

The Israeli Connection

By

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Those who support the ambitions of the modern state of Israel must also bear some guilt for the blood that is spilt by her unjust slaughter of Arabs, including Christians, in carrying out those aspirations.

The support of Israel is based on three false claims which are continually repeated by religious writers and television evangelists. 1) The claim that modern Jews are the same as Israel of the Bible; 2) The claim that the curse of Genesis 12:3 applies to anyone today who does not support the Jews; 3) The false interpretation of Romans 11 to mean that all Jews are eventually going to be saved.

Modern Jews are not the Israel of the Bible. In the first place, as has been widely publicized in recent years, Jewishness does not necessarily refer to descendants of the 12 tribes. One of the biggest problems in the state of Israel has been "Who is a Jew?" In about 740 AD the whole Khazar nation (between the Ural Mountains and the Black Sea) embraced Judaism. These people were of Turkish stock, with no relation to Abraham and the 12 tribes of Israel.

During the conquests of Genghis Khan, the Khazars migrated into Europe and carried their Talmudic traditions with them. Such traditions automatically separated them from the customs and religions of the people among whom they lived, and the "ghettos" were the natural result. The late Arthur Koestler, famous as a Jew himself, in his book, "The Thirteenth Tribe," traces this ancestry and says that the "enlightened majority" of them "reject the Chosen-Race doctrine of orthodoxy." Obviously they must reject it, since the majority of them are not of Hebrew stock. He concludes: "to sum up, the Jews of our day have no cultural tradition in common, merely certain habits and behavior-patterns, derived by social inheritance from the traumatic experience of the ghetto, and from a religion which the majority does not practice or believe in, but which nevertheless confers on them a pseudo-national status."

Some Jews estimate that the actual descendants of Abraham among Jews are about 1 in 12. Thus Koestler's "Thirteenth Tribe" made up of non-Hebrew people, outnumbers the Hebrew 12 to 1. Besides that, the state of Israel includes many people of various racial backgrounds who have adopted the Israeli culture and Zionist concepts, and are called Jews.

Another reason modern Israel is unrelated to ancient Israel is that it was God's express purpose to use the 12-tribe nation to usher in a new nation made up of people from all nations, and this purpose was completed with the church.

The original promise to Abraham was that through his seed ALL nations were to be blessed. Paul interprets this for us, by saying "He says not, and to seeds, as of many, but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal. 3:16).

In Romans 9:6 it is stated that "they are not all Israel which are of Israel...but in Isaac shall thy seed be called." The spiritual seed of Isaac is the Israel which God acknowledges under the New Covenant. The 12 tribes, the fleshly seed of Isaac and Jacob, lived under the Old Covenant, which was the heart of the Jewish nation, and

bringing in a New Covenant for both Jew and Gentile, Christ “broke down the middle wall of partition” so that both could be “fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:15–22).

Christ abolished the division by race among His people, not by bringing Judaism and Christianity together in some kind of cooperative unity, but by eliminating the old faith so that all could embrace the new.

Paul says that “He is not a Jew which is one outwardly (by fleshly descent) but he is a Jew who is one inwardly...whose praise is not of men but of God” (Rom. 2:28–29).

The only words given in the New Testament about the future of Israel were words of destruction. Jesus said to the Jews, “The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt. 21:44).

Otherwise, there is not a word about the future of Israel as a nation. Paul was a Jew “circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the law a Pharisee” and much more, but all this he counted as “offal” — that which was fit only for the dung heap — in order that he might be a Christian (Phil. 3:5). It is no wonder that he was so hated by the Jews, when they heard of this statement!

The promise to Abraham was that he should be “heir of the world” (Rom. 4:13) and since he looked for a “heavenly country” it is evident what world he was heir to. The future home of all the redeemed, Jew or Gentile, is not Palestine, but the “new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (II Pet. 3:13). It is the “City whose builder and maker is God,” not that which is gained by terrorism and aggressive warfare. The modern nation of Israel, like all other nations, is under the sovereign power of God and destined to be destroyed by fire at Christ’s coming (II Thess. 1:7 II Pet. 3: Matt. 25:31).

As to the “curse” of Genesis 12:3, it dealt strictly with Abraham, and was fulfilled throughout his lifetime. God blessed Abraham and those who supported and helped him. Those who opposed and cursed him suffered for doing so. But this did not preclude criticism of his rebellious descendants. Jesus was one of their most severe critics. “I know you are Abraham’s seed,” He said. But then He said, “You are of your father the devil” (John 8:37–44).

It was to the Jews that Jesus said, “That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you slew between the sanctuary and the altar” (Matt. 23:35).

Paul was not afraid of the curse of Genesis 12. He said of the Jews who rejected the gospel that they “killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and please not God, and are contrary to all men; forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles, that they may be saved; to full up their sins always; but the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost” (I Thess. 2:15–16). This predicted wrath fell in 70 AD when the nation was destroyed by the Romans.

So far as “blessing and cursing” is concerned, Christians are not in the cursing business. We have no right to curse anyone, and no desire to do so. To tell the truth about Zionism and Judaism is not an act of hate nor even an unkindness to those involved. Paul loved the Jews more than anyone, stating that he would be willing to suffer damnation for them if it would only save them. Yet he readily and clearly pointed out their errors and sins, then asked, “Am I become your enemy for telling you the truth?” Who demonstrates

love, the one who encourages a person to continue in his sin and error, or the one who shows him his error and warns him of the ultimate destruction awaiting such a course?

The threat of the curse of Genesis 12:3 is being used to silence the timid, and those unlearned in scripture. We do not oppose God by opposing those who deny Him, rather we follow in the steps of Jesus and Paul, who suffered for confronting the Jews with the truth.

What about Romans 11:26 “and so all Israel shall be saved?” There is not space here for an exegesis of the entire chapter, but even a simple reading of the Roman letter shows that Paul does NOT attribute a special dispensation to the Jews, but holds firmly to the fact that Jews must be saved like everyone else, through faith in and obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

Paul says “that a hardening in part has befallen Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and so all Israel shall be saved, even as it is written. There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer; He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob; And this is my covenant unto them when I shall take away their sins” (Rom. 11:25b–27).

“Until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” means until all Gentiles who are going to be saved are in the fold. It doesn’t mean all the Gentiles in the world, but is used in the same sense of the “other sheep not of this fold” which Jesus is to have (John 10:16). The “hardening” of fleshly Israel will continue right down to that final day, when the last sheep is in the fold, then it will be Judgment Day. And so, or in this manner, all Israel will be saved. Certainly he does not refer to all Jews! He has already explained (vs. 20–23) that Jews were broken off at the root (Abraham and the promise) because of unbelief, but may be grafted back in when they believe. The promise was that a Deliverer (Jesus) would come to turn away ungodliness, then God would make a new covenant with them when their sins were forgiven (v. 27). Jesus came under the New Covenant when they become Christians, as the prophet said (Isa. 27:9), just as Gentiles do, and when this happens they are the Israel of God and receive the promise to Abraham, becoming the children of Abraham by grace, not by race.

The believing Gentile and the believing Jew become one commonwealth, and make up the spiritual house of Israel. All are saved through Jesus Christ, hence Paul’s preaching of the Gospel “first to the Jew and also to the Greek (Gentile).” It was the same Gospel, and all were saved the same way.

Paul says all are “shut up” on the same level, in the same condition of condemnation (v. 32) in order that God may have mercy upon all through Jesus Christ.

But it is only a remnant of Israel that is to be saved (v. 5). Here and there, one by one, Jews give up their Judaism and receive Christ, although because of false hopes given by some evangelists, many of them try to hang on to Judaism while claiming the promises of Christ. In doing so, Paul says they fall from grace (Gal 5:2–4). A choice has to be made.

The hope they receive has nothing to do with the modern state of Israel nor with their ancestry. Their former religion, Judaism, must be completely abandoned in order to receive the grace of God through Christ. The Old Covenant no longer exists. God does not have two peoples, only one.

Contrary to what the Zionist-controlled media tells us, modern Israel does not seek peace. Menachem Begin was the leader of the Irgun terrorists who butchered Palestinian Arabs in a bloodbath of atrocities up until 1948, when Israel was declared a

state. In the recent aggression against Lebanon, Dr. Alfred Lilienthal (himself a Jew) said in his **Middle East Perspective** (July-August 1982) that 40,000 people were killed and 600,000 left homeless because of Israel's attack on Lebanon. In spite of Camp David agreements, Zionists have continued to move into the West Bank under military support.

A reading of Scripture without the prejudice sown by modern prophets will show the objective reader that God's people are the covenant people purchased by the blood of Christ, not the rebellious tribes who rejected the Savior.

The media has coined the word, "anti-Semitic," with which they try to smear every person who dares to criticize a Jew. But the Arabs themselves are Semites, and a great many Jews of this nation (such as Alfred Lilienthal, mentioned earlier) are strongly opposed to Zionism and what the Jews in Israel are doing. We who point out these things are neither anti-Semitic nor full of hatred for Jews, any more than Paul was when he told them their condition.

Those who are doing the Jews a great injustice are the people who give them false hopes, who encourage them in their blindness and rebellion by suggesting that they have Biblical support. God showed His love to man by declaring him to be sinful and under condemnation. Jesus called men (including Jews) to repentance. We must do no less. All have sinned, Jew and Gentile, and all are condemned unless they turn fully to Christ. We do not help the lost by blessing him in his pursuit of sin and death.

When Jesus addressed the Jews he told them that the truth would set them free. We, too, need to face the truth about modern Zionism and Judaism and to show them the purpose of God for all people. We must uphold the purpose of God which Christ revealed and the hope of eternal life by a resurrection of the dead, rather than by the resurrection of a covenant and kingdom which Christ Himself replaced.

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