



# Israel Unveiled

## Christian Zionists—Forgotten Pioneers of Modern Israel

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**Podcast:** [Israel Unveiled Episode #15](#)

### Summary

This episode highlights two deeply moving stories of American Christian communities in the 19th century who believed in God's promises to Israel—and acted on that belief. The Christian Lovers of Zion left Maine to settle in Ottoman-ruled Jaffa, while Horatio and Anna Spafford, following personal tragedy, established the American Colony in Jerusalem. These faithful forerunners helped prepare the land for the Jewish return long before the establishment of modern Israel.

### Key Scriptures

- **Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)**

#### **Promises to Abram**

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 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."

- **Isaiah 35:1 (NKJV)**

#### **The Future Glory of Zion**

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;

- **Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)**

#### **Believers Are Salt and Light**

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

- **Romans 11:17–18 (NKJV)**

**The Olive Tree and Gentile Believers**

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What motivated these groups to leave everything behind and move to the land of Israel?
2. How did hardship refine or challenge their vision?
3. What does their story reveal about the role of Gentile believers in God's plan for Israel?
4. How can we be modern "pioneers" of prophetic fulfillment?

**Reflection**

History remembers nations, but God remembers individuals who step out in faith. These Christian Zionists may be forgotten by textbooks, but heaven surely has not forgotten their obedience.

**Optional Activities**

- Research the American Colony Hotel or Fellowship House Museum online.
- Journal how you might respond to a calling that involves great risk but eternal significance.
- Listen to "It Is Well with My Soul" and reflect on its origin story in light of Scripture.

If this episode stirred your interest, continue the journey with the next episode of [Israel Unveiled](https://israelunveiled.org). Share this study with others and invite them into the story of Israel's prophetic destiny.

**Shalom and be blessed!**