

Notes:

# ISRAEL AWARENESS

## ***GIVING ISRAEL BACK TO GOD***

*“I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion. I will betroth you in  
faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the  
LORD.”*

***HOSEA 2:19-20***



*“You open your hand and satisfy the desire of  
every living thing.”*

*Psalm 145:16*



**Intro:** In Deuteronomy 14:2 God says of Israel, “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples (nations) on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be His treasured possession.” Today the nation of Israel has an identity crisis. Only 10-15% of Jews cling to their religious heritage while the remaining 85-90% has abandoned their faith and tries to find their expression in secular, human Zionism. What does this mean for Israel? Are they removed from God’s plan for the world? Even though individual Jewish people can be saved, what about the nation of Israel itself? Does God still deal with nations? He does and will! **Acts 1:7-8**

### 1.) Paul—“I promised you to one bridegroom, to Christ...” 2 Co 11:2

- The focus: Sincere and pure devotion to God. (2Co. 11:3)
- Paul’s heart for the church:
  - \*I’m jealous for you with a godly jealousy. (2 Co. 11:2)
  - \*I’m afraid you’ll be led away from devotion to Christ (2Co. 11:3)

How we bring people back to God— A deep concern for their spiritual condition and their pure devotion to God. (Romans 9:3-4)

- ❖ *How can we gain Paul’s heart for the church?*
  - *By first cementing our own devotion to Christ.*
  - *We regard no one from a worldly perspective. (2Co.5:16)*
  - *By realizing we are God’s fellow workers. (2Co. 6:1)*

### 2.) God—“In that day...you will call me my husband” Hosea 2:16

- The focus: Israel-identity, repentance, destiny. (Hos. 2:14-3:5)
- God’s heart for Israel:
  - \*I will **betroth** you in righteousness, faithfulness, love (V.19)
  - \*You will **return to me** and seek me with trembling. (3:5)
  - \*Say to those called ‘not my people,’ you are **my people** (V.23)

Israel has been described as an open wound, they sense they are still God’s chosen people, but don’t understand why God would allow them to be treated so harshly for so long.

- ❖ *How can we have God’s heart directing Israel toward faith?*
  - *Reminding them of who they are. (Is.43:10-12)*
  - *Guide them towards their Scriptures. (2Tim. 3:14-15)*

- *Connecting with our Jewish roots. (Col. 2:16)*

### 3.) God is continuing to bring His people back in our generation!

- The focus: A new heart! (Ezekiel 36:24-28)
- Reconciling the heart:
  - \*I will bring you back into your own land. (V.24)
  - \*I will sprinkle you and you will be clean. (V.25)
  - \*I will give you a new heart & put a new spirit in you. (V.26)

God is gathering Israel in our generation; this confirms that prophecy is still being fulfilled. (Is 49:22) This should draw our attention! God is beckoning to the gentiles, to encourage and enable His people to come home.

### 4.) The certainty of God’s promise. Heb. 6:13-20 & Rom. 11:1-15

- The focus: God’s promise; He swore by Himself! (Heb. 6:13)
- God made the unchanging nature of His purpose clear:
  - \*I will bless you and give you many descendants (Heb.6:14)
  - \*God did not reject His people. (Romans 11:2-6)
  - \*If their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Ro. 11:15)

God forever stamped the unchanging purpose of His will upon Israel forever, “I have not rejected you.” God’s plan for salvation has been completed through Jesus, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. God’s plan of redemption for the ‘nation’ of Israel is still being revealed, and soon Israel will attain its rightful place.

**Conclusion:** Jesus said, “No one can come to me less the Father draws him.”—John 6:44. We can’t argue people into the kingdom; entrance requires repentance, humility and a new heart. God is truly ‘drawing’ Israel near as time passes, but as God’s fellow workers we must have His heart and His perspective. Trying to convince or convert Israeli’s/Jews won’t work; we must love and serve them without expectation. God is the mover of the heart! Encouraging them, pointing to where God is working, and reminding them of His love for them is a message of comfort as well as conviction—Is. 40:1