

ISRAEL and the CHURCH

Replacement Theology – Its Errors

- Replacement theology teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan and God has future plans for the nation of Israel. The Jews are no longer God's chosen people.
- This misconception teaches that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled not in Israel but the Christian church. The prophecies concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are spiritualized or allegorized into promises of God's blessing for the church.
- Major problems of this view exist. How do you explain:
 - the supernatural survival of the Jewish people over the past 2,000 years despite the many attempts to destroy them?
 - the rebirth the nation in the 20th century after not existing for 1,900 years?

Replacement Theology – Its Errors

- If the Lord Jesus cannot keep His covenant and promise of blessing upon Israel, as well as all the nations, how can we believe in Him as our Savior?
- But, praise be to the Lord, because He is not only the same yesterday, today and forever, but we can stand on His word, for though heaven and earth shall pass away, yet His words shall not pass away. (Matthew 24:35) We can stand on the Lord's promises. In fact, Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20) So the Lord Jesus will never renege on His promises and covenants by which the Church has been made partakers with Israel. (Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.)

The Lord Will Never Renege On His Promises

- Gen 49:10 The scepter (sign of kingly authority) shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh (if proper name of Messiah, it means "one who brings peace; as a Hebrew word contraction, it means to whom it (scepter) belongs) come; and unto him shall be the gathering of the people be.
- Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Isaiah 11:12 He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

The Lord Will Never Renege On His Promises

- Romans 11:2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel (that have killed its prophets but God replied, "I have kept 7,000 men who have not bowed their knees to Baal." [1Kings 19:18])
- Romans 11:25-26 25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, 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 in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.
- Revelation 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 sealed from all the tribes of Israel.
- Revelation 21:12 It (new Jerusalem) had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Lord Visits the Gentiles – Builds the Church

- Israel rejects the kingdom of God preached by Jesus the Christ (Matthew 4:17). Israel has been given eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear has become blind in part. (cf. Romans 11:8, 25) Because Israel rejected the Messiah, Israel is temporarily set aside in God's program. Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." (Luke 21:24)
- Because of Israel's unbelief, "God visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name." (Acts 15:13–18) To this the prophets (cf. Amos 9:11-12) agree as it is written, "'After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called,' saith the Lord, 'who doeth all these things that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called,' saith the Lord.'" This is the promise of the Lord that though Israel is set aside, the Lord will return unto Israel to re-establish it.

Church Age to the Rapture/Tribulation Period

- Therefore, presently, the church is the focus of the Lord's eternal program. The Church came into being on the day of Pentecost and will continue until it is taken to heaven in the Rapture (Ephesians 1:9–10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).
- The next event after the Rapture is the Tribulation (Revelation chapters 6–19). After the Rapture, the Lord will prepare Israel to be restored as the primary focus of His plan. In the Tribulation, the Lord will judge the world for rejecting Jesus Christ, while Israel is prepared for the second coming of the Messiah by letting it pass through the fiery trials of the great tribulation period. (Zehariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.
- At the end of the tribulation, Christ visibly and physically returns to the earth with His Church. Israel will recognize Jesus as their Messiah saying, "Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai" (Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord). The remnant of Israel (1/3) who survived the tribulation will be saved. They will enter the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.
- Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom on earth with Jerusalem as its capital. With Jesus reigning as King, Israel will be the leading nation, and all nations will come to Jerusalem to honor and worship the King—Jesus Christ. The Church will reign with Jesus for a literal thousand years (Revelation 20:1–5).

Different Programs of God for Church and Israel

God's Program for Israel – to be a Blessing to the Nations (Genesis 12:3; 22:18)

- Witness to the nations (Isaiah 43:10 - “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.)
- Light for the nations (Isaiah 49:6 -I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”; 60:1, 3 - Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; The glory of the LORD is shining on you!..And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.)
- Glorious Future for the Nations (Jeremiah 31:7 For thus says the LORD: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations.)

God's Program for Israel – to be a Blessing to the Nations (Genesis 12:3; 22:18)

- From them come the Word of God (Romans 3:2 - To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. Romans 9:4-5 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs.)
- From them comes the Messiah (Romans 9:5 "...and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.")
- Salvation is of (ek) the Jews (John 4.22 Jesus said, "we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.")

God's Program for the Gentiles

- First purpose is for “God to gather from among the Gentiles a people for His name” (Acts 15:13–18) “...That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called”, saith the Lord. Just as the Lord will select from among the Jews a faithful Remnant of Israel, so is He now calling a people for His name among the Gentiles beginning on the Pentecost in Jerusalem. Passages foreseeing the calling of the Church:
 - Isa 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations (Gentiles, KJV).
 - Isa 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.
- The calling of the Gentiles, which had begun sincere (Romans 9:24–33), is temporary until the fulness of the Gentiles is completed. Then the Lord will turn again to Israel as a nation and begin dealing with her (Rom 9:27 11:25–27). This will be during the Tribulation after the Church has been raptured.

Purpose of Salvation of the Gentiles

- The purpose of salvation of the Gentiles is to provoke the Jews to jealousy in such a way that many of them will come to a saving faith in Christ Jesus. (Rom 11:11–14) Jealousy is provoked when the Lord shall say through the prophet Hosea:
 - Rom. 9:26-27 As he saith also in Osee, 'I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved' (Hos. 2:23)... 'that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God' (cf. Hos. 1:10).
- The first purpose of Gentile salvation in the Church Age is to lead Israel to national salvation in the future. The second purpose is to lead individual Jews (the remnant) to salvation.

Contrasts

Israel

- The seed of Abraham - Physical seed may become spiritual
- Birth: Physical birth
- Head: Abraham
- Nationality: one nation
- Dispensation: seen in all ages
- Governing principles: Mosaic law system
- Marriage: unfaithful wife

The Church

- The seed of Abraham - Spiritual seed
- Birth: Spiritual birth
- Head: Christ
- Nationality: from all nations
- Dispensation: present age only
- Governing principle: by grace system
- Marriage: bride

The Doctrine of Imminency

- These clear contrasts showing the distinction between Israel and the Church make it impossible to place them in one program.
- For example, in the second coming of Jesus, many signs were given to Israel which would precede the Lord's second advent. Though Israel could not know the day nor the hour when Jesus will come, they can know their redemption draweth nigh through the fulfillment of these signs.
- To the church, no such signs were given before the Rapture but were told to live in the light of the imminent coming of the Lord. "Imminent" means "it can happen at any moment; impending." So, the imminence of Christ's return means that He could come back at any moment. There is no biblical prophecy that needs to happen before Jesus comes to rapture His church..

The Doctrine of Imminency

- John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
- Php 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body...
- Col 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- 1 Tim 6:14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope...

- 1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
- All these verses exhorts the believer to be watching for the Lord Himself, not for Himself and not for the signs that would precede His coming. The object of the believers attention is always directed to Jesus Christ not to the antichrist nor to the tribulation.

Are you Rapture-ready?

- Rom 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
- Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
- Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
- Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.