

## SHOULD WE SUPPORT ISRAEL

### *Part Two*

Tonight we're going to continue answering the question: Should we support Israel? Last week we looked at an article by a preacher named Rick Frueh. The article was called: *Israel — An Evangelical Idol*. [Click Here](#) to view the original article. I also said this week we would look at another article by a man named Robert Begnaud. The name of his article is *Who Is Israel*. [Click Here](#) to view the original article.

But before we look at Mr. Begnaud's article, we need to understand the theological influence he is under, which is "Replacement Theology". Replacement Theology teaches that the Church has *permanently* replaced National Israel in the plan of God. It views the Church as the *continuation* of Israel. All the promises made to National Israel find their fulfillment in the New Testament Church. Old Testament prophecies which refer to the eventual restoration of the Jewish people to a geographical land, or about Israel's future glory, are interpreted *spiritually* and are viewed as promises to the Church. However, prophecies of condemnation and judgment are interpreted *literally* and continue to be applied to the Jews.

People who hold this view see no significance in the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. They claim it has nothing to do with the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. For them, the Jewish people are no longer special. They are no different than Italians, or the Germans, or the Africans, or the Chinese, or the Japanese. God views the Jews no differently than He does the rest of unsaved humanity. He feels no differently towards the Jews than He does the rest of unsaved humanity.

Those who believe in Replacement Theology also have a nasty habit of mis-interpreting the statements of Paul. For instance, when Paul said: "*And if you be Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*" (Gal. 3:29)—they interpret this to mean that only those who are in Christ (Christians) can rightfully be called Abraham's seed. They take Paul's statement, which was meant to show that the promises God made to Abraham and his seed now include believing Gentiles, and they spin it so it means the promises no longer apply to the Jewish people at all. But the fact is, what Paul said in Galatians 3:29 does not exclude the Jewish people from their original covenant and promise as the biological seed of Abraham. It simply joins us to what God has already started with Israel.

Another of Paul's statements they like to twist is where he said the true Jew is the one who is a Jew inwardly: "*For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God*" (Rom. 2:28-29). This is spun so that it means the only people who can rightfully be called "Jews" are those who have been redeemed. In other words, unbelieving Jews have no right to call themselves "Jews" anymore because the term "Jew" now applies only to those who are in Christ. But if that is what Paul meant, you would never see him calling unbelieving Jews, "Jews" in the New Testament! The fact is, Paul refers to unbelieving Jews as "Jews" many times throughout the New Testament.

Another thing those who believe in Replacement Theology like to do is try to use the Biblical doctrines of election and predestination to *deny* the Jewish people their rightful place in God's plan. They ignore the fact that Paul stated in no uncertain terms that his "kinsmen according to the flesh"—that means the Jewish race—are called by God to be His holy nation, regardless of their present spiritual condition. Instead, they claim that not *all* Jews have been called by God; only those Jews who *end up saved*—that is, only those Jews who belong to a special group of people called "the elect"—have been called.

The idea is that before the world was created, God elected (predestined) some Jews and some Gentiles to be His peculiar people. So the issue of calling and specialness has nothing to do with the Jewish race, per say. Rather, it has to do with this predestined group of humans called “the elect”. The fact that *some* of this group happens to be Jewish means no more than the fact that some of them are Irish or French or African. Election has nothing to do with race or blood line. Those who are part of this special group were elected by God in Eternity Past, and their election had nothing to do with who they would be when they were born. They were elected according to the secret counsel of God. The problem is, this is not what Paul taught. He said:

*For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; **to whom pertaineth** the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, **and the promises**; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

*Romans 9:3-5*

Paul plainly said the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises pertain to his “brethren”. Then he defines who he is talking about when he says his “brethren”. His brethren are his “*kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites*”. The promises of the Old Covenant, the promises God made to Abraham, pertain to (apply to) the Jewish race.

Trying to replace the national call of the Jews with a predestined group called “the elect”—which has nothing to do with race, and in which no nationality is distinguished—is the direct result of Gentile arrogance because even though you may be an elect Scandinavian, or an elect Italian, or an elect African, God never chose your race to be His own peculiar treasure. He never brought the Irish nation, or the German nation, or the Italian nation to Himself at Mt. Sinai and cut an eternal covenant with them. Paul stated emphatically that the promises God gave to Abraham belong to his kinsmen “after the flesh”. They don’t just belong to those Jews who happen to end up being part of “the elect” (ie: redeemed). They belong to the Jewish race. They belong to the Jewish nation!

Of course, we are not saying that every Jew will receive the promise or fulfil their call just because they are born Jewish. They must walk by faith. They must trust and obey God. This means that just like everyone else, they must accept God’s Messiah as an atonement for their sins and follow Him faithfully. In *that* sense they are no different than Gentiles. But when it comes to election, they *are* different because the call to be a holy nation remains their heritage by *physical* birth. This can be said of no other nation. The Jewish people are the only ones who ever have (or ever will) hold this peculiar place in God’s plan.

I don’t believe any normal human mind could read what Paul said about Israel and the Jews and walk away thinking the Church has permanently replaced them, or that hating them is our Christian duty—unless that mind has first come under the influence of the *theological anti-Semitism* inherent in Replacement Theology. But once a person’s mind does come under that influence, it starts reading these ideas back *into* the Scripture and it eventually becomes incapable of understanding the simplest statements in the Bible.

Replacement Theology is an integral part of Covenant Theology, which has been *the* theology of the Roman Catholic organization ever since its establishment in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It was also *the* theology of the Protestant Reformation. All the Reformers were Covenant theologians and the anti-Semitism that is latent in this theology can be seen very clearly in the following comments by Martin Luther and John Calvin:

**“What then shall we Christians do with this damned, rejected race of Jews?...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...Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed. For they perpetrate the same things there that they do in their synagogues...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.**

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...**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.”

*Martin Luther*

*On The Jews and Their Lies & Luther's Works - Volume 47*

“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.**”<sup>1</sup>

*John Calvin*

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

Needless to say, the Nazis gleefully quoted Luther as they rose to power and launched the Holocaust. In his book *Mein Kampf*, published in 1925, Adolf Hitler referred to Martin Luther as “a great warrior, a true statesmen, and a great reformer.” Keep in mind that Hitler was a professed Christian. In 1924 at a *Christian* gathering in Berlin, he spoke to thousands of people and received a standing ovation when he made the following proclamation:

“I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of Almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake - and that is to be against the Jews and **get rid of them once and for all.**”

Mr. Hitler then proceeded to talk about the influence of Luther on his life:

“Martin Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life. Luther was a great man. He was a giant. With one blow he heralded the coming of the new dawn and the new age. He saw clearly that the Jews need to be destroyed, and **we’re only beginning to see that we need to carry this work on.**”

At the Nuremberg trials, Nazi leader Julius Streicher defended himself by saying that he “never said anything that Martin Luther did not say”. The terrible truth that Christians do not like to face is that the Holocaust was the product of 1,900 years of a *Christian* anti-Semitism, which has been propagated through *twisting* the Scripture, and is *rooted* in Gentile racism. Unfortunately, this kind of Gentile racism was already present in the Early Church. It was Gentile, racist arrogance towards the Jewish people that made Paul write the following words to new Gentile converts in Rome:

*I say then, Hath God cast away his people [the Jews]? **God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. . . I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? **God forbid:** but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. . . And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; **Boast not against the branches.** But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. **Be not highminded, but fear:** For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. . . For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, **lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;** that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

*Romans 11:1; 11; 17-21 & 25*

Has God cast away the Jews (as a nation) permanently? God forbid! says Paul. Yet those who propagate the lie of Replacement Theology say: “Yes, He has cast the nation away permanently”.

Have the Jews (as a nation) stumbled that they should fall permanently? God forbid! says Paul. Yet those who propagate the lie of Replacement Theology say: “Yes, the nation has fallen permanently”.

The Jews haven’t been totally blinded, says Paul. They have only been partially blinded. They are blind regarding the identity of God’s Messiah. Many of them never stopped believing in or worshiping Jehovah, the God they knew as a nation. Moreover, this partial blindness, regarding the identity of Jehovah’s Messiah is not permanent. It will only last until a certain point in God’s redemptive plan. Then the Jewish nation will recognize Messiah.

Yet those who propagate the lie of Replacement Theology teach that the people who were blinded, and who will be restored in the last days, are this nebulous group of people called “the elect”—not the Jewish nation.

Looks like the Jews are not the only ones who are blind! Those who propagate Replacement Theology couldn’t properly interpret the Scripture if you paid them a million dollars. Their minds have been so twisted, they can’t understand the obvious meaning of many statements in the Scripture.

The refusal of many Gentile church leaders to heed Paul’s warning produced people who were indeed wise in their own conceits. It produced high minded leaders who were not afraid to boast against the broken branches and this boasting became the fertile soil from which *Christian anti-Semitism* has flourished for many centuries. Turning a blind eye to the obvious truth of Scripture not only hurts us individually, it can hurt multitudes.

By 135 AD., theological and political power had shifted from Jewish Christian leaders in Jerusalem to centers of Gentile Christian leadership in Alexandria, Rome and Antioch. As the Church spread within the Roman Empire and its membership grew increasingly *non-Jewish*, not only did Christianity begin to disconnect itself from its Jewish heritage, Greek and Roman pagan thought began to creep in and completely change the orientation of Biblical interpretation. It is important to understand this change because it not only influenced the early Church Fathers to make anti-Jewish statements, it also resulted in the introduction of many heresies. Listen to the attitude of two of the Church's most prominent Church Fathers towards the Jewish people:

"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.**"

*John Chrysostom (344 - 407 A.D.)  
The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism by Malcolm Hay*

**"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! **Yes, you Jews.** I say, do I address you; you, who till this very day, deny the Son of God. How long, poor wretches, will ye not believe the truth? **Truly I doubt whether a Jew can be really human...** I lead out from its den a monstrous animal, and show it as a laughing stock in the amphitheater of the world, in the sight of all the people. I bring thee forward, thou Jew, thou brute beast, in the sight of all men."

*St. Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.)  
Confessions*

How different these sentiments are from the ones Paul so clearly expressed:

*As concerning the gospel, they [the Jews] are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, **they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.** For the gifts and calling of God [concerning the Jews] are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, **that through your mercy they [the Jews] also may obtain mercy.***

*Romans 11:28-31*

Had the Gentile Church heeded the clear message of Paul in Romans, Ephesians, and in other places, the sad legacy of anti-Semitic hatred from Christians down through the centuries might have been avoided. Such theological anti-Semitism is a pre-meditated denial of the clear teaching of the New Testament regarding the Jews and it is based in Gentile racism and superiority. Paul clearly exhorted us to love his kinsmen after the flesh. He also told us very clearly that by the blood of Messiah, we have been "*made near*" to the commonwealth of Israel, the covenants, the promises and the hopes given to Israel (*Eph. 2:11-18*). He said very plainly that even though "*blindness in part*" has come to the Jews—in order that salvation might go to the nations—a time will come when a remnant of National Israel would be saved (*Rom. 11:11-12; 25; 26*) because the gifts and callings of God towards the Jewish people were given without repentance (*Rom. 11: 29*).

Though many individual Jews have been cut off from the promises through unbelief, nevertheless, God's relationship with the Jewish race is everlasting. Whether individual Jews are in faith or unbelief, redeemed or eternally lost, the Jewish nation remains God's original chosen people and he continues to love them for the sake of Abraham. Moreover, He intends to restore a remnant of them to Himself in the last days.

There are 77 references to "Israel" in the New Testament and all but one refers to the Jewish nation. Try replacing the words, "the Church" where "Israel" is mentioned throughout the New Testament and the passage is rendered unreadable. Take for example, Romans 10:1—"*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*". If you put "the Church" where "Israel" is mentioned, then it is redundant. The Church is the body of saved believers. So how could Paul's prayer be for the Church to be saved?

How can a person read the exhortations in the New Testament to love the Jews for the sake of the Patriarchs, to show them mercy, to respect them because the promises still apply to them, and to be grateful to them because they gave us the Bible and our Savior (a Jew from Israel); then turn around and hate them and persecute them? One answer, as I said, is racist pride—which *produces* spiritual blindness.

But it goes even deeper than that. Anti-Semitism is widespread. People who are not Christians, people who are not religious at all, who have never even seen a Jew personally, hate the Jews for no logical or rational reason. This kind of wide-spread, persistent, irrational hatred goes deeper than just racism. Anti-Semitism is fundamentally a *supernatural* phenomenon. Satan hates the Jews with a passion and he works overtime to plant seeds of hatred in people's hearts toward them. He is determined to destroy every Jew on the planet so that God cannot keep His promise to save a remnant of them. He tried to annihilate the Jewish race during the Holocaust but he failed. He will try to do so again in our day but he will fail again.

Satan hates the Jews because God provided both the Bible and the Messiah through them. He hates the Jews because God called them to be His Chosen People. He hates them because God has promised to save a remnant of them. In short, Satan hates the Jews because God *loves* them. That tells you all you need to know about *Christians* who hate Jews. Christians hate Jews because they are under the influence of Satan.

People who try to use Christianity and the Scripture to *justify* their hatred of the Jewish people are extremely wicked because they are intentionally ignoring and twisting the clear teaching of the Bible. They are doing what Paul said "ungodly" and "unrighteous" people do. They "hold the truth in unrighteousness" (*Rom. 2:18*). Holding the truth in unrighteousness means you suppress what you know very well to be true. It means you intentionally ignore the truth because you don't like it.

You can't possibly read what Paul said about the Jewish people, and hear his hearts cry for us to show them mercy, and yet ignore them or hate them—unless the spirit of Satan is influencing you so thoroughly you are willing to *intentionally* turn a blind eye to the truth. As I said, using Christianity and Scripture to promote Jew hatred is wicked. In the article we looked at last week by Mr. Frueh, one of the things he said was that in order to support the Jewish State of Israel today, you have to make the Cross a secondary issue. He said:

"An American Jew named Caroline Glick, who writes for the Jerusalem Post and is the darling of many evangelical Christians in America, wrote these words:

*"I have more in common with conservative Christians than I do with Jews as long as they don't force their religion down my throat."*

And when she says she has more in common with American conservative Christians, she reveals how the cross in our lives and lips is no longer a stumbling block to anyone. Unbelieving Jews have no problem with our silent theology as long as we cooperate with them on issues of Israel's national problems and make the cross a secondary issue. In Paul's day unbelieving Jews sought to kill him; in our day they love us as long as the cross doesn't come between us. The cross has become just a tenant of our theology which takes a back seat when nationalism, America's or Israel's, is at stake.

Our championing of the national interests of Israel **has weakened**, and in some ways, **entombed the gospel** under a grave of politics, nationalism, and the golden calf called 'conservative'. The cross no longer divides anyone since it is not an issue on which discussion ever takes place. As long as someone believes in the morals, national interests, and foreign policy as do we, the cross can take a back seat. Let us not be distracted from the divine and the eternal by being entangled with the noble issues that are temporal and passing. There is only one gospel, and there is only one calling. **While we join hands with unbelievers of any stripe we do a disservice to them**. Anyone who has read my thoughts knows I exhort us to love and show compassion to the vilest and most demonstrative sinners among us, but alliances with unbelievers is a detriment to the cause of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Frueh says that cooperating with Jews on issues of Israel's national problems makes the Cross a secondary issue in the lives of Christians. I wonder if this guy acts as callous towards his *unsaved* family members as he does the Jews? I wonder if he has completely separated from all his family members who have rejected the gospel? I wonder if he takes absolutely *no interest* in the (physical) well being of his unsaved family members? I wonder if he has left them all in God's hands and remains completely detached from them? I'd be willing to wager that his theology regarding the Jews doesn't match his theology regarding his natural family. I'd be willing to bet that if any of his unsaved natural family members were being threatened with physical annihilation, he would be involved with them and he would be cooperating with them in order to save their lives!

I'm against today's Ecumenicalism as much as anyone else because most of the people who are involved in this movement are compromising their beliefs in order to join hands with people of other (so called) faiths. Most of the Protestants who are joining hands with Roman Catholics to fight the "cultural war" here in America, for example, will not come right out and say Roman Catholics are *lost* and in need of salvation. They *act* like Catholics are believers and they *talk like* Catholics are believers. This is indeed wrong. But most of the Christians who support Israel are not compromising their beliefs to do so. They do not act like the Jews in Israel are saved or talk like they are saved. They are supporting the Jewish State. They are doing their part to stop the Jews in Israel from being butchered by the Arabs who have sworn an oath to destroy them.

Yes, it is true that some Christians have gone too far. People like John Hagee, who preach the Duel Covenant error—which says the Jews don't have to accept Jesus to be saved; they only have to follow the Old Covenant—are hindering any convicting work the Holy Spirit may be trying to do in the hearts of the Jewish people. Also, when Christians adopt a Jewish lifestyle—keeping the literal feasts, eating Kosher food and so forth, they are actually working against the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.

But listen my friends, you don't have to compromise your beliefs, or propagate the Duel Covenant error, or start living like a Jew in order to show the Jewish people mercy! Have you ever shown mercy to an *unsaved* family member? If so, did you have to start living like them, or compromise your beliefs, or be ashamed of the gospel, or make the Cross a secondary issue, or confirm them in their sin in order to show them mercy? Did you have

to become one with them spiritually or get entangled with them in order to show them mercy? I've shown mercy to many people over the years—both unsaved pagans and Christians who were *filled* with demons—without compromising the gospel, without denying the Cross, without confirming them in their sin, and without getting entangled with them in a way that was displeasing to God.

Because of his warped theology, Mr. Frueh sees no difference between unsaved Jews and the rest of unsaved humanity. He refuses to believe that God would have a *special* love for people who are in unbelief. He refuses to accept what Paul said about his unsaved kinsmen—that they are “beloved” for the Father’s sakes.

I think it’s wonderful that Ms. Glick believes she has more in common with conservative Christians than she does most of her fellow Jews. It’s a lot better than her thinking all Christians are Jew haters—like the majority of the Jewish people have thought down through the centuries (because it’s true—most Christians have been Jew haters). I think it’s pleasing to God that the Jewish people are starting to see at least *some* Christians who are not like the Roman Catholics, or Martin Luther, or John Calvin, or Adolf Hitler. But then again, I’m sure it would be more pleasing to Mr. Frueh if all the Jews hated us and we hated them.

Of course, not every Christian has subscribed to Covenant Theology over the centuries. There have always been a minority of Christians who rejected this view. So the situation has been that traditionally, Christians have been divided over the identity of Israel. The majority said there is only one Israel and that Israel is the Church. A minority said there is only one Israel and that Israel is the Jews

In the early 1800's a new approach to the identity of Israel came on the religious scene. Whereas, for many centuries Christians had seen only one Israel in Scripture—thus the battle over who that one Israel was—the new view claimed that there were really *two* Israel's: National Israel (biological Jews) and Spiritual Israel (Christians). Each Israel was said to possess its own separate destiny based on different promises and covenants. The new view soon swept through the Church System because it made everyone happy. Those who saw Israel as a *national* people were happy and those who saw Israel as a *spiritual* people were happy. Since there were two Israel's, nobody had to be left out. The Jews could remain the focus of God's natural eye and the Church could remain the focus of His spiritual eye. Those who wanted to remain uninvolved with Jews said, let the Jews worry about the Jewish nation and let the Christians worry about the Church. Each one has its own place and destiny in God, and since never the twain shall meet, let the Jews in the Lord's hands.

This new view was only one segment of a wider view which eventually became a system of theology called Dispensationalism. Dispensational Theology was a reaction against the continual *spiritualizing* of the Scripture that had become the norm. Spiritualizing away the plain and obvious meaning the written Word had gotten so out-of-hand under the Romish church, few Christians believed in the *literal* return of the Lord anymore, or that there would be a *literal* Millennial Kingdom on earth. This is why you will find that the vast majority of those who subscribe to Covenant Theology, eventoday, do not believe there will be a literal, 1000-year kingdom established on this earth at the end of this present age.

Literal interpretation of the Bible was scoffed at and *everything* became allegorized or spiritualized in some fashion. Of course, when it came to Israel, it was taken for granted that the (Romish) Church was meant. When the Reformers broke from Rome, they carried this same view with them. When it came to Israel, it was taken for granted that the (Protestant) Church was meant. The new view directly opposed all this and was seen as an antidote to all the mythological nonsense and superstition that had been the result of spiritualizing everything in the Word of God for over 1600 years.



So, from roughly 350 AD., up until the early 1800s, the majority of Christians and Christian leaders subscribed to the view of Covenant Theology and this included all the Protestant Reformers. In the early 1800's, through the efforts of a few men—most notably John Nelson Darby of the Plymouth Brethren denomination—the opposing view, which eventually became known as Dispensation Theology, began sweeping through the church system, first in England and America, and then throughout the whole world. Thus, from the early 1800's there have been two primary views regarding Israel and the Church, based on these two opposing theologies.

Dispensational Theology teaches just the opposite of Covenant Theology. It says that the Jews are still special because they are still God's chosen people. It says National Israel and the Church are two completely separate entities and they should never be confused. While National Israel is (and shall forever remain) a geo-political nation comprised solely of ethnic Jews, the Church is an entirely new creation of Gentiles and Jews, which came into being on the Day of Pentecost.

According to this theology, none of the promises or prophecies about National Israel in the Old Testament have anything to do with the Church. God has two different chosen peoples—one Jewish (National Israel), and one mostly Gentile (the Church). Each group has a separate program of redemption based on different promises and covenants. Each one has a separate eternal destiny. The inheritance and destiny of National Israel is *earthly* (a Jewish kingdom on earth; the Millennium), while the inheritance and destiny of the Church is heavenly (a Gentile Paradise in the spirit realm) and never the twain shall meet.

The problem with these two opposing views is that they *both* contain some truth, but also a lot of error. Neither Covenant Theology or Dispensation Theology have rightly divided the Scripture when it comes to Israel and the Church. Everyone who is a Dispensationalist holds the two-Israel view. They see a *National* Israel, which is comprised of (unbelieving) Jewish people and the modern Jewish State over in the Middle East. They also see a *Spiritual* Israel, which is comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers, also called the Church. The term "Spiritual Israel" is meant to convey the idea that, like the Jews, we too are God's "chosen" people. It's just that we are a different class of chosen people. We are not part of His *original* chosen people.

The truth that can be found in the Dispensational scheme is that there *are* indeed two "Israel's" in this present age, just as there were two Israel's in Paul's day. One Israel is Israel after the flesh and the other one is Israel after the spirit. The error of this theology is the assumption that these two Israel's have different promises and are destined to remain separate entities for all eternity.

The truth that can be found in the Covenantal scheme is that the New Testament Church *is* indeed the continuation of Old Testament Israel. Therefore, the promises made to National Israel do apply to us. The error of this theology is that the Church has permanently replaced National Israel and that the promise God made the Jewish people no longer apply to the Jewish people.

The controversy over who "Israel" is, is anything but insignificant. A lack of understanding in precisely this area of doctrine has caused tangible harm to both the Jewish people and New Testament Christians. It has caused Christians all over the world to *remain silent* while six-million Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered in Europe. It has been the primary source and/or justification for the persecution of Jews all over this planet since 70 AD. And it has made Christian incapable of knowing how to properly relate to unbelieving Jews.

Because we do not understand what Paul taught regarding the Jews, the pre-tribulation rapture error to sweep through the Church in the late 1800s. Because we do not understand what Paul taught regarding the Jews, Gentile

believers have no idea what the resurrection of the dead is all about—thinking they are destined to live forever in the *spirit realm* (Paradise). Because we do not understand what Paul taught about the Jews, actual righteousness has been destroyed in the Church.

So as we look at the teaching of Mr. Begnaud, we have to keep these things in mind. Since he is a Calvinist, he believes all the errors of John Calvin and he is a strong anti-Dispensationalist. He utterly rejects the two-Israel doctrine of Dispensationalism because in his mind, there is only one Israel and that Israel is “the elect” from all generations—some of whom just happen to be Jews. Like all those who subscribe to Covenant Theology, he sees National Israel as having been destroyed in 70 AD.

It’s interesting to note that while Mr. Frueh and Mr. Begnaud subscribe to two opposing types of theologies and are at opposite ends of the theological spectrum, they are united in their indifference towards the Jewish people. Mr. Frueh views the term “Israel” in the New Testament as applying to Jews and National Israel (including today’s Jewish State of Israel), but he says we should leave the Jews alone because God has a different program and destiny for them.

Mr. Begnaud views the term “Israel” in the New Testament as applying *only* to God’s elect (both Jew and Gentile) and he feels the same way about the Jewish people the Roman Catholics and the Reformers felt about them. The point is, Satan has a way of turning people against the Jews regardless of their belief system. I’m going to start at the end of his Mr. Begnaud’s article, where he lists some (supposed) “facts” for the reader to consider, regarding the people who today call themselves “Jews”. He says:

“Being a Jew today is **not about race, but culture and religion. Nobody who claims to be a Jew today, can prove it through genealogy records**, like Jesus could or King David could. If you would like to put your confidence in DNA science, go ahead, not !! There is ample proof that **many groups of people from non-semitic races, who have converted to the false religion of Judaism, consider themselves** and are accepted into the culture and religion of Israel, as they are numbered in the twelve tribes of Israel. Keep in mind that Esau and Ishmael are Semitic races, yet not of Israel.”

“Even if you do believe that God **has a racist tendency to promote only one bloodline** of people, I simply state that it is well documented in books, such as the one written by a Jew “*Jewishness is not a race*”. I think that is the title or similar to it. **It is quite clear that national Israel, in the middle east today, is about religion and culture and bloodline is questionable at best**, If you don't believe me, just ask them, they will tell you!”

Now, what is the meaning of these statements?

If being a Jew today is not about “race” but simply about culture and religion, and if there have been “many groups” from non-semitic races (ie: Gentiles) who have converted to Judaism, and if none of the people who claim to be Jews today can *prove* that they are really Jews—then what it means is that there are no real, biological Jews today. There are only people who *think* they are Jews (but cannot prove it). There are only people who *claim* to be Jews (but cannot prove it). The people who claim to be Jews today are just people who follow the religion and the culture of Judaism.

If today’s Jews aren’t really the biological descendants of Abraham, but are instead a mixed race of people whose only common connection is religion and/or culture, then there is no “Jewish” nation, as such. Today’s Jews are

just a bunch of religious Gentile zealots who have *usurped* a Biblical promise in order to steal land from the Arabs. The Bible promised the land to the “seed” of Abraham. If today’s Jews are not Abraham’s biological seed—but are instead the descendants of Gentile *converts*—then the Israeli claim to the Land of Israel is false and our support of Israel on the grounds that God is fulfilling His promise to Abraham’s seed is a lie.

The “facts” presented by Mr. Begnaud are designed to lead people to the conclusion that there are no more biological descendants of Abraham left—or if there are any real Jews left, nobody can know who they are because nobody can prove they are a Jew. This means there is no literal “seed” of Abraham to *re-gather* in the last days—or at least there is no *verifiable* seed to re-gather.

If this be the case, then the only conclusion we can draw is that the promises God made to Abraham’s “seed” are meant for some other group besides authentic Jews because there are no authentic (verifiable) Jews in our day. There are only Gentile converts to Judaism who mistakenly claim to be the “seed” of Abraham. Thus, the re-gathering of a race of people to a geographical area in the Middle East, which is spoken of again and again in the Old Testament, must be interpreted spiritually (ie: symbolically) not literally. Whoever the prophets are talking about, it can’t possibly be the biological seed of Abraham.

In his article, Mr. Begnaud gives a little commentary on Romans chapter eleven. After quoting Romans 11:2-3, where Paul said he had great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart concerning his fellow Jews, and that he could wish that he was accursed from Christ for their sakes, Mr. Begnaud says:

“Paul loved his Jewish brothers **just like we should love our Christian brothers**. Those Jews who rejected Jesus lost their inheritance, just as Esau did, and just as many Christians who refuse to come out of spiritual Babylon and separate themselves from the present apostasy will as well (Isa. 28:15-18, Rev. 3:5 & 20:15).”

Notice that he didn’t say *we* should love Paul’s Jewish brothers just as he did. He said we should love our “Christian” brothers. This because he *hates* the Jews and he thinks Christians should hate them too. I decided to discuss this with him by email. When I pointed him to the passage where Paul says the Jews are still “beloved” for the sake of the Patriarchs, and that the term beloved is used throughout the New Testament as a special kind of love, his answer was:

“Any God that would love me, **would not blind me**, which God did to the vast majority of Jews. **There is no brotherly love for those who are the enemy of Christ**, and that is who persecuted the early Christians.”

Mr. Begnaud has no problem calling Paul a liar. Paul said God still loves the people He blinded (for the sake of Abraham). Mr. Begnaud says God would never blind people He loves. Like Mr. Frueh, Mr. Begnaud sees no difference between unsaved Jews and the rest of unsaved humanity. Next, he says:

“There is no distinction in scripture between “national Israel”, “spiritual Israel”, “Jews”, “seed of promise”, “children of Abraham”. The scriptures clearly speak of national Israel in the same light as “the seed of Abraham. . .The bottom line is simply this, “the seed of Abraham”, “Being a Jew”,

“Being an Israelite”, **Being a member of one of the twelve tribes has always been about the election of God**, who were known before the foundations of the world.”

I approached Mr. Begnaud about these statements because they are patently false. First of all, there were two entities in Paul’s day that bore the title “Israel”. Paul said: “*they are not all Israel, which are of Israel*” (Rom. 9:6). That means, they are not all True Israel who belong to National Israel. There is an Israel after the flesh (National Israel) and there is an Israel after the spirit (True Israel). I also said if there is only one Israel, (ie: the elect, the redeemed) then who was the apostle Peter talking about when he said:

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye **have crucified**, both Lord and Christ.*

Acts 2:36

Was Peter talking to “the elect” (the Church)?

Again, I asked him who Paul was talking about when he said: “*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*” (Rom. 10:1)? Was Paul talking to “the elect” (the Church)?

Mr. Begnaud emailed me back and admitted that there were indeed two entities in Paul’s day called Israel. But his view is that one of those entities (National Israel) was destroyed in 70 AD. and that ever since then, there really hasn’t been a National Israel to speak of—not even after 1948. In his response to me, he said:

“Clarification is needed. The "national Israel" that the New Testament church dealt with **was distinct from them**. That Israel persecuted the church...However, when it comes to the "Israel" that God says is the Apple of his eye, that "Israel" that he does gather under his wings, unlike the above "Israel" that was destroyed for their unbelief, that Israel is described in Romans. This "Israel" was distinct from the church **and in 70 AD and this "Israel" was destroyed** by Roman armies.

The real question is: What scriptural evidence does anyone have showing that the national Israel **at the time of Jesus is identical with the place in the middle east we now call "Israel", the one that began in 1948**? Just because we have a group of people who hold to the false religion of Judaism and claim to be Jews, who live on a little piece of real estate that once was part of the original Jewish land, by what biblical authority do we assume that they some how or another are going to be saved one day or that they are the apple of his eye?”

Of course “clarification is needed” because Mr. Begnaud is one of those people who is always right, even when he is clearly wrong. He could not bring himself to admit that his statement was unscriptural, so he gave me a clarification. The clarification was that there *were* two Israel’s in Paul’s day (ie: in Scripture). However, since 70 AD. there has only been one Israel and that Israel is “the elect”. Because of this view, Mr. Begnaud is utterly convinced that the present State of Israel has *no connection* with the Jewish Nation that existed in Paul’s day—so much so, he dares anyone to “prove” the two nations are connected. His position is that just because there are a bunch of people living in an area that was once part of the original Jewish land, who hold to the religion of Judaism and who claim to be Jews, that doesn’t mean they are National Israel.

Of course, it doesn't matter to Mr. Begnaud that Paul assumed there would be a National Israel in existence the last days and this is precisely why he wrote the following words:

*I say then, Have **they** [the Jews] stumbled that **they** should fall? God forbid: but rather through **their** fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke **them** to jealousy. Now if the fall of **them** [the Jews] be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of **them** the riches of the Gentiles; how much more **their** fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation **them** which are my flesh, and might save some of **them**. For if the casting away of **them** [the Jews] be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of **them** [the Jews] be, but life from the dead?*

*Romans 11:11-15*

I don't think Paul could have explained what he meant any clearer, do you? The same (National) group of people who *fell*, who were *diminished*, and who were *cast away* (temporarily) is the same (National) people who will be *received* again at some point in time. The plain English and the context of this passage is undeniable. Yet when I pointed this out to Mr. Begnaud and asked him some very simple questions regarding what Paul so plainly said, these are the kind of answers he gave me:

**Me:** Who is the "them" in this passage?

**Him:** The only "**them**" that will ever be saved is the elect, not according to our understanding, but according to God's understanding.

**Me:** Do you really believe the "them" Paul is referring to are Gentile Christians (the elect) and faithful Jews (the elect)?

**Him:** The "them" in that passage **could refer to anyone and everyone that God intended it to refer to**. The Holy Spirit is the testifier of Jesus Christ, the Entire Word, written before the foundations of the earth, is that which testifies to these truths!

**Me:** The fall of them and the diminishing of them is contrasted with their fulness. Paul is clearly talking about the same group of people. The casting away of them is contrasted with the receiving of them. Again, he's talking about the same group of people (though not necessarily every individual in that group).

**Him:** Well, maybe the people Paul was talking about will be raised from the dead and God will fulfill this prophecy through them. **The bottom line is that you don't know who these people are and neither do I**. So let us suffice to say, when we see them, we will know them, because they will belong to the same family as we do, the seed of Abraham, which is the seed of Christ!

**Me:** Who fell? Who was diminished? Who was cast away? Was it not the unbelieving Jew?

**Him:** Why shouldn't we be more concerned for the blasphemy spoken against our Lord and Christ today? False doctrine, false agape love, false Christs, the Lord is having his name dragged through the demonic mud everyday! Is it about the glory of the Lord to fill the earth or **the glory of unfaithful Jews to fill the earth?**

**Me:** Do you really believe Paul is saying genuine Christians and faithful Jews (the elect) are the ones who fell, have been diminished, and have been cast away?

**Him:** The facts are, there are spiritual Jews who have fallen and been diminished and there are natural born Jews who have fallen and been diminished.

**Me:** I say again, the same group who was cast away is the same group that is to be restored.

**Him:** Well then, that same group must be raised from the dead, they aren't alive anymore, that is the group that Paul spoke about. I can promise you that if any such thing happens at any time, I will be the first to recognize it! God shows mercy on whom he will, which is a major point in Romans.

**Me:** So which group has been cast away?

**Him:** The Kingdom that Jesus said was left unto them desolate. No such Kingdom here today that claims to be Israel, and if I am wrong about that little partial Israel in the middle east, that will be made more than evident to me as I see the fruit of his favor. **Just because they call themselves "Israel" does that make them Israel?**

**Me:** Are you going to seriously maintain that the group that was cast away was God's "elect" when Paul says again and again that God's elect are faithful?

**Him:** Ok, so you maintain that there are two groups of people that will be saved, God's elect, and natural Jews. **Which scripture would you like to point to anywhere in the bible**, other than the misunderstood scripture you pointed out in Romans that make such a claim?

The kind of answers Mr. Begnaud gave to the questions I asked, reveal his true state of mind. His brain has been so twisted and warped by his false doctrine, he cannot (actually, he *will* not) understand the simplest statements of Paul concerning the Jews. He would rather believe the most fantastic and bizarre ideas than admit what Paul so clearly stated in Romans 11:11-15. This is a perfect example of "holding the truth in unrighteousness". Only someone who is retarded could read what Paul said and *really* believe he is not talking about Jews.

Notice that in his last answer, he challenges me to give him other passages of Scripture that support the idea that Paul was talking about the Jews in Romans 11:11-15. What a joke! He rejects the passage that states this truth more clearly than any other passage in the Bible, yet he wants me to provide more "proof texts" to convince him of something he will never accept as truth? This is the kind of *intellectual dishonesty* you will find when dealing with people who subscribe to Covenant Theology. They are intentionally blind and they are deceivers

One of today's Covenant Theologians tries to cover what he really believes by saying:

"It has been **widely held by Reformed theologians that there will be a great conversion of Jews**. Some call this "anti-semitism." This isn't anti-semitism, it is Christianity. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The alternative to Jesus' exclusivist claim is universalism, which is nothing less than an assault on the person and finished work of Christ. **Other Reformed writers understand the promises in Rom. 11 to refer only to the salvation of all the elect** (Rom. 2:28) rather than to a future conversion of Jews. In any event, Reformed theology is not anti-semitic. We have always hoped and prayed for the salvation, in Christ, *sola gratia et sola fide*, of all of God's elect, Jew and Gentile alike"

R. Scott Clark

Professor of Church History - Westminster Seminary

This is an intellectually dishonest defense because Mr. Clark knows full well the charge non-Covenant people lay at the feet of Covenant Theology is that it rejects the Scriptural truth that the Jews as a nation will be restored to God. Paul wasn't merely talking about individual Jews being saved. He is talking about a remnant of the nation, which represent the nation (not merely a bunch of individuals) being saved. Also, Mr. Clark is being dishonest when he talks as if it's only a minority of Covenant people who think the group Paul was talking about in Romans 11:11-15 is "the elect". The fact is, it's the majority who hold this view and Mr. Begnaud is part of that majority. Only a minority of Covenant people think Paul was talking about Jewish individuals (not the Jewish nation).

Why should I bother giving *intellectually dishonest* people like Mr. Begnaud "proof texts" from the Old Testament, which support what Paul said about the restoration of National Israel in the New Testament, when they have *already* rejected those passages? If they can reject what Paul so clearly stated, they will reject anything anyone else says, regardless of how clearly they say it! What kind of proof text can open a *closed* mind? What kind of proof text can *soften* a hardened heart? What kind of proof text can make a person who has freely chosen darkness, see the light?

The Old Testament is filled with promises regarding the restoration of a (remnant of) people who are called Israel, who have been scattered by God to all the nations as a judgment on their sin. These many passages, just like the one in Romans chapter eleven, makes it clear that the same group who has been judged and scattered, is the same group who will eventually be re-gathered.

*Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, **He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.***

Jeremiah 31:10

*Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast **them** far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered **them** among the countries, yet will I be to **them** as a little sanctuary in the countries where **they** shall come. Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even **gather you** from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where **ye have been scattered**, and I will **give you the land of Israel.***

Ezekiel 11:16-17

*As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will **I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered** in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will **bring them to their own land**, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.*

*Ezekiel 34:12-13*

Just as the “them” in Paul’s teaching is a clear reference to the Jews who had been blinded, diminished and cast off, so the “them” these passages are talking about the Jews who have been scattered. But of course, since there is only one Israel (according to Mr. Begnaud and his Covenant friends), and that Israel is “the elect”, whatever Jeremiah and Ezekiel were talking about, in their warped little minds, they can’t possibly be talking about the restoration of a remnant of biological Jews—especially since (according to Mr. Begnaud) there are no more *verifiable* Jews in our day to be restored.

Please notice that in the passages in Ezekiel, God specifically promises the same group that He has scattered will be returned to the same land from which they have been driven. Same people - same land! In Ezekiel 34:13, He specifically calls the land that they will be returned to “their” land. Their land! The Lord didn’t say he would return them to the land of the Romans, or the land of the Turks, or the land of the British, or the land of the Palestinians, or even to His land. He said He would return them to THEIR land!

Those who subscribe to the error of Covenant Theology don’t feel they need to be *constrained* by such carnal things as the context of a passage or the line of thought being developed by the writer of that passage. They are far more “spiritual” than that! They have no constraints when it comes to interpreting the Scripture because they think they have the authority and the liberty to spiritualize and allegorize any passage they want to. This comes in handy, especially when they are faced with proof that their theology is wrong. Whenever they come across a passage that contradicts their false view of the Jews, they simply change the obvious meaning of that passage so it really means “the church” or “the elect”. Very convenient! There is no use trying to make such people see the truth. And it’s even more foolish to try and use the Scripture to make them see the truth because they are not bound by what the Scripture actually says.

*Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and **they shall bring thy sons in their arms**, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.*

*Isaiah 49:22*

I can’t “prove” it, but I believe this is one of those prophecies that are being fulfilled right now by those Gentile believers who have taken Paul’s exhortation to show mercy on his kinsmen after the flesh seriously. For over 40 years, Gentile believers have been helping the “children of Israel” return to their ancient homeland. Organizations have sprung up, both Jewish and Christian, who purchase plane tickets, or in some other way fund the return of the Jews to *their* land.