

Building A Case For The Pre-Trib Rapture

Lesson #27 Has the Church Replaced Israel? August 3, 2022

Consider: If I believe the Church has replaced Israel and God has cast Israel aside, how does that affect my confidence in God's character and nature? How can I be sure of His promises?

Replacement Theology is one of the oldest controversies that has impacted the Church.

- Virtually ALL the reformation denominations teach Replacement Theology.
- Many evangelical denominations now tolerate it.

Your belief regarding this topic will significantly affect the way you interpret Scripture, especially concerning the end times.

Your belief will also affect the way you understand the very nature and character of God.

History of Replacement Theology: It is one of the great ironies of history that the Christian Church was founded entirely by Jews, and yet, within 100 years of its establishment, it had turned against the Jewish people with a vengeance.

- After 70 AD there was no place to do sacrifices and shed the blood.
- The anti-semitism of the church led to replacement theology.
- If you embrace replacement theology, are you essentially "calling God a liar?"
- Almost 2000 places in the Bible, God talks about Jesus ruling on the earth on David's throne. Many allegorize or dismiss these passages.

50-117AD Ignatius of Antioch

- Taught those who partake of the Passover are partakers with those who killed Jesus.

100-165 AD Justin Martyr

- Claimed God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid. Gentiles had replaced the Jews.

130-202 AD Irenaeus: Declared the Jews were disinherited from the grace of God.

155-230 AD Tertullian

- Blamed the Jews for the death of Jesus and argued they had been rejected by God.

185-254 AD Origen

- Responsible for much anti-Semitism, all of which was based on his assertion that the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus.

325 AD The Council of Nicea

- Prohibited Christians from sharing a meal with a Jew, marrying a Jew, blessing a Jew or observing the Sabbath. They changed the celebration of the Resurrection from the Jewish Feast of First Fruits to Easter in an attempt to disassociate it from Jewish feasts.
- The Council stated: "For it is unbecoming beyond measure that on this holiest of festivals we should follow the customs of the Jews. Henceforth let us have nothing in common with this odious people..." It decided that "the Sunday a week after the Sunday after Passover would be the official date, and that all celebrating on Passover would be considered anathema."

- This is when the persecution of the Quartodecimans begins. The term "Quartodeciman" is Latin for "fourteeners." It referred to those that celebrated Passover on 14 Nisan.

275-339 AD Eusebius

- Taught that the promises of Scripture were meant for the Gentiles and the curses were meant for the Jews. He asserted that the Church was the "true Israel."

291-371 AD Hilary of Poitiers wrote: "Jews are a perverse people accursed by God forever."

Gregory of Nyssa (died AD 394), Bishop of Cappadocia wrote:

- "the Jews are a brood of vipers, haters of goodness..."

347-407 AD Jerome

- describes the Jews as "serpents, wearing the image of Judas, their psalms and prayers are the braying of donkeys."

354-430 AD Augustine

- Wrote many good things, but he embraced and taught amillennial.
- This is a denial of Israel's role in God's plan which is laid out in the Bible.
- Asserted that the Jews deserved death but were destined to wander the earth to witness the victory of the Church over the synagogue.

During the Middle Ages, Passion plays were used to cultivate hatred toward the Jewish people. In 1478, Pope Sixtus IV granted the monarchs of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella, the right to establish a special inquisition in Spain to deal with baptized Jews who were suspected of remaining faithful to Judaism.

- Thousands were burned at the stake by order of the Spanish Inquisition.

In 1492, King Ferdinand decided that all Spanish Jews should be banned from Spain. It was feared that Jews were a danger to Christianity. ~ 150,000 Jews were forced to leave Spain.

The Impact of the Reformation

The hatred of the Jews was reinforced and intensified by the writings of Martin Luther, Initially, Luther was sympathetic toward the Jews because he believed their rejection of the Gospel was due to their recognition of the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. But when they continued to reject the Gospel, Luther turned on them with a vengeance. In 1543 he wrote a pamphlet entitled "Concerning The Jews and Their Lies."

The document was an anti-Semitic diatribe. In it, he referred to the Jews as:

- "A miserable and accursed people" "Stupid fools"
- "Miserable, blind and senseless" "Thieves and robbers"
- "The great vermin of humanity" " Lazy rogues" " Blind and venomous"

Luther proceeded to make some startling proposals for dealing with them:

- Their synagogues and schools should be burned. Their houses should be destroyed.
- Their Talmudic writings should be confiscated.
- Their Rabbis should be forbidden to teach.
- Their money should be taken from them. They should be compelled into forced labor.

Why is anti-Semitism so widespread, so persistent, so virulent, and so irrational?

➤ It is fundamentally a supernatural phenomenon. Satan hates the Jews with a passion. He hates them because

- God provided both the Bible and the Messiah through them.
- God called them to be His Chosen People.
- God has promised to save a great remnant of them.
- Satan works overtime to plant seeds of hatred in people's hearts toward the Jews.
- He is determined to destroy every Jew on planet earth so that God cannot keep His promise to save a great remnant. He tried to annihilate them in the Holocaust. He failed. He will try to destroy them once again during the last half of the Tribulation. He will fail again.

6 statements from Ron Matsen regarding Replacement Theology.

1. Israel, the Jewish people and the land, are replaced by the Church;
 - To fulfill the purposes of God
 - To become the historic continuation of "Israel" to the exclusion of Israel
2. The Jewish people are now no longer a "chosen people." No different from other groups.
3. Since Pentecost of Acts 2, the term "Israel" now refers to the Church.
4. Apart from repentance, new birth and incorporation into the Church, the Jewish people have no future, no hope and no calling in the plan of God.
5. The promises covenants and blessings given to Israel in the Bible have been taken away from the Jews and given to the Church.
6. However, the Jews are subject to the curses as a result of their rejection of Christ.

Critical question for a proper view of God's overall plan. Has The Church Replaced Israel?

Among the different views of the relationship between the church and Israel are :

- Replacement theology the church has replaced Israel
- Covenant theology the church is an expansion of Israel
- Pre-Millennial the church is completely different and distinct from Israel

It is critical to know and understand a prophecy's intended recipient. 3 possibilities

- The Nations [aka Gentiles], Israel, & The Church

I Cor. 10:32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) or the church of God.

Deut. 14:2 For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto Himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

BUT for almost 2,000 years the Church at large, both Catholic and Protestant, has maintained:

Due to the fact the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah,

- God poured out His wrath on them in 70 AD
- Destroyed their nation and their temple
- God has washed His hands of them, leaving them with no purpose whatsoever as a nation.

Problem: If Israel has been condemned by God, how do we explain the supernatural survival of the Jewish people over the past 2000 years despite many trying to destroy them? How do we explain why and how Israel reappeared as a nation in the 20th century after not existing for 1,900 years?

Isa. 66:7-8 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. ⁸ Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

- Their state was re-established. May 14, 1948
- The Jews declared independence for Israel for the first time in 1900 years.

To them, the regathering of the Jews and the re-establishment of Israel as a nation [May 14, 1948] are simply accidents of history, with no spiritual significance.

Is There A Biblical Basis for Replacement Theology?

Backsliding Israel: Jer. 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

Promise of Jesus: Matt. 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Judgment By Jesus: Matt. 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

God's Covenants With Israel:

1. Covenant concerning The Seed
2. Covenant concerning The Land
3. Covenant concerning The Throne Of David
4. Covenant concerning The Discipline of Israel
5. New Covenant Promised - a promise of restoration

God confirms the surety of the covenants.

Jer. 33:19-22 And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying,

²⁰ Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

²¹ Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Jeremiah who pronounced the judgment on Israel also delivers a Message Of Hope.

The Jewish people are currently under discipline because of their rejection of their Messiah. The prophets said they would be disciplined if they were unfaithful, but always the promise was made that they would be preserved.

Jer. 30:11 "For I am with you," declares the Lord, "to save you; for I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly and will by no means leave you unpunished."

Jer. 31:35-37 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

³⁶ If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

God's Purposes For Israel In The 7 Year Tribulation Period

The Bible teaches that the 7 year Tribulation [70th week of Daniel] is a time of preparation for Israel's restoration and regeneration [Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:22-44; 22:13-22]. It will be a time in which God, through evil agencies, prepares Israel for her conversion and acknowledgment that Jesus is their Messiah, resulting in the 2nd coming of Christ.

Rev. 3:10 notes that the Tribulation will not be for the church but for "those who dwell upon the earth." [Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 [twice]; 13:8, 12, 14 [twice]; 17:2, 8] due to their rejection of Christ and His salvation.

Rev. 3:10 Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.

It is true the church will experience trials and tribulations in this world, BUT I believe the Bible teaches the church will not experience THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION designated for the nation of Israel and the unbelievers.

Note: The church is never mentioned as participating in this period, the Day of the Lord and the Wrath of God. Israel is mentioned consistently throughout these passages.

Zech. 12:2-3 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

- All the nations of the world will come against them: the issue of the control of Jerusalem.

Dan. 9:27a And he [Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:

- The Antichrist will come to their rescue.
- Guarantee them peace and allow them to rebuild their temple.

God Will Regather His People

Isa. 11:11-12 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

¹² And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

- The Jewish people will be regathered in unbelief from the four corners of the **earth**.

This is the most prolific prophecy in the Old Testament. Incidentally,

Consider: If God has no purpose left for them, why would He go to the trouble of regathering them?

God is Preserving A Remnant Of Israel

Isa. 10:20-21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

²¹ The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

Zech. 13:8-9 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

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. [See Rev. 12:13-17 also]

- The Antichrist will attempt to annihilate the Jews. He will succeed in killing 2/3 of them.
- 2/3 of Israel will be purged through the fire of the tribulation,
- leaving the one-third elect who will be converted to Jesus as their Messiah.

The Conversion Of Israel

Ezekiel 20:37-38 Once the tribulation begins: And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; and I shall purge out from among you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, and they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the Lord."

- The salvation of this remnant is described in Zech. 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

➤ At the end of the Tribulation, they will turn to God and receive Jesus as their Messiah. What a glorious day that will be! Israel will be converted to Jesus as their Messiah resulting in the second coming, which will in turn give rise the millennial reign of Christ.

- The church is nowhere to be found in these tribulation activities.

Jer 31:31-34 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Distinction between Israel and the Church A principle related to the pre-trib position is the Biblical truth that God's single program for history includes two peoples, Israel and the Church. While the basis of salvation [God's grace] is always the same for Jew and Gentile, God's prophetic program has two distinct aspects.

Their Prophetic Futures Are Different.

The promises of God to Israel revolve around the restoration of the kingdom.

- A family, chosen, loved, a special treasure Gen. 17:7; Deut. 7:6-8
- A family redeemed out of Egypt Deut. 16:1
- A family married to their God Jer. 31:32; Deut. 6:4-5
- A family ruled under one King, One God
- A family who rejected their husband, their King & God Jer. 3:20; I Sam. 8:7; 10:18-19
- A family fractured and torn apart II Chron. 13:4-5; I Kings 12:24
- A family who slipped away from their roots and their calling from their God
- One divorced, the other separated Jer. 3:8 Hosea 1:9 Ezek. 9:9

After the Reformation, as people began to read the Bible again and take it literally, Christians started to look for the restoration of the Jews into the land of Israel according to Ezekiel 36-37 and other passages. God promised a united, restored kingdom with one king forever.

Ezek. 37:16-17 "Now you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' ¹⁷ Then put them together for yourself one to another into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. Ezek.37:21-23 Behold, I am going to take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their offenses; but I will rescue them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

- Fulfillment of Ex. 19:6 you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

Jer. 16:14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

¹⁵ But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. [2nd Exodus; fulfillment of covenants and promises]

Zech. 10:6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God and will hear them.

Israel in The Millennial Kingdom

Zech. 8:7-8 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; ⁸ And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

- They will once again occupy the city of Jerusalem.

Deut. 30:1-9 Jesus will return at this point in time, and He will regather all believing Jews to Israel where He will establish them as the prime nation in the world.

- That believing remnant will go into the Millennium in the flesh and will comprise the nation of Israel to whom God will fulfill all the promises He has made to the Jews [Isa. 60-62].

Zech. 8:22-23 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

- The blessings of God will flow out to the nations through the Jews during the Millennium.

Isa. 61:8-9 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.

God is in control, not Satan. God has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Satan and Mankind to the triumph of His perfect will in history. The Jews will be preserved.

A great remnant will be saved. All the promises to the Jews will be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation Period when Jesus returns to triumph over Satan. On that glorious day, the Jewish remnant will cry out "Baruch Haba Bashem Adonai!" meaning "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" [Matt. 23:39]. Maranatha!

In the Old Testament, God promised Israel that He would return one day to dwell among them in their land on Earth forever [Ezekiel 43:6-7]. Israel seeks nationhood.

By contrast, the Church does not look for an earthly kingdom. We are to be awake, prepared and looking for our Blessed Hope.

In the New Testament, Jesus promised the Church that He would come back and take us to be with Him in His Father's House. [John 14:1-3, 16]

Both promises come true. Israel is not the Church nor is the Church Israel, and both groups are distinct from the Gentile nations. Much of the confusion surrounding End Times prophecy results either from the failure to understand, or the refusal to accept, this truth.

The very character and work of God are involved in the future of Israel.

Men may dispute about prophecy and differ in their interpretations, but let every man realize: He is dealing with God's people, Israel and God's timing.

What has happened to Israel is a part of God's plan.

Direct contradiction of Replacement Theology: The Bible teaches the Jews have never been rejected by God because of their unbelief. In Rom. 3:1-4 Paul asserts point blank that their rejection of Jesus has not nullified God's faithfulness to the promises He has made to them

Paul's Statement: Rom. 11:1-5 I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid.

For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

² God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴ But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

God's Timing: The blinding or hardening of Israel as a nation is neither total nor final: it is partial and temporary. How long will it last?

Rom. 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

- ❖ Today, God in His grace is visiting the Gentiles and taking out a people for His name [Acts 15:12-14).
- ❖ The Greek word translated "fulness" in Romans 11:25 was a nautical term often used to describe the full complement of crew and cargo necessary to accomplish a ship's mission. The ship couldn't sail till those requirements were met.
- ❖ The one translated "come in" means to arrive at a designated place.
- ❖ Paul said they'll remain partially estranged from God until the Gentile Church reaches its full complement [predetermined number] and arrives at its destination.

When this present age has run its course, and the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, the veil will be pulled back and God will once more deal with the nation of Israel.

God's promise in Rom. 11:26: And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

God's covenant in Rom. 11:27-28 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. ²⁸ As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes.

God's nature: Rom. 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

➤ Mal. 3:6 "I am the Lord, I change not." [Numbers 23:19; Romans 3:3]

God's Grace: Rom. 11:30-32 "Because of the unbelief of the Jews, you Gentiles were saved," said Paul. "Now, may it be that through your salvation Israel will come to know Christ."

Wiersbe: Having contemplated God's great plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles, all Paul could do was sing a hymn of praise. Only a God as wise as our God could take the fall of Israel and turn it into salvation for the world! His plans will not be aborted, nor will His purposes lack fulfillment. When Israel recovers from her "fall" and enters into her "fullness," the world will experience the riches of God's grace as never before. When Jesus Christ returns and sits on David's throne to reign over His kingdom, then Israel will be "reconciled" and "received," and it will be like a resurrection of life from the dead.

Who would ever have thought Jewish evangelism would have been achieved by Gentile evangelism? Who would have imagined that by turning to the Gentiles Paul was doing Israel a great service? No one. In verses 33-36 of this chapter, Paul concludes by praising God for His wisdom, a wisdom which far surpasses anything men would have devised or even imagined. Who would have imagined that the salvation of the Gentiles would have been accomplished through Israel's disobedience rather than her obedience?

Yet this was God's way. In achieving His purposes His way, God receives all the glory.

Rom. 11:33-36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

³⁴ For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor?

³⁵ Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

³⁶ For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen

➤ *Further discussion of Romans 11: How we [Gentiles; wild olive tree] are grafted into the good olive tree [nation of Israel] and the root which is the faith of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, go to the Archives: 2019 series: Prophetic Fall Feasts, Lesson #34.*