

QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

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*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry
for the Christian community*

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ISRAEL – GOD’S PURPOSES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

1. Introduction

- a) As with all Christian and biblical matters this subject must be seen through God’s eyes, as revealed in the Bible. Our opinions and understanding must never be based on the transient whims of human political and humanistic thinking.
- b) In order to look at the present and the future of any biblical subject we have to seek to understand the past.

2. Why Israel?

- a) Israel was God’s sovereign choice – Deuteronomy 7 v 7 – 8. Mankind was not involved, nor should it have been, in God’s choice of nation for His eternal purposes.
- b) God made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15 v 18 – 21) and repeated it with Isaac (Genesis 17 v 19 – 21) and Jacob (Genesis 28 v 12 – 15). These three men were the founding fathers of Israel as a nation. For ever afterwards the covenant was expressed as being with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (e.g., Exodus 2 v 24).
- c) God has revealed Himself, His nature and His plans to the world for all time, through Israel, both in the Old Testament eras and through Jesus (a Jew) in the New Testament. This revelation includes such basic truths as there being just one true God (monotheism), His standard of holiness (the Ten Commandments), the reality of redemption for all creation (except unrepentant humans and angels) and the wonder of divine grace (instead of deserved wrath).
- d) Israel focuses the prime deceptions of Satan. Satan’s schemes in this world are to contradict God’s truth and grace (John 8 v 44), especially in respect of His ultimate redemption through Israel. For example, by suggesting the corruption of the line of God’s covenant away from Isaac and Jacob, through Ishmael instead, Satan has removed the possibility of Jesus as the Redeemer, and the freedom that His salvation has brought to the human race. This deception, found in Islam, holds untold millions in bondage and fear. Islam embodies of the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4 v 1 – 3). This is why Israel has always been a prime focus for satanic attack including, sadly, the view held by many Christians that the Church has become Israel. God’s covenant choices never, ever, change and Israel will forever remain Israel (Romans 11 v 1 – 2a).

3. The timetable for Israel’s future – Daniel 9 v 20 - 27.

- a) Daniel was given an indication that the total time left for Israel as the centre of God’s dealings with the world would be 490 years; 70×7 (weeks of years) = 490 years.
- b) From the issuing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2 v 1 – 9) to the coming of the Anointed One (the Messiah, or Christ) would be 7×7 weeks (49 years) and 62×7 weeks (434 years) - a total of 483 years. Then the Anointed One would be cut off. Sir Robert Anderson (“The Coming Prince”) has demonstrated that the 483 years expired precisely on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. He was crucified (“cut off”) days later.
- c) After a pause of untold duration the final week (7 years) will start with a “covenant with many” being agreed. This matches the New Testament prophecies of the seven years of judgement at the end of the Church Age (called the Tribulation) when the Church will have been raptured away and Israel will once again resume its historical role of being God’s witness on Earth until Jesus, the King of Israel arrives (with His Bride). The book of Revelation has much to say regarding Israel’s role at that time.

4. The relationship between Israel and the Church.

- a) There are seven eras in God's dealing with the human race during time (before eternity), and the Church is a new era, not revealed before (Ephesians 3 v 2 – 5 & 8 – 11), composed of both Jews and Gentiles. Israel as a national entity has been put to one side for the duration of the Church age, to be brought back to the land after the end of the Church age (Romans 11 v 11 – 32; other references in point b) below):

The age of Innocence – Creation to the Fall
The age of Conscience – the Fall to the Flood
The age of Humanism – the Flood to Babel
The age of Promise – Abram to Sinai
The age of Law – Sinai to Pentecost
The age of Grace – Pentecost to the Lord's Return (the Church age)
The age of the Kingdom – the Millennial Reign

- b) Israel will not be abandoned, but will be redeemed, and there are many promises in scripture to this effect. Some are listed here:

Jeremiah 33 v 23 – 26
Ezekiel 36 & 37, esp. 36 v 19 – 32
Romans 11 v 1 – 2a & 25 – 29
Zechariah 8 v 6 – 8 & 12 v 10 – 13 v 1.

- c) Replacement theology (the teaching that the Church is now Israel) is nowhere taught in the New Testament, despite 77 references to Israel. This idea first appeared in the teaching of Justin Martyr in AD150, was substantially developed by Origen in the third century and was increasingly embraced by the western and eastern churches after AD313. This has contributed to worldwide anti-Semitism. It cannot be emphasised enough that God keeps His promises.

5. A time of peace and safety

A time of false peace is a recurring theme in Jeremiah (e.g., 6 v 14 and 8 v 11). We can see that at least three great events will happen in such a time and they will have a profound effect on Israel:

- a) The Rapture of the Church (I Thessalonians 5 v 1 – 3 and Matthew 24 v 36 – 41).
b) The war of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38 v 1 – 2 & 7 – 11). The nations mentioned here are involved with Middle East politics today.
c) The ruler who will come (Daniel 9 v 27), the antichrist, will make a covenant with Israel, which will allow the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

6. The Day of Jacob's Trouble

This appears to be the final "week" (seven years) of Daniel's prophecy and coincides with the Tribulation. The final 3½ weeks are called the Great Tribulation. This is the judgement time at the end of the Church Age (following the Rapture of the church) and the reasons for this are:

- a) To cleanse the Earth of satanic wickedness (Isaiah 24, Revelation 20 v 1 - 3)
b) To finally purify Israel (Daniel 12 v 5 – 12 and Ezekiel 20 v 39 – 44)
c) To evangelise the world through Israel (Revelation 7 v 1 – 11 and Zechariah 8 v 23).

Matthew chapter 25 is addressed to Israel during this time.