FAITH IN THE PERSON OF ISRAEL

The Old Testament – and the entirety of Scripture – reveals the *person* and *purpose* of God in regard to his dealing with His people, those throughout history who have *faith* in the promises of God and the God of those promises.

Believing loyalty to Yahweh is the means of eternal life with Yahweh.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8

Grace is the favor offered by God to those who have faith – to those who are loyal – in and to him which is evidenced by their belief and subsequent actions because they believe his promises.

The reason I am compelled to cover this topic – and this topic is personal to me – is that when God's word is used to diminish or eclipse his glory, I have a problem with that which needs to be addressed through Scripture.

First off, I see the current geopolitical state of Israel – not in a political sense mind you, but in a theological sense – as a diminishing of God's glory.

I believe it creates a two-tier salvation system and has been used to foster racism, tribalism, favoritism, and a superiority within humanity that has caused much grief and destruction in the world over two millennia.

Secondly, I believe it places too much of a focus on a particular group of people and a particular piece of earthly real estate in the Middle East, which distracts Believers from focusing on and practicing enduring faith through the holy Spirit in their present time.

With that, I prayerfully offer up the following applications of God's Word to support this claim.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word.
John 1:1

One of the things John is stating here is that just as God's *written Old Testament* pointed to the promises of God finding their fulfillment in the Messiah, the *revealed incarnation* of those Old Testament promises through the words written by the Old Testament authors, have now been *incarnated in bodily form*, in the Person of Jesus Christ.

The promises revealed in a written Word have been fulfilled in flesh by the incarnate Word. Thus, the Word expressed through writing has come to life in the Word revealed through living and breathing humanity.

Having stated this, my faith must be in the Word of God, first written as a promise then revealed in the flesh as the promise fulfilled.

My faith is not in Christianity, Judaism, or any other “anity” or “ism” or institution. It is foundational that my faith be founded on the promises of God fulfilled in and by God’s Word.

For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through him we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1:20

Through Christ, the New Covenant reality is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant promises.

Now the promises were made to Abraham and his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring”, who is Christ.
Galatians 3:16

Christ is the seed wherein the promises are fulfilled, and it is only *in the Person of Christ* that anyone can be part of the promises. Galatians 3:19 confirms this.

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promises had been made, and it was put in place by angels through an intermediator,
Galatians 3:19

But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise of faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
Galatians 3:22

What was promised to Christ has been fulfilled through Christ to those who believe. To reject Christ is to reject the promises.

I told that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.
John 8:24

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ provided we suffer with him in order that we may be glorified with him.
Romans 8:17

The promises were made to Abraham on the premise of his faithfulness – his loyalty to Yahweh - which grants him righteous standing before God.

And Abraham believed Yahweh and God counted it to him as righteousness.
Genesis 15:6

But the righteous shall live by faith.
Habakkuk 2:4

The promise is made to those, who like Abraham, have faith, not those of bloodline descent.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.
Galatians 3:29

for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his son into our hears, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
Galatians 3:26, 4:6-7

Thus, it is those of faith, regardless of being or not being physical descendants of Abraham who are the children of Abraham according to the Word of God, since they are the children of faith.

They answered Jesus, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did.

(That is, they would have exhibited believing loyalty to Yahweh and his promises which find their fulfillment in Christ by believing in Christ – in other words, they would believe that Jesus is God's fulfilled promises).

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord but he sent me."

(If they had faith and believed in the promises of God from His written Word, then they would understand that the man they are now arguing with is the fulfillment of those Scriptural promises in the written Word.)

"You are of your father, the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.
John 8:39, 42, 44

Regardless of ethnicity, they deny Christ and so deny the promises made to Abraham by faith.

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.
Romans 9:6-8

Paul cannot be anymore clear than he is here. Ismael was the offspring of the flesh. He was the child born of Sarah and Abraham's plan, despite the fact that God had already promised Abraham a son well beyond the child-bearing capabilities of either.

Issac on the other hand, was the child of promise by faith and it is through faith alone that one can be a descendant of Abraham, the man of faith.

So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
Galatians 3:9

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.
Genesis 12:3

Elijah said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." "Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed the knee to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."
1 Kings 19:10, 18

In this passage, the *few* who have maintained *believing loyalty* to Yahweh – those who have faith in who He is and what His promises signify, will not be put to death. This remnant and only this remnant are the covenant people of God.

People understand that the entirety of the Old Covenant system was fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ and is therefore, no longer necessary, yet still hold onto an Old Covenant people group and a land. All of these Old Testament types are simply shadows of the reality of the *Person of Israel – the Christ*?

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.
Hebrews 10:1

They serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."
Hebrews 8:5

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
Hebrews 9:24

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and aliens on earth.
(And this they acknowledged even though they were already living in the land

promised).
Hebrews 11:13

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <u>These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ</u>.
Colossians 2:17

Just as everything else in Scripture, the True Promised Land is not of this *present* world.

If it were, those descendants of Abraham and Abraham himself would not have looked for the promise elsewhere of something greater. *To do so is to diminish the glory of God.*

If the authors of the New Testament were looking for a regathering of ethnic Israel, why doesn't the New Testament state this?

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.
Hebrews 13:14

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 3:20

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may also be.
John 14:2-3

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and <u>to the end of the earth</u>."
Acts 1:8

Note the answer to their question is not to *restore* Israel but *receive* the Holy Spirit so they can be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion, not as ethnic descendants of Abraham, but as the children of Abraham by faith. *Their mission is beyond the land.*

It is not a restoration of a geopolitical people but a spiritual people from every tribe, tongue, and nation from the ends of the earth through Christ.

And they sang a new song saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed <u>people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation</u>, and you have made them a kingdom

and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
Revelation 5:9

Note the people to reign in the New Heaven and New Earth will be from the ends of the earth. The New Testament is not *"Israel centric."*

New Testament saints understood what Old Testament saints knew:

The promise was not about the land but an everlasting possession.

God's promises are only valid through faith in Christ as the One who fulfills God's promises.

For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1:20

If it's about the earthly land in the Middle East, then why does Isaiah say this:

For behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.
Isaiah 65:17

We must not interpret the New Testament through the Old Testament. We must let the writers of the New Testament interpret the Old Testament. Why then don't the New Testament writers speak of a restoration of ethnic Israel in the land?

This is of eternal importance: the New Covenant Believers do not replace ethnic Israel. They are simply the continuation under greater revelation in Christ and the promised Holy Spirit of what True Israel has always been: a people who have believing loyalty to Yahweh, and faith in the One Yahweh promised to fulfill His Old Testament Word.

The promises of God have always and only been to the people *who keep* the covenants. These are the children of Yahweh by faith *– the Israel of God.*

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those of the household of faith. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast in anything except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And for all those who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.
Galatians 6:10, 12-16

Believing loyalty to Yahweh did not start two-thousand years ago at the cross, rather this faith is eternal because the Son is the preexistent One through eternity.

Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
1 Peter 1:20-21

This is one reason I do not favor the designation of *Christian* since it puts a stamped timeline on an eternal faith.

For we are all the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh – though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have suffered the loss of all things and count them all as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.
Philippians 3:3-8

Let's look at some obvious problems with the nation-state of Israel and ask: fulfillment of Biblical prophecy or divisive and distracting *doctrine*?

I would like to at the very least pose the idea that geopolitical Israel today is not a continuation of the Old Testament people of God nor should they be considered so.

Geopolitical Israel in the land is essential in fulfilling much Protestant eschatology which funds the multi-billion-dollar prophecy-industry which began in the late 19th Century but escalated dramatically in the 1970's with books such as Hal Lindsey's *Late, Great, Planter Earth.*

The **Balfour Declaration** was a public statement issued by the British Government in 1917 during the First World War announcing its support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a small minority Jewish population. The declaration was contained in a letter dated 2 November 1917 from Arthur Balfour, the British foreign secretary, to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. The text of the declaration was published in the press on 9 November 1917. Wikipedia

With this in mind, I would like to state why I believe that claiming ethnic Israel as a *"Chosen People"* and the geopolitical state of Israel in the land diminishes the glory of God.

> *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. "The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you. "There you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. "For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.*
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> *Deuteronomy 4:26-31*

Many biblical texts can be used to justify the establishment of the geopolitical state of Israel preempted by the Balfour Declaration above as fulfillment of biblical prophecy. One that is often cited is the above passage of Deuteronomy 4:26-31. Here are some reasons that some might object to the use of this passage for that justification.

1) The passage speaks only to a covenant-keeping people. Israel today does not qualify.
2) Does *"remembering the covenant"* speak of national restoration? With this one must keep in mind that Moses is speaking here not in a prophetic role but in a legal role. This was spoken before the period of the Judges, and the kingdom of Saul and David was established. Having said this, the idea of scattering and regathering fits much better with the 6 dispossessions and regathering found in Judges as well from Babylon.
3) Israel's restoration is predicated upon repentance. Such is not the case with idolatrous Israel today. Deuteronomy develops this further.

> *And now Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good. Circumcise therefore, the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.*
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> *Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 16-19*

If regathering demands repentance as the Scripture states, then we should reconsider whether geopolitical Israel meets this condition.

In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.
Isaiah 11:11

This passage is also used to support the regathering of geopolitical Israel in 1948. But if we look at the surrounding context of this Isaiah passage, we see a distinct Messianic ideal taking place.

10Then in that day
---------The root of Jesse,
Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; of him shall the nations inquire,
And His resting place will be glorious.

11Then it will happen on that day that the Lord
Will again recover the second time with His hand
The remnant of His people, who will remain,
From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath,
And from the islands of the sea.

12And He will lift up a standard for the nations
And assemble the banished ones of Israel,
And will gather the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.
Isaiah 11:10-12

This passage could have a dual purpose: one immediate and one future. In such a case Egypt is the fist regathering while Babylon is the second. Isaiah, however, writing before the exile to Babylon, could be speaking of the Babylonian return and most likely Pentecost.

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord
Will again recover the second time with His hand
The remnant of His people, who will remain,
From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath,
And from the islands of the sea.
Isaiah 11:11

1When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ***2***Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ***3***They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and

came to rest on each of them. 4And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6And when this sound rang out, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking his own language.

7Astounded and amazed, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8How is it then that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, 11both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"
Acts 2:1-11

Note the diaspora being regathered here from all the lands. This is the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and not some man-made declaration. All the diaspora under one language, one Spirit, one baptism in one Savior. And all of this in Jerusalem!

22Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. 23He was delivered up by God's set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. 24But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep Him in its grip.

29Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His body see decay. 32God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses.
Acts 2:22-24, 29-32

Note that Peter is speaking to the *"men of Israel"*, as if all 12 tribes of the diaspora are represented here.

If that is so, note that he holds *all Israel* accountable for their part in killing the Messiah.

Finally, note these *men of Israel's* reaction to their action and the faith that results from their repentance.

37When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off —to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself."
Acts 2:37-39

Also note that on this occasion, Peter himself cites the passage of Joel 2 as if emphatically stating that this event is the prophesied ingathering of Israel back to the land.

16No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:17'In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18Even on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and glorious Day of the Lord. 21And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
Acts 2:16-20

And I will pour out on the house of Daivd and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that when they look on me, on him who they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns of an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.
Zechariah 12:10

Ezekiel 36 is often used to justify the establishment of geopolitical Israel.

The language does seem to suggest a future restoration of the Jews back to the land.

24For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries, and I will bring you back into your own land. 33This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be resettled and the ruins to be rebuilt. 34The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through. 35Then they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden. The cities that were once ruined, desolate, and destroyed are now fortified and inhabited.'
Ezekiel 36:24, 33-35

Now let's add two verses that change the way we may see this passage and give it more of an Acts 2 Day of Pentecost reality. Note the 5 life-giving actions accomplished by God alone.

I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.

I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols.

26I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;

I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

27And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances.
Ezekiel 36:25-27

This language carries the idea of baptism. Not water baptism though the passage allows for that, but with the true cleansing and life-giving water of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

In geopolitical Israel, we have never seen this king of outpouring of the Spirit and a believing loyalty to Yahweh manifest itself among the nation in the last 80 years.

More than 50% of all Jews do not live in geopolitical Israel today.
As a fulfillment of prophecy, this diminishes God's glory since he lacks regathering ability.

1) Israel today is not a kingdom at all. It is a democratic state, not a theocratic state.

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.
Hosea 3:5

2) In this restoration scenario, Israel will seek David their king who of course is Christ. After nearly eighty years, geopolitical Israel has yet to do this. Regathered Israel is a kingdom with a Davidic monarchy. Again, God seems incapable of ruling here.
3) Israel as an established entity has been scattered and regathered several times. How can anyone know for certain that present geopolitical Israel is the definitive gathering? This also presupposes God's purpose and plan which diminishes his glory.
4) Geopolitical Israel toady occupies about 65% of the land mass given to Old Testament Israel. They do not have jurisdiction over the land east of the Jordan which was once occupied by the tribes of Rueben, Gad, and Manasseh. Nor do they possess the West Bank and the Gaza. God's ability to regather them back to the land promised is diminished.
5) They do not have jurisdiction over the Temple Mount, which would be essential if they indeed were God's restored kingdom. The Al-Aqsa Mosque currently occupying center stage on the mount stands as a testimony against fulfilled prophecy. God's glory is again diminished.

1This is the message that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
2In the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD

will be established as the chief of the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
3And many peoples will come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us His ways
so that we may walk in His paths."
For the law will go forth from Zion,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
Isaiah 2:1-3

6) Geopolitical Israel is largely secular. Israel's institutions are part of democratic policy, not theocentric covenant.

27% keep Sabbath regularly. 53% don't keep it at all.
45% identify as secular. 33% identify as traditional. 10% identify as ultra-Orthodox. 12% as religious or Orthodox.

What one must understand given these percentages, is that even among many secular Israelis, there is a belief in a higher power. This, however, does not constitute the God of Scripture at all.

Also, many in Israel prioritize their Israeli identity over their Jewish identity. That is, their secular or political identity over any religious identity.

The idea of holding onto their Jewishness stems more from a desire to remain a geopolitical people rather than a desire for being faithful to Yahweh or such Biblical traditions.

What must also be understood is that today's Judaism by and large is not a continuation of the Old Testament whatsoever. If it were, Torah observance would be preeminent for all.

The roots of today's Judaism began to seep into Old Testament worship after the return from Babylon, bringing with it mystical practices and teachings that have taken hold over the past two millennia.

The synagogue model is where the Jews began to forsake:
the importance of the priesthood as God's mediators,
the prophets as God's final word,
the sacrificial system as a means of a right standing before God,
placing a definitive emphasis on the rabbi's interpretations and the observing of Torah keeping and good works as a means of a right standing before God.

Judaism has long been stripped of its supernatural roots and substituted Jewish mysticism and Kabbalistic influences, interpreting Torah in ways that resemble pagan theology rather than God's Word.

Also consider, Old Testament saints were not of the faith of Judaism.

Before the exile to Babylon, they could be more accurately described as *Yahwehists* practicing *Yahwehism.*

This religion has little to do with Second Century Judaism much less Rabbinic Judaism today.

Therefore, if geopolitical Israel is a fulfillment of prophecy:
we have just over 40% of the world's Jews,
living in just 65% of the land promised,
under a democratic (read *government by the people*) style leadership,
with no king therefore, no monarchy (read no theocracy),
with a small percentage holding to true Biblical teaching,
while living with no centerpiece temple on the temple mount,
all the while having no jurisdiction over key pieces of land.

I submit that if this is a fulfillment of God and His Word, then the God of the Bible is not a God of promise, but a God of compromise.

I think we need to *rethink* what the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD signified,
look again at Pentecost and its significance given the Mandate to Adam in Genesis 1 and
to the disciples in Matthew 28 and Acts 8,
begin to contemplate that true Israel is a people - who through their faith, that is their
believing loyalty to Yahweh and His promises which is the evidence of that faith -
always and only have been the *covenant people of God,*
that *Israel* is a Person foreshadowed by a nation as a promise that has been fulfilled,
and that in Christ alone is the fulfillment of ALL Old Testament promises, thereby
securing the identity of all people of faith in himself as the Person of Israel.

For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through him we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1:20