

PEACE AT RISK

By

Curtis Dickinson

When Jesus died on the cross He not only culminated the 1400 year-old covenant established through Moses, but He also brought to an end the religious separation of people based on a physical or fleshly heritage.

The grand purpose of Christ was to redeem man from sin and death, to reconcile him to God that he might attain the image of God in holiness and immortality. The redeemed of God are one people, one church with one purpose, one hope, and one commission — to make disciples of all nations.

To the Ephesians Paul wrote that they who had been alienated from the commonwealth of Israel now were fellow citizens of the household of God because of the blood of Christ. “For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition...that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace” (Eph. 2:12–19).

In recent years there has emerged a powerful movement which sets aside this unity, again erects a wall of flesh and replaces the purpose of God with the purpose of Zionism. It is a movement empowered by mega-banks, promoted in the media and enthusiastically preached by leading religious leaders.

To identify the vast number of professed Christians who support this movement Grace Haskell, journalist and author of “Journey to Jerusalem,” calls them Christian Zionists. Of course, this is a contradiction, as Zionism is a political movement for the advancement of a socialist government composed mainly of Marxist and atheists.

Writing in *The link*, published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc., Grace Haskell quotes a Palestinian Christian, Jonathan Kuttaab. She asked him how he interprets the hearts and minds of American Christians who travel to the land of Christ and see stone monuments, but fail to see the native people. “There is a Christian folk religion, a mythology of Israel and prophecy and it has nothing to do with biblical Christianity. This folk religion is not demanding, nor a moral or highly ethical religion, It is macho religion based on a “worship” of the small, ultra powerful Israel, which is not a sissy. There God is a cross between Superman and Star Wars, who zaps here and there with fiery, swift sword and destroys all the enemies. And that is appealing. He is proof for those of weak faith that the Bible is still true and alive.

“This Christian Zionism has nothing to do with morality, nothing to do with ethics or wrestling with the real, serious problem,” Kuttaab said. “It has nothing to do with the humanity of the other side. The American right wing Christians have a kind of God with whom the common man can identify. Their leaders tell them to support Israel. So, what is three billion dollars in the U.S. Budget? The average American does not even know about it...The Christians give the Israelis carte blanche.” Kuttaab continues. “They encourage them in their refusal to recognize the Palestinians...In fact, they provide them with an incentive to expand and take more and oppress more because God is on their side and Uncle Sam is willing to foot the bill. And so the Israelis know that good, solid blue-blooded Christians are with them all the way, regardless of what they do morally or ethically or regardless of what the rest of the world thinks. And regardless of how

oppressive they become, they know the American Christians are with them and America is willing to pay. America is willing to give them weapons and America is willing to vote with them in the United Nations...”

Indeed, Israel’s army has received almost 70% of its funding from the U.S. Her takeover of Palestine has been terrorism on the grandest scale in history. Moshe Menuhin, a Jew and father of the famed violinist Yedudi Menuhin, branded the Zionists as murderers who “took away by force of arms, terror and atrocities, the homes, the land, and the homeland of the Arab peasants, workers and merchants in old Palestine.” Other Jews have condemned political Zionism, but their voices are not heard in the Zionist controlled media.

How can Christians justify such terrorism? The answer is that they have accepted a false view of Old Testament prophecy and failed to recognize the fulfillment of prophecy in Christ. For example, Jerry Falwell, president of Moral Majority, in a telecast from Israel, said that God has promised in Genesis, Chapter 12, that He would bless Israel and would curse those who cursed Israel. “I believe God deals with nations in relation to how those nations deal with Israel,” he said. “Humanly speaking, if America were to withdraw her total support from Israel, America would cease to be. I believe with all my heart the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is on the side of these people.”

The blessing and curse verse is there, all right, but so is the promise that if Israel proves unfaithful she shall be destroyed (Lev. 26 and Deut. 28). Deuteronomy 4:25–31 gives explicit warning that if the Hebrews commit idolatry they “shall soon utterly perish from off the land...you shall utterly be destroyed.” The final destruction came in 70 AD.

God’s plan included all who would receive Christ (Acts 10:34, 25, Gal. 2:11–14). God’s chosen nation is not defined by physical birth or political position. Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, but God chose only Isaac for the inheritance. The Arab people are descendents of Abraham through Ishmael, but such fleshly descent means nothing in relation to God. When certain Jews boasted to Jesus that they were Abraham’s seed, He firmly denied it (John 8:39–45). God’s chosen people always have been those who were children of God by faith.

The real Zion which Abraham sought is not in this world, for he looked forward to the “City, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). This is the New Jerusalem, called the “bride of Christ,” and is to be established forever on the New Earth, the goal which Peter says all Christians look for (Re. 21:2, 9, 10, 12, 13, II Peter 3:13).

If it turns out that the Israeli wars are of men and not of God, then militant premillennialists and Zionists must bear the guilt for the slaughter and maiming of millions! The question of Christian Zionism is not merely an academic discussion. It involves life and peace.

The purpose of Christ is not served by or supporting those who deny Him and practice murder which He condemned. He said that you cannot serve two masters. One cannot serve fleshly Zionism in support of Christ’s enemies and at the same time serve the purpose of Christ to reconcile men to God in one body through the gospel.

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