

LESSON PLAN

Title: Historical Israel Key Verse: Nehemiah 1:8 Date: _____

Text/Story: Gen 22:15-18; Deu 28:64-66; Eze 37:21,22; Lev 26:27, 31-33; Eze 36:8-11, 29-35; Lev 26:42-46

Main idea: God chose Abram and promised to make him a great nation. The nation of Israel, its history, position in the world today, and what will happen to it in the future are written down for us by the prophets as moved by God.

Time	Activity	Description
	<p>Pre-Lesson Activity: Collage Poster</p> <p>Lesson: God's plan for Israel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials: poster board, glue, scissors, felt pen, articles, maps and pictures of Israel (Nat'l Geographic pics, newspaper clippings, maps, photocopies of pictures/maps from books, etc.) Have students study and cut up pictures and glue onto poster board in collage form Give the poster a title <p>Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the maps of Israel Have the students label the left-hand side map "God's promise to Abram (2100 B.C.)" and highlight Haran and draw an arrow to Canaan to show the travels of Abraham Have the students label the right-hand side map "Israel Today (Post 1948)" and colour the country of Israel in one colour <p>Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the 8 events outlined Help students to divide the timeline into equal segments in intervals of 500 years Mark and label the 8 events
	<p>Post-Lesson Historical Israel worksheet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the prophecies concerning God's plan for Israel Have the students draw a picture of each of the four main events Help students write a sentence to describe what happened.

HISTORICAL ISRAEL Additional Activities

Cut apart a copy of the chart titled "Messianic Signs in Israel" dividing each section into Scripture and fulfillment. Mix the cut-up pieces, and distribute them to your students. Have them circulate and find the appropriate matches. If you wish, post the center headings on a bulletin board, and when a match has been made, have them tape up the Scripture and fulfillment--reassembling the chart.

Bring a map and a signpost to class. Have the work "Israel" on the signpost. Discuss how in our journey to Heaven, the Bible is our map, and the events transpiring in Israel are our signposts which tell us how much further we have to go.

Enlarge the squares showing a timeline of events in Israel. Post them one by one as you discuss the significance of each event.

Make a copy for each of your students, of the squares showing a timeline of events in Israel. Cut apart the squares and put each set in an envelope. As a lesson review, give each student an envelope and see which one can put the squares in the right order in the least amount of time.

Distribute an "Israel as God's Signpost" worksheet to each student. Discuss the answers in 5 minutes.

Messianic Signs in Israel

Jeremiah 8:12,13 *In the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the Lord. I will surely consume them, saith the Lord: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade . . .*

Matthew 24:32,33 *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [the coming of Christ] is near, even at the doors.*

The Fig Tree

In Joel, Hosea, and other prophetic books, Israel is called God's fig tree. After Israel was dispersed, all vegetation in the land, including the fig tree, became sparse and scarce. But Jesus said the fig tree would bud again as the most evident sign that His return was near. Today in Israel, the fig tree is growing again to heights of fifty feet and thicknesses of up to two feet. And like the fig tree, the nation is becoming fruitful once more.

Luke 21:24 *And they [Israel] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

The Return

Jews have returned to Israel from more than seventy nations, and the context of prophecy is that when this occurs, the coming of Jesus Christ is at hand.

Jeremiah 32:44 *Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the Lord.*

Buying Back the Land

Great Britain offered the World Zionist Organization the country of Uganda for the establishing of a Jewish state in 1903. This offer was refused, the WZO citing Scripture that the Jewish people must return to the land God gave Abraham. Wealthy Jews purchased land throughout Palestine for settlement, and in 1909 the first kibbutz was established on the Sea of Galilee.

Isaiah 66:8 *Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*

Israel Reborn in a Day

The rebirth of Israel as a nation on May 14, 1948, was the result of the travails of the World Zionist Organization in fighting both the English and Arabs. Israel was reborn in a day, as prophesied.

Zechariah 12:5 *And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God.*

Israel a Democracy

Zechariah prophesied that Israel in the last days would be ruled by governors, rather than a king or prince. This statement by the prophet implies that Israel would be a democracy. Today Israel is the only true democracy in the entire Middle East.

Zephaniah 3:8,9 *Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.*

A Pure Language

In 1982, it was decided that Hebrew should be the official language of the return. As the Jews came speaking many languages and dialects, they had to go to school to learn Hebrew. Today, even the Ethiopian Jews and Jews from Russia are going to school to learn Hebrew. Prophecy tells us this would take place at the time of Jacob's Trouble and the Battle of Armageddon.

Ezekiel 45:12,13,16 *And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs . . . This is the oblation that ye shall offer . . . All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel.*

The Shekel

The shekel had to be restored as the unit of monetary exchange in order for the Israelites to be able to give the proper offering to the Messiah at the Temple in the Millennium. In 1980, the shekel was restored as the official unit of exchange in Israel.

Isaiah 27:6 *He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.*

From Desolation to Productivity

Isaiah 62:4 *Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate . . .*

When the Jews began to return, the land was desolate and barren, with no trees and very little grass. Today, Israel is the most productive land in the world. With the exception of coconut and pineapple, every kind of fruit, nut, and vegetable in the world is now grown in Israel.

Amos 9:11,13 *In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen . . . Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine . . .*

Farming Methods

As Amos prophesied, today in Israel there is crop rotation. On one side of a field the reapers work, in the middle of the field tractors plow, and on the far side planters put new seed into the soil. Nothing like this has ever occurred in Israel's history.

Isaiah 41:19,20 *I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they [the nations] may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.*

The Trees of Israel

When Israel returned and became a nation in 1948, the mountains of Israel were completely barren. Now, trees of every kind cover the hills. God has declared that when the nations of the world witness this miracle, they are to know that it is the Lord's work, and that He is ready to come again to fulfill His promises to that nation.

Joel 2:1,23 *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand . . . Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

Increasing Rainfall

In Bible times, there were two seasons of rain in Israel—the spring and fall. During the dispersion, rains ceased. But as Joel prophesied, with Israel's return, the rains have returned also. The average rainfall between 1931 and 1960 was 21.1 inches. But in 1980, the average had increased almost 40% to 29.1 inches. This percentage matches the increase in the Jewish population of Israel.

Zechariah 12:2 *Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.*

An International Problem

Since 1967, East Jerusalem, the biblical Jerusalem where the Temple was located, has been a subject of controversy to all members of the United Nations.

Zechariah 12:6 *In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left.*

Wars of Israel

The overwhelming victories of Israel over the vastly superior armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in 1948, 1967, and 1973 amazed the entire world. According to Zechariah, these victories are a prelude to the coming of the Messiah.

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. . .*

Peace Treaty

From the context of Daniel 9, we learn that the covenant will be seven years, and "he" means the Antichrist, because this act introduces the "time of Jacob's Trouble." There must be a peace treaty that will guarantee Israel's right to the land and an agreement where the Jews may resume Temple worship. A comprehensive Middle East peace treaty is now on the conference table for the first time in 2,000 years.

Romans 11:25 . . . *blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

Jewish Unbelief

In spite of the powerful evidence to Israel today that Jesus Christ is the promised Redeemer, their continued unbelief is a sign in itself of the nearness of the Lord's second coming.

2 Peter 3:3,4 *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?*

Church Unbelief

The rejection of the messianic signs in Israel by the vast majority of people today is a sign, according to Peter, that the second coming of Jesus Christ is at hand.

Israel — God's Signpost

<p>God's Covenant and Promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob</p>	<p>Joseph Sold to Egypt. Jacob Moves Family to Egypt Due to Famine (400 Years)</p>	<p>God Uses Moses to Deliver the Children of Israel Now a Nation of 3,000,000</p>	<p>Received the Law Wandered in the Wilderness</p>	<p>Possessed the Promised Land</p>
<p>Period of Government by the Judges</p>	<p>Period of Government by the Kings</p>	<p>Exile to Babylon (70 Years)</p>	<p>Return under Cyrus of Persia</p>	<p>The Promised Messiah Comes He is Rejected by His People</p>
<p>Rome Crushes the Jewish Nation The Jews are Scattered and Persecuted</p>	<p>Israel Becomes a Nation 1948</p>	<p>Israel Repossesses All of Jerusalem 1967</p>	<p>Worldwide Recognition and Respect</p>	<p>Study This Quarter for What Happens Next!</p>



Israel As God's Signpost

Draw a line matching each Scripture from our text to the correct Time Frame.

Scripture

Leviticus 26:42-46

Genesis 22:15-18

Ezekiel 37:21,22

Ezekiel 36:8-11

Deuteronomy 28:64-66

Leviticus 26:27,31-33

Ezekiel 36:29-35

Time Frame

Promise to Abraham

Dispersion and Restoration of people

Desolation and Restoration of land

National Identity