

## Epilogue: The Meaning of the Story of Israel

Luke 24:44-47

*This abbreviated sermon provides an epilogue to our 10 sermon series from the Old Testament, entitled, "The Story of Israel." Today we look back and consider the (surprising?) meaning of the story, which is found in Christ Jesus.*

**The Story of Israel?** It seemed like an *incomplete* story, didn't it?

- And what's the meaning of it? See Jesus' explanation in Luke 24:44-47!
- Let's consider the truth of Jesus' words by returning to the ten sermons in this series...

(1) **Promise:** Genesis 12:1-3, fulfilled in Christ's atonement for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2, see also John 4:22, Gal 3:8)

(2) **Salvation:** the Exodus from Egypt, which foreshadowed the greater salvation in Christ (1 Cor 5:7, Heb 2:3, 1 Thess 5:9)

(3) **Law:** "Be holy for I am holy" (Lev 19:2), perfectly obeyed by the sinless Christ (Mark 1:24, John 8:46, 1 Pe 1:19)

(4) **Land:** rest, safety, and prosperity in the Promised Land (Josh 21:43-45), all of which will be perfected in the *new* Jerusalem (Rev 21, Heb 4:7-11)

(5) **Covenant** (with the king): David's eternal throne (2 Sam 7:16), fulfilled in the exalted and returning King Jesus (Acts 2:32-36, 13:30-39; Matt 27:37; Rev 17:14, 19:16)

(6) **Temple:** God dwelt with His people Israel (1 Kings 8:13), fulfilled in the end as we dwell with Christ the Lamb, and without a temple building (Rev 21:1-3,22; John 2:19)

(7) **Division:** a king's sin and idolatry fractured Israel in two (1 Kings 11:9-13), but God's people are united under faithful King Jesus (Eph 2:11-22, John 17:20-23)

(8) **Prophets:** God sent many prophets to comfort and confront (Deut 18:15-18), but God spoke his final, most important words through His Son Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-2, see also Deut 34:10 and Acts 3:22:-26)

(9) **Exile:** this punishment for sin (2 Chronicles 36:14-21) foreshadowed the handing over of Christ to the Gentiles (Matt 27:22-24) and his death outside Jerusalem (Heb 13:12-14) as a punishment for our sins (2 Cor 5:14, 21)

(10) **Restoration:** Israel's return to their homeland foreshadowed Christ's resurrection (1 Cor 15:17, 54-55; 1 Pe 5:10)

Back to Luke 24:44-47: Jesus ends his interpretation of the Old Testament with a call to *mission!*

### Questions for Further Reflection and Application

1. Look up all the passages noted in this outline. Meditate on the story and meaning of it all. (This takes time, but it's worth it!)
2. What does this all have to do with mission? (Luke 24:44-47)
  - a. You may not be a foreign missionary, but are you "on mission"? How can you practically improve upon this? Commit to one or two steps.