

## Prophecy: Devo #5 – Israel

Deuteronomy 32:8 – “When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.”

The Jews are the center of God’s plans for things related to the earth. Their place in prophecy is different than that of the gentiles. The nation of Israel belongs to God, and He has established a covenant relationship with them. The original and ultimate purpose for Israel is to make God known to the nations. They have thus far failed in their purpose. Because of their continued disobedience to their calling, they have subjected themselves to the discipline of God, who at times has used other nations to judge them. The New Testament church is not Israel, and Israel is not the Old Testament church. The church was a mystery until the revelation of God in the New Testament (Ephesians 3:8-11). The Jews are God’s people based upon four covenants. Lewis Sperry Chafer shows that through God’s covenants with Israel promised (1) a nation forever, (2) a land forever, (3) a King forever, (4) a throne forever, (5) a kingdom forever, (6) a new covenant, (7) abiding blessings. Despite Israel’s disobedience, chastisements, and contempt by the nations, they are on schedule to fulfill the many prophecies concerning their future on earth and in heaven. “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!” (Romans 11:1). The 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans proves that Israel will one day be restored to her covenant blessings. God has promised to keep His covenant with Israel for “a thousand generations,” which means forever (Deuteronomy 7:9). Since 70 A.D. Israel has been dispossessed from their land, which occurred after the destruction of Jerusalem. The current scattering of Israel among the nations is a temporary judgment for rejecting their Messiah. In order for the covenant promises to be fulfilled, Israel will be brought back to their land. There will be a future repentance of Israel. Deuteronomy 28:63-68 predicts their suffering, and 30: 1-3 predicts their repentance. The final restoration of Israel to the land won’t happen until Jesus returns to earth (Deuteronomy 30:3-6; Acts 15:16-17). This will prepare Israel for a kingdom which is the major subject of Old Testament prophecy.