

Torah Portion #42: Mattot (מטות) "Tribes"

Torah ~ Num. 30:1-32:42 | Haftarah ~ Josh. 22:7-9; Jer. 1:1-2:3 | Brit Chadashah ~ Matt. 5:33-37; Rom. 11; Heb. 10:26-31

Israel, the Land & the People

The Chosen People

The Jewish people has been, is currently and will always be God's chosen people.

Genesis 12:2 "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great"

Exodus 19:6 "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you"

1 Chronicles 16:13 "O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!"

To say that the Jewish people are "chosen" does not mean that they are saved, but that they are "called" for a purpose. God's desire for Israel was that they would go and teach others about Him. Israel was to be a light to the nations by being a people that pointed others toward God and by preserving His Word (Torah).

Jesus and the Disciples are Jewish

Jesus Christ is the ultimate reason why God chose Israel to be His special people. Jesus had to come from some nation of people, and God chose Israel. Also, all of the disciples and every author of the New Testament was Jewish.

Genesis 12:3b "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Matthew 1:1 "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham"

Was Israel's Chosenness Revoked?

Many say that the chosenness of Israel has been revoked because they have been taught that the Jews killed Jesus. But the Bible clearly teaches us in scriptures like *John 10:17-18* & *Galatians 1:3-4* that Jesus freely gave His life for us.

The Apostle Paul tells us in *Romans 11:1* & *29* that Israel is still God's chosen people.

Just think, if God has changed His mind about the Jewish people, what makes you think that He want do the same to you?

The Land of Israel

The land promised to Israel for their everlasting inheritance was chosen by God, given to Abraham (*Gen. 12:7*), then to Isaac (*Gen. 26:3*) and then to Jacob (*Gen. 35:12*). Israel was given this land for the purpose of keeping God's commandments and manifesting the image of the Lord.

King David said in *Psalms 105:8-12* that the land was eternally given to Israel. God even preserved the land for the Jewish people while they have been scattered all throughout the earth (*Ezekiel 33:28* & *Isaiah 35:1*). The Lord said in *Amos 9:14-15* that He will bring back the people of Israel to their land. This prophecy is being fulfilled in these last days.

God Commanded Israel to defend themselves

In *Numbers 31:1-3*, God commanded Israel to wage war on the Midianites for their role in plotting their moral destruction.

In *2 Chronicles 20:15-17*, God commanded the Israelites to rise up and defend themselves against their enemies.

Warnings against mistreating the Jews

The Lord tells how we should treat the Jewish people in *Genesis 12:3a*, *Zechariah 2:8*, & *Joel 3:1-2*.

So what must we do?

Psalms 122:6 "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."

Every believer in Jesus throughout the world needs to be an *Isaiah 62* Christian.

Aliyah to the Torah

Torah Portion #42: Mattot - 07/19/14

Torah ~ *Numbers 31:1-3* NLT

- 1 Then the Lord said to Moses,
 - 2 “On behalf of the people of Israel, take revenge on the Midianites for leading them into idolatry. After that, you will die and join your ancestors.”
 - 3 So Moses said to the people, “Choose some men, and arm them to fight the Lord’s war of revenge against Midian.
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Haftarah ~ *Jeremiah 1:4-8* NKJV

- 4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
 - 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”
 - 6 Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”
 - 7 But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.
 - 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,” says the Lord.
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Brit Chadashah ~ *Romans 11:1* NLT

- 1 I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.