



Do Followers of Christ Have An Obligation to Israel?

What does the Bible say?

- ✚ The Promise to Abraham is transferred from a bloodline nation (**Gal. 4:22-31**) to a spiritual community (**Rom. 10:12**).
- ✚ The Temple is not a physical building (**John 2:19-21 & Rev. 21:22**).
- ✚ The Jerusalem of prophecy is not of this earth (**Heb. 12:22**).
- ✚ The Kingdom is not a physical state (**Heb. 12:28**).
- ✚ **God** warned the Israelites (**Ezek. 5:5-8**) He would be expanding the franchise (**Malachi 1:11**) and there would be no more favorite ethnicity (**Hosea 2:23**).

Nowhere in the Book of Revelation is a war against a geopolitical Israel described.

“Israel” has been reassigned. The title now belongs to whoever wants in... a voluntary community of believers.

The present state of Israel is to be judged by the same standards as any other nation.

All yet-to-be fulfilled prophecies, like Daniel’s, must be read through the new spiritual prism.

This is not selective cherry-picking of verses.
It is consistent with the entire sweep of the Bible (see reverse side).



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Other references:

- ‡ The Kingdom is not David's, but of heaven. (**Matt 3:2**)
- ‡ Heirs of Abraham becoming more fluidly-defined. (**Matt.3:9**)
- ‡ Land ownership is not the point. (**Matt. 6:19 & 20**)
- ‡ Old Israel loses the franchise. (**Matt. 21:43**)
- ‡ A new covenant. (**Mark 14:24**)
- ‡ God is “not in temples made with hands.” (**Acts 7:48**)
- ‡ All nations are “of one blood.” (**Acts 17:26**)
- ‡ No distinction between Jew & Gentile anymore. (**Rom. 2 thru 4**)
- ‡ Old Israel loses the franchise. (**Rom. 9**)
- ‡ A new take on Moses. (**II Cor. 3:13-15**)
- ‡ All can be “Abraham's seed and heirs.” (**Gal. 3:29**)
- ‡ Fleshly Jewry no special thing. (**Gal. 6:15**)
- ‡ No distinction between Jew & Gentile. (**Eph. 2:14-19**)
- ‡ The old covenant obsolete. (**Heb. 8:6-13**)
- ‡ Seek a heavenly country. (**Hebrews 11:16**)
- ‡ To people of Gentile lands (**I Peter 1:1**) “You are now the People of God.” (**I Peter 2:9 & 10**)

But what about all the Old Testament vows to restore the Temple and re-take Jerusalem forever? - Done, done, and done: Ezra, Nehemiah & Haggai describe the first rebuilding, the Maccabees restored c. 158 B.C., Herod rebuilt in Jesus' time, and then Jesus embodied the Temple and the promises forever (**Matt. 5:17, John 2:19-21**)—(actually, Jesus and his believers together: **I Cor. 3:16 & 17, I Cor. 6:15, Gal. 3:28, Eph. 2:20-22**).

...Which leaves only that curiosity, the **Revelation** of John. Despite its dubious authenticity, it made the cut in 4th Century councils of bishops. Here we find the only biblical reference to Armageddon, just once (16:16). Presumably, he meant “Megiddo,” which is in Israel near Haifa, a site of much warfare over the ages. According to John, armies from east of the Euphrates and demons gather there to make war (16:12-16), but not against a State of Israel. The only targets of these warriors are Christ and Christians (12:4, 17:14, 19:19). The “woman” of Ch. 12 is not the state of Israel, because she appears not from the earth but from heaven, well into the Tribulation (v. 1), and she gives birth only to Christ and Christians (v. 5 & 17).

“Jerusalem” appears to be involved in the battle, but with qualifiers: “The Lamb” (Christ) wins at “Mount Zion” (Jerusalem) (14:1, 17:14), but we've seen the New Testament definitions of those entities (I Peter 2:6-9, Heb. 12:22 and previous references), so that warfare may be of the spiritual sort. Gentile nations “trample” “the holy city” for 3 ½ years (11:2), and “the great city” is divided into 3 parts (Jewish, Christian & Moslem?) (16:19). One could infer the U.N. policing Jerusalem, but “the great city” could as well be Babylon, New York or London (see the merchant center of Ch. 18). There is certainly no preemptive strike against Iran or China.

There is no advocacy for an Israeli state (or any state) anywhere in the New Testament...Is this what your preacher is preaching?

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