

ISRA

*ISRAEL HAS BEEN
"IN THE NEWS" FOR
THOUSANDS OF YEARS!*



LEVEL 8

Land of God's promise to Abraham and his family

W

hen you look at a map of the Middle East, Israel may not seem very important. It looks like a tiny sliver of land compared with much larger nations like Egypt and Iraq. But Israel has always been a vital part of God's plan.

Can you count all the stars in the sky? A long time ago, God promised to give a man named Abraham a very big family. God said Abraham's family would be so big that they would be like the stars. No one would be able to count them! (Read Genesis 15:1-7.)

God also promised to give Abraham's family a special place to live. It would be a land full of good food and blessings. Israel is the special place God chose for Abraham's family.

There was one other promise God made to Abraham. God said that through Abraham's family, people all over the world would be blessed (Genesis 22:18). That came true when Jesus was born in a town in Israel called Bethlehem.

Both Jews and Arabs are members of Abraham's family. The Bible also calls the Jews Israelites. Jesus was a Jew. Jesus is the blessing God promised. Wow! Israel really is an important place, don't you think?

Jesus died on a cross for our sins. But He was not dead for long. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. (Read John 19 and 20.) Jesus went up to heaven from a place in Israel called the Mount of Olives. The Bible says that Jesus will one day come back to Earth and stand again in that very place. That is good news for all the people who love Jesus!

Not many years after Jesus went to heaven, the Roman government made war with Israel. God's temple was destroyed and the Jews were scattered all over the world. But God had

Israel

betcha didn't know that...

- **The water in the Dead Sea is so full of salt and minerals that you can float on it — even if you don't know how to swim!**
- **Though most of the people in Israel are Jews, their parents and grandparents moved there from many different countries like Russia, France, Egypt and even the United States.**
- **Israel is a democracy like the United States. People vote to elect their leaders. Israel has a president and another leader called a prime minister.**
- **Israel is so small it takes only six minutes to fly across in a jet. What can you do in six minutes?**
- **Though much of Israel is very dry, farmers have thought up ways to grow lots of things. Some of the crops are flowers, oranges, avocados, dates, figs, olives, grapes, almonds, wheat and cotton.**
- **Diamonds and other jewels are cut in Israel.**
- **Some of the animals that live in Israel are the otter, wolf, mongoose, jackal, hyena, gazelle, porcupine and hedgehog.**
- **To learn more, visit the Israeli Embassy's Web site for kids at <http://www.israelemb.org/kids/>.**

promised not to forget Abraham's family. He said the Jews would live in Israel again. That promise came true around the time your grandparents were born. The Jews came back to the land God had given them. Israel once again became an important nation in the world.

Today, more than 6 million people live in Israel. Most of them are Jews. Abraham sure does have a big family. God keeps all His promises!

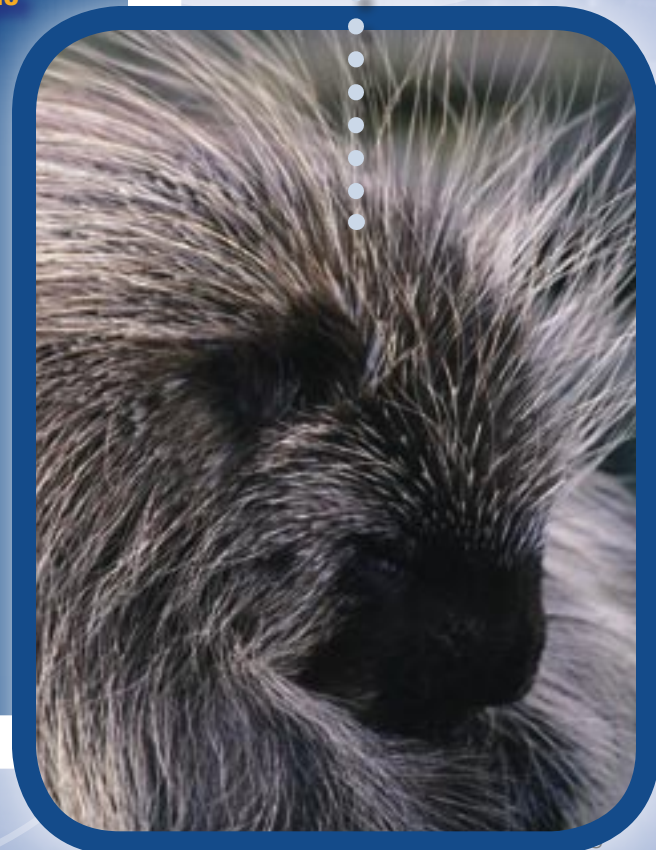
Israel is smaller than the state of New Jersey. But it has many different kinds of land. If you visited, you could see mountains, beaches, forests, green valleys and deserts. You could even go to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth.

One foundation wall of the old temple is still standing in Jerusalem. This is the same temple that Peter and John visited in Bible times. Today, Jews go to the temple wall to pray.

It might be neat to pray in Jerusalem. But you don't have to go to Israel to talk with God. You can pray to Him right where you are.

Did you know God has made a promise to you? When you ask Jesus into your heart, God promises to forgive you of your sins and make you part of His big family. Just like God made a special place for Abraham's family, He has made a place in heaven for everyone who believes in Jesus. That's a great promise you can count on!

— Christina Quick



ABCs of Salvation

If you want to know Jesus and receive His gift of eternal life in heaven, it's as simple as ABC. Follow these guidelines of the ABCs of Salvation.

A

Admit you have sinned. Tell God you know that you have done wrong things and that you are sorry for them. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that everybody sins. God wants to forgive you.

B

Believe in Jesus. Just believe that He really is God's Son and that He died (He came back to life, too) so that you could be saved. John 3:16 says that God loved all of us so much that He sent His Son so that we could have eternal life. Telling God you have sinned won't make Him stop loving you. He loves you already. Believing in Jesus is part of what people mean when they talk about "asking Jesus to come into your heart." You're saying to God, "I know Jesus died for me. I want Him to be my Savior."

C

Confess and leave your sin behind. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9 that when we confess our sins, God forgives us and makes our lives pure again. It's just like we didn't sin in the first place. And this is the part you need to remember whenever you sin again. Because even when you have Jesus as your Savior, you still do some wrong things. Remember, God is always ready to forgive you and help you to live for Him.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE IN THE WORLD. JESUS WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT HE LOVES YOU!



WEbelieve

■ the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). ■ there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19). ■ in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (John 1:1). ■ in the blessed hope — the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming (Titus 2:13). ■ the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ (John 14:6). ■ regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation (Titus 3:5). ■ in water baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:19). ■ the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer (1 Peter 2:24). ■ the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. ■ in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Galatians 5:16-25). ■ in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation (Revelation 20:11-15).