

# Israel & The End Times

## *Part 3: Church Persecution of Jews & Replacement Theology*

(preached 11/5/23)

Please turn to *Jeremiah 29:11*.

Let's remember that the purpose of this series is to ***understand the role of both ancient and modern Israel to the Second Coming of Jesus and how we, the Church, should perceive the modern State & People of Israel.***

### **Sermon #1: A Chosen Nation & People**

- God divided the world into 70 nations and allowed angelic princes to rule over them.
- The angels rebelled and demanded worship for themselves, corrupting both themselves and anyone who worshipped them.
- All these other nations are known by the Jews as "The Gentiles."
- God kept the land of Israel for Himself, and chose the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be His people and to live there.
- God made what we call "The Old Covenant" with Israel to worship Him alone & obey His commands. If they did, God would prosper and defend them. If they didn't, He wouldn't.
- The fallen angels hated God and therefore His chosen people. Then and now, they only seek to enslave or kill them, and possess their land.
- Everything going on in Israel today is a continuation of an ancient war between God and the rebellious angels.

### **Sermon #2: Is Israel Cast Out?**

- Jesus came to His people Israel 2000 years ago as their Messiah and God...but most of them rejected Him.
- The terrible result was the worst Gentile invasion & exile Israel had ever faced: Rome sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and enslaved thousands of Jews.
- The Jews mounted another major rebellion around 60 years later, even advocating General Simon bar Kochba as their Messiah!
- The rebellion was crushed & bar Kochba was executed.
- Roman Emperor Hadrian exiled all Jews from Israel, forbade Jewish worship, and demanded everyone worship the Roman gods...the fallen angels.
- Did you know that Baal and Zeus are the same god?
- Hadrian salted the land so that nothing would grow there, then changed the name from "Israel" to "Palestine." He renamed it so out of spite, after the ancient enemy of Israel the Philistines.

- Meanwhile the Church was growing, spreading out from Jerusalem into the Gentile nations.
- For the first time in history, God was TAKING territory and people! He was expanding.
- Not in the military sense at all, only in the spiritual sense.
- As the Name and Gospel of Christ Jesus spread, thousands were converted...even as far as Rome itself! (Hence the epistle of Paul to the Romans.)
- Behold the plan of God, wonderful and severe at the same time!
- He spread ALL of His people into the Gentile nations: both Israel and the Church.
- Israel went into exile for their rejection of Jesus, and the Church evangelized in the Name of Jesus. But all were scattered.
- The Lord wasn't done! He prophesied that, in the end times just before He returns, He would gather the exiles of Israel back to their homeland!
- He promised that when He did so, He would NEVER uproot them again! That happened in 1948!!!
- He said a time would come when He would pour His Spirit out on them and they would see Jesus as their Messiah...and GOD!
- Then and only then does Jesus appear!
- The prayer of the Church should be that the Lord would do so—pour the Holy Spirit on them so that they will be Saved!

TODAY we'll temporarily take a turn into the history of the Church, and where we went terribly, **terribly wrong when it came to the Jewish people.**

- We'll see how this created the false and hateful theology known as “*Replacement Theology*” or “Supersessionism” and why you and I must categorically reject it.
- Then we'll see how God has **TURNED THE HEARTS** of some in His Church to fulfill an ancient prophecy spoken of by the Apostle Paul. A role that you and I will play to directly participate in God pouring out His Spirit upon the Jewish people.

**The first part of today's sermon is going to be hard**, really hard. Offensive even. We must face the history of the Church and determine not to give in to the same deception as some of those who went before us did.

The Apostles were all Jewish, but **many of their disciples were Gentiles**. As the Gospel went further and further into the nations, the vast majority of the converts were Gentiles and the divide between Jews and Christians grew. In the first century, Christianity was considered another sect of Judaism, but by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century it was considered by both sides to be a *completely different religion*.

Last week I speculated that, as the **Gospel spread to the nations and people were Saved, that Satan raged**. I pointed out that it was the first time in 4000 years that HIS territory and people were being invaded.

Satan didn't just sit and pout, but he **change his tactics**. As Judaism and Christianity grew further and further apart, he acted by *planting the same seeds of hatred* for the Jews within the hearts of Gentile Christians.

Why? **I BELIEVE THAT SATAN HAS READ THE BIBLE.** He proved that when he tried to tempt Jesus on Matthew and Luke chapter 4. **He knew that God wasn't done with Israel.** He realized the Lord would regather them one last time at the end. He knew that God would pour His Spirit on them so they would receive Jesus, then Christ would return and give him (Satan) a royal trouncing.

**He understood that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus hinged on Israel recognizing and accepting Jesus as their God.**

His goal remained the same: *destroy them and take their land*. Why the land? When Jesus comes back, He doesn't touch down in New York City or Moscow—**He comes to Jerusalem.**

**So Satan and his fallen angelic princes began to corrupt the hearts of the Church toward the Jewish people.**

*I will now name several people known as “The Church Fathers.”* Just as America has its FF's like Washington and Jefferson, so does the Church. Some, not all, allowed the seed of hatred to enter into their hearts and it affected their theology. They're the one who are largely responsible for introducing Replacement Theology, which is the belief that God has cast Israel out forever and the Church has taken their place (including all the blessings God promised).

**St. Ignatius** was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John (of Jesus). Ignatius lived in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century and believed that the Church was secretly created by God BEFORE Israel and were therefore the true sons of God.

**Justin Martyr** (138 – 161 AD) in his famous dialogue with Trypho the Jew tells Trypho that they deserved being invaded and exiled by Rome and that they would never return to their homeland. When he was challenged about the prophecies concerning the end times regathering of Israel, Justin's replied that the Church had replaced Israel and all those prophecies were for us.

**Tertullian** (155 – 240 AD) said that the church had replaced Israel because we were more honorable and worthy than they were. He said that the church was “the true Israel” and called Jews “Christ killers.”

**Origen of Alexandria** (185 – 254 AD) said the Jews were cut off by God and would never return to being in covenant with Him or return to their homeland.

**St Jerome** (345-420) who translated the Latin Bible compared the Jews with Judas Iscariot, saying "Judas is cursed, that in Judas the Jews may be accursed... their prayers turn into sins" and then, presuming to quote something Jesus never said: "My enemies are the Jews; they have conspired in hatred against Me, crucified Me, heaped evils of all kinds upon Me, blasphemed Me." ***Jesus never said that!***

**St John Chrysostom** (344 – 407 AD) said the Jews were forever denied Salvation due to their rejection of Jesus. He said the synagogue was “the dwelling of demons.” He called them “the ultimate evil” and that because they crucified Jesus they were “fit for slaughter.”

**St Augustine of Hippo** (354-430 AD) said: “How hateful to me are the enemies of your Scripture (the Jews)! How I wish that you [God] 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!”

Those were all revered Church fathers whose writings and commentaries are relied upon to this day. To be clear: there were many Church fathers who didn't feel this way. Before we continue remember the sermon series about ***Deconstruction vs. Reformation*** and when each should apply. This is not the time for Deconstruction, where you take a wrecking ball to the whole thing and demolish it. This is a time for Reformation, where we repent and change our hearts to match that of God.

**In the latter part of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, there was a paradigm shift** that corrupted the Church even further and increased anti-Jewish feeling: **ROME CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY**. Emperor Constantine got the ball rolling when he claims to have seen a vision of a glowing cross in the sky. He immediately penned an executive order to stop the persecution of Christians and enforcement of worshipping the Roman gods. He convened the Council of Nicea which was the first council of Christian Bishops and where the Nicene Creed was created.

The Roman Emperors that followed solidified Christianity as **the official religion** of the empire, and then anointed themselves as “Potentate” which is King-Priest or Pope.

You might be thinking “*what’s wrong with its conversion to Christianity?*” and to stop persecuting Christianity?

Please listen carefully: in the history of the church which is 2000 years old, **it’s never never never worked when the government is our ally.**

## **WHENEVER THE CHURCH MERGES WITH THE STATE THE RESULT IS DISASTER.**

Here's why: **our conquest of the world was only meant to be spiritual in the form of evangelism, discipleship, gathering in worship, and outreach.**

- Whenever the Church merges with the State we stop evangelizing and we start making laws.
- We stop discipling and start enforcing.
- We gather to worship the state rather than God,
- and our outreach becomes inquisition.

*There's a modern day teaching called Postmillennialism and Dominion Theology* who believe that the Church will dominate the world before Jesus returns.

**That we'll take over the governments of the world**, usher in God's Kingdom, and then Jesus will return. This same theology also believes the Church has replaced Israel and that there's no place for them in God's Kingdom. As a matter of fact, Replacement Theology is the branch of the tree that the fruit of Postmillennialism grows from. This growing movement used to call themselves "Kingdom Now!" but now calls themselves "Christian Nationalists."

*Would I love to have a President and Congress who are all Christians* and make laws/policy according to the Bible? Yes.... That being said, I hesitate because the Church in America might give in to the temptation to marry the State and then things would spiral downward.

**The only one Who's going to pull this off is Jesus when He returns.**  
The Kingdom is the State and the people are the Church, and He'll merge them the right way forever.

Listen carefully: **Christian Nationalism will never work because the governments of the world are still ruled over by fallen angelic princes who are not dethroned until Revelation 12**, which hasn't happened yet. Whenever the Church in any country of the world attempts to marry the State, we become corrupted by these angelic princes who turn our hearts away from God and away from the Jewish people.

As much as I hate to say this: **the church thrives when it's being persecuted** by the nations of the world, not applauded. *We're to be hated by all for His (Jesus) name's sake, not loved.*

**THE ONLY HUSBAND FOR THE CHURCH IS JESUS.** Yet in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, we married the government of Rome and everything spiraled downward for the next 1000 years.

*The centuries of the Middle Ages consisted of "Christendom" nations turning against the Jewish people and driving them out of their countries.*

**The purpose of the Crusades** were 1) to grant safe passage to Christians making pilgrimages to Jerusalem and 2) to free Jerusalem from the hands of the Muslims/Ottoman Empire. But Satan entered into the hearts of the Popes and some of the Crusaders who turned their wrath upon the Jewish people. 1096 was the beginning of the first Crusade, and there was a massacre of Jewish people in Germany while the Crusaders were on their way to the Holy Land.

The **Crusaders reached Jerusalem in 1099**, gathered all the Jews they could find in a large synagogue including women and children, set it on fire, then sang a famous Christian hymn about how much they adored Christ. Sounds more like Hamas than the Church.

**In 1290 King Edward I** of England blamed the Jews for secretly controlling the economy and ordered them expelled from England.

**In 1306 the French** people blamed the Black Death upon Jews and turned on them violently.

**The Spanish Inquisition** began around the same time Columbus was sent across the sea, 1492. The same King and Queen who funded his trip declared that all Jews in Spain either convert to the Church or leave the country.

**THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION SEVERED ITSELF FROM THE ROMAN CHURCH** in 1517 and many good things were accomplished after Luther nailed the 95 Thesis on the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. Luther reestablished the Bible over Catholic Tradition, refused to pray to Mary and the Saints, decried indulgences, and said that Salvation was by faith through grace alone and not works. *Luther was right about all of that and what he did was important.*

**As far as how he felt about the Jews, he started out well.** He said that they needed to be treated kindly and compassionately. He was convinced that the Catholic Church had been trying to convert them with a false Gospel and, that once they heard the true

Gospel he felt he revived, they would see the light and receive Jesus. They didn't any more than they did back when the Apostles were preaching to them. Luther's heart turned and he called them: "venomous beasts, vipers, disgusting scum, devils incarnate."

He went on to say:

"Their private houses must be destroyed and devastated, they could be lodged in stables. Let the magistrates burn their synagogues and let whatever escapes be covered with sand and mud. Let them be forced to work, and if this avails nothing, we will be compelled to expel them like dogs in order not to expose ourselves to incurring divine wrath and eternal damnation from the Jews and their lies." At one point he wrote: "...we are at fault in not slaying them..." –Martin Luther

***Luther was German and published his feelings about the Jews in a pamphlet which was used by the Nazis years later to inspire the Holocaust.***

**Some Christians to this day revere John Calvin** and to be sure he's made many positive contributions to the Church. Yet said reformer had this to say about the Jews: "*profane people, filthy dogs, rotten and unbending stiffneckness.*" He taught that the Church had replaced Israel and the Jews were forever cut off from Salvation.

**A large part of what inspired the hatred that began the Holocaust were Passion Plays**, which portray the crucifixion & death of Jesus. You might ask how such a thing would inspire murder and persecution of Jews: **it's RT Christians who blame Jews for killing Jesus.**

God has news for us which can be found in His Bible: **everyone killed Jesus!** The whole world was against Him and even His own disciples fled when He was arrested! Even they were nowhere to be found when He was being whipped 39 times and then had to carry His Cross to Calvary Hill!

**YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING JESUS ON THE CROSS? ME.** When Jesus finally reveals Who He really is to us then a terrifying process starts. When we first realize that He's God and that it was God Who went to the Cross, then a horrifying revelation crashes into us like a Mac Truck. He died for OUR sin!

**When we say He shed blood for us, our initial reaction should be abject sorrow and then later, joy.**

**I put Him on the Cross!** I hammered the nails into His hands and feet! When I fall on this stone I am broken! When this revelation first hits, I could only abase myself before the God of all glory and beg for mercy and forgiveness!

**WHEN HE GRANTS IT, IT'S TIME FOR JOY!** After He forgives me is when I have peace! After He picks me up and sets me on my feet do I give thanks and praise!

*False converts to Christ have never experienced this and thus nothing changes in their lives after praying the sinner's prayer.*

**Yet Satan would swoop down like a bird and steal this seed**

before it can get within people's hearts. He would turn what should be Godly sorrow into blame, rage, and murder toward the Jewish people. Satan slithered his way into the Church for over 1000 years and planted his seed of hatred toward God's Chosen people.

What about today? **The Church is more civilized, to be sure.** No more pitchforks and torches, just harmful words & teachings that cut and destroy.

I've confessed from this pulpit that **I'm a card-carrying conspiracy theorist**, I remain so today, and I don't apologize for it. If you're like me, then allow me to share with you what the Holy Spirit said to be concerning the same: ***"My Scripture trumps conspiracy theories."***

**Can we apply the Scripture to every CT?**

- Was the Moon landing real or faked?
- Was 9/11 staged?

*I cannot find either of those things in the Bible, so I must look only to other sources to inform me and then make a decision.*

**What about the modern state of Israel?** Among CT circles let me tell you what I've heard and, before I continue, said circles are mostly Christians....

- Israel was created by the Rothschilds and the Kharzian Mafia.
- The pamphlet "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" is written by Zionist Jews and contains the plan for Israel to control the banks, money, and economy of the world.
- The Star of David might actually be the Star of Remphan/Moloch, a satanic god from the OT.
- Gematria/Numerology of said star comes out to 666.



I had no luck applying the Bible to 9/11 or the moon landing... **but it has plenty to say about last days Israel.** An abundance of verses which all say the one of the final signs that Jesus is soon to return is the revival of the state of Israel in the last days. When it happened in 1948, the world was stunned and Biblical prophecy was partially fulfilled.

**The modern state of Israel stands as a testimony against 2000 years of hatred and claims that God is done with them.** One would think it would cause modern Christians to rethink their positions and some did...but others have not. In recent weeks, I've browsed social media and have stood horrified to see semi-famous "Christians" spewing the same hatred and false teaching toward Israel as I quoted here today.

Tru News with Rick Wiles and Stew Peters are just 2 examples of Christians spewing vile hatred toward the State of Israel.

**Replacement Theology is the fruit of hatred and is not supported by the Lord or His Bible.** Let me be clear:

- Israel rejected Jesus 2000 years ago and the result was Roman invasion and exile that lasted 2000 years.
- The Church, which is mostly Gentile, picked up the torch that Israel dropped and became the light of God in this world.
- The Church is in covenant with God, the bearers of the name of Christ, and the keepers of His Gospel and Word.
- A day will come when God pours His Spirit out upon Israel and they will realize that Jesus is the God they crucified, and the God Who will forgive them.
- On that day, they cry out to Him and **He welcomes them back into His family.**
- He'll mount up on His horse and ride to Jerusalem to save them from the armies of the Antichrist. ***And we will be with Him, helping Him save His people...the Jews.***

I've spent the majority of today's message lashing the church... **BUT THERE WAS A PARADIGM SHIFT STARTING AROUND 1948 AND AFTER.** Fulfilling an ancient Biblical prophecy, the modern state of Israel literally reformed in ONE DAY. Some within the church saw this, and had a beautiful and miraculous **CHANGE OF HEART.**

There are some verses of Scripture that are quoted at graduation ceremonies, but the truth is these ***famous verses are all about last days Israel.***

**[Jer 29:11-14 ESV]** 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and **I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.**

When Israel was revived in the late 1940's, the Holy Spirit brought verses like these to the Church and **many of our hearts began to soften**. Many of us in the evangelical church began to feel compassion and act on behalf of both the Jewish people and especially modern Israel. We openly supported the reformation and defense of said nation, both in word and deed.

**This was confusing to the Jewish people** who have long memories and recall the nearly 2000 years we persecuted them. To this day when they see the Cross they don't see Salvation but oppression.

Let me quote modern day Israeli Jews who acknowledge this change of heart:

"Devout Christians are the greatest champions of the State of Israel. When I say we have no greater friends than Christian supporters of Israel, I know you've always stood with us," Netanyahu told the cheering crowd at Christians United for Israel's annual conference. "You stand with us because you stand with yourselves because we represent that common heritage of freedom that goes back thousands of years. America has no better friend than Israel and Israel has no better friend than America," Netanyahu continued. "And Israel has no better friend in America than you." –Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Rabbi Elie Mischel, the Director of Education at Israel365, agreed with Netanyahu's high praise of Christian support for Israel. "Prime Minister Netanyahu is right that Evangelical Christians are Israel's best friends," Rabbi Mischel said. "Many Christian groups come to Israel to selflessly and humbly support the Jewish people."

Josh Reinstein, the Director of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and President of the Israel Allies Foundation, emphasized Christians are indeed major supporters of Israel:

"It is Christians, not countries, that stand with the State of Israel, and Christians are bringing their governments with them," Reinstein said. "If you look at a lot of the diplomatic successes that we're seeing, most of it is due to faith-based diplomacy. It's people of faith putting their biblical support behind Israel and turning it into real political action. All Israelis, up to the highest levels of government, understand that Christians are our dearest allies, and that faith-based diplomacy is the most important weapon we have in our diplomatic arsenal today."

Tommy Waller, the head of Hayovel, acknowledged that Christian support for Israel is considerable but he added that this must increase:

“After Christianity’s almost 2000-year opposition to Jewish identity and the restoration of Israel it is a blessing to see any support or trust from the Government of Israel,” Waller said. “It is important for us to understand, both Jews and Christians, that the Biblical Prophetic purpose of the Jewish people and Israel changed when the Jewish people returned to the Promised Land. The Prophet Ezekiel says clearly that God’s Name is sanctified and hallowed among the nations when His people return. It has been 75 years since the declaration of the State of Israel was made. Replacement theology should have ended then. Unfortunately, the process of Christianity understanding or waking up to this new reality has been slow and difficult. It is time for the nations to stand with Israel in a more significant way. We need to engage against the conflict now – for Zion’s sake.”

***The Apostle Paul***, talking about the future Salvation of Israel, said something strange that I believe pertains to the quotes I just shared with you:

**[Rom 10:19 ESV]** But I ask, did Israel not understand [The Gospel]? First Moses says, "**I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation**"; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

He’s talking about the Gentile Church. For years I’ve wondered what we were supposed to do to make Israel jealous, and the jealousy here is relationship with God and bearing His torch. I believe that part of them being ready to see Jesus is when the heart of the Church, after nearly 2000 years of Satanic hatred, turns to love and support.