



My wife, Debbie, and I are two of the original members of NorthHaven and cherish our time with this church. Debbie and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this past May, and we have two children, Jason and Katie, and one grandson, Keaton, who is full of energy!

I am a native of Norman, although I have lived several other places in my youth and still have family in Albuquerque, NM. In fact, Debbie

and I met in Albuquerque where we went to high school together. I am now, finally, retired. I worked in the Registrar's Office at the University of Oklahoma for nearly 40 years, and worked another 10 years after retiring from OU. But full retirement has meant much more time to spend with Keaton, which is a true blessing. I am an avid sports fan, particularly any OU sports team, and a baseball fan and long time KC Royals supporter. I also love to read and am currently working my way through a list off the 100 books you should read before you die! I only have about 75-80 to go.

I am honored and humbled to be able to serve NorthHaven, including as one of your Deacons. I have been active on a number of committees at the church and will continue to be active where I can. And for all of you that drink coffee in the mornings at church, I am truly happy to be able to provide that for you, because I want coffee in the mornings, too!

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Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper
Senior Pastor

The name Israel is used in the Bible to mean different things at different periods in biblical history. When preaching, I sometimes struggle to remember what the appropriate language is. Do I call the people of the Bible Hebrews? Israelites? Jews? It depends at which point in biblical history that I'm referring to.

Before Egypt and Exodus, we call them Hebrews. After Egypt we call them Israelites, and after the Babylonian Exile and into the time of Jesus, the Bible calls them Jews. And when I'm referring to stories from each of these time frames in one sermon, then the language can get confusing for me.

Today, with modern state of Israel in the news as a political entity, it's a good time to explore some of the different ways the name Israel is used in the Bible.

1. The first time Israel appears in the Bible is in Genesis when Jacob wrestles with God at the River Jabbok. Afterward, God renames Jacob to Israel, because "you wrestled with God and humans and overcame." Israel is a man's name before anything else.
2. The next usage of Israel is in Egypt as a name for the people group, the Israelites, all of whom share the man Israel, formerly known as Jacob, as a common ancestor.
3. In the book of Judges, Israel is the name used when referring to all twelve tribes as a whole. Each tribe is descended from one of the twelve sons of the man Israel (Jacob), and is an autonomous political entity.

Even when the tribes fight against each other the way that neighboring nations

fight against one another, they are still collectively called Israel. The name doesn't refer to a political entity or a nation, but to an ethnic group of people. The vast majority of the time Israel is used in the Bible it's referring to an ethnic group and not to a nation.

4. Israel is the name of the united kingdom under the reign of David and Solomon. David is the first king to unite all twelve tribes into a single political empire and create the nation-state Israel. Solomon inherits this kingdom and manages it so harshly that many of the people revolt.

5. The revolt leads to a civil war that resulted in the kingdom splitting into two separate nations upon Solomon's death. The northern kingdom takes the name Israel and the southern kingdom is named Judah. This is the second and last nation named Israel in the Bible. In 722 BCE, Assyria destroys the northern kingdom of Israel. Israel will never again be used to refer to a nation in the Bible.

6. In the Gospels, Israel is always used to talk collectively about the Israelite people as an ethnic group. There is no nation named Israel anywhere in the New Testament. Jerusalem is located in the province of Judea. Above Judea, where the northern Kingdom of Israel was located some 700 years previously, is the province of Samaria, inhabited mostly by non-Jewish peoples. Above Samaria is the province of Galilee, a mostly, but not entirely Jewish province where Jesus was raised. All fully functioning provinces of the Roman Empire.

7. In the book of Galatians, Paul uses "Israel of God" to refer to Christians. "And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God." (Galatians 6:16-17)

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NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.

Food Drive
for Native
American
Churches in
Canton and
Watonga

10/22/23
thru
11/12/23

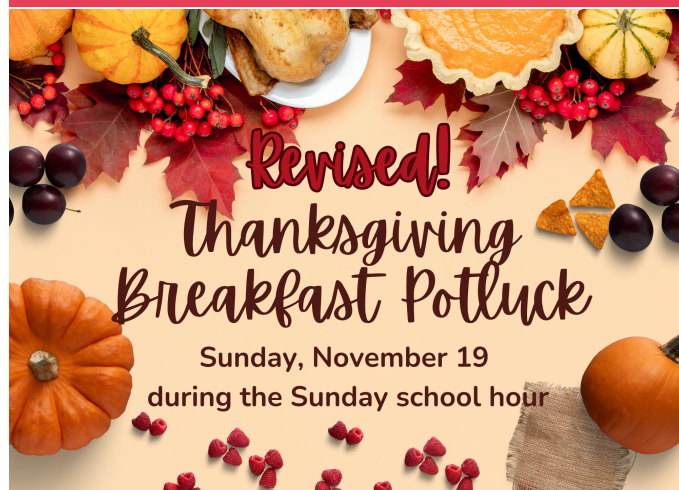


A list of items is available in the foyer.

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The prophets use the name Israel sometimes to refer to the twelve tribes as a collective ethnic group. Sometimes they are talking about Israel the united kingdom under David and Solomon, and sometimes they are talking about the northern kingdom of Israel. Applying the teachings of one prophet to a differently defined Israel can drastically change the interpretation of these passages.

The first covenant God makes in the Bible is with Abraham. It reads, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). The word translated as nation is גוי (goy), and in the Bible it means people, ethnic group, nation, Gentile, a troop of animals, or even a flight of locusts, which raises the obvious question: Did God promise to make Israel a sovereign political state that is great on a world scale, or is God's promise to make Abraham's descendants into a great people who take the word of God with them into all nations across all of the world? The answer may depend on which point in history the question is asked.



- November 1: Ava Cox
- November 8: Joyce Krause
- November 9: Mike Bumgarner
- November 10: Kate Moore
- November 17: Novah Abbott
- November 17: Carol Lockhart

- November 17: Marie Snider
- November 20: Don Schooler
- November 24: Julia Faust
- November 24: Tessa Teague
- November 26: David Jimenez



KidsHaven

November 2023 Monthly Newsletter of NorthHaven Children's Ministry



FESTIFALL



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME!