SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Why I Love Israel

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 12

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) The eyes of the world are upon Israel.
   b) We cannot deny nor ignore the significance of the nation of Israel.
      i) Israel is included in all Bible prophecy concerning the future.
      ii) Israel is God’s measuring stick and blueprint for what He is doing in the world.
   c) God has not turned His back on nor forgotten Israel.
      i) God’s promises with Israel still stand.
   d) Revelation 12 deals with the nation of Israel, and we can learn some significant things regarding Israel from this chapter.

2) ISRAEL’S SPECIAL FAVOR (Revelation 12:1-2)
   a) Israel is specially favored by God.
   b) The woman spoken of in this passage is the nation Israel.
      i) In the Old Testament, God gave Joseph a prophecy.
         (1) Genesis 37:9
             (a) Israel is described with twelve stars, the sun and the moon.
             (b) Joseph was the twelfth star.
      ii) Israel is spoken of as the wife of Jehovah.
         (1) Isaiah 54:5-6
             (a) God is speaking to Israel in this Scripture.
             (b) God refers to Himself as being married to Israel.
      iii) Jesus Christ came from the nation Israel.
         (1) Romans 9:4-5
   c) Israel is a God-ordained, God-called, God-protected and God-blessed nation.
      i) God called and ordained Israel so that, through Israel, all the world would be blessed.
         (1) Genesis 12:3
             (a) God has made Abraham a blessing to all the world.
                (i) The Bible is a Jewish book.
                (ii) We serve a Jewish Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ.
      d) When we bless what God has blessed and love what God has loved, then God will bless us.
         i) Deuteronomy 7:6
         ii) If we are wise, then we will learn to bless and not curse Israel.
         iii) We need to pray for and love the nation of Israel.

3) ISRAEL’S SATANIC FOE (Revelation 12:3-5)
   a) The dragon referenced in this passage is Satan himself.
      i) The color red speaks of his lust for blood.
         (1) He is a murderer.
      ii) He has seven heads.
         (1) Seven is the number of fullness or perfection.
(2) This speaks of his diabolical power and wisdom.

iii) He has ten horns.
   (1) Horns in the Bible are a prophecy of power.
   (2) When we put seven (the perfect number) with ten (the complete number), we see the power of this dragon.
      (a) This speaks of his earthly power.
      (b) Satan is the ultimate rebel.

iv) His tail sweeps one-third of the stars from Heaven.
   (1) These are not literal stars but represent the angels that rebelled with Satan and fell when Satan fell.
      (a) In the book of the Revelation, stars are symbolic of persons or personages.
   (2) These fallen angels have gone down to the very pit along with Satan.
      (a) Matthew 25:41
         (i) God did not make Hell for us.
            1. Hell was prepared for the devil and the devil's angels.
         (ii) Those who go to Hell will be intruders; but Hell will be the
destiny for those who choose to follow Satan.

b) Satan has a war with Israel, but his ultimate war is with the Lord Jesus Christ.
   i) Revelation 12:4
      (1) The child mentioned here is the Lord Jesus Christ.
      (2) Satan wants to destroy the Lord Jesus.
         (a) This is why he moved Herod to murder all the baby boys aged two
and under at the time of Jesus' birth.
   ii) Revelation 12:5
      (1) Satan could not stop the plan of God.
      (2) Jesus Christ came, was born, lived a sinless life, died upon the cross,
was buried, walked out of the grave a victorious Savior, ascended into
Heaven, and will one day come again.

c) Satan is anti-Christ and anti-Semitic.
   i) Satan hates Jesus and the Jewish people.
   ii) The Jewish people have endured satanically inspired persecution and
atrocities:
      (1) From Pharaoh.
      (2) Nebuchadnezzar
      (3) Alexander the Great
      (4) Nero
      (5) The Turks
      (6) The Ottoman Empire
      (7) Russia
      (8) Arab nations
      (9) From the Christians during the Crusades.
      (10) Hitler and the Holocaust
4) ISRAEL’S SPIRITUAL FIGHT (Revelation 12:6-12)
   a) Israel’s fight is not against flesh and blood.
   b) Michael, the archangel, has a special job to watch over Israel.
   c) This passage in Revelation 12 depicts two battles:
      i) There is a war in Heaven
         (1) Revelation 12:9-12
         (2) This war is between the dragon (Satan) and Michael and his angels.
            (a) Satan is described by several names or aliases.
               (i) He is described as a dragon because he is fierce.
               (ii) He is also called a serpent because he’s so subtle.
               (iii) The word “devil” means accuser; he is the accuser of the brethren.
               (iv) He’s also called Satan in this passage; the word “Satan” means adversary.
         (3) This war is to cast Satan out of Heaven.
            (a) Even though Satan was cast out of Heaven when he sinned and took one-third of the angels with him, he still has access to Heaven.
               (i) Job 1:6
               (ii) In the mysteries, providences and plans of God, up until this point in history (Revelation 12, during the Great Tribulation), Satan has been allowed access to Heaven.
                  1. Though he has been abolished, Satan is allowed to accuse all of the saints before God.
                  2. Satan watches us today for anything that he may accuse us of before Almighty God.
                  3. But we have an advocate in Jesus Christ.
                  4. 1 John 2:1
            (b) Michael and his angels will cast Satan down to the Earth, no more to have access to Heaven to accuse the saints.
               (i) Satan, when he sinned, was first cast out of his lofty mountain where he was the anointed cherub, but still given access.
               (ii) Now, that limited access will be taken from Satan, and he will be cast down to the Earth.
               (iii) Soon, he will be cast into the bottomless pit, the abyss.
               (iv) And, finally, he will be taken out of the abyss and put into the lowest Hell where he will spend eternity.
                  1. Isaiah 14:13
   ii) There is a war on Earth.
      (1) Revelation 12:11
      (2) Satan, who is cast out of Heaven once and for all, will now be filled with violent rage.
      (3) Satan begins to fight against the saints with an intensity that he’s never known before.
(4) During this battle in the Great Tribulation, and for any battle that we may face at any time, there is a three-fold formula for victory:
(a) The believer’s conquest.
   (i) John 12:31
   (ii) In Christ, we have the victory.
       1. Jesus on the cross won the victory over Satan.
   (iii) The conquering blood of Jesus Christ is also the cleansing blood.
       1. 1 John 1:7
       2. We will never have victory over Satan if there is unconfessed, unrepented of sin in our lives.
   (iv) Ephesians 4:27
       1. We give the devil a campground when there is sin in our hearts or in our lives.
   (v) We have victory in the Lord Jesus, but we will not experience it as long as we cling to our sin.
(b) The believer’s confession.
   (i) Revelation 12:11
   (ii) Our testimony is a mighty power to overcoming the devil.
   (iii) The word of our testimony is to testify of who Jesus is: He is Lord.
       1. Revelation 12:17
       2. Jesus Christ is the Lamb who died.
       3. Jesus is the Lion who rules.
   (iv) When Satan comes against us, we should remind him of who we are, too.
       1. We were crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, raised with Christ, and ascended with Christ.
       2. When Jesus is enthroned, seated in the heavens, we who are in Christ will be enthroned with Him.
       3. We are redeemed, accepted and empowered by the Lord Jesus Christ.
   (v) We should also remind Satan of who he is.
       1. His back was broken at Calvary.
       2. He came as an imposter, trespasser and liar; and our sins are under the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.
(c) The believer’s courage.
   (i) Revelation 12:11
   (ii) We can be hurt, but we cannot be harmed.
   (iii) The saints kept loving Jesus and following Jesus even if it cost them their lives.

5) ISRAEL’S STRATEGIC FLIGHT (Revelation 12:13-16)
During the Great Tribulation when Satan no longer has access to Heaven and can no longer accuse the saints before God, he will turn to Israel with intense persecution.

- In the middle of the Great Tribulation, at three and one-half years, the temple is rebuilt.
- When the temple is rebuilt, the antichrist will move into that temple showing himself that he is God.
- Israel will realize that she has been betrayed and that the antichrist is not the Messiah or deliverer, but that he is a fraud and imposter.
  - Israel will refuse to serve the antichrist.
- Satan will be filled with wrath and will turn against Israel in a way that he never has before.

Jesus warns Israel to flee when they see the antichrist move into the temple.

- Matthew 24:15-21

When the devil sees Israel flee, he will send out a flood of persecution.

- Isaiah 59:19

Israel will flee for three-and-one-half years until the close of the Great Tribulation.

As we study Israel's strategic flight, it shows us two specific things:

- God knows the future.
- God is still in control.

Israel's Saving Faith (Revelation 12:17)

- This passage in Revelation refers to believing Jews.
  - There is coming a time when they will come to Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
- Zechariah 12:10
- Zechariah 13:1
- Romans 11:25-26
  - The “fullness of the Gentiles” in this passage refers to the church.
- God has not forsaken His ancient people, and He has a plan for them.
  - God has blessed Israel so that Israel might be a blessing to the world.

Conclusion

- We should not live carelessly in these pregnant days in which we're living.
  - Why would we choose to live life without giving everything to Jesus Christ?
- We are to love what God loves.
  - God loves His Son, Jesus Christ.
  - God loves His chosen people.
- Today is the day of salvation.
  - Jesus suffered, bled, died and rose again for us; and He invites each one of us to receive Him and His gift of salvation.
d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
   i) Romans 3:23
   ii) Romans 10:9-10
   iii) Romans 10:13
   iv) Acts 16:31
   v) John 3:16