

## **DID THE CHURCH REPLACE ISRAEL IN THE PLAN OF GOD?**

As a precursor to reading this article, I suggest you read an earlier posting I wrote on Israel, called **Israel, Back from the Dead**. It would be a good primer on what is discussed in the article at hand. Also, because of the length of this article, I am posting it as a PDF file to make it easy for people to print and read at their leisure.

The short, simple, and correct, answer is, "No." However, short, simple answers rarely satisfy the one asking the question, and even more rarely does it make the question go away, but rather serves to intensify it. Yet before I get to the Bible I wish to address what is a clearly anti-Semitic attitude among much of the Church of Jesus Christ, founded, I believe, upon the writings and attitudes of Gentile leaders through the centuries. Here's a sampling of some of what they said. It is estimated that 80-90% of churches in America believe in Replacement Theology, that the church has replaced Israel. However, many Christians just don't know it because their Pastors follow the maxim of Rick Warren that they should never preach on Bible prophecy because it is divisive (**Purpose Driven Life**—*a teaching found throughout that book*). However, the Book of Revelation promises a special blessing on those who study and live by that very book that Rick Warren warns us not to study (Revelation 1:3; 16:15; 22:7)

### **Ignatius Bishop of Antioch (98-117A.D.) – Epistle to the Magnesians**

For if we are still practicing Judaism, we admit that we have not received God's favor...it is wrong to talk about Jesus Christ and live like Jews. For Christianity did not believe in Judaism, but Judaism in Christianity.

### **Justin Martyr - Dialogue with Trypho (Between 138A.D. and 161 A.D.)**

The custom of circumcising the flesh, handed down from Abraham, was given to you as a distinguishing mark, to set you off from other nations and from us Christians. The purpose of this was that you and only you might suffer the afflictions that are now justly yours; that only your land be desolated, and your cities ruined by fire, that the fruits of your land be eaten by strangers before your very eyes; that not one of you be permitted to enter your city of Jerusalem.

### **Origen of Alexandria (185-254 A.D.) – An ecclesiastical writer and teacher who contributed to the early formation of Christian doctrines.**

We may thus assert in utter confidence that the Jews will not return to their earlier situation, for they have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming this conspiracy against the Savior of the human race... hence the city where Jesus suffered [Jerusalem] was necessarily destroyed, the Jewish nation was driven from its country, and another people was called by God to the blessed election.

### **John Chrysostom (344-407 A.D.) – One of the "greatest" of church fathers; known as "The Golden Mouthed." A missionary preacher famous for his sermons and addresses.**

The synagogue is worse than a brothel...it is the den of scoundrels and the repair of wild beasts...the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults...the refuge of brigands and dabauchees, and the cavern of devils. It is a criminal assembly of Jews...a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ... a house worse than a drinking shop...a den of thieves, a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, the refuge of devils, a gulf and a abyss of perdition."..."I would say the same things about their souls... As for me, I hate the synagogue...I hate the Jews for the same reason.

From "The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism" by Malcolm Hay

### **St. Augustine (c. 354-430 A.D.), Confessions, 12.14**

How hateful to me are the enemies of your Scripture! How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews) with your two-edged sword, so that there should be none to oppose your word! Gladly would I have them die to themselves and live to you!

"...[the very presence](#) of the Jewish people in the world ... puts a great question against Christian belief in a new covenant made through Christ."

"The true image of the Hebrew is Judas Iscariot, who sells the Lord for silver. The Jews can never understand the scriptures, and forever bear the guilt of the death of Christ."

Source: Augustine, Tractatus adversus Iudaeos; Patrologiae cursus completus, series latina.

"The Jews are our attendant slaves, who carry, as it were, our satchels and bear the manuscripts while we study them. ... When we argue with the heathen we adduce the predictions found in the Bible written by the Jews."  
Source: Augustine, Enarratio in Psalmum XL, 14; Patrologiae cursus completus, series latina, XXXVI, 463. Cited in J.E. Seaver, The Persecution of Jews in the Roman Empire, p. 51.

### **John Calvin**

#### **A Response To Questions and Objections of a Certain Jew**

Their [the Jews] rotten and unbending stiffneckedness deserves that they be oppressed unendingly and without measure or end and that they die in their misery without the pity of anyone.

Excerpt from "Ad Quaestiones et Objecta Juaei Cuiusdam Responsio," by John Calvin; The Jew in Christian Theology, Gerhard Falk, McFarland and Company, Inc., Jefferson, NC and London, 1931.

And the anti-Semitic tirades of Martin Luther are too numerous to even properly or extensively delve into in this paper. But again, here is just a sampling of his words.

### **Martin Luther – 1543**

#### **On The Jews and Their Lies**

What then shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews? Since they live among us and we know about their lying and blasphemy and cursing, we can not tolerate them if we do not wish to share in their lies, curses, and blasphemy. In this way we cannot quench the inextinguishable fire of divine rage nor convert the Jews. We must prayerfully and reverentially practice a merciful severity. Perhaps we may save a few from the fire and flames [of hell]. We must not seek vengeance. They are surely being punished a thousand times more than we might wish them. Let me give you my honest advice.

First, their synagogues should be set on fire, and whatever does not burn up should be covered or spread over with dirt so that no one may ever be able to see a cinder or stone of it. And this ought to be done for the honor of God and of Christianity in order that God may see that we are Christians, and that we have not wittingly tolerated or approved of such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of His Son and His Christians.

Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed. For they perpetrate the same things there that they do in their synagogues. For this reason they ought to be put under one roof or in a stable, like gypsies, in order that they may realize that they are not masters in our land, as they boast, but miserable captives, as they complain of incessantly before God with bitter wailing.

Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer-books and Talmuds in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught.

Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more...

Fifthly, passport and traveling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews. For they have no business in the rural districts since they are not nobles, nor officials, nor merchants, nor the like. Let them stay at home...If you princes and nobles do not close the road legally to such exploiters, then some troop ought to ride against them, for they will learn from this pamphlet what the Jews are and how to handle them and that they ought not to be protected. You ought not, you cannot protect them, unless in the eyes of God you want to share all their abomination...

To sum up, dear princes and nobles who have Jews in your domains, if this advice of mine does not suit you, then find a better one so that you and we may all be free of this insufferable devilish burden - the Jews...

Let the government deal with them in this respect, as I have suggested. But whether the government acts or not, let everyone at least be guided by his own conscience and form for himself a definition or image of a Jew. When you lay eyes on or think of a Jew you must say to yourself: Alas, that mouth which I there behold has cursed and execrated and maligned every Saturday my dear Lord Jesus Christ, who has redeemed me with his precious blood; in addition, it prayed and pleaded before God that I, my wife and children, and all Christians might be stabbed to death and perish miserably. And he himself would gladly do this if he were able, in order to appropriate our goods...

Such a desperate, thoroughly evil, poisonous, and devilish lot are these Jews, who for these fourteen hundred years have been and still are our plague, our pestilence, and our misfortune.

I have read and heard many stories about the Jews which agree with this judgment of Christ, namely, how they have poisoned wells, made assassinations, kidnapped children, as related before. I have heard that one Jew sent another Jew, and this by means of a Christian, a pot of blood, together with a barrel of wine, in which when drunk empty, a dead Jew was found. There are many other similar stories. For their kidnapping of children they have often been burned at the stake or banished (as we already heard). I am well aware that they deny all of this. However, it all coincides with the judgment of Christ which declares that they are venomous, bitter, vindictive, tricky serpents, assassins, and children of the devil, who sting and work harm stealthily wherever they cannot do it openly. For this reason, I would like to see them where there are no Christians. The Turks and other heathen do not tolerate what we Christians endure from these venomous serpents and young devils...next to the devil, a Christian has no more bitter and galling foe than a Jew. There is no other to whom we accord as many benefactions and from whom we suffer as much as we do from these base children of the devil, this brood of vipers.

Translated by Martin H. Bertram, "On The Jews and Their Lies, Luther's Works, Volume 47"; Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971.

### **Martin Luther - 1543**

#### **Of The Unknowable Name and The Generations of Christ**

But your [God's] judgment is right, justus es Dominie. Yes, so shall Jews, but no one else be punished, who held your word and miracles in contempt and ridiculed, insulted and damned it for such a long time without interruption, so that they will not fall, like other humans, heathens and all the others, into sin and death, not up in Hell, nor in the middle of Hell but in the pit of Hell, as one cannot fall deeper...

Even if they were punished in the most gruesome manner that the streets ran with their blood, that their dead would be counted, not in the hundred thousands, but in the millions, as happened under Vespasian in Jerusalem and for evil under Hadrian, still they must insist on being right even if after these 1,500 years they were in misery another 1,500 years, still God must be a liar and they must be correct. In sum, they are the devil's children, damned to Hell...

The Jews too got what they deserved. They had been called and elected to be God's mouth as Jeremiah says...Open your mouth wide and I will fill it; they however, kept tightly closed their muzzles, eyes, ears, nose, whole heart and all senses, so he polluted and squirted them so full that it oozes from them in all places and devil's filth comes from them.

Yes, that tastes good to them, into their hearts, they smack their lips like swine. That is how they want it. Call more: 'Crucify him, crucify him.' Scream more: 'His blood come upon us and our children.' (Matthew 27:25) I mean it came and found you...

Perhaps, one of the merciful Saints among us Christians may think I am behaving too crude and disdainfully against the poor, miserable Jews in that I deal with them so sarcastically and insulting. But, good God, I am much too mild in insulting such devils...

### **I DON'T WORSHIP AT THE ALTAR OF THE EARLY OR LATTER CHURCH LEADERS**

I'm glad that's finished. Sorry about the lengthy Luther quotes, but now you may have a better understanding of just where Adolph Hitler and his Nazi regime found their support for exterminating the Jews. There are even recordings of Adolph Hitler from the 1930's, speaking to large groups of "Evangelical Christians" who gave hearty applause to his tirades and threats against the Jews, even using the quotes of Luther and other "Church Fathers" to make himself sound more "Christian."

While the Replacement Theology teachers today may have a more pleasant demeanor, more stylish clothes, and hipper hairstyles than earlier Church leaders or the Nazis of the 1930's and 1940's, their words are no less dangerous or hate-filled than were their earlier counterparts. History has borne this out time and again. However, as the old adage goes, "The one thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history."

## **DID THE JEWS CRUCIFY JESUS, AS SOME OF THE CHURCH LEADERS CLAIM?**

There are several problems with that accusation. First, the Jews were not allowed to execute anyone when Rome was in charge of a situation. Second, the Jews didn't crucify people. They stoned them to death (Leviticus 20:2, 27; 24:16; Numbers 15:35; 35:17; Deuteronomy 17:5; 21:21; 22:21, 24). Third, **if the Jews crucified Jesus, then Jesus is a liar because He said He would be crucified by the Gentiles** (Matthew 20:18-10). In verse 18 Jesus said, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death." So the Jewish religious leaders passed judgment on Jesus and condemned Him to death. However, verse 19 says He was delivered, "to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify."

So, while the Jewish leaders certainly did condemn Jesus and pass judgment that He was worthy of death, it was the Gentiles who mocked Him, scourged Him, and crucified Him. So I will take the word of Jesus over these leaders as well as current leaders today like R.C. Sproul, Sr., John Piper, and others who teach this Replacement doctrine.

## **DID GOD SAY HE WOULD BE FINISHED WITH THE JEWS AT A POINT IN TIME?**

No, God has not cast off the Jews, and His covenant with them has not yet been totally fulfilled. In fact, God said that He would never be finished with the nation of Israel.

### **Jeremiah 31:31-37**

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when 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 lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

33 "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts *is* His name):

36 "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, *Then* the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

37 Thus says 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, says the LORD.

The last time I looked into the sky the sun, moon, and stars are all still in perfect order. Jeremiah wrote that when the nation was in utter rebellion against God and heading into captivity for its sin. Even then, God did not cast them off as a people.

Some have argued that the Jews forfeited the promises of God and their right to the land because of their sin, even while they were under the Mosaic Covenant. The read Leviticus 26:40-44, which says,

### **Leviticus 26:40-44**

40 ' *But* if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,

41 and *that* I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt --

42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.

43 The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.

44 Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I *am* the LORD their God.

These verses supposedly prove that God broke His covenant with the Israelites because of their sin and idolatry, and that their return from the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities was to an existence without any promises of the covenant God had made with them at Mount Sinai. However, they fail to finish the

paragraph. One can only assume it is because the following verses do not fit their theology regarding the Jews and Israel. Yet Leviticus 26:45-46 says,

**Leviticus 26:45-46**

45 But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I *am* the LORD.' "

46 These *are* the statutes and judgments and laws which the LORD made between Himself and the children of Israel on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Amazing! Even after the way they sinned and broke God's Law, He still showed them mercy. He showed it to them even while the Mosaic Law was in effect.

Even in the Book of Ezekiel, while the nation is in captivity for its sin, God still calls the nation "my people" (Ezekiel 13:9-10). And God promises to restore the nation.

**Ezekiel 11:14-25.**

14 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

15 "Son of man, your brethren, your relatives, your countrymen, and all the house of Israel in its entirety, *are* those about whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Get far away from the LORD; this land has been given to us as a possession.'

16 "Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone."'

17 "Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."'

18 "And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there.

19 "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,

20 "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

21 "But *as for those* whose hearts follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

22 So the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was high above them.

23 And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which *is* on the east side of the city.

24 Then the Spirit took me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me.

25 So I spoke to those in captivity of all the things the LORD had shown me.

This is a promise God repeats later in Ezekiel. Did God restore the nation of Israel? I will address that also later in this article.

Also the prophet Amos said that when the children of Israel were regathered to their land, they would never be pulled up from the land again.

**Amos 9:13-15**

13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow *with it*.

14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

15 I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

## **WHAT DID THE NEW COVENANT REPLACE?**

Now let's take a hard look at what the Bible says about the New Covenant that Christians live under, and let's examine just what it did replace.

According to the New Testament, the covenant that was replaced was the one made at Mount Sinai, the Mosaic Covenant (Hebrews 8:6-10, 13; 9:12-15).

**Hebrews 8:6-10, 13**

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah --

9 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

13 In that He says, "A new *covenant*," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

#### **Hebrews 9:12-15**

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The Mosaic Covenant was destroyed because Jesus fulfilled it. Colossians 2:13-17, speaking of the ceremonial aspects of the Mosaic Covenant, says,

#### **Colossians 2:13-17**

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Clearly, under the Mosaic Covenant one could be judged regarding food, drink, the keeping of festivals, new moons, sabbaths, and a host of other things. But now that the Mosaic Covenant has been destroyed regarding these matters because Christ nailed these ordinances to His cross, it no longer has any ceremonial authority over us.

Yet someone will always bring up Matthew 5:17-18 that the Mosaic Covenant was not destroyed, but rather fulfilled. That is correct—up to a point. Jesus said,

#### **Matthew 5:17-18**

17 " Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

There are two things we have to realize about these verses. First, Jesus introduced His purpose in coming. He did not come to destroy the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill. Second, that till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. So we must conclude that those things He did fulfill in His first coming, namely the ceremonial aspects of the Mosaic Covenant have passed because they have been fulfilled, as Colossians 2:13-17 clearly states. However, this leaves fully intact the moral code of the Law and the words of the prophets. Much of what was written in the prophets is yet to find its final fulfillment. But it must be fulfilled, and Israel must continue to exist in order for all the words of the prophets to be fulfilled.

It is sorely obvious from these passages that the Mosaic Covenant was put away, and not the Noahic Covenant, the Abraham Covenant, or the Davidic Covenant. In fact, when we look in the sky after a good rain, we still see the rainbow, which is the covenant promise of God to Noah that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood of water (Genesis 9:1-17). Yet the liberals today want to pick even the Noahic Covenant to pieces, and reject parts of it, specifically the death penalty for capital murder, for the sake of their own unbiblical ideology. However, they have no biblical grounds for picking apart that covenant in such a manner. It was the Mosaic Covenant that was passing away (2 Corinthians 3:7-11; Ephesians 2:13-16; ), and not the covenant God made with Abraham or David.

Another passage of Scripture Replacement Theologians love to quote is from Galatians 6.

**Galatians 6:15-16**

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

However, there is a problem with the way they read it. And every last one of them I've heard quote these two verses always misquote it. These are not stupid or unlearned people, so I have to conclude it is deliberate, in order to support their theology. But that never justifies misquoting Scripture. So this is how they quote it, and I've heard them do it hundreds of times. This is not an isolated problem.

**Galatians 6:15-16**

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, the Israel of God.

If you will notice, they edit verse 16. Instead of reading it as it is written.

**Galatians 6:16**

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

They read it according to their theology.

**Galatians 6:16**

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, the Israel of God.

What's missing is the conjunction "and" and the preposition "upon." Thus they make it sound like these verses are talking about one group of people, which they are not. They are talking about two groups of people—Messianic Gentile believers and Messianic Jewish believers. Or you could simply say Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians. How do we know this is the case? Because in verse 15 Paul mentions circumcision and uncircumcision, how neither means anything, but a new creation. Then in verse 16, he says, "As many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God." So he is talking about both Gentile and Jewish Christians.

## THE CHURCH HAS NO COVENANT WITH GOD

The Church of Jesus Christ has no covenant with God at all. The Church has been grafted into the covenant made between God the Father and God the Son as the representative of Israel. The Church is totally reliant upon the continued existence of Israel and the covenants God made with her. If Israel ceases to exist, then the Church ceases to exist because we are part of that covenant. The covenant that brings salvation to the Church is the covenant that God made with Israel on the cross through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 9:1-8**

1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

4 who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

5 of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel,

7 nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

8 That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

People don't often stop to think that those who are teaching Replacement Theology are undermining and invalidating the very Gospel they preach and claim to believe. Again, the New Covenant made at Calvary between God the Father and God the Son was made with God the Son as the representative of Israel. The Gentiles have been grafted into that covenant (Romans 11:11-24). If there is no Israel, then the Church is in deep trouble, as we have been grafted into the covenant that Jesus Christ made with His Father at Calvary as the representative of Israel. Pardon the redundancy, but it seems absolutely necessary on this issue because so many Christians just don't comprehend that the Jews still have a place in the plan of God. And that's young and old Christians alike, so there's no age discrimination here.

The blindness of Israel in part has happened so the Gentiles might be saved. All Israelites who believe in the Messiah will be saved, but even unbelieving Jews are part of the covenant God made with Abraham concerning

their election, and it is an irrevocable covenant. This does not mean they are saved, but it does mean God still has a covenant with Israel He is going to fulfill. Israel's current blindness in part in no way prevents their future national salvation, nor does it prevent the salvation of individual Jews at the current time.

**Romans 11-25-36**

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this *is* My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

28 Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers.

29 For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable.

30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,

31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

33 Oh, 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 has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"

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

So let us look at that unconditional everlasting covenant God made with Abraham, found in Genesis. In Genesis 12 through 22 we see God promise to give Abraham a land, make him a great nation, give him blessing, make him a great name, and give him a seed through whom all the world would be blessed. Yes Abraham became a great nation with both natural and spiritual descendants, the promised seed (the Messiah) has indeed come to be a blessing to all nations and people who would receive Him as their Savior and Lord.

But let us not forget that God also promised Abraham a land, and neither Abraham nor his descendants, the Jews, have ever possessed all of that land. They came the closest to it under the reign of David and Solomon, but they still fell far short of the promise God made to Abraham. Genesis 15 describes the borders of that land that God must give to the Jews, unless He is a covenant breaker. And for God to fall short in the least regard of his covenant with Abraham, including the land, would indeed make Him a covenant breaker. This means we have no assurance that God will keep the covenant into which Gentiles have been grafted for salvation.

The land promised to Abraham runs from the River of Egypt (a technical term for the Nile River), to the Euphrates. The land will include a large portion of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, much of Saudi Arabia, and much of Iraq. Of course, they will not possess this land until the Millennial Kingdom. There are 38 different Biblical passages that deal with the true borders of the Jewish State of Israel, the "future Israel", which will be ten times as large as it is today.

Furthermore, the covenant God made with Abraham was not really a covenant made **with** Abraham at all. It was an unconditional covenant God made with Himself on behalf of Abraham and His descendants (Genesis 15). Read the text. There are no performance conditions placed on Abraham in that covenant. God, of His own choosing did this.

More than 1,400 years after the writing of Genesis, God reiterated the Abrahamic covenant in Psalm 105.

**Psalm 105:6-45**

6 O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

7 He *is* the LORD our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth.

8 He remembers His covenant forever, The word *which* He commanded, for a thousand generations,

9 *The covenant* which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac,

10 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant,

11 Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,"

12 When they were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

13 When they went from one nation to another, From *one* kingdom to another people,

14 He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,  
 15 *Saying*, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."  
 16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.  
 17 He sent a man before them -- Joseph -- *who* was sold as a slave.  
 18 They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.  
 19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.  
 20 The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.  
 21 He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,  
 22 To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.  
 23 Israel also came into Egypt, And Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.  
 24 He increased His people greatly, And made them stronger than their enemies.  
 25 He turned their heart to hate His people, To deal craftily with His servants.  
 26 He sent Moses His servant, *And* Aaron whom He had chosen.  
 27 They performed His signs among them, And wonders in the land of Ham.  
 28 He sent darkness, and made *it* dark; And they did not rebel against His word.  
 29 He turned their waters into blood, *And* killed their fish.  
 30 Their land abounded with frogs, *Even* in the chambers of their kings.  
 31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, *And* lice in all their territory.  
 32 He gave them hail for rain, *And* flaming fire in their land.  
 33 He struck their vines also, and their fig trees, And splintered the trees of their territory.  
 34 He spoke, and locusts came, Young locusts without number,  
 35 And ate up all the vegetation in their land, And devoured the fruit of their ground.  
 36 He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, The first of all their strength.  
 37 He also brought them out with silver and gold, And *there was* none feeble among His tribes.  
 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, For the fear of them had fallen upon them.  
 39 He spread a cloud for a covering, And fire to give light in the night.  
 40 *The people* asked, and He brought quail, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.  
 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; It ran in the dry places *like* a river.  
 42 For He remembered His holy promise, *And* Abraham His servant.  
 43 He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness.  
 44 He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, And they inherited the labor of the nations,  
 45 That they might observe His statutes And keep His laws. Praise the LORD!

Did the Israelites keep His commandments? No! But that did not nullify the Abraham Covenant. It just meant that God punished them for their sins with all kinds of things, including the Assyrian exile, the Babylonian exile, and the Diaspora brought on by Rome to the far corners of the earth, from which God promised to regather them (Isaiah 11:10-13; Ezekiel 36: especially verses 16-38; Zechariah 2:6-13; Mark 13:27). These prophecies could not have been fulfilled after the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities because those dispersions were localized to a limited area, and not to the far corners of the earth. Only the Dispersion brought about by Rome in A.D. 70 could have fulfilled that. Which brings us to the next big argument that Replacement Theology proponents always bring up.

### **THE JEWS HAVE NO DIVINE RIGHT TO THE LAND WHILE THEY ARE IN REBELLION, OR DO THEY?**

From the standpoint of human logic, this makes perfect sense, but Bible preachers, teachers, and theologians aren't supposed to be preaching and teaching that which agrees with human logic. That's why the church is so messed up today. Too many people are preaching their opinions, rather than the whole counsel of Scripture. It makes me want to call in Chuck Norris to tell them, "If I want your opinion, I'll beat it out of you."

So, human opinions aside. What did God say? God says in Ezekiel 36 that He will reestablish His people, the Jews, upon the land of Israel—the geographical land of Israel. He further states that He will not do it for their sake, but for His name's sake (Ezekiel 36:22). Then He goes on to say that **He will do this while they are in unbelief** (Ezekiel 36:24-38; 37:1-14).

#### **Ezekiel 36:24-38**

24 "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.  
 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.  
 28 "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.  
 29 "I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.  
 30 "And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.  
 31 "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.  
 32 "Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"  
 33 ' Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable *you* to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.  
 34 "The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.  
 35 "So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities *are now* fortified *and* inhabited.'  
 36 "Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*."  
 37 ' Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock.  
 38 "Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' "

And the very thing God used to bring about the rebirth of the nation of Israel was the Holocaust. There is no better picture of the Holocaust in any writing, religious or secular, than that found in the pages of Scripture. It was the fact that the Nazis could no longer hide all the bones of those they murdered that brought about the outcry for the nations of the world to do something to stop Hitler.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones.  
 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry.  
 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."  
 4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!  
 5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.  
 6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' ' "  
 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.  
 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them.  
 9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' "  
 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.  
 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!  
 12 "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.  
 13 "Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.  
 14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*," says the LORD.' "

Again, you will notice from verse 14 that it is after the Jews have been regathered as a nation that God will put His Spirit in them, and not before. Why would God regather them to their own land, the Land of Israel, (*Eretz Yisrael*), while they are still in unbelief? Because He wants to! Not only is Israel a nation again, but Israel and Judah are one kingdom, under one leader, and one government for the first time since the monarchy divided in the days of Jereboam and Reheboam.

During the New Testament times, Israel was politically divided with Herod ruling in the North of Galilee (Luke 23:6-12) and Pilate ruling Judea in the southern portion of Israel and over Jerusalem (Luke 3:1). But Ezekiel tells us there is coming a time when they will be one nation politically as well as geographically.

**Ezekiel 37:15-28**

15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

16 "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.'

17 "Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

18 " And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you *mean* by these?' --

19 "say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." '

20 "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

22 "and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

23 "They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

24 " David My servant *shall be* king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

25 "Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David *shall be* their prince forever.

26 "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

27 "My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

28 "The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." " "

There are several other things we must notice about this passage from Ezekiel 37. Not only will Israel be one land ruled by one leader. God will take the children of Israel from among the nations, gather them from every side, and bring them into their own land. They will never be a divided kingdom again. At last count, there are 193 nations in the world, and there are Jews from 185 of them already living in Israel. They will put away their idolatry. The only lesson the Jews have learned in 4,000 years of history is that God hate idols worse than anything else. They have a lot more to learn, and today Tel Aviv and Haifa are two of the most immoral cities, not just in Israel, but in the world. For brevity (too late) I'll let the reader figure out the rest of what this passage clearly and literally says.

Some of the Jews apparently come to believe in Jesus as Messiah when they see the Abomination of Desolation set up by the Antichrist in the future Tribulation Temple (Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23; Revelation 13). However, it appears that the nation does not turn to Jesus as Messiah until the end of the Great Tribulation period.

**Zechariah 12:10-14**

10 " And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

11 "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 "And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

13 "the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves;

14 "all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

**GOD DEALS WITH THE JEWS TO BRING THEM BACK TO HIMSELF IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD**

In Revelation 7 there are 12,000 sealed from each of the tribes of Israel. If there is no Israel, then how can this be? It isn't metaphorical because there is no metaphorical language. These are 12,000 literal Jewish people from each of the 12 tribes named.

### **Revelation 7:4-8**

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed;

6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed;

7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were* sealed;

8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were* sealed.

Notice there are two tribes missing: Dan and Ephraim. They have been replaced by the tribes of Levi and Joseph. Why? Because every time Israel went into idolatry in the Old Testament, it was Dan and Ephraim that led the way. This is a picture book against idolatry and for worship of the One True God. In fact, the Tribulation is also called the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7).

### **IF THERE IS NO NATION OF ISRAEL, THERE CAN BE NO MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**

In 2 Samuel 7:1-17, God established an everlasting covenant with David. However, this covenant was not without some conditions on the part of David's immediate descendants.

#### **2 Samuel 7:1-17**

1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you."

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"

6 "For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 "Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' " "

8 "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

9 "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth.

10 "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

11 "since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

12 " When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." " "

17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

God promised David three things; a Dynasty (2 Samuel 7:11c), a son who will build the Temple (2 Samuel 7:12-13), and an Everlasting Kingdom (2 Samuel 7:13). Verses 14-16 spell out the terms of these promises (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-6). While David's dynasty was not utterly rejected because of the sins of his descendants, there were some very unpleasant consequences for David, his family, and the nation of Israel. Consequences they suffer until this time. Furthermore, God did not forsake His covenant with David, in spite of the sins of his descendants.

In fact, a great deal of Isaiah deals with the Millennial Kingdom and beyond (Chapters 11,14,32,33,35,43,44,49, 60,61,62,63,65,66). When we read Isaiah, we sometimes get so focused on all the judgment, of which there is plenty, that we miss the blessings and restoration of God's people.

### **GOD DID NOT FORSAKE HIS COVENANT WITH DAVID (PSALM 89)**

During and after the exile the princes of David's dynasty were no longer upon the throne. Zerubbabel, grandson of Jehoiachin (one of the last kings of Judah), was governor of Judah during the exile and the restoration of the temple. But after 587 BC there were no sons of David upon the throne. So did God's promise to David fail? The writer of Psalm 89 poses this dramatic question by referencing God's promise to David, then comparing it to his present reality:

#### **Psalm 89:24-47**

24 "But My faithfulness and My mercy *shall be* with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted.  
25 Also I will set his hand over the sea, And his right hand over the rivers.  
26 He shall cry to Me, 'You *are* my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'  
27 Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.  
28 My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him.  
29 His seed also I will make *to endure* forever, And his throne as the days of heaven.  
30 "If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments,  
31 If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments,  
32 Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes.  
33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.  
34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.  
35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David:  
36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;  
37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky." Selah  
38 But You have cast off and abhorred, You have been furious with Your anointed.  
39 You have renounced the covenant of Your servant; You have profaned his crown *by casting it* to the ground.  
40 You have broken down all his hedges; You have brought his strongholds to ruin.  
41 All who pass by the way plunder him; He is a reproach to his neighbors.  
42 You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries; You have made all his enemies rejoice.  
43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword, And have not sustained him in the battle.  
44 You have made his glory cease, And cast his throne down to the ground.  
45 The days of his youth You have shortened; You have covered him with shame. Selah  
46 How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?  
47 Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?

The things they were facing certainly seemed like God had forgotten the Davidic Covenant—at least from the perspective of the person who wrote this psalm, probably either during or after the exile. Yet God had not renounced the covenant, as he clearly spoke to the prophet Jeremiah, who lived just prior to and into the exile. The fulfillment was sure, but it would be in the future. The ultimate fulfillment of the promise was of the Messiah whom God would send in the last days.

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-26**

14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:  
15 "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.  
16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this *is the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'  
17 "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;  
18 'nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "  
19 And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,  
20 "Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season,  
21 'then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.  
22 'As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.' "

23 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

24 "Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, 'The two families which the LORD has chosen, He has also cast them off'? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before them.

25 " Thus says the LORD: 'If My covenant *is* not with day and night, *and if* I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth,

26 'then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take *any* of his descendants *to be* rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.'"

Isaiah 9:7 also looked to the future Son of David, whom God would send—the Messiah. Daniel spoke of a kingdom that would never be destroyed, set up by a stone cut out of the mountain without hands to destroy all other kingdoms. Also see Daniel 7:13-14.

**Daniel 2:44-45**

44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold -- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The angel told Mary what and Who her child would be.

**Luke 1:30-33**

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Clearly, the Davidic Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus is now building His Church (Matthew 16:18), He will build a Temple in Jerusalem during the Millennium (Ezekiel 40-48), and He will rule and reign from the throne of His father David for 1,000 years (Isaiah 14; 13; 16:15; 22:23; Luke 1:32; Revelation 20-22). Then after the Millennial Kingdom, He will reign throughout eternity.

### **Wasn't There a Church in the Wilderness?**

This question comes up because of the King James Bible, which is the only version that translates the Greek word **ἐκκλησία** *ekklēsia* as “church” in this place.

**Acts 7:38** This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us (KJV)

All other translations I know of translate it something like “congregation” (NKJV, NASB, RSV, NRSV) or “assembly” (NIV, NLT). Both of which are legitimate, and preferred, translations of **ἐκκλησία** *ekklēsia* in this context. Why? Because the word **ἐκκλησία** *ekklēsia* refers to any “called out assembly,” regardless of the purpose for which it is called out.

**Acts 7:38** "This is he who was in the **congregation** in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us( NKJV).

Clearly, **ἐκκλησία** *ekklēsia* does not always refer to the church, as demonstrated by its use of the riotous mob that came out against Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19:32,39,41). In the KJV, NKJV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, and NIV it is translated “assembly,” which is a proper translation.

Finally, we know from Jesus' own words that there was no “Church” prior to the Day of Pentecost because He said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build My church,” and He used the future tense, active voice, indicative mood of the Greek verb **οἰκοδομέω** *oikodomeō*, which refers to building a house, erecting a building, to build something up from the foundation, to found or establish something. So clearly there was no “church” in the wilderness wanderings of Israel. There was the congregation or assembly of Israel. Yet all three of the main Hebrew words used for the congregation of Israel (Strong's 4150 מוֹעֵד *mōw'ēd* or מִעַד *mō'ēd* or (feminine) מוֹעֲדָה *mōw'ādāh*, 5712 קָהָל *qāhāl*, 6951 עֵדָה *'ēdhāh*) are translated by the Greek word **ἐκκλησία** *ekklēsia* in

at least six Greek translations of the Old Testament before the time of Jesus Christ. So since Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 that the church was still a future thing, I'll take His word for it.

## CONCLUSION

In light of all the evidence that God has not replaced Israel with the Church, it makes it very difficult for me to listen to teachers who teach this doctrine, however fine their teachings may otherwise be. This is because I have learned in 35 years of Bible study and ministry that people can be right on Israel and still be wrong on other things too. However, if they are wrong on Israel, then you can rest assured that they are very wrong on a host of other very serious things too.

Nearly all of the most popular Christian preachers, authors, conference speakers and leaders, and so-called spiritual gurus of our day teach some form or degree of this Replacement Theology heresy. Among the ones I know about are R.C. Sproul, Sr, John Piper, the late John Stott, the late J.I. Packer (all of whom have works I've read and learned a great deal from), Francis Chan (<http://www.spiritoferror.org/2013/09/matt-redman-and-francis-chan-oh-no-not-you-guys-too/4173>, (participating in any New Apostolic Reformation, Dominionism/Kingdom Now, Modern 'Apostles' and 'Prophets' or Seven Mountain Mandate event brings nothing but theological confusion to those who listen to the sermons or music of such people); and Chan's book **Crazy Love** seems to suggest Replacement Theology), Hank Hanegraaff, and Beth Moore (<http://www.prophecymattersisrael.com/#!Moore-Replacement-Theology-in-the-SBC/c165a/56a2376b0cf2bfd5cced72c3>). That's just to name a few, and this is the theology of many of the people most influencing the Body of Christ today. Yet, most Christians don't know, and not a few have told me they don't care, that they teach Replacement Theology. This is indeed troubling for the soundness of the doctrine of the church regarding Israel and the Jews, and it is obviously leading the church to have a diminished, even anti-Semitic, view toward the Jews and Israel.

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