

#### Prophecy: Devo #4

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3).

In only 12 chapters the Bible records the creation of the universe, man, the fall, the first civilization, the world-wide flood, life after the flood, the creation of the nations, the scattering of the nations because of Babel, and the apostasy of the postdiluvian generation. The rest of the book of Genesis and the remainder of Old Testament has to do with the nation of Israel. In order to understand prophecy, one must understand the place and importance of Israel in the program of God for the ages and beyond. Ignorance of God’s plan for Israel prevents people from understanding biblical prophecy, especially what theologians call eschatology, which is the study of the last things. Negligence in understanding the place of Israel in the study of the last things leads to confusion and a truncated knowledge of the Bible. Many Bible teachers have ignored the place of Israel in Bible prophecy. Those who ignore the subject that occupies the entire Old Testament (except the first 11 chapters), will answer to God for not rightly dividing the Word of Truth (II Timothy 3:16). If a teacher can’t (or won’t) teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), he will have to answer to God. “My brethren, let no many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment” (James 3:1). The sovereign nation of Israel is a revealed fact, and no preacher has a right to ignore it, spiritualize it, or explain it away without the disfavor of God.