

WHICH ISRAEL IS TO BE BLESSED WITH WHAT BLESSING?



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1. Evangelicals tell us that we are to bless the state of Israel by support for its policies if God is to bless us.

“The Lord stands watch in the darkest night with an eye trained on the nation of Israel and, more specifically, Jerusalem. Those who fight with Israel fight with Him. Prosperity or punishment depends on how we treat Israel. In the moment God covenanted with Abraham, the Almighty gave him an awesome promise: “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). No pronouncement of Scripture is clearer or more decisive. God smiles on the friends of the descendants of Abraham, and they enjoy heavenly favor. In contrast, God will answer every act of anti-Semitism with harsh and final judgment. This fourth principle is critical for every citizen of the United States of America. No matter how clever our economic policies or how comprehensive our military preparation, the most significant action our nation can take is our compassionate support of the State of Israel. The quickest and most effective way to be on God’s side is to stand with the state of Israel and the Jewish people in their hour of need ... God blesses the man or nation that blesses Israel or the Jewish people.” **John Hagee, Final Dawn over Jerusalem, p. 17.**

“The world has been blessed by God’s people, and it is time for us to bless the Jews. We can begin by praying for the nation of Israel and supporting their right to hold Jerusalem in peace... God clearly promises to bless the man, the church, or the nation that blesses the State of Israel or the Jewish people.” **Ibid, pg. 30.**

““You have managed to talk a lot about world events,’ he said, ‘without expressing any support for the nation of Israel! Don’t you know that this is the main thing that God is concerned about right now?’... He wasted no time getting to his basic theological point: ‘God has said that he will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse them. If you don’t want to be cursed, then you had better support Israel against her enemies!’... To take the side of Israel’s enemies, then, is to go against God’s announced plan for the Middle East.” **Richard Mouw, How to Bless Israel, pg. 1.**

2. This Evangelical idea of supporting the State of Israel or the Jewish people irregardless of their deeds is based upon a misrepresentation of this following Scripture. Gen. 12:1-3.
3. This Scripture as others speaks directly to Abraham and to his seed. Gen. 12:2, 7; Gen. 17:1-8.
4. It is true that Jews or Israelis are the literal descendants of Abraham, Christ Himself affirmed that. Jn. 8:33, 37.
5. But Jesus only identified the Jews with Abraham as his true children if they accepted Jesus

Himself, this shows that one was to be considered a child of Abraham spiritually on the basis of accepting Christ. Jn. 8:37-40.

6. As far as Jesus was concerned, the literal or fleshly Jews were spiritually the children of the devil. Jn. 8:44.
7. Paul caught these ideas of Jesus' teaching well, he tells us that Jesus was the seed of Abraham to which the promises were made. Gal. 3:16.
8. He then tells us that Jews and Gentiles are all the children of God by Faith, so that racial distinctions mean nothing to God. We are told that if we belong to Christ then are we Abraham's seed in Christ, and thus all the promises belong to the Church made up of Jews and Gentiles (including all the blessings in Gen. 12:2, 3). Gal. 3:26-29.
9. Thus the people of God, or God's people who are to be blessed and not cursed according to Gen. 12:2, 3, are not physical Jews or the State of Israel, they are those who accept Jesus Christ, which is the church. (2 Cor. 6:16-18; Eph. 1:3).
10. Paul tells us that to be Abraham's seed and therefore be heir of the promises through Christ, is to receive the adoption as sons of God by the reception of the Holy Spirit in the heart, this is certainly not physical Jews who have not accepted Jesus. (Gal. 3:28, 29; Gal. 4:3-7).
11. Because if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His, he does not belong to God. Rom. 8:9.
12. We are children of God not by being fleshly Jews, but by being led by the Holy Spirit; this makes us heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ who is the seed of Abraham, and to whom the promises were made. Thus the seed of Abraham who must be blessed and not cursed, are not fleshly Jews nor the modern State of Israel, it is the Church that has the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:6).
13. We are told that not all physical Israel are spiritual Israel; this means that Gentiles are also among the number of spiritual Israel. The fleshly born seed of Abraham are not all children of Abraham or God. The fleshly children of Abraham are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted for the seed of Abraham, and they are the Church. Rom. 9:6-8; Gal. 4:28, 29.
14. What promise is this that is referred to? It is the promise of the Holy Spirit as a gift as one is a child of Abraham by faith. Gal. 3:7, 14.
15. Thus there are spiritual Israelites made up of both Jews and Gentiles, since God has made Gentiles who were not His people into His people or into children of the living God. Rom. 9:6, 24-26.
16. When God therefore told Abram that he will bless him and make him a blessing so that in him shall all the nations of the earth be blessed in Gen. 12:1-3, He meant that this blessing

was the blessing of Justification through Faith which is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 3:6-9, 14.

17. So then, those who are blessed with Abraham are not those who support the unbelieving modern nation of Israel or the Jewish people, it is those who are of the Faith of Jesus Christ that come from Christ Himself; for the promises are through the Faith of Jesus Christ only to those who believe in Jesus. (Gal. 3:9, 14, 22; Gal. 2:16).
18. The Jews in the modern nation of Israel are more than 90% unbelieving Jews who do not want Jesus Christ nor accept Him as their prophesied Messiah, many hate Him. Therefore the blessing is not for them and they are not blessed in that state until they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. (Rom. 9:31-33; Rom. 10:1-4).
19. Jews were cut off from the olive root and the Gentiles grafted on by Faith, and remain there by Faith. The only hope of the Jew is to be grafted in by turning to Jesus Christ through Faith, until then, they are not the spiritual seed of Abraham. Rom. 11:17-20, 23; 2 Cor. 3:13-16.
20. Thus the circumcision is no longer the Jews, but spiritually speaking it is the church who believe in Jesus Christ; so also is the new nation not the modern State of Israel, but is the Church that believes in Jesus. (Phil. 3:3; 1 Pet. 2:9, 10).
21. We are not to think that blessing Israel in the flesh means not criticizing them when they do evil to other people, for even Christ and the apostles did rebuke their evil whenever necessary as instructed by God. Matt. 23; 1 Thess. 2:14-16.

“... evangelical Christians do Israel no favors by refusing to criticize what the Israelis are presently doing in the Middle East. No one cared more about the well-being of the Hebrew people than the prophets of ancient Israel. Yet those prophets regularly criticized Israel’s leaders [and the whole nation] for their corrupt practices. They minced no words when they were convinced that the people of Israel were guilty of injustice: [Hos. 14:1 and Mic. 2:1, 2 quoted]... Why did they utter these harsh words? Because those prophets know that God would never bless Israel unless that nation conformed to God’s standards of justice and righteousness.” **Richard Mouw, How to Bless Israel, pg. 2.**