

## **The Jews Are News**

*The Jetsons*, a space age cartoon which premiered in 1962, featured jet packs, flying cars, robots, holograms, drones, moving sidewalks, smartwatches, instant food preparation, flat screen TVs and large screen telephones, all of which have become reality. We live in a magical age which is both exciting and scary.

Yet God is in control of history, with His care for the Jewish people being an ongoing object lesson. *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”* Isaiah 49:15-16.

### **Three Ways God Works thru the Jewish People and Us:**

#### **1. He \_\_\_\_\_(Chastens) Them.**

- a. *“I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit – and I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.”* Romans 9:1-3.
- b. It’s hard to watch those we love suffer. *“If you fully obey the Lord your God, I will set you high above all the nations on earth...however, if you do not obey the Lord your God, all these curses will come upon you...the Lord will scatter you among all nations...you will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day...”* Deuteronomy 28:1;15;64-66.
- c. The Jews were driven from 79 nations over the last 3000 years, culminating in the Holocaust where six million perished. Out of the ashes of this tragedy, Israel was born. *“The Lord disciplines those he loves and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”* Hebrews 12:6.

#### **2. He \_\_\_\_\_(Chooses) Them.**

- a. *“I could wish that I myself were cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ.”* Romans 9:3-5.
- b. God chose the Jews (Deuteronomy 7:6) and gave them a mission to bless the nations (Genesis 12:3). They are the recipients of ten distinct privileges, including the honor of authoring, preserving, and guarding the Scriptures. They win 22% of all Nobel Prizes, even though they are 0.2% of the population. Thru their family line, the Messiah was born.

- c. Israel is # 1 in irrigation methods, agricultural production, desalination, academic accomplishments, book publishing, and diamond processing. The Israeli army is the fourth most powerful on earth. The Jewish people have taken a desert and made it a paradise.
- d. Have you wondered, “Am I chosen?” *“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9.* God gives varied attributes and opportunities to people, with Americans being blessed in extraordinary ways. We have access to the finest Bibles, preachers, and biblical resources in the world.

**3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (Chisels) Them.**

- a. *“It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children.” Romans 9:6-7. “I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation.” Ezekiel 37:21.*
- b. In 1917, when Palestine was liberated from Muslim control, 83,000 Jews lived there. Today there are 6.5 million. The Hebrew language was resurrected, the nation of Israel was reborn, and Jerusalem was acquired. Plans to rebuild the temple intensify. Sadly, anti-Semitism is hotter than ever, with intense opposition to Israel repeatedly surfacing in the United Nations.
- c. *“Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine.” I Peter 1:7.*

**Although the invention of nuclear weaponry, the rise of globalism, the explosion of technology, and the unusual outbreak of evil have all been cited as harbingers of the return of Christ, the # 1 sign is Israel. *“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” Matthew 24:32-33.***

# Discussion Questions

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1. Have you ever watched *The Jetsons* cartoon show? Have you noticed that many of the futuristic devices they featured have become reality? What is most exciting to you about the age we live in? What is most scary to you? What does Isaiah 49:15-16 teach about God's ongoing relationship with the Jewish people?
2. Read Romans 9:1-13. Why was Paul heartbroken in verses 1-3? Have you ever watched someone you love suffer deeply because of their own rebellious heart? How did this impact you? What commands and warnings are given in Deuteronomy 28:1;15;64-66? Why do you think that Jews have been so hated down through history? Why do you think they continued to identify as Jews even though that identity brought persecution to them? What is taught in Hebrews 12:6 about discipline? Did you have parents that disciplined you? How did they do this? What lessons did you learn?
3. Look at verses 3-5. Why do you think God chose the Jewish people as his own? What is taught in Deuteronomy 7:6 and Genesis 12:3? What are the ten privileges that God gave the Jews, as stated in Romans 9:3-5? What peculiarities have you noticed about the Jewish people? How has the nation of Israel distinguished itself in recent times? Do you believe you are chosen by God? In what way? What is taught in II Peter 3:9 about God's desire for us? What blessings and opportunities have we enjoyed as Americans that others have not enjoyed?
4. Look at verses 6-7. How has God chiseled away at the Jewish people over the ages? What does Ezekiel 37:21 teach about the Jews? How has God worked in and through the Jewish people and the nation of Israel over the last century? Why do you think anti-Semitism continues to rear its ugly head in the United Nations and in daily life? What is taught in I Peter 1:7 about the purpose of trials?
5. Why do many think that the invention of nuclear weapons and the rise of globalism and the explosion of technology and the unusual outbreak of evil in recent times all seem to be setting the table for the return of Christ? Why is the birth of Israel and the return of the Jews to Palestine the # 1 reason we believe the return of Christ is imminent? What is taught in Matthew 24:32-33? Are you ready to meet Christ as His return?