

## **I. Chosen**

- A. Formed - All studies of the uniqueness of Israel must start from the foundational understanding that God formed them, called them, and declared them set apart from all other nations. (Ex. 19:3-6; Deut. 32:8-12; Is. 43:1,15,21, 44:1-2; Zec. 2:8)
- B. Called - Once we establish the fact that God uniquely formed Israel and set them apart from the other nations and peoples, the natural question that follows is, "Why?" This question is most easily answered and understood when it is seen through the lens of function or calling.
  - 1. Framework - It is absolutely critical that we understand humanities history and future within the framework of the unfolding drama of the restoration of all things.
  - 2. The Promise - Within this framework there is a uniqueness permanently attached to the particular people group through whom God has chosen to bring forth the promise of humanities redemption. Not only would the promised one come through a people group, but many other aspects of the restoration of all things would be deeply and forever connected to the people group.
    - a. The unique carriers of the promise
    - b. The catalyst of timing
    - c. The uniqueness of the land of Israel
    - d. The city of Jerusalem is the city of the King
    - e. The culture of the King
- C. The Sovereign Immutable Blessing - Since God gave Israel this unique calling within His salvation narrative. He also commanded an immutable blessing upon those who would bless God's unique calling for Israel. (Gen 12:1-3; Rom. 8-11; Ps. 133:1-3)

## **II. A Rock of Jealousy and Rage**

- A. Satan always rages against the plans and promises of God by creating division among the brethren. The truth of God's sovereign and unmerited calling has always been an open door for bitter jealousy and anger. The evil one easily gains a foothold within the theme of the unmovable rock of calling and assignment. When the stumbling stone of Israel's election is revealed, we generally see one of three different responses. (Zec. 12:3; Rom. 8-11)

- a. Rejection - Individuals reject God's sovereign election of Israel's calling, assignment, and place in the salvation of humanity. Israel's significant role and calling becomes abandoned or suppressed. Rejecting Israel has two different forms but both have the same result.
  1. Ignorance - Whether through purposeful or negligent ignorance, many people simply ignore the subject or theme of Israel's calling simply because they do not grant it to be significant or bear any relevance.
  2. Murder - Jesus taught that the actual outward action of murder starts within the heart with thoughts of rejection of someone's God-given significance and value. If you fuel rejection enough, it eventually devalues the individual or people group to such an extent it seems justifiable to persecute and kill them.
- b. Replacement - Individuals see and understand God's election and commanded blessing over and through Israel and upon revelation of it, become jealous. This jealousy then leads to some form of replacement. Israel's significant uniqueness is then stolen or exploited which manifests one of two ways.
  1. Supersessionism - Formulating a line of thought or understanding that causes an individual to assume the unique calling of someone else as their own. This was by far the most common stance in the church concerning the uniqueness of Israel and is known in most circles as "replacement theology".
  2. Exploitation - Individuals see the uniqueness of Israel's identity and calling, and through jealousy reject their own calling and assume the identity and calling of Israel. This is currently the fastest growing form of replacement of Israel's unique calling.
- c. Recognition - The only response that positions the believer to be in alignment and partnership with God's will and His plan of redemption is to recognize, uphold, and honor the unique unmerited calling of the people group that He created and called Israel. (Duet. 32:8-10; Is. 62:1-7)