Israel

Intro: The nation of Israel today is the center of a great deal of controversy. It is referred to as the Zionist movement. The premillennialist and Israeli stand is that the land of Israel belongs to them, so that Christ can come to Jerusalem and establish an earthly kingdom. Thus, in our study, I want us to notice the Biblical view of Israel.

I. THE LAND PROMISE.
   A. Land promised to Abraham and his descendants.
      1. Gen. 12:1-3, 7 “1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed....

      2. Gen. 15:18-21 “18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

   B. Two questions in regard to this promise.
      1. Was the promise ever totally fulfilled?
         a. The cities of refuge.
            (1) Deu. 19:7-9 “7 Wherefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt separate three cities for thee. 8 And if the Lord thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers; 9 If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to love the Lord thy God, and to walk ever in his ways; then shalt thou add three cities more for thee beside these three:”

            (2) Jos. 20:7-8 “7 And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjatharba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah. 8 And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.”

         b. Jos. 21:43 “43 And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.”

         c. Jos. 23:14 “14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”

         d. 1 Kin. 4:21 “21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.”

      2. Was the promise forever?
         a. Gen. 13:15 “15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.”

         b. Forever in the Bible is not always used in an unlimited or absolute sense.
            (1) Gen. 17:13 “13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”
(2) Num. 25:13 “13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.”

C. No earthly ground is holy today.
   1. John 4:23-24 “23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
   2. Acts 7:48-50 “48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, 49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? 50 Hath not my hand made all these things?”

II. THE NATION (PEOPLE) ISRAEL.
   A. Destruction of Jerusalem.
      1. All the genealogical records were destroyed so no one can prove that they are a Jew.
      2. Jer. 19:1-15 (esp. 10-11 “10 Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee, 11 And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter’s vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury.”)

   B. Who are the Israelites today?
      1. The name Israel.
         a. Gen. 32 Jacob’s name is changed to Israel upon wrestling with an angel.
         b. Hos. 12:3-4 “3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: 4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;” Israel means “prince of God” or “one who has power with God.”
         c. One who has power with God today are Christians.
      2. Rom. 2:28-29 “28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”
      3. Gal. 3:6-9, 29 “6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.... 29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
      4. Christians are the people, nation, of Israel today.
         a. Col. 1:13 “13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
         b. 1 Pet. 2:9 “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;”

III. THE HOPE OF ISRAEL.
   A. The Jews had a misconception of the Messiah.
      1. They wanted to be delivered from the bondage of Rome instead of sin.
      2. They wanted an earthly empire.
         a. John 6:15 “15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.”
b. His was a spiritual kingdom; John 18:36 “36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”

B. According to Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment the hope of Israel is:

1. The Lord, our Righteousness; Jer. 23:6 “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

2. A Redeemer who would come out of Zion; Isa. 59:20 “20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.”

3. A Fountain for cleansing; Zec. 13:1 “1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.”

4. A new covenant; Jer. 31:31-34 “31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

5. The suffering Servant; Isa. 53

6. An Immovable Kingdom; Dan. 2:44 “44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

7. A Precious Cornerstone; Isa. 28:16 “16 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

8. The Prince of Peace; Isa. 9:6 “6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

9. A Humble King; Zec. 6:12 “12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold, the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord;”; Zec. 9:9 “9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

C. Jesus is that hope.

1. Luke 2:25-32 “25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

2. Luke 2:36-38 “36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”
3. Only one hope; Eph. 4:4-5 “4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”

4. The gospel is God’s power to save; Rom. 1:16-17 “16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

5. Rom. 11:26-28 “26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes.”

Conclusion: You can be a part of the true Israel of God today by obedience to the Gospel and entering into the spiritual kingdom of Christ.