedding. One day, He'll gather us for the marriage supper (**Matthew 24:30-31** and **Revelation 19:6-9**) – the final step – in this 'marriage' relationship. Let's celebrate our covenant and renew our vow to be faithful as we take communion together and await His return (**1Corinthians 11:25**).

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