

The End-Times Relevance of Israel

Part 1: The People

Intro

- Replacement theology; also called fulfillment theology, supersessionism
 - simplest form: the Church has superseded or replaced Israel in God's plan
 - largest churches adhering to replacement theology include: Roman Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Lutheran Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ
 - result of this belief:
 - these churches don't believe nation of Israel has a right to exist
 - condemn the nation as illegitimate
 - oppose its so-called occupation of Palestinian land
 - repeatedly condemn Israel for virtually everything: bringing Jews from other countries to Israel, building housing, refusing to give up land, building defensive barriers, etc.

God's position toward the nation of Israel and the Jewish people

- Gen 17:3-10
 - ³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”
 - ⁹ Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.”

- Who initiated this covenant?
- What did God require of Abraham?
- When or under what conditions does “everlasting” end?
- One of God’s qualities is omniscience; what is that?
- When God made this covenant, did he know some of Abraham’s descendants would break the covenant and not serve him?
- Did God know the nation of Israel — the Jews, Abraham’s descendants — would collectively reject Jesus as Messiah?
- Is this covenant still relevant today?
- Isa 61:8-9
 - ⁸ In my faithfulness I will reward them
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
 - ⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the Lord has blessed.
 - Was the book of Isaiah written before or after Genesis?
 - When God states in Isaiah he’ll make an everlasting covenant with Israel, is he referring to the everlasting covenant he made with Abraham or another one?
- Jer 31:31-37
 - ³¹ “The time is coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
 - ³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the Lord.
 - ³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the house of
Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
 - ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the Lord.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

³⁵ This is what the Lord says,

he who appoints the sun
to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars
to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea
so that its waves roar —
the Lord Almighty is his name:

³⁶ “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,”
declares the Lord,
“will the descendants of Israel ever cease
to be a nation before me.”

³⁷ This is what the Lord says:

“Only if the heavens above can be measured
and the foundations of the earth below be searched out
will I reject all the descendants of Israel
because of all they have done,”
declares the Lord.

○ What were the purposes of “the Law”?

- Eze 37:26-27, ²⁶ “I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”
- Rev 21:2-3, ² “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’”
- Joel 2
 - Context
 - ¹ “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand —
² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.”
 - ¹¹ “The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?”
 - ³¹ “The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

○ Joel 2:18-19

¹⁸ Then the Lord will be jealous for his land
and take pity on his people.

¹⁹ The Lord will reply to them:

“I am sending you grain, new wine and oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations.”

● THE Question (in several forms)

○ Does Israel’s apostasy — their rejection of Jesus as
Messiah — negate all these promises of a new
covenant?

○ Did Israel’s rejection of Jesus abort God’s future plan
for them?

○ Haven’t they been under a curse since Jesus’
crucifixion, and isn’t that proof that God has abandoned
them?

● Mt 27:24-25, ²⁴ “When Pilate saw that he was getting
nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took
water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am
innocent of this man’s blood,’ he said. ‘It is your
responsibility!’

²⁵ “All the people answered, ‘Let his blood be on us and on
our children!’”

○ How might that statement have affected Israel for nearly
2000 years?

○ When God promised a new, everlasting covenant with
Israel in the Old Testament, did he know they would
reject the Messiah?

● Ro 10:11-13, ¹¹ “As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts
in him will never be put to shame.’ ¹² For there is no
difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is
Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for,
‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be
saved.’”

○ Is it possible for Jews to be saved today? What do we
call them?

○ Will it be possible for all Jews to acknowledge Jesus as
Messiah when he appears in the sky?

● Ro 11:25-32

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers,
so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a
hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has
come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The deliverer will come from Zion;
he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

- Was the book of Hebrews written before or after the Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah?

- Heb 8:8-12 quotes Jer 31:31-34

- Rev 7:2-8

² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,

from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000,

from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,

from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,

from the tribe of Levi 12,000,

from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,

from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,

from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

- Eph 1:13, "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."
- Eph 4:30, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
- Rev 14:1, "Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads."
 - Where will he return to earth?
 - Who's with him there?

Other Passages of Interest

- Jer 32:40-41
 - What does this passage reveal about God's attitude toward Israel?
- Jer 33:25-26
 - What does this passage reveal about God's attitude toward Israel?
- Mic 7:18-20
 - What does this passage reveal about God's attitude toward Israel?
- Zech 12:8-13:1
 - This passage probably relates to the "battle of Armageddon," when the world's armies are attacking Jerusalem and the Lord returns to earth.
 - How will the surviving Jews respond?
 - How does this relate to Romans 11:26?
- Ro 1:16
 - What does this passage reveal about God's attitude toward Israel?
- Ro 2:9-11
 - What does this passage reveal about God's attitude toward Israel?
- Ro 3:29-30
 - According to this passage, how will the Jews be justified?

Closing

- What is God's position toward the nation of Israel and the Jewish people?
- My opinion: Replacement theology is a lie based on prejudice (anti-Semitism), and violates clear scriptural statements.
 - I believe it's a lie from Satan intended to oppose God by marginalizing his chosen people.
- Blessing
Bless Prime Minister Netanyahu with the supernatural wisdom and strength he needs to lead Israel in these treacherous times. Bring peace to Jerusalem and protect your chosen people throughout the world. May they come to know Yeshua as Messiah and Lord.