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God in the Scripture refers to the *“apple of His eye.”* There are four passages of Scripture we would like to notice. We will see the endearment that God has for His people and His word.

The first of these is in Psalm 17:8. The Psalmist David is praying a prayer of confidence for the deliverance of the people of God. The psalter begins his words by asking God to *“...give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.”* (Psalm 17:1b) He speaks about God testing his heart and finding that he is a man who has called upon God and he has inclined His ears to God. The word *“incline”* means to stretch out, spread out, and to bend. The Psalmist is requesting that God will listen to his prayers. He then makes a powerful request. He says, *“Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.”* (Psalm 17:8).

Looking back at the nation of our Jewish friends is a miracle attesting to the fact that Israel is the apple of God’s eye. Of the billions of people living on the face of the earth there are somewhere between 13-15 million Jews. The tiny nation of Israel has nearly nine million residents. The five Burroughs of New York City alone have 8.5 million people. Although small in number the significant contributions of their tiny group is amazing. Jews have achieved Nobel Prizes in medicine, physics, and chemistry. Jewish names that have become household names are Einstein, Kissinger, Berlin. There is good indication that the idea of a democratic form of government was brought to pass by our Jewish friends.

Why is Israel so special? Israel is a nation that is bound by covenants. For example, God gave to Abram an unconditional covenant. God said He would do something and He has done it. The promise is in Genesis 12:1-3:

Get thee out of thy country
And from thy kindred,
And from thy father’s house,
Unto a land that I will shew thee;
And I will make of thee a great nation,
And I will bless thee
And make thy name great;
And thou shalt be a blessing;
And I will bless them that bless thee,
And curse him that curseth thee;
And in thee shall all the nations of the earth
be blessed.”

When God says He will bless those who bless Israel and curse those that curse Israel it is an unconditional promise that will not be broken. The verdict is already in. We are to bless Israel.

It is also interesting that the nation is pictured as being under the wings of a bird who protects her young. They are considered, therefore, the apple of His eye and under the wings of a protective bird. So God protects His own.

A second passage is in Proverbs. *“Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye.”* (Proverbs 7:2) There are 23 messages of a father to a son in the book of the Proverbs. Imagine in your mind a wise father sitting with his son and chatting with him about life. Here the wise council is to learn and apply the Word of God. The Tanakh or Old Covenant is full of wise advice, laws, and council from Yahweh. The new Covenant has tremendous teaching of the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. In this case in Proverbs the Holy Scripture is the apple of God’s eye.

Perhaps the most familiar passage addressing Israel as the apple of God’s eye is the song of Moses that is recorded in Deuteronomy 32. This passage of Scripture is a classic in explaining the greatness of the Almighty. The song begins with Moses expressing His gratitude toward God. He ascribes greatness to God plus he reminds the people of the fact that Yahweh God is considered a Rock. His ways are perfect. He is a God of truth. There is no one who can compare to this God. This majestic God has provided a portion or inheritance to the children of Israel because they belong to Him. Have you ever wondered why God chose Israel? What is there about this little strip of land with its inhabitants that has so intrigued God? Notice these comparisons. New Jersey is the fifth smallest state in America in land mass. It is similar in size to Israel. In the five boroughs of New York City alone there are nearly as many people that live in Israel. Is there something about this small nation that has attracted the Almighty? The answer to this question is found in Deuteronomy 7. It is a section of Scripture that describes Israel as the chosen nation of God. Why did He choose them? *“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any people, for you were the fewest of all people; but because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”* (Deuteronomy 7:7,8). Israel is the chosen of God because the divine has decreed it to be. So often we try to make a god in our minds that we want but He is not the God who is. If God desires the Jewish people to be special to Him, he has every right to do so.

In Deuteronomy 32:9,10 Moses’ song reminds the people that he found them, and kept them as the apple of His eye. Additionally, He adds the statement, as He did in the