

## THE STORY OF THE BIBLE:

### SESSION #2

#### THE NATIONAL RULE OF ISRAEL

##### The Biblical Story: NATIONAL

As the individual rule of man unfolds from Genesis 1:26,28 and then the fulfillment prophecy of Genesis 3:15 that an ultimate New Adam would rule, the story moves further to develop a national rule. This would be the rule of Israel.

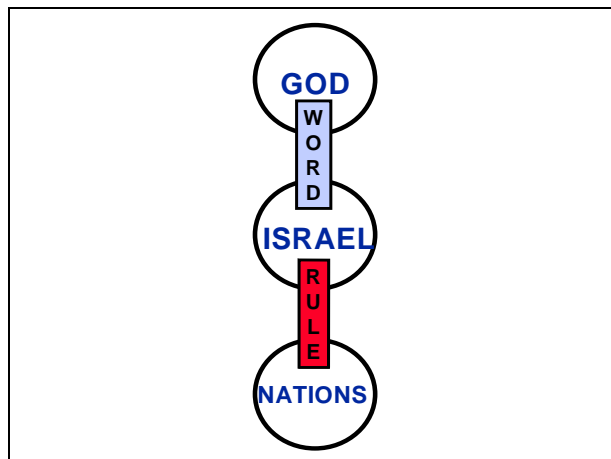
##### **The happy beginning**

Like the individual story where God establishes man as the ruler, in the national story God establishes Israel as the ruler.

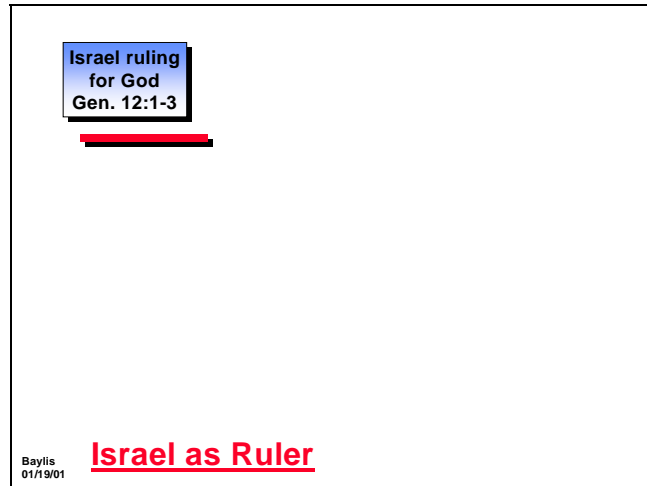
1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 **And I will make you a great nation**, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.** "

Like the man was established as ruling over the animals so also Israel will be established nationally as ruling over the Gentile nations.

Genesis 12:1-3



Thus the happy beginning is established (the setting) as God has established his national ruler, Israel over the Gentile nations.



### Genesis 12:1-3

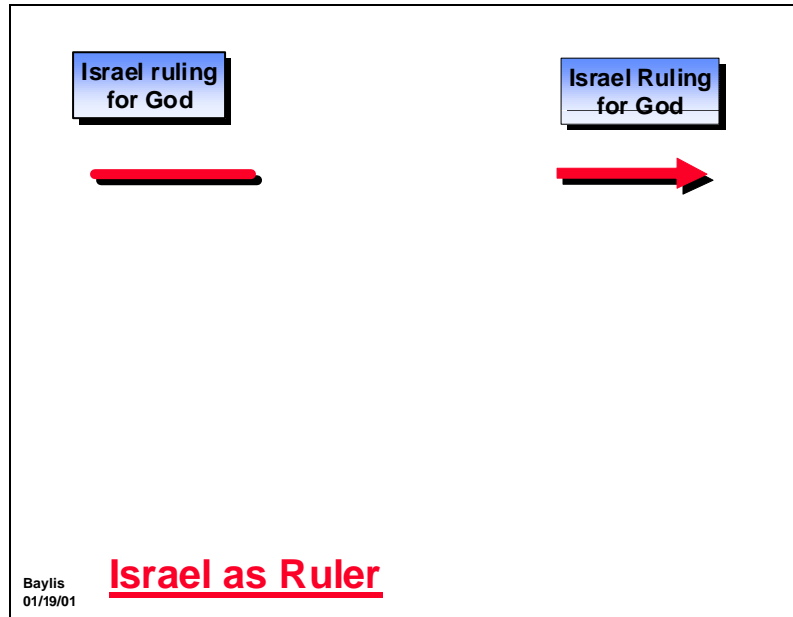
God's desire is revealed as He took a barren man and woman (Abraham and Sarah) and created a nation from them through whom He would bless all the other nations. God created the nation Israel to **rule** for (represent) Him over the Gentile nations. Just as God would bless the nations through Abraham, so also it would be through Abraham's children, the nation Israel, that God would be represented to the nations. This is what is known as the Abrahamic Covenant, God's unconditional promise to Israel.

### The happy ending

If one goes to the other end of the story, to Revelation 22:10--26, one would find that God has achieved what He desired to do in Genesis 12:1-3. Israel is the geographical and national capital of the world, with its King reigning in its capital city, Jerusalem, on a new earth. Notice that the "kings of the earth" are Gentiles who are coming to Jerusalem to worship the King; that is Jesus, the Christ.

Revelation 21:10 And he . . . showed me the holy city, Jerusalem . . . 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *those* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. . . . 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . . 23 "And the city (*New Jerusalem*) . . . the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; . . . 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."

Thus, it is clear that the end fulfills God's desires for the nation Israel at the beginning. But if this is all the story, then it would seem not to be the most exciting story, since nothing has changed nor developed.



### **Back to the Beginning: The Setting**

In the return to Genesis 1—12, it is clear that God seeks to establish His nation, Israel as the ruler over all the Gentile nations.

### **The Main Character, God's, Desires**

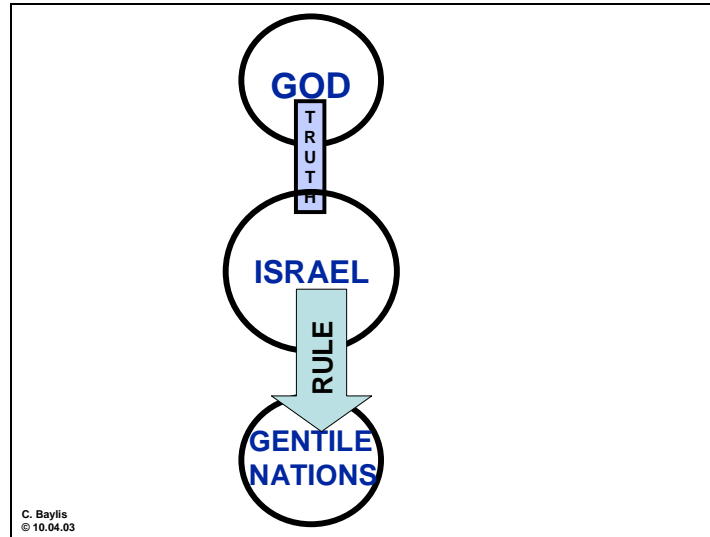
This is very simple. For in addition to the fact that the Main Character, God, has desired to make a nation, He states that it has an order, a purpose.

### **Israel to Rule**

That purpose is that nation is to **rule** over the nations of the earth..

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; **And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.** "

Genesis 1:26,28



### Represent

When God said that in the nation Israel all the nations would be blessed. It was only that Israel would represent God to the nations that He would bless them. In other words it was not Israel as the source of blessing, but God who was the source of blessing.

The way that Israel would represent God was because the Genesis 3:15 New Adam would be provided through the Nation Israel. Thus, they would bless the nations through the provision of the Messiah by God.

Thus, while Israel would be this blessing, they would also be the means of judging through the Messiah.



## How Israel would “Represent” God

As was the case in the garden where God told man “how” he would represent God, so also it is in the Law that God told Israel “how” they would represent Him. The Law is contained in the whole of the Pentateuch or the first five books of the Bible.

### **The Law**

The Law revealed the character of God. If Israel was to represent God then they must keep the Law perfectly. If they did not they, like Adam, would be condemned to death.

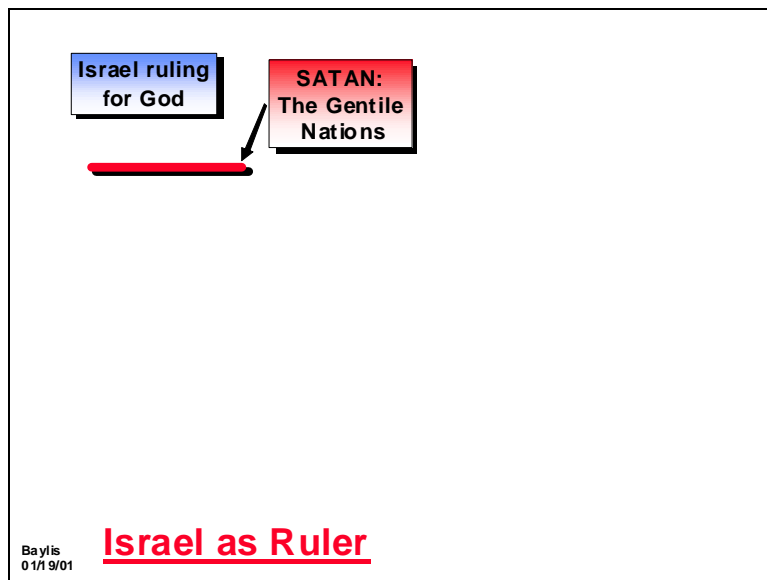
<sup>15</sup> "But it shall come about, if you will not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

Deut. 28:15

Thus, like Adam, the nation was warned that if they disobeyed, they would find death as a national judgment. Like Adam they will be expelled, but from the land instead of the garden.

## The Antagonist: Satan, the deceiver operates the Gentile Nations

Just as man was to rule over the beasts, so also the nation, Israel, was to rule over the Gentile nations. But Satan will step in again. This time he will attempt to deceive Israel through the deception of the Gentile nations.



So as Satan became a serpent, now Satan becomes an influence through Gentile nations; particularly their evil practices and their women. The nations then will try to deceive Israel (on behalf of Satan) to follow them instead of God.

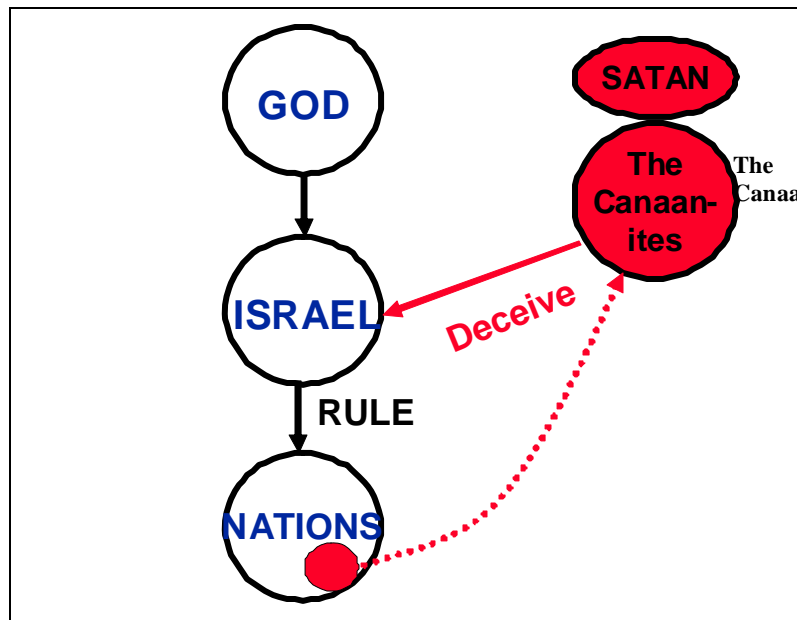
When the LORD your God shall bring you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and shall clear away many nations before you,

then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them. <sup>3</sup> "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. <sup>4</sup> "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you.

Deut. 7:1-4

<sup>16</sup> "Beware, lest your hearts be deceived and you turn away and serve other gods and worship them.

Deut. 11:16



Thus, the stage was set. God had instructed His nation, Israel, how to obey Him and represent Him. Would they give into the deception of Satan and follow the lure of other nations and allow them to influence them, deceive them, and ultimately rule over them? As the story moves to the establishment of the kingdom in Solomon, Satan attacks.

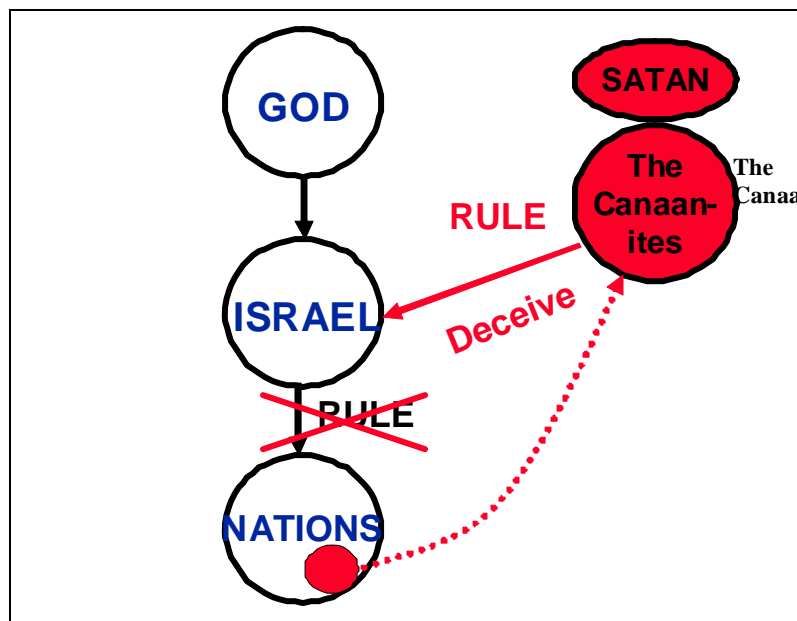
### **The Conflict: 1 Kings 11:1-7**

Following the Book of Genesis, God continues to build His kingdom and finally establishes His King, Solomon, and extends His rule over all the nations. It is time for the nation and their King to rule for God.

Yet Solomon, like Adam, follows the deceit of Satan and is lured by the women of other nations and ultimately loves them and their gods. This is no less than what Adam did. Solomon turns to the worship of Satan and allows him to rule over him and his kingdom. Like Adam died when Satan ruled over him, now the nation and its king have turned on God.

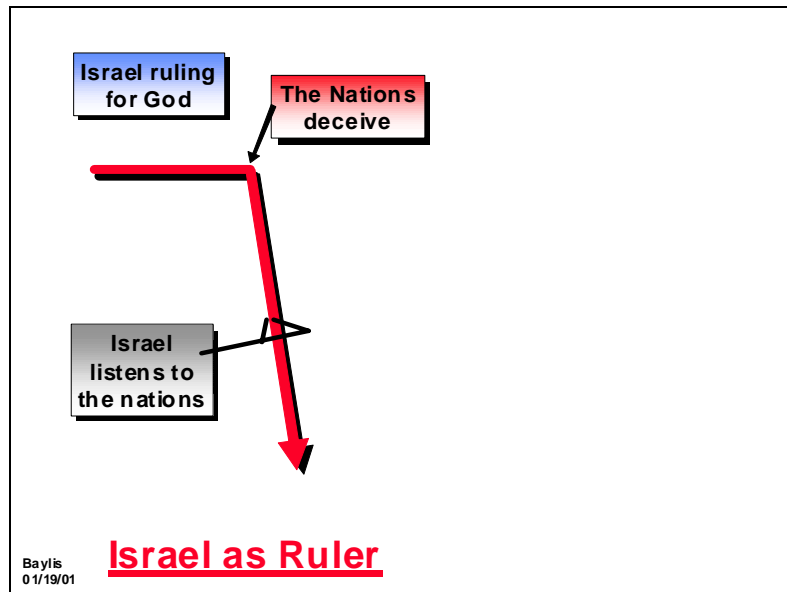
Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, neither shall they associate with you, *for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.*" Solomon held fast to these in love. <sup>3</sup> And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. <sup>4</sup> For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father *had been.* <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father *had done.* <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. <sup>8</sup> Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1Kings 11:1-8



Thus the conflict or problem has now been fully established. The King and his nation have listened to Satan and the Gentiles and have violated the command of God. They rejected God for Satan. Thus the desire of God in Genesis 12:1-3 has been thwarted. No longer will this nation and its king, rule for God. All seems lost.

Thus, so to speak, God (the Main Character) has a problem. His nation has now been stolen by His antagonist, Satan. The story now waits for God to act. What will He do to restore His nation back to His rule?



### The Plan: The Prophets and Genesis 3:15

Now that God has had His plan attacked, He comes on the scene and, in the prophets states that He will bring forth several things, but all will be established through His New Adam, the Christ. It is this One of Genesis 3:15 who will accomplish all.

- **Exile into Gentile lands (national death).**

God is going to reverse the rule on Israel. Instead of them ruling over Gentiles, the Gentiles and Satan will rule over them.

<sup>13</sup> . . . Now He will remember their iniquity, And punish *them* for their sins; They will return to Egypt. (Hosea 8:13)

<sup>5</sup> They will not return to the land of Egypt; But Assyria-- he will be their king, Because they refused to return *to Me*. (Hosea 11:5)

- **A New Exodus from the Gentile lands**

Then as He delivered them from Egypt, now God will deliver them from this Gentile power once again. This time, however, He will give them a new character, so that they will obey Him and He will not exile them again.



<sup>10</sup> They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar, And *His* sons will come trembling from the west. <sup>11</sup> They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, And like doves from the land of Assyria; And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD. (Hosea 11:10-11)

- **A New Moses**

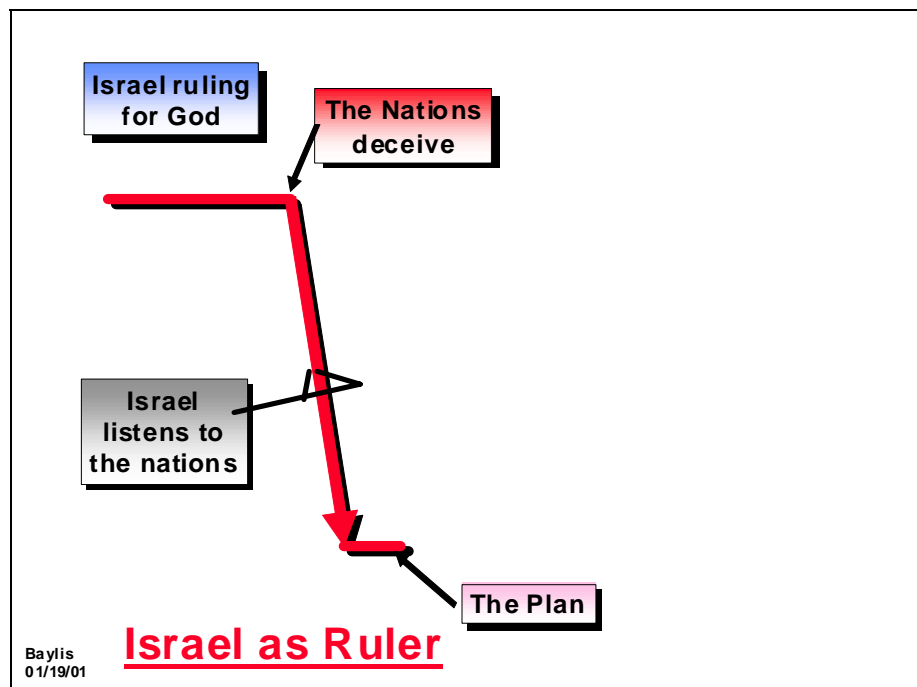
As there was a Moses who delivered them in the Old Exodus, now a New Moses will appear who will deliver them from the Gentile power

<sup>15</sup> "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. (Deut. 18:15)

- **A Real Passover Lamb**

This Moses to come, however, will also be the Passover Lamb. It is clearly seen in Isaiah 53, that the Great New Moses, the Davidic King, will die for sins. He, though a great conqueror, will substitute Himself for their sins so they can be in His kingdom. Thus, the Genesis 3:15 Ruler, the New Adam will be fulfilled as this Ruler dies for the sins of the world so that they can be in His Kingdom.

<sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. (Isa. 53:6-7)



## **The Implementation of the Plan (the rest of the story)**

Then following 1 Kings 11, God moves to implement His plan to install a New Adam on the throne of His creation.

First of all God does the following:

- **Exile into Gentile lands: The Times of the Gentiles**

In 586 BC, God brought Babylon down and they conquered Israel and took them into exile. This is to be followed by the subsequent rule of four Gentile nations, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. This is prophesied in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 where Daniel outlines the four Gentile nations followed by the Kingdom of God.

- **A New Exodus from the Gentile lands: The Second Coming of Christ.**

Israel will repent and turn to Jesus toward the end of the Great Tribulation. As they are in exile, Jesus will return and call them back out of exile. As they return, the Gentiles, like Egypt, will try to kill them, but Jesus will return to save them and direct them back into the promised land for the Kingdom.

- **A New Moses: Jesus to deliver them from Rome**

Jesus appears in His first coming, and like Moses leading out the Israelites, must first convince them that He has come from God to destroy Rome and bring them the Kingdom. Thus He does signs to show them that He can deliver them and that they should believe in Him.

One of these is the miracles in John. As Moses multiplied manna in the wilderness now Jesus multiplies loaves and the fish.

<sup>13</sup> And so they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth the Prophet who is to come into the world." (John 6:13-14)

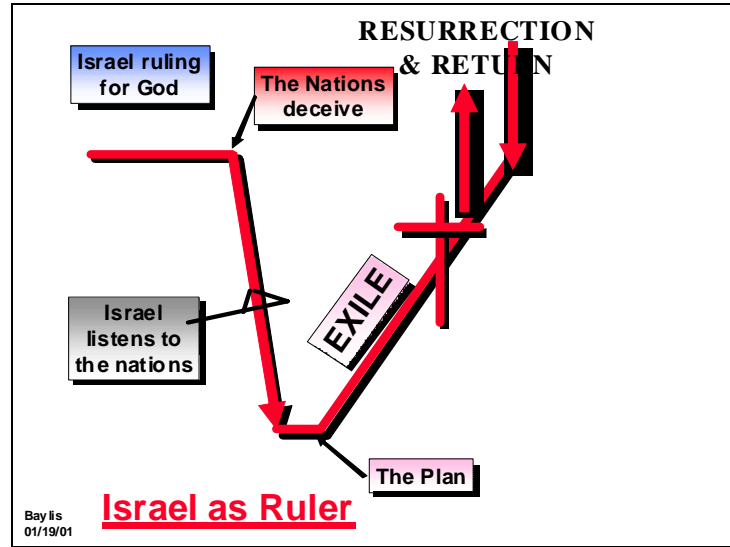
Thus, it is clearly seen that Jesus is this New Moses who will deliver them and that they should follow Him as He will destroy Rome and bring them into the Kingdom

- **A Real Passover Lamb: Jesus to die on the cross.**

This Moses to come, however, will also be the Passover Lamb. It is clearly seen in Isaiah 53, that the Great New Moses, the Davidic King, will die for sins. He, though a great conqueror, will substitute Himself for their sins so they can be in

His kingdom. Thus, the Genesis 3:15 Ruler, the New Adam will be fulfilled as this Ruler dies for the sins of the world so that they can be in His Kingdom.

The King is resurrected to show that He can return bodily and deliver His Nation as the New Moses. In addition, the sacrifice that He made on the cross is also validated as being acceptable to the Father for sins. Thus, the resurrection demonstrates that He will return; for as He conquered the Roman's attempt to keep Him in the grave, so also can He conquer them when He returns.



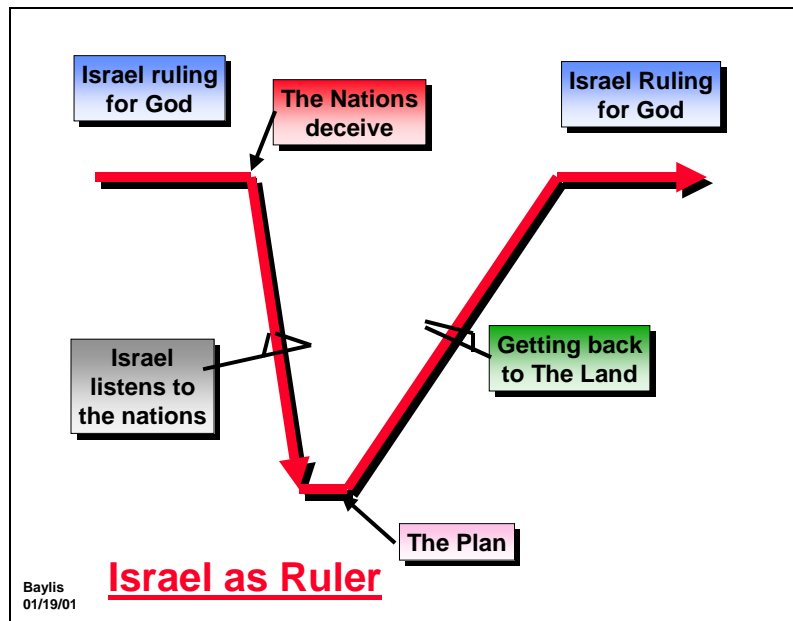
During this New Testament Period, the resurrected Christ ascends to the Father to wait until it is time for His return to restore His Nation Israel and conquer the Gentile nations. In the meantime, Israel will be left under Gentile rule and the rule of Satan.

<sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup> and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

(Rom 11:25-26)

## The Resolution (the victory)

The resolution is when the victory over Satan and the Gentile nations is visibly won. It is in Revelation 19:15 where Jesus returns to conquer the Gentile nations who have come against His nation Israel. He will then resurrect all the dead who have believed in Him so that they can have their bodies back to live on this earth and the new earth later.



<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it *is* called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. . . .<sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> **And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them** with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. <sup>20</sup> And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. (Rev. 19:19-20)

## The Happy Ending

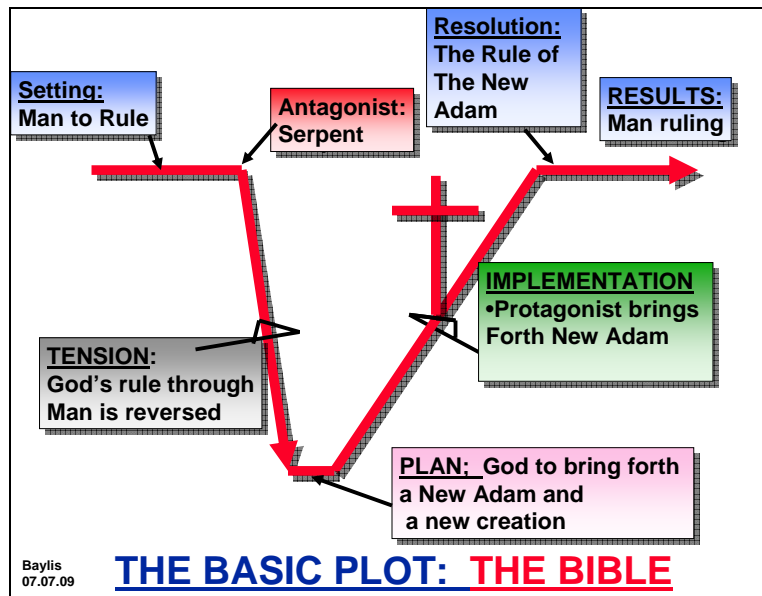
Following the great return in victory, a new earth will be recreated and the nation Israel, and its capital Jerusalem will be re-established. The King will reside at Jerusalem and all the Gentile nations will worship Him in Jerusalem.

10 And he . . . showed me the holy city, Jerusalem . . . 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *those* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. . . . 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . . 23 “And the city (*New Jerusalem*) . . . the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; . . . 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.”

Revelation 21:10, 12, 14, 23, 25-26

The church (all the believers of this age) will be with the King and will live in it for ever and ever as the bride of the King (22:5)

”and they shall reign forever and ever.”



## Assignment #2

### The National Rule of Israel

#### Reading:

Genesis 12:1-3  
Deuteronomy 18:15, 18  
Hosea 11: 5-11  
John 6:1--14  
Zechariah 14

#### Study Questions: Give answers from the Notes

1. What is the structure of rule in the Abrahamic Covenant? (Who rules over whom, etc.)?

2. In what did God reveal Himself to Israel so that they knew how to represent Him?

3. When Satan decides to deceive the Nation Israel and their King, who does he get to influence them?

4. Who is the ultimate Old Testament King that Satan influences to fail and how does he do it (the Conflict).

5. In God's plan to restore the rule from the failure of the nation, what four things does He plan to do (the Plan)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

6. Who are the four Gentile Kingdoms in the "Times of the Gentiles" who will rule over Israel before the Kingdom of God returns to Israel?

7. In what chapter in Revelation does Jesus appear in the Resolution to save Israel and defeat the Gentile enemies?

