

Zion, Zionism and Zionists

I. Declarations of the LORD and the Prophet Isaiah

JEHOVAH SAITH:

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Zech 8:2-3

ISAIAH Urges:

“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. . . .

I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 62:1, 6, 7

II. Observation of Jesus' Perspective

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” Acts 1:6, 7

III. Promise Always Kept

“And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.” Acts 7:5

A. Blessings and Punishments

Blessing: Leviticus 26:3-4

“If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Punishment: Leviticus 26:14-15

“But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments. . . .”

“And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. And

I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths. As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it”

Leviticus 26:31-35

B. Jewish Double – Punishment with Favor then Disfavor

1. Warning of Casting off – Jeremiah 16:18

“And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.”

B. Jewish Double – Punishment with Favor then Disfavor (Continued)

2. The time of Casting off – Zechariah 9:12

“Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that **I will render double unto thee...**”

3. The End of the Cast off Condition – Isaiah 40:1,2

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. **Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem**, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for **she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.**”

C. The LORD Comforts, Rejoices, Allures Zion

1. Isaiah 51:3

“For **the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places**; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.”

2. Jeremiah 32:41

“**Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.**”

3. Hosea 2:14 -16

“Therefore, behold, **I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope**: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”

IV. Jesus and the Apostles Speak

A. Jesus Luke 21:20, 24

“[W]hen ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies...know that the desolation thereof is nigh...they shall fall by the edge of the sword... shall be led away captive into all nations...**Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**”

B. Apostle Paul Expresses an Almost Unmentionable Desire on Behalf of Israel: Romans 9:1-5

“I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 **For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren**, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.” NAS

C. Apostle Paul's speaks from his heart: Romans 10:1,2

“Brethren, **my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.” NAS

D. Israel Provoked to Jealousy. . . Rom 10:19-11:2

“But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first **Moses** says, ‘**I will make you jealous by that which is not a nation**, By a nation without understanding will I anger you.’ And **Isaiah** is very bold and says, ‘I was found by those who sought Me not, I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me.’ But as for Israel He says, “All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.” “I say then, **God has not rejected His people**, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **God has not rejected His people....**” NAS

E. And finally. . .Romans 11: 25-27

"For I do not want you . . . to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a **partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in**; and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "**The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.**" "**And this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.**" NAS

V. Comments by the 7th Messenger—

From the OVERLAND MONTHLY Series: "God's Chosen People"

XII "Should Jews and Christians Unite" —Avoid Christian Sects—

Jews in the past have avoided Christian sects, chiefly the Catholics, because they counted them their enemies and recognized that much of their persecution came from professed Christians. Slowly they are coming to realize that the civilizing influences of the past century are accomplishing changes with the rising generation and thus destroying, to some extent, the ground for their former bitterness against Christians. This is proper. Superstition and bitterness and strife, based upon the things of the past, should be set aside. No one can afford to nurse either the superstition or the bitterness of the past. **Would it, then, be proper for Jews, now forgetting and forgiving the past, to intermarry with Christians and to participate in "union" services or to become members of Christian sects, Catholic or Protestant?**

We answer that such a course would assuredly be wrong; because Christian sects neither represent the Christian hope nor the Jewish hope. Here and there (in all the denominations of Christendom, so far as we may know) are members of the saintly class, the Bride of Messiah. But they are out of sympathy with the institutions with which they are connected. Even while attending their services, their hearts are on a higher plane than the masses. These nominal Christian sects are merely the outside; the saintly few are the kernel of the inside. The saintly few would be far better separated from the sects and would make much better progress in the study of God's Word and in the development of saintship if they stood entirely free from human institutions. This being the case, we assuredly would not advise the Jews to join these institutions nor to accept their confusing doctrines, which the Scriptures symbolically refer to as Babylonish—confused.

God has separated the Jewish nation from the remainder of the world that they may be his witnesses to men. Their national preservation for more than thirty centuries, in harmony with the Divine promise is itself a miracle. God has indeed led them by a way which they knew not, even as he foretold. Their very perversity, as he foretold, will in the end witness to his Divine supervision of their affairs. Their stubbornness, or, as the Scriptures say, their stiff-neckedness, will eventually show the mercy of God through his dealing with them. He has not brought them down through the long period of three thousand years of separation with a view to their now amalgamating with either Christians or Gentiles, with either Catholics or Protestants. Israel's promises are not only earthly but Jewish—they are to be the first of the earth or world peoples to experience the blessings of restitution favor. In order to be ready for that favor, they must continue Jewish up to the time of the manifestation of Messiah, as the Scriptures foretell. **As the elect, saintly few gathered out of all nations to be Messiah's Bride are a people for a purpose, so also the small nation of Israel in an earthly people for the Divine purpose and to show forth the praises of Jehovah and of Messiah in due time. The few of their number who, by saintly and sacrificial lives, will become members of Messiah's Bride, will in no way invalidate the blessings that are subsequently to come to the bulk of their nation, if they continue Jews indeed—inspired by the faith of Abraham and the Messianic hopes of the Prophets.** But if they abandon Abraham's faith and their share in the Abrahamic promise and their hopes set forth through the Prophets, then, whatever their lineage, they are not Jews in the Scriptural sense of the term; and their practice of circumcision is merely a farce. And the perpetuation of a worship in which they no longer believe is sacrilege.

Thus, Jews who believe nothing of the Divine testimony—who have repudiated Abraham and the Prophets, Moses and the Law, and who are agnostics and who merely observe forms and ceremonies called Jewish in a hypocritical manner, might just as well, and without any greater hypocrisy, join any of the different Christian sects, with which they are just as much in harmony and just as much out of harmony as with the Law and the Prophets. But **those Jews who believe in the Abrahamic promise, in God's testimony through the Prophets and in the message of Moses and the Law, must not, cannot, identify themselves with any other nation or with any other religion.** To do so would be to stultify themselves and to discredit themselves as Jews, and to cut themselves off from those special earthly promises which, in the Divine arrangement, have been theirs since Abraham's day, and which are now about to be fulfilled.

Christian Zionism —there is a Difference!

Bible Students have played an historic role as friends of Zion. Today there are many Christian Zionists — but there is a difference!

Israel faces an escalating crisis! Israel is continually threatened by terrorists, undermined by Arab propaganda, attacked by anti-Semitic voices in the U.N., Europe and elsewhere. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out that Israel needs help. Millions of Christians around the world are potentially Israel's best friends—yet most of the Christian world is asleep—or does not really understand Israel's unique place in God's Plan. Exactly what is Christian Zionism—and what should Christians be doing?★

Replacement Theology's Children

Christian Zionism is a quantum leap from the past. Through the centuries Christian churches have falsely accused Jews of “deicide” (killing God) and have actually inspired relentless persecution. (Not a very friendly posture for “love thy neighbor” Christianity!) With institutionalized “replacement theology” (*supersessionism*), the Jews were demoted by the “Christian” church, effectively erasing their status as God's “chosen...special people” (Deut. 7:6). Such persecution was rampant for almost two millennia—climaxing in the 20th Century with the infamous “Shoah” (the Holocaust).

How could the Holocaust happen in a Christian Europe? Europeans were primed for their role by generations of anti-Semitism. Today, Jews face a wholly “new anti-Semitism” (THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM, Phyllis Chesler) which now attacks the one true haven for every living and unborn Jew—Israel. Even within the borders of this safe haven, the personal safety of Jews is threatened by terrorist attacks.

End Time Christian Zionists

Today's Christian Zionists find their roots for their pro-Israel posture in the early 1800s when Nelson Darby introduced a “dispensational” understanding of the Bible. Darby said that the Christian Dispensation has been “a great parenthesis” between God's past dealings with Israel and the time when the Christian church will be completed. But God's timeline is not the Darby's “two completely different plans for humanity” as described by David Brog in *STANDING WITH ISRAEL*. God's plan is one harmonious Plan of the Ages! Sadly, Darby did not see the complete picture. Bible Students associated with Pastor Charles Taze Russell, however, since late 1800s have understood and taught that Israel will play a major role in God's Kingdom on earth.

But what was accomplished by these other “end times” Christian Zionists? Millions of dollars have been generously donated by Christians—dollars that have brought the Jews of Diaspora to Israel. While not discrediting the good deeds towards Israel, some questions must be raised to identify the differences that do exist. Do most Christians today who enthusiastically support Israel—both politically and/or financially—understand Israel's place in God's Kingdom on earth? Or is their view nearsighted?

What is their hope for the Jews after the “Third Temple” is built? Will only 144,000 Jews (Rev. 7:1-8) be converted to evangelize the world, resulting in 2/3 of all Jews and 3/4 of the Gentile world doomed to a burning hell? If that were a true Bible teaching, it would be worse than our last century's Holocaust.

First and Second Coming of the Messiah

What do Christians and Jews have in common? All Christians pray “Thy Kingdom come,” and many since the 1800s have even more eagerly prayed for the “Second Coming.” But few realize that Jews—especially Orthodox Jews—hope for the same blessed Kingdom in anticipation of a first coming of their Messiah! Yes, Jews long for the promised Kingdom of God on earth. But both Jewish and Christian traditions envision a great time of trouble prior to the Messianic Age of blessings. Both understand the painful interim is the necessary preparation for the Golden Age—when the swords-to-plowshares and lion-with-lamb prophecies are fulfilled (Isa. 2:2-4; 65:25).

Most Jews, while thankful for Christian support, are nevertheless skeptical—suspecting ulterior motives. However, Jews are generally very practical! Since they do not believe the Christian Messiah is coming a second time, Jews are willing to accept all the friends they can muster in this increasingly hostile world!

First the Stars, then the Sand★

Jesus came to “his own” and only a “remnant” received him and became “sons of God” (John 1:10, 11). Although the “rest [of Israel] were blinded”—after the present Christian Age “all Israel will be saved”—as Apostle Paul said. But how will they be saved? And where exactly do the Jewish people fit into God's future plans?

The Abrahamic covenant is key to God's big Plan: "In thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 3:12). That promise was repeated to Abraham's posterity—Isaac and Jacob. But what is overlooked by most Christians and Jews is that there are two parts to Abraham's promised seed of blessing: First the Stars—and then the Sand! "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the *stars* of the heaven, and as the *sand* which is upon the sea shore...And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..." (Gen. 22:17, 18).

In Apostle Paul's masterful discourse in Romans 11, he first identified himself as a descendant of Abraham—then explained everything! In his address to the Christians at Rome, Paul said, Israel's rejection was not total—nor was it forever. "I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham..." (Rom. 11:1 NIV) Paul also said that "wild" Gentile branches were grafted into the root tree of the Abrahamic Promise to replace all those cut off except for the "remnant."

"At this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace...But if some of the branches were broken off, and you [Gentiles], being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,"
(Rom 11:5, 17 NAS).

✧ Re: Israel as the Earthly Seed of Blessing see: <http://harvesttruth.info/?password=love>

God's Promises to Israel Irrevocable

Paul then told his Gentile brethren not to be arrogant that they were grafted into the Abrahamic promise—because the natural branches can just as easily be grafted in again and the Gentiles cut off!

"Do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you...And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!" (Rom 11:18, 23-24 NAS).

Then the Apostle proceeds to explain a "mystery" that Israel's blindness (hardness of heart), in fact, would only continue until the full number of the spiritual seed of Abraham would be selected!

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness **in part** has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in" (Rom. 11:25 NIV).

Finally because God's promises are irrevocable, all Israel will be saved when "The Deliverer" will take away Israel's sins.

"And thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob...And this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins...they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Rom. 11:26-29 NAS)

All Israel will be Saved

Apostle Paul said, "All Israel will be saved." But does this require—as many Christian Zionists think—the support and alliance of America standing with Israel? Conservative Christian Zionists feel compelled to politically steer the policies of the US to act in favor of Israel. No doubt, the Scriptural principle is valid, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee..." Gen. 12:3. America has certainly been blessed! Those who have not blessed Israel are gone. Where are the Babylonians? The Romans? The Ottoman Empire? (Or for that matter, the British Empire—with its infamous White Paper which effectively negated much of the Balfour Declaration and the League of Nations Mandate.) But, alas, in the final analysis, even all Israel's "lovers" will leave her, and Israel alone will survive as a national identity into God's Kingdom:

"All your lovers have forgotten you..." (Jer. 30:14 NAS) "O Jacob My servant, do not fear," declares the LORD, "For I am with you. For I shall make a full end of all the nations where I have driven you, Yet I shall not make a full end of you; but I shall correct you properly and by no means leave you unpunished." (Jer. 46:28)

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Regathering during Trouble

Yes, Israel has already been punished and disbursed to the four corners of the earth. But now Israel is miraculously gathered to her ancient Holy Land—even though the process now is gradual and painful. Both the Prophet Daniel and our Lord Jesus linked the reestablishing of Israel to unprecedented trouble at the end of the Christian Age. In reality, when Christ assumes power as King—first there is trouble before peace:

“And at that time shall Michael [“who as God,” i.e. Jesus] stand up, the great prince which standeth for the **children of thy people [Israel]**: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time” (Dan. 12:1)

“For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. . . .Now learn a parable of the **fig tree [Israel]**; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. . .” (Matt 24:21, 32)

Christian Zionists are Watchmen

The “summer” of the peaceable phase of Christ’s Kingdom is close—even though before peace there is trouble not only for the world, but for Israel too. What are faithful Christian Zionists doing about supporting Israel? They are the “watchmen” on the wall praying for the time when Jerusalem will be a “praise in the earth”—as the capital of Messiah Jesus Christ’s Kingdom:

“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed **watchmen**; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”
(Isa. 62:6,7)

Christian Zionists also encourage their Jewish friends to believe their Prophets. Christian Zionists should publicly broadcast comforting messages in newspaper ads, distribute literature in the languages of Diaspora and make public presentations about Israel’s destiny. Christian Zionists should also stand with Israel when businesses, institutions and countries insist on boycotting Israel.

All the Nations of Earth Blessed

Surely, Christians have a destiny tied in closely with Israel. Just as God used Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt—so the faithful Christian Church, with Jesus her Head, will be as “Moses.” They will be the “Moses” bringing the children of Israel along with a “mixed multitude” (Ex. 12:38) out of the slavery and bondage of sin and death. In that deliverance Jews will be a light to the Gentiles teaching the Gentile world about Christ’ Kingdom rule (Isa. 49:6; Isa. 2:2-4). Israel will be as the “sand” * of the Abrahamic Seed of Blessing. And true Christian Zionists will be as the “Stars.” In reality, Christian Zionists love Israel because God does—and because they will work together with Israel to bless “all the families of the earth” (Gen. 22:17,18).

★ **Witnessing DVD for Christian Viewers: *Israel Fulfilling Bible Prophecy***

Christian Zionism, Holocaust and Anti-Semitism Readings:

**David Brog, *Standing With Israel*; Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*;
Phyllis Chesler, *The New Anti-Semitism*; Brigitte Gabriel, *Because They Hate*;
Jonathan Goldhagen, *Hitler’s Willing Executioners*;
Robert Spencer, *Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and the Crusades*.**