

# What on Earth is going on?

Seminar handout 4a Why Israel? Part 1: God's promise to Abraham up to the scattering in AD 135

**What does the Bible claim is God's purpose with the earth?**

See Numbers 14:21 Isaiah 40:4 and Habakkuk 2:14

**What are the nations compared to in the sight of God?** See Isaiah 40:15

**What are God's eyes always upon 'from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year'?** See Deuteronomy 11:12

**Who did God promise this land to and for how long?** See Genesis 13:14-15

## Slavery in Egypt

How many of Jacob's family settled in Egypt during the famine? Genesis 46:26-27

How many years were the family in Egypt? See Genesis 15:13-16

How many of Jacob's family left Egypt at the Exodus? See Exodus 12:37

**Underline in the passage below why God chose this people?** Deuteronomy 7:6-9 NIV

*'For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.'*

## History of the nation from King to Captivity

What was the attitude of the people when wanting a King to rule over them? See 1 Samuel 8:7

Which great empires took the nation into captivity?

Why did God's people go into captivity? See 2 Kings 17:5-20

How many years did God tell his people they would be in captivity in Babylon?

See Jeremiah 29:10

How many years are the prophets silent - from Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet until the New Testament record begins?

Who fulfils the following Old Testament prophecies at the beginning of the New Testament? (the one spoken of in Mark 1:1-3)

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.” Malachi 3:1

A voice of one calling: “Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.” Isaiah 40:3

What did the OT prophet Micah say was going to happen to Jerusalem?

See Micah 3:12? (Jesus also spoke of this time to his disciples in Luke 21:20)

Underline why the Jews (children of Abraham) are God’s witnesses (Isaiah 43:10-12)

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no saviour.

I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—I, and not some foreign god among you.

## To think about

- Why does the Bible have so much detail about the history of Israel?
- Why are the fortunes of Israel mapped out in Bible prophecy?
- What has Israel got to do with me in the 21st Century?

## My questions...

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