



## **FIVE FACTS** **You should know about Israel\***

by Dr. Renald E. Showers



Have you ever wondered why Jewish people have been scattered throughout the nations of the world more consistently than any other people? Why anti-Semitism persists in rearing its ugly head repeatedly throughout history? Why Nazism specifically targeted the Jewish people for genocide in the Holocaust of World War II? Why the Jews have endured despite all their persecutions? Why they tenaciously hold on to the land they presently occupy in the Middle East? Why the modern State of Israel, despite its small size, is repeatedly the focus of the world's attention?

The answers to these questions are found in certain basic facts about the nation of Israel. And knowledge of these facts is essential if you want to understand not only these issues, but God's plan and purpose for history.

### **FACT ONE: Israel Has Had a Unique Relationship With God**

Early in Israel's history, God placed the nation into a relationship with Himself that no other nation was privileged to enjoy. In conjunction with that relationship, Moses made the following statements:

*"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; The Lord your God has chosen you to*

*be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth". (Dt. 7:6; Cf. 10:15;14:2).*

*"Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments.*

*And that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honour, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God just as He has spoken."* (Dt. 26:18-19).

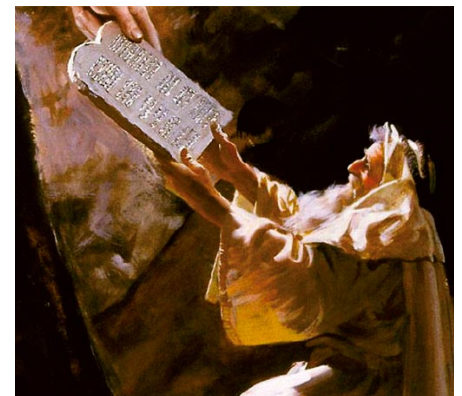
This unique relationship involved a number of special privileges. First, it involved Israel's adoption as God's firstborn son (Ex. 4:22-23; Rom. 9:4). Second, Israel was permitted to hear God's voice at Mount Sinai (Dt. 4:10, 12, 32-33). Third, Israel saw and enjoyed a unique association with the Shekinah glory of God (Ex. 24:16-17; 40:34-38; Dt. 4:36; 1 Ki. 8:10-11; Rom. 9:4). Fourth, God established covenants with Israel that He never established with any other people (Rom. 9:4). Fifth, God gave the Mosaic law to Israel alone (Dt. 4:5-6, 8, 13; Ps. 147:19-20; Rom. 9:4). Sixth, only Israel had the worship structures (the Tabernacle and Temple) where God dwelt in a unique sense and the divinely ordained priesthood and sacrificial system of those structures (Ex. 25:8-9; 29:43-46; 1 Ki. 6:11-14, 17; Rom. 9:4; Heb. 9:1-10). Seventh, God made promises to Israel that He made to no other nation (Dt. 1:11; 6:3; 12:20). Eighth, Israel had unique, intimate access to God (Dt. 4:7). Ninth, God intervened into history in an unparalleled, supernatural way to deliver Israel from its slavery in Egypt (Dt. 4:32, 34). Tenth, God gave Israel permanent ownership of the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8). Eleventh, God made Israel's land and capital city (Jerusalem) holy, or unique, because He dwelt there in a unique sense (Neh. 11:1; Zech. 2:10-12; Rev. 11:2).

It is important to note that God established His unique relationship with Israel forever. He intended that relationship to be permanent.

King David declared,  
*"And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land – before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations and their gods? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God"* (2 Sam. 7:23-24).

### **FACT TWO: A Unique Reason Exists for the Special Relationship Between God and Israel**

God did not choose Israel to be His special people because they were better than any other people. They were not better. They were descendants of Adam and Eve as were all other people; thus they were born with the same corrupt human nature and tendency to rebel against God as were the Gentiles. Even David, Israel's greatest King, recognized that he was shaped in iniquity and conceived in a state of sin (Ps. 51:5). Moses repeatedly warned the people of Israel that they would







(Dt. 9:4-6). Therefore, Israel's ownership of the land does not depend on the nation's merit.

Moreover, the fulfillment of Israel's unique God-ordained future requires that it own the land of Canaan forever. This is so because that future involved Israel's permanent restoration to the land. And, in line with this requirement, God through the Abrahamic Covenant, solemnly guaranteed Israel's permanent ownership of the land (Gen. 12:7;13:14-15;15:18-21;17:8).

\*This article is reprinted from The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry Inc. booklet of the same title, authored by Dr. Renald E Showers, 2007.

Dr. Showers is an International Conference speaker with FOI Gospel Ministry. Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version: Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used with Permission.

and influence. Canaan is the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe; and for centuries the major trade and military routes of the ancient world passed through the land. Because of Israel's location, the major powers have had to deal with that nation.

Moses clearly taught that God gave Israel the land. It belongs to the Jewish people. He gave it, not because the nation deserved it, but because of His own sovereign purposes

### The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (Australia) Inc.

P0 Box 171 Melrose Park  
SA 5039 Australia



**Deane & Margaret Woods**  
Ministry Representatives

#### Office and Books:

c/o EBC Community Centre  
Suite 406 (Upstairs)  
Cnr. Rothesay Ave and Dorene St  
St Marys SA 5042 AUSTRALIA

Phone/Fax: (+ 618) 08 8276 1333  
Email: [australianoffice@foi.org](mailto:australianoffice@foi.org)

## Ministry Itineraries & Prayer Diary September – December 2009

### September - The Philippines

**2nd** – Overnight flight, Sydney to Hong Kong, then to Cebu City, Cebu.

**5th** – Prophecy Conference, Holiday Plaza Conference Centre, Cebu City.

**6th** – AM (2) & PM Services, Cebu City.

**7th to 11th** – Baptist Theological College Chapels and Graduate Seminar (12th).

**8th** – Christian Business Men's Committee Banquet, Cebu City.

**13th** – AM & PM Services, Cebu City.

**14th** – Afternoon flight to Hong Kong, then overnight to Sydney (15th).

### October - Victoria\*

**2nd to 4th** – Drive to Prophecy Camp, Crystal Creek,  
in conjunction with Heritage Baptist Church, Ballarat.

\* **Details:** Deane Woods (0400 777 660) or Pastor Steve Shaw (0403 161 522)

### October – South Australia, Sydney & South East Queensland\*

**6th to 9th** – Fly to Adelaide; At Friends of Israel Office.

**11th** – AM Service at Dundas Baptist Church.

**15th** – Fly to Cooloongatta/Surfers Paradise.

**16th** – Radio interview, LIFE FM, Southport.

**17th** – Minden Baptist Church. Afternoon/Evening Prophecy Seminar.

**18th** – AM & PM Services, Eiser Street Baptist Church.

**19th** – Dalby Church of Christ. "Christ in the Passover" (Seder Presentation).

**20th** – Chinchilla Baptist Church.

**21st** – AM Meeting, Margate Baptist Church;

PM Meeting, Maroochydore Presbyterian Church.

**22nd & 23rd** – Meetings To Be Advised.

**25th** – AM and PM Services, Caboolture Baptist Church. (Seder Presentation, PM).

**26th** – Burleigh Heads Home Group Meeting. (including Middle East Update).

**27th** – Pacific Palms Retirement Village (Redcliff Brethren Assembly).

**28th** – Southport Home Group Meeting.

**29th** – Mt Cotton Home Group Meeting (Cleveland Baptist Church).

**1st November** – AM & PM Services (To Be Advised).

\***Details:** Deane Woods (0400 777 660) or ...

Noel & Trish Newton (07 5531 4353/0417 784 820)

### November/December – West Australia, South Australia & Sydney Area

**14th to 25th** – Meetings in Perth, The Great Southern and the N-E Wheat Belt  
(Meetings To Be Advised).

**26th & 27th** – Meetings in Adelaide; At FOI's Adelaide Office.

**29th** – PM Service, West Beach Baptist Church. (Details: FOI Office 08 8276 1333)

**December's Meetings** – To Be Advised (Details: Deane Woods: 0400 777 660).