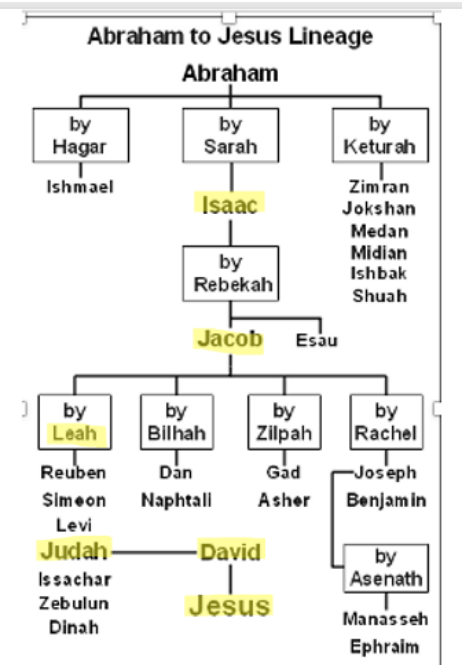
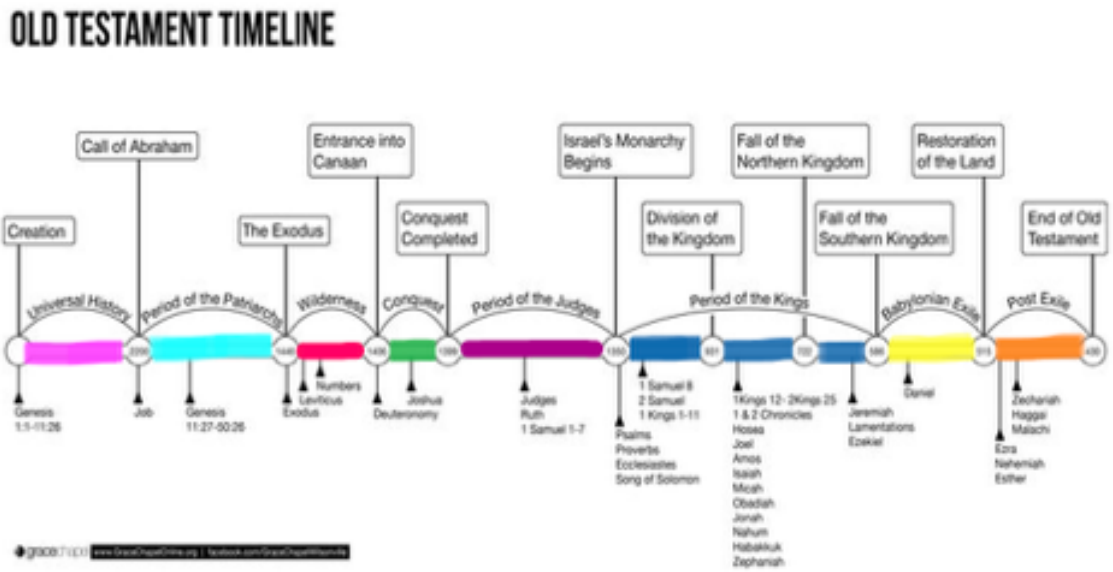
Romans 30 Handout

Esther 2:5"*Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai…"*

This is the first clear use of: "Jew" as an ethnic–religious identity.





Before the exile, God's people were usually called:

- **Hebrews**
- **Israelites**
- **People of Israel**
- **House of Israel**
- **House of Judah**

The word "Jew" comes from the Hebrew word "Yehudi," which means "one from Judah".

Most exiles who returned were from Judah.

Judah was the son from whom the lineage of Jesus would come from.

Over time: "Judahite" → "Jew"

If you are not interested in Israel or in the Jewish people, then I know that two things must be true about you. On the one hand, you haven't been watching the News, and on the other hand, you haven't been reading your Bible. I guarantee you that if you watch the News and you read your Bible, you will become vitally interested in the nation of Israel.

The centerpiece of this nation, the City of Jerusalem itself, plays a pivotal role both in the past, the present, and the future of this world. The Bible says that Jerusalem is the geographical center of this world. God said concerning Jerusalem in Ezekiel 5:5, "Thus says the Lord God: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.'"

Israel sits at the crossroads of three continents — Asia, Africa, and Europe — along the eastern Mediterranean, making it one of the most strategically located regions in the world throughout history.

The land itself is not very valuable. It's not really very much to look at. It can be crossed by car from east to west in an hour and a half. From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv is only an hours drive. From Jerusalem to Haifa is only ninety-five miles; to Jericho only twenty miles; and to Bethlehem just five miles. But it is the location of the land that is so strategic and so important.

It is also the religious center of the world. The three greatest religions in the world are centered here. It is here in Israel that Judaism arose, for it was here that Abraham came and settled and lived. It was here that Christianity arose, Jesus being born in Bethlehem, dying in Jerusalem, and one day to return again to this same land. It was here that Islam made its presence known.

Islamic beliefs:

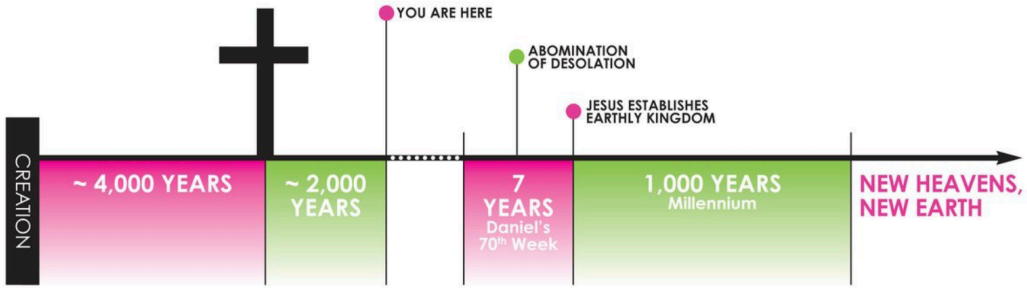
- **Al-Aqsa Mosque in Israel's Temple Mount is Islam's third holiest site.**
- **Muslims believe Muhammad traveled there during the *Night Journey* (Qur'an 17:1).**
- **The Dome of the Rock marks where Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven.**

It is the political center of this world. No matter what the pundits may tell you, no matter how hard the diplomats may work, as long as there is an Israel, there will never be peace in the world. Because of Israel and its conflict with the Arab world, there will never be peace in the Middle East.

It is the prophetic center of the world. Some of the greatest unfilled prophecies in all of the Old Testament revolve around, and relate directly to, the nation of Israel.

I believe, without question, much of what we are seeing in the news today, and what we have seen over the last forty years, has simply been a fulfillment of the Word of God.

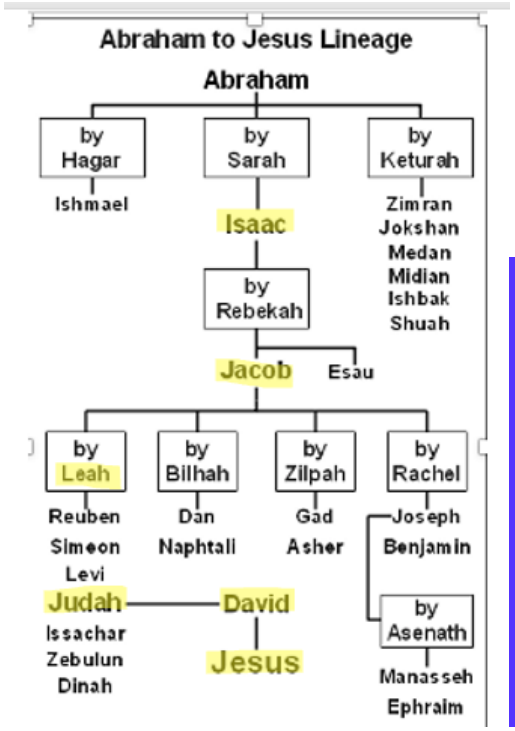
But one day it will be the spiritual center of the world. The Bible says that Jesus is going to return and establish Jerusalem as the capital of the entire world, and Jesus will rule and reign over this world from Jerusalem for a thousand glorious years, called the millennial reign.



The Land.

The Blessing of a great nation.

The promise of the Messiah coming through the lineage of Abraham.



Selection

9:19 One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?"

He simply used the stubbornness that was already there to bring about justice.

IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, HE HAS CREATED US AND GIVEN US THE FREE WILL TO MAKE DECISIONS.

We have a free will to listen or not listen to God.

9:20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' "
21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

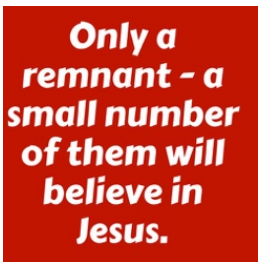
9:22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?
23 What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory—
24 even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

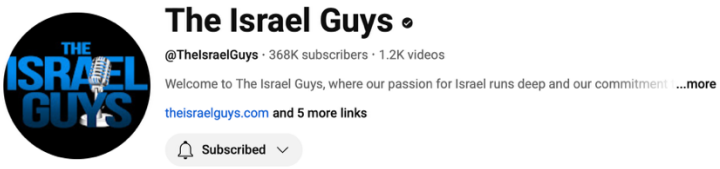
Romans 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

9:25 As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"

26 and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.' "

27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.





28 For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."

29 It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."