

Replacement Theology Dispelled

'You (Israel) are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people unto Himself out of all the peoples on the earth. The Lord did not set His love upon you and choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the fewest of all people, but because the Lord loves you and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers. The Lord has brought you out of Egypt with a mighty hand and redeemed you out of the house of bondage ... If you hearken to these precepts and keep them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant of the steadfast love which He swore to your fathers' (Deuteronomy 7:6 to 12).

'Behold the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt ... but this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel: I will put My law within them; on their hearts I will write it, and I shall be their God and they shall be My people, says the Lord' (Jeremiah 31:31 to 33).

'Behold the days will come when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their forefathers on the day when I held them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt ... This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel and with Judah: I will put My laws within their minds and I will write them on their heart and I shall be their God and they shall be My people ... When the Lord speaks of a new covenant, He makes the first one obsolete, and what is obsolete will vanish away' (Hebrews 8:8 to 13).

'Replacement Theology' is an extremely serious error being taught in churches today. That error teaches that God has set Israel aside in favour of the church and the church is now the 'new' Israel. There is nothing in scripture that can justify that theology. We cannot take from the Jews or Israel their rightful Biblical place. The Lord made it clear He would make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. How that can be missed by the replacement theologians, shows their lack of knowledge of the scriptures. The replacement theology is just an expression of pride and anti-Semitism. The Lord said he would cause the Israelite kingdom (as in King David) to cease. 'I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel' (Hosea 1:4). The Lord said He would scatter the nation, not destroy it completely. "I am with you to save you; for I will make an end to all the nations where I have scattered you, but I will not make a full end of you," says the Lord' (Jeremiah 30:11). 'In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and together they shall come to the land that I gave as an inheritance to your fathers' (Jeremiah 3:18). The Lord never brought to an end the house of Judah. Why? Because our Messiah is our King and He comes from the house of Judah (Hebrews 7:14).

The Lord has chosen Israel to bring forth His Word and the Messiah. 'I am speaking the truth in Jesus. I am not lying; my conscience by the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with me, that I have bitter grief and incessant anguish in my heart, for I wish that I myself were cut off and banished from the Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my natural kinsmen and my fellow countrymen, for they are Israelites, and to them belong God's adoption as a nation and the glorious Presence. With them were the special covenants made; to them was the Law given; to them the temple worship was revealed and God's promises were announced. To them belong the fathers, and as far as His (Jesus') natural descent was

concerned, from them (the Jews) comes the Messiah, Who is exalted and supreme over all; God – blessed forever! Amen' (Romans 9:1 to 5).

Here is the scriptural proof that the church will never replace Israel. 'I ask then; has God totally rejected His people? Of course not! That will never be! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin! No! God has not rejected His people whose destiny He had appointed and foreknew from the beginning. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah and how he pleads with God against Israel? "Lord they have killed your prophets; they have destroyed your altars and I alone am left and they seek my life." But what was God's reply to Elijah? "I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant, selected and chosen by God's grace' (Romans 11:1 to 5). 'The remnant that has survived of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and shall bear fruit upward' (Isaiah 37:31).

Paul warns Gentiles (non-Jews) not to be arrogant regarding salvation. 'If some of the branches (Jews) were broken off, while you, a wild olive shoot (a non-Jew) were grafted in among them (the Jews) to share the richness of the olive tree (salvation), do not boast over the branches (the Jews) and pride yourself at their expense. If you do boast and feel superior, remember it is not you (Gentiles) that supports the root (the old covenant, Judaism and faith in God), but the root that supports you. You might say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. But they were broken off because of their unbelief (their lack of faith), and you are saved through believing (faith), so do not become proud but rather stand in awe and be afraid, for if God did not spare the natural branches (the Jews), neither will He spare you (non-Jews). Know then the kindness and severity of God; severity towards those who have fallen, and kindness to those to you (Gentiles) – provided you continue in His grace otherwise you too will be cut off. Even those branches (Jews) who have fallen, if they do not cling to their unbelief will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them in again. If you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and against nature grafted into a cultivated tree, how much easier will it be to graft these natural branches back on to their own olive tree? Do not be wise in your own conceits. I do not want you to miss this hidden truth brethren; a temporary hardening has befallen a part of Israel, only until the last of the Gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved. As it is written, the Deliverer will come from Zion; He will banish unGodlyness from Jacob (Israel)' (Romans 11:17 to 26).

There are statements in the above verses that cannot apply to the Christian Church. The nation of Israel was adopted as God's chosen nation. The Law was not given to the church – it was given to Israel. Worship was instigated by God and given to the Levites; a tribe from the children of Israel. The 'fathers' were the scriptural fathers of Israel; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and we know that the Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 35:10). The Lord made the covenant with Abraham – an ancestor of Jesus, Who became our Messiah, and Who came from the Jews – He did not come from the church – He started the church. The church never can be Israel. The Lord never calls Israel the church and He never calls the church, Israel. The word Israel is never ever used as a synonym for the church. Our salvation comes solely from the Jews (John 4:22). It began with the Jews and from them, the church has been built up.

So we can see that God has not cast away Israel. Most certainly Israel has stumbled but has not completely fallen. We need to humble ourselves before God and magnify His

grace in our hearts. Whenever the Lord speaks about rejecting Israel, it is followed by the word 'until'. 'For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until her righteousness goes forth like brightness and her salvation as a lamp (or torch) that burns' (Isaiah 62:1). 'Give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her a praise on all the earth' (Isaiah 62:7). 'He will give them up until the time that she who is in labour gives birth (to the church) then the rest of His brothers will return to the children of Israel' (Micah 5:3).

The Jewish people have not been cut off completely, but they have to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Messiah, and be born-again just as all Gentiles do, in order to be saved for eternity (Romans 1:16). We do not have to condone their mistakes, just as we would not condone the mistakes some Christians make, however, we must love them, support them, honour them, accept them and help them whenever possible, if we want to be blessed. We are strictly instructed to comfort God's people (Isaiah 40:1). Not to do so is disobedience.

There are two major differences that have happened to Israel in this age that has not happened in the past 2,000 years; the rebirth of the nation of Israel and the regathering of the Jews to Israel. There is no parallel to that in any previous century. "Behold, the day is coming when I will release from exile My people Israel and Judah and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it", says the Lord ... Alas! For that day will be great so that none will be like it; it will be the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble, but he will be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:3 & 7).

Even the name 'Israel' for their reborn country was debated. Some favoured the name Judea but God said it would be one nation, one people, one language under My name (Ezekiel 37:22). One name for God is El, so with a vote of the people, the new nation was named Israel. The Lord said, "In the latter days you will understand it perfectly" (Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24). That means Israel would understand all of these events in the latter days. That comment indicates we are now in the latter days, because now Israel understands.

The prophecies regarding the restoration of Israel is coming to fulfilment in our day. We need to stand in the gap on behalf of Israel and pray. God is raising up Christians all over the world who will give themselves devotedly to intercession and the practical support of Israel; often living there for a year at a time helping to distribute food, clothing, repair houses and help meet many other needs the Israeli's have. Jesus said salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22). This is a simple but profound statement. All of us who are not Jewish owe every spiritual blessing to one People – the Jewish people. Where would we be without them? Totally and hopelessly lost! Just as the Jews were God's answer to our salvation, so now our intercession for Israel and the Jewish people is God's answer to the present situation in Israel. 'This is the confidence we have in Him; if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us; and since we know He listens to whatever we ask, we also know that we have the petitions asked of Him' (1 John 5:14 & 15). There are three specific, practical topics of intercession we need to put to God, but the key here is 'according to His will'. We must pray according to the will of God as written in the scriptures. We must pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). That is His will. One day, peace really will come to Jerusalem. We need to discover the will of God for Israel and pray within that framework. We know that in due course, our prayers will be enacted. We need to be able to formulate sensible, Holy Spirit inspired prayers.

We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to raise up a heart cry to God from the people of Israel. One theme in the Books of Exodus and Judges is; they cried to the Lord. The children of Israel cried to the Lord because of their taskmasters (Exodus 3:7). The Lord did not move to deliver Israel from Egypt until they cried out to Him. Four times in Judges the Lord raised up a deliverer after they cried to Him. When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, He raised up a deliverer or a prophet – after they had repented of sin (Judges 3:9 & 15; 4:3; 6:6; 10:10). God only responds after people cry out to Him from the heart. Therefore the Lord will wait and at the sound of their cry, when He hears it He will answer (Isaiah 30:18 & 19).

We need to take the Lord seriously. God meant what He said when He gave the land of Israel to the Hebrew people as an everlasting possession. Settlers in Israel are people who take God at His word. They are very committed. We need to pray He will raise up a leader in Israel who will do God's will and whom the people will follow. God does not use a committee – He chooses and uses one man; like Moses, like Joshua and like Daniel.

Israel is Israel and will always be God's chosen land and its people, His people. The church is the church, begun by Jesus and built up by the apostles then spread around the world. The church will never replace Israel, and currently, the two are separate peoples, but right at the end of this age, the born-again Jewish believers in the house of Israel and the born-again body of believers that make up the church, will unite as one and become the Bride of the Lamb, Who is Jesus our Messiah (Revelation 19:7 to 9). The new Jerusalem, sent down from heaven by God will be beautified, adorned and arrayed like a bride, then God will declare that He will personally live with us forever through all eternity (Revelation 21:1 to 3).

Amen and God bless you.

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