Israel: Past and Present

Phillip Mullins · Genesis 12:1–3 · Series: **Islam: Series by Phillip Mullins at North Courtenay**

INTRODUCTION

- These issues of Iraq and the Middle East and the fight over Palestine, and the whole idea of the religion of Islam, these things are really the backdrop to these news events.
- It's important to understand regarding Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, some things about their roots. Because it will help us to properly understand things that are going on today.
- The New Testament says in 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 21, test all things, hold fast what is good.

1 Three Promises Made to Abraham

Genesis 12:1–3

- Now the Lord had said to Abraham, get out of your country from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.
- I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing.
- Abraham was promised a land. This is the land of Canaan, now called Palestine.
- Second of all, that he was going to make out of this man a great nation.
- That he would have a protective relationship with Abraham and his people.

2 A Law and a Covenant at Sinai

Exodus 19:4–8

- God, through mighty miracles, delivers the Israelites from their oppressive, evil masters, the Egyptians.
- Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people, for the earth is mine.
- Then all the people answered together and said, All that the Lord has spoken, we will do.
- He makes them great promises. But those promises were conditional upon them heeding his word, upon them keeping covenant with him.

3 Then Things Began to Unravel

- Because of Solomon's unfaithfulness and committing idolatry, and the following generations, their idolatrous behavior, and turning their back to God and breaking the covenant God made with them at Mount Sinai.
- The land first divides into Israel and Judah, Israel to the north, and Judah a separate kingdom in the south.
- Because of their unfaithfulness to God. They were carried into captivity.
- But really, the prophets were ultimately pointing toward one who would bring these blessings in a spiritual way. And that would be the Messiah.

4 The Jews Rejected Jesus

Matthew 23:37–38

- And though his first disciples came from Jews, for the most part, the Jews rejected Jesus.
- Oh, Jerusalem. The one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you were not willing.
- Assuredly I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down.
- Jesus' words to the Jews are, be prepared. Great destruction is coming.

5 The Romans Marched Against Jerusalem, 70 A.D.

- There was a lot of political instability in Judea. And it was always a problem for the Romans.
- His son Titus, General Titus marched upon Jerusalem, invaded the city, burned the temple, destroyed the centerpiece of Jewish life. 70 A.D.
- The priesthood dismantled. They have no centerpiece, they have no temple.

6 A Period of Dispersion and Oppression

- There are several periods here, and there's one large period that we can just simply call a period of dispersion and oppression.
- Jews lived during the heyday of the Islamic civilization in relative peace among Muslims.
- And for centuries in Europe, they lived a segregated life. And they were limited in what they could do in society.

MY NOTES