

A Case Against Anti-Replacement Theology

Three movements that are taking off big-time this century are “Jewish Christianity”¹, “Christian Zionism” and “Anti-Replacement Theology”. These are based on sentiment and a couple of Bible verses.

- **Jewish Christianity** – Christians involved in all things Jewish. They keep the feasts and Sabbath meal. Some keep the Sabbath day and others keep the Torah (Torah-keepers).
- **Christian Zionism** – Christians supporting Israel in absolutely everything. Many travel there as a pilgrimage to pray, worship and show their unflinching support of the state.
- **Anti-Replacement Theology** – These believe that the church has not replaced Israel as God's people.

The main thrust of these are: Israel is still the 'apple of God's eye'² and as it has an important part to play in the End Times according to their eschatology, Israel must be God's focus.

The biggest point supporting these beliefs is that God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants³ and that he (God) does not break covenant. Therefore, nothing has changed in God's relationship with Israel – so they say.

Unfortunately, this misses the important **BIG** point that **both parties must keep the covenant agreement or it ceases when one of them breaks it**.⁴ (In a blood covenant⁵, the covenant-breaking party is free to be killed by the other party. That's why it's sealed with blood to show how serious the parties are in their support of each other.) As Israel broke the covenant numerous times, the Kingdom of God has been taken away from them⁶ and given to other people⁷ (gentiles⁸) who will do a better job of fulfilling the Kingdom requirements⁹ under the New Covenant¹⁰ made under King Jesus¹¹.

So, have we been hood-winked by these movements? Let's investigate.

Jewish Christianity

Some Canberra Christians we know intend to celebrate Passover this month. They will go to Sydney to take part in Passover with the Celebrate Messiah congregation and then with Canberra's Hineh Yeshua congregation's Passover the next day¹². This is part of what I am referring to in this topic. Many of those subscribing this ideology use Israel shawls which they believe are more 'powerful' in prayer than without them. They also have Israeli flags in their homes and on display in their meeting rooms, feeling disrespectful if they are not in prominent view.

I have taught¹³ about this religious activity¹⁴, and also at length¹⁵. I have been given prophetic insight into it as well¹⁶.

1 – For want of a better defining name

2 – Zechariah 2:8

3 – Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18-21 (Genesis 35:11-12)

4 – e.g. Ezekiel 17:16

5 – This was the covenant God made with Abraham (Genesis 15:9-21). NOTE: There is no reference to Abraham walking in the blood.

6 – Matthew 8:10-12

7 – Matthew 21:43 (*ethnos* = 'a multitude', 'people group', etc. Paul's term for gentile believers)

8 – Acts 13:46

9 – “Fruit of the Kingdom” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Fruit-of-the-Kingdom.pdf)

10 – Hebrews 8:7-13; 9:15; 12:24; 2 Corinthians 3:6-7

11 – Luke 22:20; Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25

12 – Personal communication (The persons will remain anonymous)

13 – “CHALLENGE: Is Supporting Israel Today Biblical”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CHALLENGE-Is-Supporting-Israel-Today-Biblical.pdf)

14 – “The New Christian Judaism” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/the-new-christian-jewism.pdf)

15 – See my series “Coming Out of the Old Covenant” (canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=2#Old-Covenant)

16 – “The Impact of Christians Observing Jewish Feasts”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/MESSAGE-The-Impact-of-Christians-Observing-Jewish-Feasts-13-3-2017.pdf)

There are also those Christians who keep the Torah, calling themselves Torah-keepers¹⁷. These are just another form of “Judaizers” that Paul warned about.¹⁸ Just like those who promote OT tithing as a compulsory act for believers, Torah-keepers need to be exposed as legalists who are taking us back into a subtle form of religion.¹⁹

Sacred-namers²⁰ who only refer to Jesus as Yeshua Hamashiach are also legalists who misunderstand spirituality – even though many of them regard themselves as spirit-filled. When we speak to him (Jesus), he receives messages from our spirit, not our voice. Our spirit knows who our Lord and King is, so he knows we are talking to him or referring to him no matter what phrase we use for 'Jesus' in our native language.²¹ Anyway, it's very interesting to know that he now has a new name²² (as will we²³) as an honour bestowed on him by Father for what he did for humanity.²⁴ We'll find out what this is when he returns. BTW, the hearers of the good news on the day of Pentecost when Peter preached would have most likely heard the words 'messiah' & 'Jesus' referred to in their native tongue, all under the inspiration of Holy Spirit.²⁵

Christian Zionism

It's got to a point where no one can speak against Israel in Christian circles. Zionism has taken hold of believers.

One reason for supporting Israel is the religious fear of opposing God – i.e. support Israel just in case they are still his chosen people.

Another reason is the desire to be blessed through support for Israel (obviously selfishly motivated). The basis for this is:

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV) – *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

But...is this English translation actually what God said to Abraham? It would be wise to check with a Jewish theologian before taking it to heart.

“In Hebrew, the verb 'to bless' is בָּרַךְ (levarech). This is based on the root B-R-K ב-ר-כ, which is connected to the word 'knee', and implies rendering service to someone (bending the knee). Therefore, one possible meaning of this verse may be: 'I will serve those who serve you!' To 'serve' implies doing good for someone which will result in a benefit for the recipient.

*God promises Abraham that 'everyone who curses him' מְקַלְלֶיךָ (mekalelcha) will be in turn 'be cursed' נֶאֱרָץ (aor). The strength of this promise, however, is lost in translation. The first word for 'curses' – מְקַלְלֶיךָ (mekalelcha) comes from a root that literally means 'to make light of something heavy'. The second word for 'curse', נֶאֱרָץ (aor) actually comes from a completely different root that means something like 'to utterly destroy'. Taking these insights from Hebrew into consideration, the translation could be presented as follows: **I will do good to those who do good to you and the one who makes light of you, I will utterly destroy.**”²⁶*

So, there's a fear element in this Genesis 12 passage – “God will destroy you if you don't support Israel”. Fear, however, is the tool of the enemy, so any fearful activity should be treated by rejecting it. “Fear of

17 – www.new2torah.com/2012/10/accusations-of-falling-away

18 – These were those who wanted gentile believers to be circumcised, etc.

19 – “12 Undeniable Truths That Drive Law ‘Keepers’ Crazy”

(joyfullygrowinginrace.wordpress.com/2010/11/05/12-undeniable-truths-that-drive-law-keepers-crazy/)

20 – www.sacredname.com

21 – See appendix at the back of this document for a list of names for Jesus in many languages.

22 – Revelation 19:12

23 – Revelation 2:17 (See www.gotquestions.org/white-stone-new-name.html for more understanding)

24 – A person's name is changed to reflect their current status or character. (Not the case in Western culture)

25 – Acts 2

26 – Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg (4-4-2017) “Don’t Mess with Abraham” [blog article] (israelstudycenter.com/dont-mess-abraham)

the Lord”²⁷, on the other hand, is a reverential attitude of who he is and of his power and authority.

Christian Zionism, which supports Israel no matter what they do, is an interesting philosophy to have because many ultra orthodox Jews don't support the state of Israel in the way that most would expect.²⁸ They even protest against it.²⁹

True, we are in debt to Israel for bringing us the Messiah³⁰, but he's been here and gone. King Jesus is now the focus of Heaven and also of Heaven's work on Earth. Do we owe Israel anything beyond “thanks” and appropriate support?

Also, we are grafted into Israel³¹, but is that indicating that she is our 'mother'? Or is our identity with “the Israel of God”³²?

REMEMBER: Jerusalem will be an end-time Sodom in the very last days.³³

Here are some salient points on Zionism from an essay by James B. Jordan.³⁴

“It is important to realize that the most conservative Jews were anti-Zionists, believing that Palestine was not to become a Jewish land until made so by the coming of the Messiah.”

Genuine Jews are not a blood race: *“Biblically speaking, a Jew is someone who is covenanted into the people of the Jews by circumcision, for better or for worse.”*

“All these people [who went to Egypt with Jacob] were Jews, but only a small fraction actually had any of Abraham’s blood in them. Later on we see many other people joining the Jews; indeed, the lists of David’s men include many foreigners, of whom Uriah the Hittite is but the best known. What this demonstrates is that covenant, not race, has always been the defining mark of a Jew ”

*“The third line of criticism against Zionism concerns the rightness or wrongness of its invasion and conquest of Palestine...**Actually, none of this is any of our direct concern as Christians.** As Christians we see both Jews and Müsîlmş as groups that have rejected Christ as Messiah, and who have opposed the true faith. If they want to convert, we rejoice. If they want to kill each other off, then that is too bad, but let them have at it – there’s nothing we can do about it.”³⁵*

Messianic Judaism

During last century there was the development of what has become known as Messianic Judaism, which adhered to by messianic (Christian) Jews. This is “a syncretic movement that combines Christianity – most importantly, the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah – with elements of Judaism and Jewish tradition, its current form emerging in the 1960s and 1970s”³⁶.

This seems innocent enough, as Christ-followers in all cultures are entitled to maintain their ethnicity while adhering to Christian tenets. However, there are a number of problems with this movement in relation to their undue influence on gentile Christianity. Messianic Judaism now appears to be seen as an alternative to historic Christianity by many Westerners. This is what I was referring to in the previous

27 – Psalm 34:9; Proverbs 1:7; Acts 9:31;

28 – “The Anti-zionist Jews of Jerusalem” www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTmw9F9f-2c

29 – “Rebel Rabbis: Anti-Zionist Jews Against Israel” www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKplabTRuak

30 – Romans 11:11-12, 25

31 – Romans 11:13-24

32 – Galatians 6:16

33 – Revelation 11:8 (See: canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/End-Time-Sodom-Jerusalem.pdf)

34 – The essay is also an appendix in this book: “The Days of Vengeance: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation” by David Chilton (www.preteristarchive.com/Books/pdf/1987_chilton_days-of-vengeance.pdf) (www.garynorth.com/freebooks/docs/pdf/days_of_vengeance.pdf)

35 – James B. Jordan (1986) “Christian Zionism And Messianic Judaism”

[Chapter 8 of 'The Sociology of the Church: Essays in Reconstruction' James B. Jordan, Th. M. Geneva Ministries, Tyler, Texas] (Web document: www.preteristarchive.com/dEmEnTiA/jordan-james_dd_01.html)

36 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messianic_Judaism

section on 'Jewish Christianity'. Messianic Jews, under the influence of popular Dispensationalism ideas³⁷, believe wrongly that gentile Christianity (i.e. the historic gentile church) departed from Biblical forms, processes and beliefs in the early days of the 2nd Century. They believe their mission is to restore the Jewish customs which they have preserved in their sect³⁸.

This 'preservation' of Jewishness includes worship, music, feasts, meals, and the Sabbath. This is what has been polluting the purity of Jesus-centred life in the Kingdom of God.

“Unfortunately, for some, Messianic Judaism is seen as an alternative to historic Christianity. This is due to the influence of pop-dispyism³⁹. After all, if the Millennium is right around the corner, and Jewish culture will be imperialistically triumphant during the Millennium, then even today Jewish practices anticipate that superiority. In fact, some Messianic Jews apparently believe that they can claim unlimited financial support from Gentile Christians, because of this preeminence.^{40,41}

Anti-Replacement Theology

This group has really been 'pushing the barrow' of their ideology over the past decade. It's as though Christian's have always been wrong since the 2nd century, so a look into this arena is warranted. As background:

“During the nineteenth century, a peculiar doctrinal notion known as 'dispensationalism' arose. Its leading lights were Darby and Scofield; its Bible was the Scofield Reference Bible; and in recent years its primary headquarters has been Dallas Theological Seminary. Technically, dispensationalism teaches that God has two peoples in the history of the world: Israel and the 'Church'...Consistent dispensationalism teaches that God is dealing with His 'heavenly' people today (the Church), and that during the Church Age, God has 'set aside' His apostate 'earthly' people (Israel). Pop-dispies⁴², on the contrary, hold that even though apostate, Israel still must be regarded as being under God's present blessing. They hold the heretical notion that the Jews do not need to repent in order to obtain the blessings of God's covenant. They hold the unBiblical notion that apostate Jewry is not today under the wrath of God.”⁴³

Replacement Theology, also called Supersessionism or Fulfilment Theology. It is “a Christian theological view on the current status of the church in relation to the Jewish people and Judaism. It holds that the Christian Church has succeeded the Israelites as the definitive people of God or that the New Covenant has replaced or superseded the Mosaic covenant. From a supersessionist's point of view, just by continuing to exist outside the Church, the Jews dissent. This view directly contrasts with Dual-covenant Theology which holds that the Mosaic covenant remains valid for Jews. Supersessionism formed a core tenet of the Church for the majority of its existence, and it remains a common assumption among Christians and Müşlîmş. Subsequent to and because of the Holocaust, some mainstream Christian theologians and denominations have rejected Supersessionism.”⁴⁴

Those who are against Replacement Theology ('anti-Replacement Theology'), a new movement of this kind this century, subscribe to Israel being still in covenant with Jehovah and that the New Covenant is an extension of the Old Covenant. They tender to all or some of my previous points and are moving in a direction of wholesale Jewishness. Their theology is wrong, and even though they can quote scriptures to

37 – Promoted by such writers as Hal Lindsay

38 – Biblically, a sect is a group that separates from the rest of the believers. i.e. a heresy (Gk). “Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words” (www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved/s/sect.html)

39 – James Jordan's term that he coined for popular dispensationalists of the 20th Century

40 – See Gary North (2016) “Some Problems with Messianic Judaism” (www.garynorth.com/public/14702print.cfm)

41 – James B. Jordan (1986) “Christian Zionism And Messianic Judaism”

[Chapter 8 of 'The Sociology of the Church: Essays in Reconstruction' James B. Jordan, Th. M. Geneva Ministries, Tyler, Texas] (Web document: www.preteristarchive.com/dEmEnTiA/jordan-james_dd_01.html)

42 – James Jordan's term that he coined for popular dispensationalists of the 20th Century

43 – James B. Jordan (1986) “Christian Zionism And Messianic Judaism”

[Chapter 8 of 'The Sociology of the Church: Essays in Reconstruction' James B. Jordan, Th. M. Geneva Ministries, Tyler, Texas] (Web document: www.preteristarchive.com/dEmEnTiA/jordan-james_dd_01.html)

44 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersessionism

back their position, they are Christ-followers bound in legalism and eventually will submit to the Law (viz. the Torah-keepers)

Conclusion

These Jewish groups and the Christians who subscribe to their beliefs all fail to realise that the Old Covenant is **DEAD** – it no longer has any currency.⁴⁵ (More on this in a future teaching session)⁴⁶

Now that the New Covenant is here – permanently – the 4 topics I covered here are irrelevant to the 21st century Kingdom citizen.

- Jewish Christianity
- Christian Zionism
- Messianic Judaism
- Anti-Replacement Theology



All these are of no concern to Kingdom citizens. Know what they are, but disregard them. Don't allow their proponents to 'put the heavy' on you, bringing condemnation which shouldn't be tolerated.



WARNING: This article is not to show contempt for other believers, or to pass judgement on them, knowing that believers are free to enter into whatever religious activity they wish in their weakness⁴⁷ and spiritual immaturity⁴⁸. Like Paul, however, I must warn those who will listen to me to avoid these activities and to remain focussed on the King and his Kingdom.

IMPORTANT: Terry Bennett speaks on the error of this Jewish focus in the church in some of his teachings.⁴⁹

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OVER PAGE: The names of Jesus in other languages

45 – See my series “Coming Out of the Old Covenant” (canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=2#Old-Covenant)

46 – The topic will be “The Preterist's View of the Kingdom” (search for it on my website: canberraforerunners.org)

47 – Romans 14:1-10

48 – Galatians 4:8-11

49 – e.g. Terry Bennett “I Never Knew You – part 2” [segment 10:31-20:10] (terrybennett.net/sermons/i-never-knew-you-oxford-al)

APPENDIX

The names of Jesus in other languages.⁵⁰

Afrikaans – Jesus
Albanian – Jezusi
Arabic – `Isà عيسى (Islamic) / Yasū` (a) يسوع (Christian)
Aragonese – Chesús
Azerbaijani – İsa
Bengali – যীশু
Bosnian – Isus
Breton – Jezuz
Catalan – Jesús
Chinese – 耶穌 (Simplified), 耶穌 (Traditional) – Yesu (Mandarin), Yasu (Cantonese)
Cornish – Yesu
Croatian – Isus
Czech – Ježíš
Dutch – Jezus
Estonian – Jeesus
Filipino – Hesus/Hesukristo
Finnish – Jeesus
French – Jésus
Galician – Xesús
Greek – Ἰησοῦς (Iisoús modern Greek pronunciation)
Haitian Creole – Jezi
Hawaiian – Jesu
Hebrew – Yeshu ישו (Jewish, secular) / Yeshua ישוע (Christian)
Hmong Daw – Yexus
Hungarian – Jézus
Indonesia – Yesus (Christian) / Isa (Islamic)
Irish – Íosa
Italian – Gesù
Japanese – イエス (Iesu)
Kazakh – Иса (Isa)
Korean – 예수 (Yesu)
Kurdish – İsa
Latvian – Jēzus
Ligurian – Gesù
Limburgish – Zjezus
Lithuanian – Jėzus
Lombard – Gesù
मराठी-Marathi – येशू -Yeshu
Malayalam – ഇശോ -Eesho, യേശു -Yeshu
Mirandese – Jasmus
Maltese – Ġesù
Neapolitan – Gesù
Norman – Jésus
Occitan – Jèsus
Piedmontese – Gesù
Polish – Jezus
Portuguese – Jesus
Romanian – Isus
Russian – Иисус (Iisus)
Sardinian – Gesù
Serbian – Исус (Isus)
Sicilian – Gesù
Scottish Gaelic – Ìosa
Slovak – Ježíš
Slovenian – Jezus
Spanish – Jesús
Tajik – Исо (Iso)
Tamil – இயேசு – Yesu
Telugu – Yesu
Thai – เยซู – “Yesu”
Turkish – İsa
Turkmen – İsa
Ukrainian – Ісус (Isus)
Uzbek – Iso
Venetian – Jesu
Vietnamese – Chúa Giê-su
Welsh – Iesu
Zulu – uJesu
Sinhala – ජීසුස් වහන්සේ- jeesus wahanse

50 – Comment by author in “12 Undeniable Truths That Drive Law ‘Keepers’ Crazy”
(joyfullygrowingingrace.wordpress.com/2010/11/05/12-undeniable-truths-that-drive-law-keepers-crazy/)