

## **“Why I Love Israel and the Jewish People” \***

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A handsome young salesman approached us from his kiosk at the mall last summer. What brought up the fact that he was Jewish I do not recall, but on learning that he had God’s name tattooed on his chest, I felt a particular love for him. That regard for his people and the land he represents springs from the following factors.

First, God loves the Jewish people. The Old Testament prophets poignantly reveal that deep love. Though Jeremiah, for example, calls out many warnings and judgments for Israel’s sin, the tone often changes dramatically to express God’s passionate love. In chapter 3 He even refers to Israel metaphorically as his wife, and He further inspired the Book of Lamentations, voicing His broken-hearted sorrow for their loss and destruction. In knowing and loving God, one comes to absorb the principle of 1 John 5:1: “everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.”

I love Israel because, as Deuteronomy 14:2 explains, “Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen [them] to be his treasured possession.” His choice includes the land and Jerusalem: “For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling” (Ps. 132:13). Not based on Israel’s superiority or goodness, God’s choices are, “not for your sake, O house of Israel...but for the sake of my holy name...” (Ezekiel 36:22).

Thirdly, the treasured Word of God came to us largely through Israel. “They are Israelites, and to them belong...the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises” (Rom. 9:4 ESV). Also, almost all of the New Testament books were inspired through Jewish authors.

Perhaps my most valued reason for loving the Jewish people is that they brought me my Savior. His earthly lineage is documented in Matthew and Luke genealogies, and Romans 9:5 clearly states, “...and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ...” (ESV). Moreover, my understanding of His salvation has been deepened through many Old Testament object lessons, such as the Passover and typology of the Levitical system.

Galatians 3:24 says, “The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (NKJV).

Additionally, the land of the Bible is precious as it gives evidence of truth. From Kadesh Barnea up to Mount Hermon the land is full of sites that testify to Scripture and God’s purposes and promises. The miracle of the rebirth of the nation of Israel is also spectacular evidence of these truths, as prophecies such as Jeremiah 16:14 &15 have been fulfilled: “...For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers” (ESV).

A sixth reason to love the Jews is that God gave a delightfully plain promise of blessing if we do! Right at the start God said to Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse...” (Genesis 12:3).

Finally, speaking of blessing, I value the influence of Israel, via Christianity, on our Western laws and morality, however eroded they are becoming. Also the world benefits from the achievements of the Jews. Apparently, for example, “Since [2000], Jews have been awarded 25% of all Nobel Prizes and 27% of those in the scientific research fields.” \*\*

Footnotes:

\* Scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated for English Standard Version or New King James Version.

\*\* *Jinfo.org*, [www.jinfo.org/Nobel\\_Prizes.html](http://www.jinfo.org/Nobel_Prizes.html), (accessed May 24, 2017)