Q7: What place does Israel and the Jewish people have in the Kingdom of God?

15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? Romans 11:15.

Like the favored Hannah being provoked by her rival, Israel has had to endure the misguided provocations of often fleshly critics from the Gentile world who little understood the Lord God’s unwavering plan and calling of Israel and the role it plays for the world’s redemption.

# 1. Family of Redemption, People of Mashiach:

The Lord God’s plan for humanity and its great kindred-Redeemer, the Mashiach, the Son of David and the Son of God, has always been a family purpose of a **people redeemed** of their sins; a **house formed** as the heirs of heaven and earth and the sons of God belonging as kin to the Firstborn Son, Jesus Mashiach; and, an **eternal kingdom** to rule over the earth and heavens from its central land of Israel.

 In the Lord God’s family purpose for redemption, Israel takes the place of family pre-eminence as the Lord’s “Firstborn Son,” the holy family of Mashiach. Given the holy Law of God, Israel devotes her entire culture, history, and living as an offering holy to the Lord. A nation of priests and prophets, Israel is called to instruct the world of the Lord God’s redemption through Jesus Mashiach.

 Thus, in the Last Days, Israel becomes tender as its people rediscover the “Redemptive Faith” of their *avot,* a faith fixed from first to last on the Mashiach. Soon, Israel will fully recognize Jesus as her Mashiach at his coming, gazing upon their “Firstborn Son” to finally call on him for Redemption (Zech. 12:10). Then, the forward-looking faith of the patriarchs and the eye-witness testimony of Mashiach’s apostles finally affirm Israel’s messianic faith.

# 2. Future Fruitfulness: Proclaiming Mashiach to the World.

As the “fig tree” of Israel begins to soften toward her Mashiach, a decisive sign will convince a remnant that Jesus is their Mashiach, and this remnant will begin to proclaim Jesus to a resistant nation (Matt. 10:23) For, as the seven movements of the church draw to a close, Jesus Mashiach returns and resurrects His people from the earth, sparing them the time of “testing” that comes upon the earth (Rev. 3:10). With this global, mass evacuation of the Church, Israel’s redemption draws near.

 After a series of earth-shaking “birth pains” (Matt. 24:8)—conquest, warfare, famines, economic upheaval, pestilence, death, and martyrdom, the nations of the earth gather against Israel. Then, the Lord Jesus Mashiach returns on that Day to save Israel, destroying the armies of “God and Magog” and revealing Himself to Israel as the Firstborn Son they have long-rejected to their own harm (Zech. 12:10). Looking upon the “one they have pierced” and mourning for Him as a lost “son,” Israel repents as a nation and is reborn spiritually as a Redeemed Nation (Ezek. 37:14). Now, Israel consecrates 144,000 of her sons as apostles of Jesus Mashiach, which she sends proclaim Jesus Mashiach to a world captive to the Antichrist.

 Now, with the Temple rebuilt and filled with the praises of the Redeemed of the Lord, Israel once again testifies to the world of the only true God of Israel. And, at the gates, the Lord God positions two powerful prophets to convey his judgments in power to the world (Rev. 11). After three and a half years, “this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14). Israel will complete in half-a-“week” what the Church could not do in two thousand years.

# 3. Foundation of the Future:

Once the Antichrist defiles the Temple with his unholy “image” (Matt. 24:15), Israel will be tested for earth’s final 3.5 years of human tyranny. The Antichrist will martyr the two prophets of the Lord and the 144,000 apostles of Mashiach.

 Finally, Jesus Mashiach returns with his heavenly armies of saints to establish the Kingdom in Israel forever. Splitting the Mount of Olives at his presence (Zech. 14:4), he will defeat His enemies with a mere word.

 Then, God will resurrect the martyred saints, and the Household of God will reign over the earth in a thousand year celebration of the Mashiach and his righteous rule. The Lord will install twenty-four Elders to rule—twelve judging the tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28) and twelve elders ruling through the rest of the earth.

 Then, after the Final Judgment of God, the people of God will rule from the “New Jerusalem,” the city of God ruling at the center of creation, with the Lord God and His Lamb surrounded by His people.