

# Why Did God Have an Israel?

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Hard Passages in the Old Testament in  
God's Unfolding Story Towards Restoration

Katelyn Hannan and Mako A. Nagasawa



THE ANÁSTASIS CENTER  
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & MINISTRY

# Troubling Questions from the OT

- Why does God even let us die? (Katelyn)
- God actively took human life? (Mako)
- God set up Israel to be vulnerable? (Mako)

# Outline: Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To receive the doctor's health regimen
- To long for the cure
- To rely on God's protection

# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To receive the doctor's health regimen
  - Humanity
    - Sick patients resisting treatment
  - God
    - The doctor who must become the patient to perfect the cure in himself to become the donor
  - Israel
    - God's medical focus group, to prepare for Jesus

# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To receive the doctor's health regimen
  - Family medical history
    - The self
      - Originally good and is still: Genesis 1:26 – 28
      - Distinguish disease vs. self: Romans 7:14 – 25
    - The world
      - Is meant to be a garden
      - Spread the garden down the rivers: Genesis 2
    - The disease
      - Internalized the desire and power to define good and evil in a self-centered way: Genesis 3 – 4

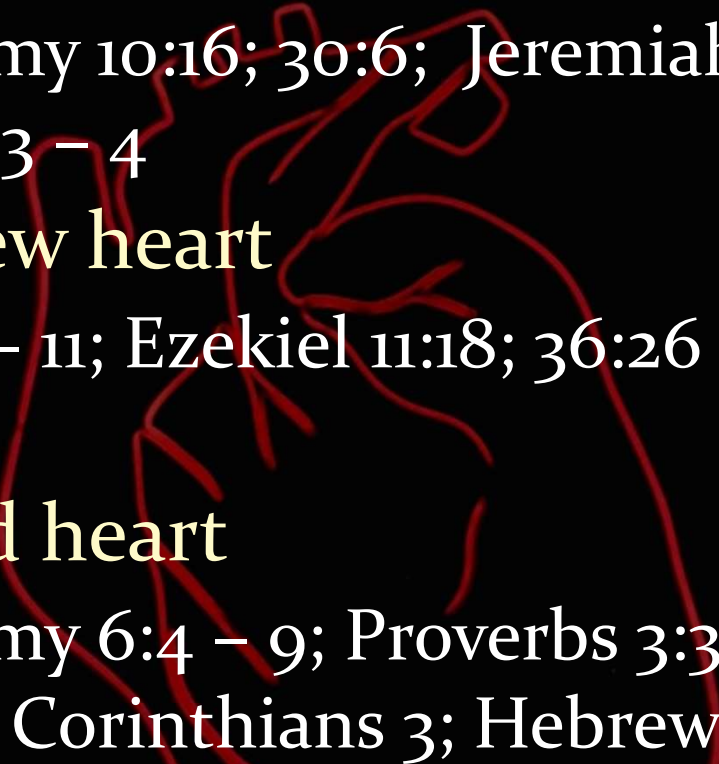
# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To receive the doctor's health regimen
  - Receive as much health as you can
    - Called back into a garden
    - “For this reason”: Genesis 2:18 – 25
    - “Her conjugal rights”: Exodus 21:10
    - “Circumcise your hearts”: Deuteronomy 10:16

# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To receive the doctor's health regimen: participate in restoration of harm
  - Harm within one's own self
    - "Circumcise your hearts": Deuteronomy 10:16
  - Harm to others
    - "Until he is completely healed": Exodus 21:18 – 19
  - Harm to children's faith
    - While in exile, parents to children: Numbers 13 – 14; Psalm 78
    - God willed exile, but not all harm: Zechariah 1:15; Isaiah 40:1 – 2; etc.

# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To long for the cure
    - Circumcised heart
      - Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:28 – 29; 6:6; 8:3 – 4
    - Cleansed, new heart
      - Psalm 51:9 – 11; Ezekiel 11:18; 36:26 – 36; Matthew 19:3 – 12
    - God-scripted heart
      - Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9; Proverbs 3:3; 7:3; Jeremiah 31:31 – 34; 2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 8
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# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To long for the cure
  - No patient fully internalizes the health regimen
  - The doctor must become a patient
  - That patient must perfect the cure and become the donor
    - Isaiah 53, 59
    - Hebrews 1:1 – 3; 5:7 – 10; 8:1 – 9:28; 12:1 – 2
    - Matthew 3:13 – 4:11

# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To rely on God's protection
  - Imagine a hospital
  - Imagine violence against the medical focus group



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# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To rely on God's protection
  - External opponents
    - Noah's generation: Genesis 5 – 9
    - Sodom and Gomorrah: Genesis 14, 19
    - Pharaoh in Egypt: Exodus 1 – 15
    - Canaanite military: Joshua 1 – 6, 8, 11
  - Internal opponents
    - Rejecting the doctor accelerates death: Exodus 32
    - Korah's rebellion: Numbers 16
    - Achan's war-profiteering: Joshua 7



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# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- To rely on God's protection
  - Sheol/Hades like a coma ward
    - Temporary sedation in the hospital
    - Death and reappearance of Moses: Matthew 17
    - Death as interruption of desire-development
    - Jesus' "harrowing of hades": 1 Peter 3:18 – 20; 4:6



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# Troubling Questions from the OT

- Questions to frame your responses:
  - Why did God need to send Jesus?
  - Why did Jesus need an Israel?
  - Was some protection of Israel needed?
  - Why exile and mortality?



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# Israel as Medical Focus Group

- Why did Jesus need an Israel?
  - Provide him with a real humanity and human vocation
  - Develop partners for his mission
  - Document the diagnosis
  - Concluded and unrepeatable



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