

Deception of the Nations

Key Scriptures

Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Zech. 2:8 For the LORD who rules over all says to me that for his own glory he has sent me to the nations that plundered you— for anyone who touches you touches the pupil of his eye.

Rom. 11:1-2 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

Gen. 15:5-18 ⁵ The LORD took him outside and said, "Gaze into the sky and count the stars— if you are able to count them!" Then he said to him, "So will your descendants be." ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷ The LORD said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." . . . ¹⁸ That day the LORD made a covenant with Abram: "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River—

Zech. 12:3 Moreover, on that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy burden for all the nations, and all who try to carry it will be seriously injured; yet all the peoples of the earth will be assembled against it.

Key Point: Beware: Satan is very effective at deceiving. The point of deception is that *you don't know it happened.*

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When is the appropriate time to start listening to Christmas music? What is the best and worst Christmas song?

Start thinking: Questions to get your group thinking.

Kyle spoke of 5 lies people believe about Israel:

1. Israel is not God's people anymore.
 2. The Land's real name is Palestine.
 3. The Arabs were there first.
 4. The occupation is the problem.
 5. Peace in the middle east is possible.
- How do the following passages shed light on these statements? Jer. 31:35-37; Deut. 9:4-6; Neh. 2:18-20; Amos 9:14-15; Deut 14:2; Matt 2:19-20;
 - According to Gen 15:5-18, how large is the land that God promised to Israel? (Google an image of Genesis 15 boundaries)

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- In the news we are seeing lots of reports of growing antisemitism. What do you think is the source of racism?
- How have Christians been deceived about Israel?
- What do you think Zechariah 12:3 is saying about Jerusalem?
- According to Gen 12:2-3 and Zech 2:8, What do you think our perspective should be about Israel?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Spend time praying for those in Israel and Gaza, that God would soften their hearts to the gospel.
- Know that Satan is always trying to deceive us. Remember that when you hear news or stories from our media. Try reading news from Allsides.com to get perspectives of how each news outlet views things.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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