



# Does The Church Replace Israel?

## What Do You Know About REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY?

Jesus said that a certain group were  
*“teaching for doctrines the  
commandments of men”* (Mark 7:7)



## The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. I have discovered a way which has helped many people. It is known as Dr Cooper's Golden Rule. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

***“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”***

**“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.**

**“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.**

**“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.**

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

*“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)*

*“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)*

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

*“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God's meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it's) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)*

(“Cooper's Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



# **Does The Church Replace Israel? What Do You Know About REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY?**

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# Introduction To “Supersessionism” Mostly Called “Replacement Theology”

“*Supersessionism*” is a doctrine widely spread in many Churches although most Church goers will never have heard of it. *Supersessionism* is commonly called “*Replacement Theology*” but sometimes called “*Fulfillment Theology*” and other titles. We will use the most common term, “*Replacement Theology*.”

Its essential idea is that the Church supersedes or replaces Israel. That’s why some use the word *supersessionism*. In one of several schools of thought this replacement comes via a sort of progression, or continuity in God’s plan. God originally worked through Israel but His plan has now progressed into the New Testament Church which totally replaces Israel, hence the term “*fulfilment theology*.”

Some argue that God replaced Israel because of their sin in rejecting their Messiah, that’s why some say “*replacement*.” These *Single Paged Papers* will argue that there is no licence in Scripture for the replacement of Israel. Both Israel and the Church are featured in the New Testament as distinctive and separate bodies, as we will observe.

“*Replacement Theology*” is not new and has formed a core belief of the Church for many centuries. It is a common assumption in many mainline Churches. The Uniting Church In Australia, The Roman Catholics, The Anglicans, The Presbyterians, some Baptist Churches and others proclaim it. This series will argue that

1. *Replacement Theology* is a false doctrine
2. Scriptural evidence will be given that it is not a valid doctrine.
3. It is a doctrine that contradicts the plain words of the Scriptures.

Furthermore

4. The fact that many Churches follow it does not make it correct
5. and the fact that many others oppose it does not make it wrong.
6. The Bible alone is the authority.

The *Single Paged Papers* that follow will show that

1. God has not cast out His chosen people; Israel or the Jewish/Hebrew people.
2. God has given Israel many unfulfilled promises that He will honour.
3. The promises to Israel remain valid to this day.
4. The New Testament confirms the Old Testament in this.

5. Israel remains a separate entity to the Church.
6. However both Israel and the Church enjoy salvation “*by faith alone in Christ alone*.”

## You Won’t Need A Degree in Theology

The method we will use is familiar to all who have ever read an Instruction Manual. Every Instruction Manual is understood literally. The words in Instruction Manuals mean exactly what they always mean. Thus the words of the Bible are to be understood in their normal and every-day meaning. Instruction Manuals **are not** to be understood as a type of picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning **and neither is the Bible**. The Bible does use allegory, or parables, and, when it does, it explains what those symbols mean.

The Bible is a book for the common man. “*And the common people heard Him gladly*.” (Mark 12:37) Children can understand the Bible because God is seeking to communicate with us and wants all to understand His word and His ways. That is why Jesus came amongst us. That’s why God gave us the Bible, His Holy Instruction Manual, so that we can gain some understanding of Him, His holiness and His ways. To assist us He also gives us the Holy Spirit who will “*lead us into all Truth*.”

God did not set puzzles to confuse us. God speaks very plainly so that the average uneducated man or woman is easily able to understand Him. Our aim here is to simplify, not complicate, and to do so in bite sized portions no longer than a single page. Our intention is to build a step by step picture beginning with the **un**conditional promises (Covenants) that God gave to Israel.

The dictionary defines a Covenant as follows: “*to give an undertaking, a pledge, a promise, a contract*.” God did make such promises to Israel.

This series will take the plain words of Scripture at their normal everyday meaning (and we have no licence to do anything else) and see what we may discover. We will follow Cooper’s Golden Rule that appears in this document.

May the Lord God open our eyes to **His truth** as without Him we can do nothing, and without His light we will remain in darkness.

# Has God Cast Away His People?

## Part One: *The Abrahamic Covenant*

*“... for whoever touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye.”* Zechariah 2:8

Not all commentators agree that Israel, described as *“the apple of God’s eye,”* remains favoured by God. Some genuine and sincere Christian people teach that God has rejected Israel because of their treatment of Christ, and they claim that the Church replaces Israel.

Some see the miraculous fact that Israel became a nation again in 1948, and all that has followed that remarkable event, as just an accident of history and irrelevant. However the fact is that **God promised** that Israel would return to the Promised Land, *“Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.”* (Ez 37:12) Right now you are a witness that Israel **has** returned to the *“Promised Land”* after 2000 years. Is God’s promise fulfilled? Many say “yes.” What do you think? **FACT:** Israel is definitely back in the land.

Then we are faced with certain Covenants (or Agreements) that God made with the founding fathers of Israel. The three that we will examine are

- The *Abrahamic Covenant*
- The *Davidic Covenant* and
- The *Palestinian or Land Covenant*

These three Covenants have no conditions placed on them. Having a condition mean *“If you obey Me, then I’ll do what I promised.”* None of these Covenants say anything like that. That can only mean that the sins of Israel, their repeated and wilful failures and rejection of Christ, do not stop God from honouring His Covenant promises towards them. In the same way His promises towards we believers do not fail because we at times sin, or even knowingly reject His way.

### **The Abrahamic Covenant**

*“The Lord had said to Abram (Abraham), ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”* (Genesis 12 1-3)

Abraham did exactly as God instructed and left his father’s home. St Paul assures us that *“Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”* (Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, also James 2:23) There are no conditions demanded by God. God promised Abram (later called Abraham) that He will make him into

1. A great nation

2. Make (his) name great and a blessing
3. That all the world will be blessed “through you”
4. God will curse anyone who curses you.

God later **unconditionally** promised the following *The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, ‘Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring FOR EVER. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.’* (Genesis 13: 14-17 My emphasis)

God also confirmed this Covenant with Abraham’s son Isaac (Genesis 26:3) and later with Isaac’s son Jacob (Genesis 28: 13-15). In Genesis we read that God said to Jacob *“Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel.”* (Genesis 32:28)

To reinforce the strength of these Covenants God says through the prophet Jeremiah that only if *day and night cease to be* then, and only then, will His Covenants fail. Jeremiah tells us ...

*This is what the Lord says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar –the Lord Almighty is his name: ‘Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,’ declares the Lord, ‘will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.’ This is what the Lord says: ‘Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,’ declares the Lord.* (Jer 31: 35-37)

How can anyone argue against that statement? As long as plain words have any meaning at all, then Jeremiah simply states that these Covenant promises remain in force. Later St Paul confirms that Israel remain a part of God’s plan. **He says that Israel still possess,** *“... the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.”* (Romans 9:4)

He then asks a question already knowing the answer, *“Has God cast away His people?”* His answer is a resounding **“NO! God Forbid! God has not cast away His people.”** (Romans 11: 1-2) People do twist this plain statement but Paul is clearly saying that Israel remain the chosen people of God despite their current denial of their Messiah. Do you believe the plain words of the Bible?

# Has God Cast Away His People?

## Part 1a: More About The Abrahamic Covenant

*"... for whoever touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye."* Zechariah 2:8

### God's Unconditional Promise Confirmed To The Second Generation

God originally created this Covenant with Abraham as we have seen, but He later confirmed it with Abraham's son Isaac, and it remained

**unconditional.** Here it is...

*And the Lord appeared unto (Isaac), and said, Do not go down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell you of (Israel). Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for unto you, and unto your seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham your father; And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto your seed all these countries; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, (by leaving his own country at God's command) and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Genesis 26: 2-5)*

So here we see Jehovah, the Lord God, appearing to Isaac the son of Abraham, and restating the same **unconditional** promises that He had made to Abraham, his father. In this revelation Jehovah God makes the same promises to Isaac

*"... for unto you, and unto your seed, I will give all these countries ... And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto your seed all these countries; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."*

### Gods Promise Confirmed To The Third Generation

Our faithful God then gives the same promises to the next generation by restating the exact same promises to Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. Jacob was at that time **IN** the Promised Land, near Beersheba, when he had the vision. In it God said to Jacob ...

*And, behold, the Lord ... said, I am the Lord God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac: **the land whereon you are lying**, to you will I give it, and to your seed; And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in you and in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with you, and will keep you in all places wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land; **for I will not leave you,***

*until I have done that which I have spoken to you of.* (Genesis 28: 13-15)

These unconditional promises are surely clear to anyone who believes the plain words of the Bible. We all totally rely on the promises of God and expect them to be reliable and trustworthy. Our very salvation depends upon the reliability of the plain words of the Bible, doesn't it?

Here we see that God gave certain undertakings to Abraham, He then restated the exact same promises to Abraham's son Isaac, and then again to Jacob whom God renamed "*Israel*." (Genesis 32:28) Surely this is evidence that the promises of God are reliable and remain constant to all generations.

Many say that Israel were rejected by God because of their unfaithfulness. Here is another promise from God, this time from the New Testament. "*If we believe not, yet He abides faithful: He cannot deny Himself.*" (2 Timothy 2:13) God assures us the He remains faithful even when we do not for "*He cannot deny Himself*" or His promises.

It is hard to understand how anyone can dismiss these unconditional promises that are so easily understood for they are in the plainest of language. Surely these Covenants present a serious challenge to anyone who claims that Israel has been replaced by the Church.

However many do argue that God has rejected Israel and replaced it by the Church, and the great bulk of these people are truly godly men and women. These rejecters of Israel's ongoing relationship with God are not our enemy. For the most part they are sincere believers, true brothers and sisters in Christ, and we should pray for them to be set free from whatever it is that binds them and blinds them to the simple truths of the Bible.

St Paul assures us,

*"I say then, Has God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people."* (Romans 11: 1-2)

Whatever can these plain words mean? If they don't mean what they plainly say, then who can ever work out what they do mean? Paul asks "*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*" (1 Cor 14:8) The plain words give a clear message, we should believe them.

# Has God Cast Away His People?

## Part Two: The Davidic Covenant

*“... for whoever touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye.”* Zechariah 2:8

Here is another **unconditional Covenant initiated by God** with King David regarding the continuation of his throne.

### The Davidic Covenant

*11b The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant (Solomon) after you, who will come forth from you, 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 a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”* (2 Samuel 7: 11b-16)

This is the beginnings of the House of David where King Solomon is initially in view. King Solomon will do wrong and will be punished accordingly (v14) but the love of God will never fail him (v15) and the throne *“shall be established forever.”* (v16)

God invented language and is fluent in all dialects, no matter how obscure they may be. Thus if the plain words spoken here by God here do not mean *“forever”* then language fails. **Who can possibly understand what these words mean if they don't mean what they clearly say?** David's throne, according to this promise of God, is to be established forever. From elsewhere in the Scriptures we are taught that there is a KING of Kings coming who will one day rule from that throne, as we will discuss later.

The ancient prophet Jeremiah writes,

*19 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 20 “Thus says the Lord, ‘If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. 22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.”* (Jeremiah 33: 19-22)

This passage clearly tells us in the most simple of words that as long as day and night continue then this Covenant will remain in force. Jesus the King is

coming to reign on David's throne and it will be established forever. This is confirmed in the New Testament where we read of Jesus.

*32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob (whom God renamed Israel) forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”* (Luke 1: 32-33)

Jesus is the KING of Kings (Rev 19:6 etc) but He has not functioned in this way on the earth, has He? If He is to rule as a King, and He is, then He requires a Kingdom in which to do so. As the Scriptures say, **“He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”** (Luke 1: 33)

There are certain people who reinterpret these plain words to say that He rules in this way now from heaven, and leave it at that. There is a well known term used to describe this method of *“interpretation.”* It is to *“spiritualise”* the words away. This *“spiritualisation”* of these plain words is a fancy way of saying *“to change the obvious meaning”* or to make them mean nothing at all. The words of a contract are fixed, and even our human Courts would not allow a sloppy method of understanding a contract. Words **DO** count, and we all are accountable to God for our words. (Matthew 12:36)

Jesus will rule from the throne of David. If Jesus fails to rule on the earth as KING of Kings then He will not be pre-eminent in all things as the Scriptures boldly declare Him to be be ...

*“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”* (Colossians 1:17-18)

St John was inspired to write in Revelation...

*And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.* (Revelation 20:4)

Here is an unambiguous declaration that Jesus is to rule on the earth with His saints. The Word of God says so in very plain words. I believe those plain words and trust them, do you?

# Has God Cast Away His People?

## Part Three: *The Canaan or Land Covenant*

*“... for whoever touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye.”* Zechariah 2:8

This Covenant is sometimes called the *“Palestinian Covenant.”* Moses and the ancient Jewish people would never have heard of the word *“Palestine.”* *“Palestina”* was the name of a Roman province and has been in common usage since the Romans. Many say it is derived from *“Philistine.”* Whatever the case, there are ancient sources that use the name Palestine and do so from Roman times.

This covenant is better called the *Land Covenant* because its promises relate to Israel’s possession of the Promised Land. It is a Covenant made with the offspring of Abraham. All of these Covenants were made with the children of Abraham and have nothing to do with any other race. Furthermore they have only to do with the children of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. The Covenant certainly has nothing at all to do with Abraham’s son Ishmael through Hagar.

The word of God is strong on this matter. *“Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall your seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.”* (Romans 9:7b-8)

Furthermore it has nothing at all to do with the Church as will become obvious through this series.

This unconditional Covenant is to do with the God given ownership of the Promised Land. We saw in Parts 1 and 1a of these Covenantal matters that God promised the land to Abraham viz *The Lord said to Abram ... ‘Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring FOREVER. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.’* (Genesis 13: 14-17)

This ownership is a straight-forward statement from God with no conditions attached. **There were very definite conditions attached to the Israelites if they wanted to remain living in the land.** They could only remain living there by being faithful and obedient to God, and to His Laws, regarding the use of the land. As commentator J.P. Russack points out *“The rent for living in the land was obedience.”* However those *“living there”* conditions **DID NOT** affect the ownership of the land, just Israel dwelling in it from time to time.

The Bible reveals that Israel was dispossessed due to disobedience and exiled in Babylon for seventy

years. Later they were thrown out by the Romans who drove Israel from the Land of Promise, just as Jesus foretold. The Emperor Hadrian then renamed the land *Palestine* and it has been called that until recent times. The Roman dispersion in AD 70 lasted until 1948 when the modern day miracle occurred and Israel became a nation once again.

Moses warned that the Lord would *“root them out of the land”* (Deuteronomy 29:28) for disobedience and that is precisely what happened. But Moses, and other Prophets, also claimed that these rebellious children of Abraham would return to their Lord ... ***“and when you and your children return unto the Lord your God, and shall obey His voice according to all that I command you this day, you and your children, with all your heart, and with all your soul; That then the Lord thy God will turn your captivity, and have compassion upon you.”*** (Deuteronomy 30: 1-3)

This conversion of Israel has not happened yet, and elsewhere in this series the conversion of Israel will be covered, but a renewal ***in unbelief*** has begun. The *“dry bones”* of Ezekiel 37 are coming together. There is a time coming when the Lord Himself will bring back all of the wayward children of Abraham to the Promised Land. The rest of the passage tells us this exciting news ...

***Then the Lord your God will turn your captivity, and have compassion upon you, AND WILL RETURN (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) and gather you from all the nations, whither the Lord your God has scattered you.”*** (Deut 30:3)

This tells of the return of the Messiah and of Israel’s *“at last”* acceptance of Messiah Jesus who will then bring His people back to the Promised Land as discussed elsewhere in this series.

***If any of you be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from there will the Lord your God gather you, and from there will He fetch you: And the Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers.*** (Deuteronomy 30:4-5)

All of Israel will then at last know the Lord. ***And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.*** (Deuteronomy 30: 6)

This is the great day that St Paul describes when he spells out the glorious news that *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Romans 11:26) and that too is discussed elsewhere in this series. **Israel is not cast out!** The plain words of the inspired Bible says so.

# Is God Faithful To His Promises?

*O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will praise Your name; for You have done wonderful things; **Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.** (Isaiah 25:1)*

**What a question!** The Christian faith totally stands or falls upon the fact of God being faithful to His promises. It is quickly admitted that some of the promises of God are conditional: "You obey Me and I will do \_\_\_\_\_," but there are many promises of God that are totally unconditional. "Him that comes to Me I will never cast out" said Jesus and we live eternally, or remain eternally lost, on the strength of those plain words. All we have to do is "come" and the promise is that Jesus will accept us.

The thief on the cross simply asked the dying Saviour to "Remember me when you come into Your kingdom" and Jesus replied "This day you will be with Me in paradise." All believers rely upon "If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If that promise is just wiped away where would we be? The answer is "Eternally lost." So we totally rely on God to keep His promises, and the idea that He won't is an impossible one, and indeed an offensive one!

So, it is hard to understand why some genuine believers explain away the plain words and the straightforward promises of God, when they apply to Israel? God, in simple words, clearly promises Israel a glowing future and yet some teach that the promises to Israel have now become promises to the Church.

St Paul insists that Israel remain the recipient of the promises of God. He declares that to Israel "pertains (belongs) the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises..." (Rom 9:4) These things remain the heritage of the Jewish people and these words come from the New Testament not the Old. You will search in vain to find a plain statement in the the New Testament that teaches that the promises to Israel have become the property of the Church.

It remains a matter of tragic history that the bulk of the Jewish people still reject Jesus the Messiah. St Paul in very plain words acknowledges that by stating that "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25)

Then he declares that a great awakening will come to Israel. We read "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (i.e. Israel)." (Romans 11:26) God renamed Jacob, Israel. God said to Jacob "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel." (Gen 32:28)

**There is a glowing future for Israel** according to the plain words of God's promise ...

*Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 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,** says the Lord:*

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says 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 neighbour, 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, says the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31: 31-34)*

To give even more authority to these ancient promises from Jeremiah they are **repeated in the New Testament** in Hebrews 8: 8-12. Please look it up and see for yourself.

- These promises have never been fulfilled in all of history as even the most casual examination will prove, but
- they are holy promise from God and must come to pass.
- To claim that such a promise belongs to the Church when it plainly says "this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel", to my mind anyway, directly contradicts the plain and straightforward words of God.

The Lord God goes on through Jeremiah and gives this blessed assurance

*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. (Jeremiah 31: 37)*

The promises of God are faithful and true and are very clear when it comes to a future for God's chosen people, the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

*"Has God cast away His people? **GOD FORBID!**" (Romans 11:1)*



# Israel No More

## Some Churches Are Active in the BDS Movement - What Does It Mean?

*“35 Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divides 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 for ever. 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.**” Jeremiah 31:35-37*

Recently I heard a preacher who boldly proclaimed that Israel has been replaced by the Church. He is a very godly and decent man but, in this instance, he is not correct. This is because his statement denies the very plain and straight-forward words of Scripture shown above, and other Biblical passages also. This replacement teaching goes directly against the plain words of God’s promises.

St Paul assures us in Romans 9 that to Israel

- *“belong the adoption,*
- *and the glory,*
- *and the covenants,*
- *and the giving of the law,*
- *and the service of God,*
- *and the promises...(v4) ”*

How can you make it any clearer than that?

This New Testament statement shows in plain words of that Israel remain the chosen people of God. Some Churches today are acting financially and politically against God’s chosen ones by a movement know as **BDS**. This stands for **B**oycott (Israel), **D**ivestment (withdraw investments in Israel) and **S**anction Israel (have no dealings with Israel and don’t buy its products.)

Some of the people in this movement, including some whole denominations, are politically active and have withdrawn considerable funds from institutions and manufacturers that do business with Israel. So they are very serious.

*“Replacing Israel”,* as far as the Church is concerned, means that the promises of God in respect of Israel are totally dismissed. To their way of looking at it these promises have lapsed due to Israel’s disobedience. But what do the promises of God teach about this alleged replacement?

The headline text above says, if we may apply a simple paraphrase, *“if the sun, moon and stars fall from heaven then I will cast out Israel ... for all that they have done”* says the Lord. It cannot be any clearer than that. The heavens, as we unconsciously observe daily, have not changed.

Thus all the talk, all the developed doctrines that teach that the Church somehow replaces Israel, are just not true, nor are they sustainable. A real

problem is that very godly people, lovely and decent Christian people, believe it.

The plain reading of the many promises to Israel, as have been shown (and there are many more to come in this series), show that Israel is a major player in the events of the end times. These happenings lead up to the Return of the Lord.

Here is **the serious problem** regarding the teaching that Israel has been replaced by the Church. The Bible plainly says that Israel is a major player in the end time events. Thus to eliminate Israel would be a good idea from Satan’s point of view, wouldn’t it? Satan is our very clever adversary. He is seeking the total destruction of Israel, as is confirmed in our news almost daily. Satan knows that to eliminate Israel is to destroy the revealed plans of God.

This is a very serious business, and the great tragedy is that many lovely and unsuspecting Church members are being led astray by this false replacement idea. Various people, who are really just political activists, are active in unsuspecting Churches. They are using this *replacement* idea to full advantage because it allegedly gives them a theological “licence” to oppose Israel.

In rare cases the teaching of these *“replacement”* doctrines leads to the hatred of Israel and genuine hatred will result in *anti-Semitism*. Most sincere Christians, who may oppose national Israel, still long for the Jewish people to come to the Lord. These Christians are essentially political and not at all antisemitic, but tragically the result is the same. Like it or not, their well meaning actions do support and encourage anti-semitism in some people.

They criticise Israel for any wrongdoings, and so they should, but they almost always fail to criticise other parties and, in many cases, actively support anti-Israel groups perhaps vainly imagining that they are working for the Lord.

The plain words of the Bible teach that Israel is essential to the plan of God. God will fulfil all His outstanding promises to Israel, and those promises demand a national Israel. Israel exists, and will remain, despite what man, foolish politicians, or even Satan may do. BDS must ultimately fail.

# If Israel Is Replaced By The Church, As Some Say, Then Who Gets The Promised Land? This Is A Ludicrous Conundrum

*"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'" (Genesis 12: 1-3)*

Please read the above promise by God for it is quite notable. It marks the beginning of the Jewish people and ultimately led to the Promised Land being given to Abraham and his offspring ...

*"And Jehovah appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto your seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto Jehovah, who appeared unto him." (Genesis 12:7)*

Here is another promise

*"And Jehovah said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward: for all the land which you see, to you will I give it, **and to your seed for ever.** And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then may your seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; **for unto you will I give it.**" (Genesis 13:14-17)*

What do you make of this comment by one scholar? He writes,

*"Here is the famous "land promise" to Abraham and his posterity "forever." Does this give secular Israel in the 20th century any valid claim on Palestine? The answer has to be **"No!"** **The ultimate nature of the promise is seen in the fact that Christians were promised by Jesus Christ that "the meek shall inherit the earth," and there can be no doubt that this must be considered the ultimate and spiritual fulfilment of this great promise.**"*

(My emphasis)

With all of the goodwill that I can muster, I cannot understand how anyone could ever reach such a conclusion. How could the average person ever gain such an understanding from the simple words of God's promise to Abraham? It takes a certain mindset to link God's simple promise to Abraham to the words of Jesus who said that *"the meek will inherit the earth."* This alone surely shows it to be in error, for the average human would never ever reach that conclusion. This illustrates a case where the fixed mindset of the commentator completely overwhelms the text. He goes on

*As far as the fleshly Israel is concerned, all of God's blessings upon them were contingent, absolutely, upon their acceptance of the rule of God and upon their following in the steps of*

*Abraham's faith, which they resolutely refused to do.* (James Burton Coffman on Genesis 13 - website source)

Despite what this writer says, and the "meek" twist that he claims fulfils God's promise, it is a fact that **God did not put any conditions** on the gift of the land to Israel. God did not say *"if you and the people are obedient"* or anything like that. As commentator J.P. Russack rightly points out *"The rent for living in the land was obedience"* but a lack of obedience did not affect the unconditional promise of ownership. No matter what Israel did, or did not do, the unconditional promise remains valid.

Here is the conundrum! God promised the land to Abraham and his offspring through Isaac and Jacob (whom God renamed Israel) and thus to the Jewish people. If the Jews are now outside of the plan of God, as some say, we remain faced with the land promise. They claim that the Church replaces Israel so who gets title to the Promised Land? Is it the Methodists, the Coptic's, the Melkite's, the Baptists the Maronites, the Presbyterians, the Church of England, the Eastern Orthodox Church: who? Alternatively does a Holy promise from God just lapse with the passage of time?

The Theologian's explanation just fails. This *"replacement"* theory contradicts the plain words and promises of God, or twists them to give them a meaning beyond anything that the average person would understand, as we have seen. Today we are faced with certain unarguable facts. God promised Israel *"... Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."* (Ezek 37:11) That promise was fulfilled in 1948 when, after two thousand years, God restored Israel to the Promised Land.

Where are the other ancient scattered nations such as the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites etc today? These ancient tribes have been absorbed into the nations and vanished. Scattered Israel remain as a recognisable people and they are now back in the Promised Land, just as God declared.

Israel's existence today is not an accident of history. It reveals that God honours His Covenants and promises. Sadly the *"replacement"* people are blinded to this wonderful miracle.

# “By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them”

## Part I. Denying The Plain Statements and Promises Of God

Jesus said, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.” (Matthew 7:19-20)

In this small series we have been looking at some of the many unconditional promises God gave to Israel, the Chosen People. We have also seen that many denominational groups, and thus many Christians, are being taught that Israel has been replaced by the Church. These groups consider that the unfulfilled promises to Israel now belong to the Church. The claim here is that those statements are not true.

Jesus taught, “by their fruits you shall know them” and thus we have a measure by which we can see whether the “truths” that some proclaim are genuine or false. What are some of the fruits of the Churches and groups who dismiss the plain words of promise to Israel? Many who hold this replacement view are actively opposing Israel and are active in the BDS movement (Boycott, Divest Sanction Israel) as discussed earlier.

We read “Economic measures against Israel ... have been adopted ... by the United Church of Christ, Quakers, Mennonite Central Committee, the Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the Alliance of Baptists” in the USA. (Source: International Middle East Media Centre 11/7/16) No Australian Churches are listed amongst this group.

BDS discriminates against national Israel and “Replacement Theology” gives Churches supporting that movement a sort of “theological licence” to act. The simple fact is that many Churches are now active in the BDS movement, so here is a question:

- How could a Church who firmly believe that God has made as yet unfulfilled promises to Israel, ever actively work against that nation?

The obvious and inevitable answer is that they could not, and would not, for they would understand that they are opposing the revealed will of God. It is perfectly proper for Churches, or any group, to lovingly point out the sins of any nation, including Israel.

But what about anti-semitism itself? The history of the Church is shameful when it comes to anti-semitism. Martin Luther became highly and genuinely anti-semitic after seeking to evangelise the Jewish people without success. In later life he wrote the book “The Jews and Their Lies.” This is a shocking book and yet it came from the mind of a strong Bible believer. How did he justify his ideas? The answer is “Replacement Theology” which long predated Luther and gave him the “theological licence” to attack the Jewish people.

Luther writes,

*We (as a nation) do not curse the Jews but wish them well, physically and spiritually ... How, then, do we incur such terrible anger, envy, and hatred? ... They have been blood thirsty murderers of all Christendom for more than fourteen hundred years in their intentions, and would undoubtedly prefer to be such with their deeds ... We are at fault in not avenging all this innocent blood of our Lord and of the Christians which they shed ... and the blood of the children they have shed since then which still shines forth from their eyes and their skin. We are at fault in not slaying them. Rather we allow them to live freely in our midst despite their murdering, cursing, blaspheming, lying, and defaming; we protect and shield their synagogues, houses and life ... and encourage them to fleece us of our money and goods, as well as to mock and deride us, with a view to finally overcoming us, killing us all for such a great sin, and robbing us of all our property as they daily pray and hope ... they are a heavy burden, a plague, a pestilence, a sheer misfortune for our country. (Abbreviated for space reasons. Martin Luther “The Jews and Their Lies.” translator: Martin Bertram unabridged version pages 74-75)*

William L. Shirer wrote

*“It is difficult to understand the behaviour of most German Protestants in the first Nazi years unless one is aware of two things:*

1. *their history and*
2. *the influence of Martin Luther.*

*The great founder of Protestantism was both a passionate anti-Semite and a ferocious believer in absolute obedience to political authority. He wanted Germany rid of the Jews. Luther’s advice was literally followed four centuries later by Hitler, Goering and Himmler.” (The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich William L. Shirer Page 219)*

Who could possibly say if Shirer’s conclusion is correct?, but it is not hard to agree with it. Luther’s anti-semitism is a fruit of Replacement Theology.

Think about this: Had Luther believed that God

1. still had a plan for Israel as the Bible teaches,
  2. and that Israel remain God’s chosen people,
- then he could not, and would not, have written such awful things. It was Replacement Theology that gave Luther a licence to write in this way. His anti-semitic attack is a direct fruit of that theology! Antisemitism, in this instance, is undoubtedly a fruit of Replacement Theology. Not all who believe in “replacement” embrace antisemitism, but it remains a fruit of the idea. On the next Single Page we will see the fruit of those who do believe the plain words of God.

# **“By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them”**

## **Part 2 Denying The Plain Statements and Promises Of God**

Jesus said, *“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.”* Matthew 7:19-20

We have seen how the idea that God has forever rejected Israel is leading various denominational groups into many forms of opposition to Israel.

### **A Silent Domination**

*Replacement Theology* has a silent and yet all embracing influence in many Churches. Very few parishioners are aware of it, and yet it's teachings influence the theology they hear every week. One *“bad fruit”* of this doctrines unchallenged control is the deplorable lack of knowledge about the coming Kingdom of Christ on the earth. It's actually worse for it is denied altogether, because many Pastors are blinded about Israel.

Many preachers claim that Christ will NEVER reign on the earth: that there will never be a Millennial Reign by the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords. This totally dishonours God, makes a mockery of His revealed prophetic word, and yet it is a dominant idea in most pulpits and unconsciously flavours many sermons that we hear.

The Old Testament is overflowing with prophecies about the forthcoming history of Israel, much of which happens during the glorious reign of Christ on the earth. Speak to most Church members and they know nothing at all about it. This is the blinding, yet silent effect of the idea that God is finished with Israel. This *“theology”* hides the truth that God HAS revealed.

Here is a question: *As God **HAS REVEALED** His truths and plans to us, whom do you think the denial of those truths best serve?* It cannot be the Lord, can it?

We have seen how this mode of thought blackened the writings of Martin Luther resulting in anti-semitism. Lets look at another well-known historic personality, this time from the 19th century, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. The contrast is remarkable. Many thousands of Spurgeon's sermons survive and are readily accessible on line. The following was preached on 25th December 1881 in the *Metropolitan Tabernacle* and is Sermon No. 1636. Look it up as it is freely available on line.

Spurgeon preached saying,

*“God's ancient people sadly provoked Him with their idolatries from age to age. He was long-suffering to them to the last degree, but at length He grew weary of them and, according to His own words, “He abhorred His own inheritance.” (Psalm 106:40) He caused them to be*

*carried away into captivity and their land became a desert, or the heritage of strangers. Israel became a scattered people on the brink of national extinction, for their iniquities had hidden the face of the Lord from them.*

*“Yet the Lord, even Jehovah, had entered into a covenant concerning them with Abraham ... which covenant He had afterwards renewed with His servant David. The Prophet Jeremiah said that this latter covenant will be remembered by the Lord even when Jerusalem is desolate. We read in Jeremiah 33:20*

*“Thus says the Lord: If you 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; then may also My covenant be broken with David, My servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne.”*

*“Even in Israel's worst days...the Lord revealed His love, and promised that blessed days should dawn for the seed of Abraham! **These days have not yet come, but they shall surely arrive, for God has not cast away His people whom He did foreknow.***

***“There is yet a history for Israel—her sun is clouded, but it has not set. As surely as stands the covenant with day and night, so surely shall the chosen people return from their captivity AND POSSESS THE LAND WHICH THE LORD HAS GIVEN THEM.”*** (My emphasis)

If you sat under Spurgeon's Bible teaching would it

1. encourage you to trust the Scriptures?
2. encourage you to realise that God had a plan for Israel?
3. or would it create in you some sort of anti-Israeli feelings?

Spurgeon never saw that glorious day in 1948 when Israel became a Nation again, but he did see it with the eye of faith as he boldly proclaims above.

Messages like this have tragically faded from the life of much of the Church, **but they will always remain the clear teaching of the Holy Scriptures** as Spurgeon illustrates.

Here is a strange truth: many Churches today are politically active seeking to give the Promised Land of Israel to others!

Whom does that attitude best serve? and what do you make of it?

# **“By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them”**

## **Part 3 Denying The Plain Statements and Promises Of God**

Jesus said, *“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.”* Matthew 7:19-20

I was listening to a Reverend gentleman who had been in the ministry for many decades. He had to confess defeat when it came to a certain verse in the Old Testament having no explanation for it. My ten year old grand daughter would have had no trouble with it, and neither will you, unless you are looking at it through the dark and obscuring lens of the theory that the Church replaces Israel.

He was explaining a passage from Zechariah and, after reading a certain verse, he looked up and confessed to the hushed congregation, *“I have no idea what that can possibly mean!”* Probably some parishioners had the same trouble for they had been sitting under his ministry for decades. In that time they had learned that the most straightforward verse could require a highly complicated and involved explanation. What hope would the average person ever have of grasping the Bible’s many obscure meanings? None!

The confusing passage was Zechariah 14 where we read that the Lord *“will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle.”* (Zech 14:4) The minister could not understand the concept of *“nations gathering against Israel”* because, in his dominant view God was finished with Israel long ago, having replaced it with the Church. This is what threw this truly godly man into such a flap.

*Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations ... And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, ... and the mount of Olives shall be split in the middle ... and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.* (Zechariah 14: 3-4)

We listened as he read aloud *“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, ... and the mount of Olives shall be split in the middle ...”* He looked up and confessed *“I have no idea what that can possibly mean!”* This was the moment when he unconsciously revealed the mindset that dominated his thinking, and his well known theology. He believes that Israel is no longer a player in the plan of God. That means for him that *“the Mount of Olives splitting in two”* must have already happened. But when did it occur? Where is the evidence for it? There is none, and that brought confusion to him. If the Mount of Olives had been split in two we would all know about it, and it hasn’t, so we don’t.

Anyone who comes to the Scriptures with a normal understanding that we are reading God’s Word in every-day plain English, would easily understand

these simple words. They are merely describing a coming event, the coming of the Lord.

However if you are interpreting them through the preconceived notion that Israel has been replaced by the Church, then you will have problems. That mindset places this event in the past, that mindset makes it ancient history. The problem is that it has never happened, as this godly man knew. Thus labouring with his mindset makes it a very confusing passage.

Here is one explanation of that verse from a commentator who also holds a *replacement* viewpoint.

*Our view is that God in the person of Christ has already touched his feet down upon the Mount of Olives. He was a frequent guest of Mary, Martha and Lazarus who lived on the mount of Olives at Bethany... In Luke 24:50 He ascended from there and that event ... is a sufficient fulfilment of the wonder foretold here. Of course there was no earthquake, but the spiritual earthquake...was surpassingly great enough to qualify as the fulfilment.* (Coffman’s Commentaries on the Bible Zech 14)

As you easily see he explains the whole passage away. He makes it rather meaningless. That must bring confusion to any listener **for it would not bring enlightenment, would it?** The average person, sitting in their pew, would surely think that they had no chance of understanding the Scriptures. *“Who would have ever thought of that?”* they may say, and they are right!

Both the Pastor and the commentator are godly men. They would agree that the coming of the Saviour, the KING of Kings and LORD of all Lords, the mighty Creator into our world is a shattering event. God setting his feet on the Mount of Olives could shatter the whole planet into ten billion tiny bits. However both men interpret the Scriptures through the darkening lens of *Replacement Theology* and so it confuses them.

This is a fruit of the replacement idea. It is simple evidence that the notion that God is finished with Israel brings darkness, not light: it brings confusion and not clarity. These well meaning men, who really are godly and decent in every way, suffer through the confusion caused by their belief in *Replacement Theology*, and so do their listeners.

It is quite a tragedy that the *replacement* idea blinds many Pastors and through them countless members of their congregations.

# New Testament Evidence

## Romans Chapters 9 To 11

*"... To (Israel) belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen."* (Romans 9: 3-5)

St Paul makes many things clear in *Romans* if we will but believe his plain words and not make them say what we want them to say. Paul's plain words confirm the ongoing status of national Israel. Paul was inspired by God to write those words when the New Testament Church existed and was growing rapidly. In plain words Paul writes *"To Israel belongs..."* and those words are clearly indicating that God is not through with Israel. Paul elsewhere identifies three classes of people saying

1. *"Give no offence, neither to the Jews,*
2. *nor to the Gentiles,*
3. *nor to the Church of God"* (1 Cor 10:32)

**In so doing Paul acknowledges that three groups exist, Jews, Gentiles and the Church.**

In *Romans*, Paul addresses both the Jews and the Gentiles, showing again the continuity of the Jews. On at least three occasions he writes *"to the Jew first, and also to the Gentiles."*

- Why would he say that if the Jews had been replaced in the plan of God?
- Some may argue that he does so because his world was Jewish, and many who would read this epistle were also Jewish, **and that is true.**
- But Paul here is proclaiming a continuing role for the Jews, he says *"To Israel belongs... (considerable blessings)."* Paul is writing in the present tense fully knowing that the Church at that time was thriving and expanding daily.
- In fact the plain reading of Paul's Roman letter is progressively arguing that the Jews have **NOT** been replaced by anyone.

Essentially Paul is teaching that it is faith that saves both Jews and Gentiles. He refutes the claim that by being born a Jew means automatic salvation as many Jews apparently believed. In *Romans* he repeatedly attacks that argument.

Paul shows his loving concern for Israel when he cries out in apparent anguish of soul *"That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..."* (Romans 9:2-3)

After that statement he goes on to make a serious claim in the inspired word of God. Here it is ...

- My kinsman *"are Israelites;*
- *to whom pertain (it means belong) the adoption,*
- *and the glory,*
- *and the covenants,*
- *and the giving of the law,*
- *and the service of God,*

- *and the promises."* (Romans 9:4)

Here we see the *"apostle to the Gentiles"* (Rom 11:13) boldly declaring in the **New Testament** that all these remarkable blessings **REMAIN** the possession of the Jews as a people. These plain words surely show that the Jews have **NOT** been replaced by anyone. Today they remain the beneficiaries of the promises of God, despite their current unbelief. To deny the Jewish race their continuing heritage is to deny the plain teaching of this passage. The *"replacement"* people argue that these things belong to the Jews **only if they are a part of the Church**, but that is a twisted and false interpretation of the plain teaching of this passage.

St Paul does not go easy on the Jews and destroys the argument that by merely being Jewish all these blessings are theirs. They're not! He argues that only a remnant of them will be saved. He quotes Isaiah when he writes *"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved."* (Romans 9:27)

The only way for anyone to enjoy the promises of God is to come to Christ, whether we be Jew or Gentile, but all the outstanding promises to the Jews will ultimately be fulfilled in that Nation when the Jews at last recognise their Messiah. Paul boldly states *"I say then, Has God cast away his people? God forbid!"* (Romans 11:1) He then lists his own birthright credentials as a Jew and states *"God has not rejected His people which He foreknew."* The *"replacement"* people argue that the Jews were replaced because they rejected Christ, but Paul tells us here that *"God foreknew."*

Do we imagine that God was surprised when the Jews rejected Christ? No!, because the rejection of Christ was prophesied by Isaiah and others, but it is a foolish question for **God foreknows all things.** Romans 9 to 11 spell out the message that God has not rejected His people, *"whom He foreknew."* Many pulpits in our Churches are blinded by their adherence to the false doctrine called *Supersessionism*, aka *Replacement Theology*.

Spurgeon says, *"There is yet a history for Israel—her sun is clouded, but it has not set... the chosen people (shall) return from their captivity and possess the land which the Lord has given them."* (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No.1636 freely available on line.) Spurgeon died in 1892 long before this promise was realised in 1948, but he saw it because he simply believed the plain words of Scripture. We would do well to copy his example.

# How Much Sin Can God Forgive?

## Are Children “Cast Out” For The Sins Of Their Fathers?

*“The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.”* (Deuteronomy 24:16)

Many “replacement” commentators claim that Israel was “ultimately cast off altogether as being God’s Chosen People in any racial or secular sense” is an example of that claim. (James Coffman Commentaries Genesis 13) They argue that this happened because Israel repeatedly sinned against the Lord God. It is quickly admitted that Israel repeatedly sinned against the Lord God. Does this mean that every generation of Jews since that time have been “cast off altogether as being God’s Chosen People” for “the sins of their fathers”?

Some children do suffer for the sins of their fathers? An innocent child may have parents with a deservedly bad reputation. Anxious mothers will warn their children, “Have nothing to do with those kids, don’t play with them and don’t even talk to them.” This happens.

Does God eternally punish someone because of their parents sin? Not according to the Scriptures for it is clear that “*The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.*” (Deuteronomy 24:16) This is an unailing principle in the Bible.

This gives rise to a question: how much sin can we commit before God washes His hands of us forever? Paul described himself as “*the chief of sinners*” and admitted “... *I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.*” (1 Timothy 1:12) Paul was, at the least, a bystander at the death of Stephen. We read, “... *the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul* (later called Paul). *And they stoned Stephen ... And Saul* (Paul) *was consenting unto his death.*” (Acts 7: 58-59, 8:1) Under our Law anyway Paul would have been charged as an accessory in this murder and punished accordingly.

David is described as “*a man after God’s own heart*” and yet it is openly recorded that he was an adulterer and a murderer. These are heavy weight sins, if we can use such a term, and yet we find that God forgives those sins. “*The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL SIN*” (1 John 1:7)

We probably all know of consistent sinners who have been forgiven: murderers, homosexuals, thieves, fornicators, adulterers, blasphemers, liars: the list is a long one. Nowhere do we read of God casting out someone for the sin of another. Quite the opposite is true “*All that the Father gives Me*

*shall come to Me; and him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out*” are the plain words of Jesus who also says, “*Come unto Me all you who labour and I will give you rest.*” (Matthew 11:28)

The idea that God would cast off modern day National Israel for the sins of their ancient forebears is surely unthinkable? Such an idea contradicts the plain words of the Holy Bible: “... *neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.*” (Deuteronomy 24:16)

But not everyone agrees. One writer seems to believe that modern Israel is condemned because of the sin of ancient Israel. He writes,

*“As far as the fleshly Israel is concerned ... They...were ultimately cast off altogether as being God’s Chosen People in any racial or secular sense.”* (James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries on the Bible Genesis 13)

Let’s look at Israel, the Promised Land, and God’s commitments regarding it. Under Moses, spies were sent into the land and came back with glowing reports of the land. But most of the spies focussed on “*giants in the land*” and feared, despite God telling them to press on into the land. They refused and this angered the Lord God who said,

*22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, ... and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it: 24 But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and has followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it... 30 Doubtless you shall not come into the land ... save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31 But your little ones, ... them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.*

(Numbers 14: 22-24, 30-31)

**God Himself declares** that He did not dispossess the children of Israel for “*the sins of their fathers.*” The generation that sinned did not enter, but their children did. Israel remain the Chosen People of God for “**God has not cast away His people.**” (Romans 11:2.) National Israel (the Chosen People) will, one coming day, individually and collectively recognise Jesus as their Messiah and all will be saved as shown elsewhere in these *Single Paged Papers*.

# Do The Promises Of God Mean What They Say?

*“At the same time, says the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.... Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin of Israel.” (Jeremiah 31:1-4 selected)*

God invented language. He fluently speaks and understands all dialects, no matter how remote their source may be. Why then do we consider that He was unable to explain His word, His own thoughts, and that He needs our help to “interpret” His written thoughts?

Admittedly, there are certain difficulties when translating. There are problems presented by the use of *idioms*. I read somewhere that the correct translation of “*It’s raining cats and dogs*” into a certain language is to say “*It’s raining chair legs.*” The Bible does use idioms, and metaphors, but that is not where the problem lies.

The problem reveals itself when commentators take perfectly plain words and make them say something quite different to the normal understanding of those words. Spurgeon, commenting on this idea, said

***“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God’s meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it’s) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away.”*** (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)

How sad that so many do not heed Spurgeon’s wise advice.

Take the straightforward promise headlined above. It plainly shows God’s love for “*all the families of Israel*” whom He loves “*with an everlasting love.*” He promises to “*draw Israel*” to Himself and to “*build (Israel) again.*” The plain words of that promise seem straightforward enough to most readers, I imagine, but not to commentators who see them through “*replacement*” eyes apparently. One writes,

*The first phrase here ties the whole chapter to the times of the Messiah. Both the Northern and Southern Israel’s will be accepted in the kingdom of Christ, as will everyone else on earth who desires to serve God.* (Coffman’s Commentaries Jeremiah 31 available on-line)

This commentator automatically links these plain statements to the Church which he refers to as “*the Kingdom of Christ along with everyone on earth who serves God,*” despite God stating quite clearly that “*all the families of Israel will be my people.*”

This is an example of what Spurgeon calls, “*tearing God’s meaning out of His own Words*”?

Spurgeon went on “*If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it’s) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away.*” Anyone can surely see that the literal words of God here have a definitive meaning. Commentators have “*spiritualised*” or twisted God’s words to create a meaning that was never intended, but it does fit their own mindset.

Here is another strange phenomenon. The commentator makes NOT ONE COMMENT about the rest of the passage which reads,

*Yea, I have loved you* (meaning Israel as the whole passage is about Israel) *with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin of Israel.”*

He gives no explanation for this and just presses on as if these words were not there. The whole of this chapter is quite prophetic regarding the revival of Israel, its being back in the Promised Land after being gathered by the Lord Himself, and of its ultimate turning to the Lord who says,

*... for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow...and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says the Lord.* (Jer 31: 13-14)

The commentator writes,

*It is impossible to construe these verses literally, because nothing even remotely resembling these predictions ever occurred in the historical racial Israel.* (Coffman Commentaries Genesis 13)

In this case he is quite right: nothing like this has ever happened in Israel, **and that is precisely why this passage is prophetic. It is also proof that God has not cast Israel away.** This is a classic example of the *replacement* theory in action. He is interpreting these words through a mindset that the Church has replaced Israel. His mindset is revealed by his own words. To him this cannot be prophetic because “*God is finished with Israel.*” Thus he concludes that it must have already happened, and history proves that it has not.

This therefore remains an unfulfilled prophecy given by God. If we just follow the advice of Spurgeon, and take the very plain words at their normal every-day meaning, then we will find that the Scriptures paint an easy-to-understand and clear picture of coming events

# Millennia Of Anti-Semitism Prove That Israel Remain The Chosen People

*“And Satan stood up against Israel...”* (1 Chronicles 21: 1)

*“... The Lord rebuke you, O Satan; even the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you...”* (Zechariah 3:2)

The claim here is that *anti-semitism* itself is

1. evidence that Israel remains “Chosen”
2. that Israel has not been replaced by the Church
3. that Satan still intends to *annihilate* Israel, just as his servants almost daily proclaim.

There is a constant theme in world history: *hatred of the Jews*. This hatred spans all generations: the verse headlined above reveal Satan’s actions in ancient times. The Nazi era shows the desired results of *anti-semitism*. The worst part is that *anti-Israel-ism* may still be seen within the Church in one form or another. Many otherwise fine Christian people claim that God has cast Israel away.

*The theory that Almighty God is still hankering to marry the old whore whom he divorced so long ago strikes us as a preposterous error. We especially apply this conviction to modern Israel.*  
(Coffman Commentary Zechariah 8 freely available on-line.)

Despite this fervent denial, both Testaments have much to say about Israel and its role in the events leading up to the return of Christ. You don’t have to have the mind of Satan to understand that it makes good strategic sense to destroy Israel. To do so would totally destroy the end-time plan of God. One of Satan’s most tragic successes is that elements of the organised church have been recruited into this cause. Much of the Church pours scorn on the revival of national Israel (see comments above), despite Israel’s revival in 1948 being one of the most amazing events in modern history.

No one can pretend to know the mind of Satan, but we are able to observe his actions in the world.

**Those actions show an unrelenting persecution of the Jewish people**, the Chosen Race, and especially Jesus Himself. Satan sought to destroy the Messiah at birth through the actions of Herod. *“Herod sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under...”* (Matthew 2:16)

Jesus warned us about the wiles of Satan when He said *“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?”* (Matt 12: 26) A fair paraphrase is *“Satan does not fight against himself, he does not destroy his own kingdom.”*

History records thousands of years of relentless attacks by Satan against Israel and the Jewish people. Why would he continue to do this if Israel had no strategic value to him? **If Israel had been cast out by God 2000 years ago, as many claim, and has no future in the plan of God, then Satan**

**would be wasting his time persecuting Israel and he’s far too smart for that.** Satan has conned many in the Church who now believe the lie that Israel has been cast out, **but Satan himself does not believe it, and his determined actions against the Jews prove that he doesn’t.**

There was no such country as Israel for two thousand years so, if God had cast them out and it was all over for Israel, **then why did that persecution continue, and it still continues? This is surely evidence showing that Satan believes the plain words of Scripture that reveal the necessity of Israel to the plan of God, even if some in the Church dismiss those promises.**

Many Scriptures show Israel to be a key player in the prophetic plan of God as this series seeks to demonstrate. **Satan believes this, and his actions against the Jewish people over thousands of years prove it.** What a tragedy that many who name the Name of Christ do not believe the plain words that God has revealed!

History itself proves certain things to be true, and other things to be false. Satan’s persecution of the Jewish people show that he believes in Israel’s importance, and that Israel has an ongoing role in the plans of God. Satan has fought a long, but ultimately a losing battle. Israel remains, and will remain.

The promises of God remain true, even if some in the Church deny them, doubt them, and even oppose them. It seems fair to say that Satan understands the prophecies, he has observed them **being literally fulfilled**, and he is doing his best to make the Scriptures fail. In the Church lovely people, godly people, true believing people and their Pastors, are blinded by this tragic *“replacement”* idea. Consequently, they remain blinded to the events happening in our world when those events are crying out, *“Look up for your redemption draws near.”*

Satan has constantly opposed Israel seeking to destroy the plan of God, and he has recruited many in the Church to this cause. They would be shocked to realise whom they are unwittingly serving in their opposition to Israel. *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (2 Corinthians 6:17) is good advice for any who are caught up by belief in a doctrine that throws Israel to the wolves.

# Addendum

## Some of the promises that God solemnly made stating that He would give the land to Israel, the seed of Abraham, “forever” or “eternally.”

### DO THESE PROMISES MEAN WHAT THEY PLAINLY SAY? IF NOT, WHO CAN SAY WHAT THEY DO MEAN?

1. “All the land that you see I will give to you and your seed **forever**.” [Genesis 13:15]
2. “The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an **everlasting possession** to you and your seed after you; and I will be their God.” [Genesis 17:8]
3. Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty ... said to me ... ‘I will give this land as an **everlasting possession** to your seed after you.’” [Genesis 48:3-4]
4. “When the Lord brings you into ... the land **He swore** to your forefathers to give you ...” [Exodus 13:5]
5. “Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom **You swore by Your own self**: ‘... I will give your seed all this land **I promised them**’, and it will be their inheritance **forever**.” [Exodus 32:13]
6. “He remembers His **covenant forever**, the word He commanded, for a thousand generations, the **covenant** He made with Abraham, **the oath He swore** to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a **decree**, to Israel as an **everlasting covenant**: ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.’” [1 Chronicles 16:15-18]
7. “He remembers His **covenant forever**, the word **He commanded**, for a thousand generations, the **covenant** He made with Abraham, **the oath He swore** to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a **decree**, to Israel as an **everlasting covenant**: ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.’” [Psalm 105:8-11]
8. “O our God, did You not drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it **forever** to the seed of Abraham Your friend?” [2 Chronicles 7:19-20]
9. “Then will all Your people be righteous and they will possess the land **forever** ...” [Isaiah 60:21]
10. “They will live in the land I gave to My servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there **forever** ...” [Ezekiel 37:25]

### Finally we see that God promises to NEVER break the Covenant.

“... I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I **swore** to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘**I will never break My covenant with you...**’” [Judges 2:1] St John tells us that “*the scripture cannot be broken*” (John 10:35)

## A Word On Covenants

**Covenants must be taken literally, otherwise who can say what they may mean?** All of our history shows that any agreement we enter is built upon a literal understanding of the words.

*“In all earthly contracts, when a promise, or agreement is entered into by which one party gives a promise of value to another, it is **universally** the custom to explain such a relationship and its promises **by the well-known laws of language** contained in our grammars or in common usage. It would be regarded absurd and trifling to view them in any other light... the very nature of a covenant demands, that it should be so worded, so*

*plainly expressed, that it conveys a decisive meaning, and not a hidden or mystical one ... ”* (G. N. H. Peters, “*The Theocratic Kingdom*,” 1, 290-291 as quoted from “*Things To Come*” by Dwight Pentecost p 69.)

How would we be placed if any agreement we entered into was interpreted in a non literal manner? If we had any common sense at all, we would not enter such an agreement, would we?

The promises of God are to be understood literally. Thus they are easy to understand, and they depend solely on the integrity of God and are therefore trustworthy in every case.

# Glossary

## of terms used in *“The Single Paged Papers”*

### **BDS Acronym**

This is an organisation that is working to oppose any type of support for national Israel. **BDS** stands for **B**oycott, **D**ivest, **S**anction. So, in many ways, proponents of BDS seek the economic destruction of Israel.

- **Boycott** involves withdrawing all support for Israel, and Israelis, and from international companies that trade with Israel.
- **Divestment** involves urging banks, local councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investments from Israel and all Israeli companies.
- **Sanctions** mean pressuring governments to end military trade and free-trade agreements and to expel Israel from international forums such as the UN and even FIFA, the international football association.

Some Churches in the US have joined the BDS movement such as *The Presbyterian Church USA*, the *United Church of Christ*. Several Quaker bodies have voted to divest from Israeli and international companies targeted by the BDS movement.

***The Great Tribulation also known as “The time of Jacob’s trouble.”*** (Jeremiah 30:7)

The above two terms are used in Scripture to describe this period of turmoil and destruction that comes upon the whole of the earth. It is “*a time of great fear and trembling*” when “*men’s hearts fail them for fear.*” It is a time when God’s wrath will be poured out on wicked mankind. It leads to the glorious moment when Israel at last recognise Jesus as their Messiah. From that moment on the Lord fights for Israel.