



Go for God!

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 3:7-13

"Philadelphia - The Faithful Church!" (Part 1)

> The seven churches and their historical reference:

(2:1-7) *Ephesus*- The Apostolic Church (1st Century)

(2:8-11) *Smyrna*- The Martyr Church (A.D. 100 – A.D. 314)

(2:12-17) *Pergamum* - The Worldly Church (A.D. 314 – A.D. 590)

(2:18-29) *Thyatira*- Church of the Dark Ages, "Romanism" (A.D. 590 – A.D. 1000- continues today)

(3:1-6) *Sardis*- The Protestant Church, "Reformation" (A.D. 1517 – A.D. 1800)

(3:7-13) Philadelphia- The Revived or Faithful Church (A.D. 1800 to Rapture)

(3:14-22) *Laodicea*- The Apostate Church (Last Days & into the Great Tribulation)

> History of PHILADELPHIA - (brotherly love) - a city of the province of Lydia in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and the site of one of the seven churches of Asia to which John wrote in the Book of Revelation (Rev 1:11). Philadelphia was situated on the Cogamus River, a tributary of the Hermus (modern Gediz) and was about 45 kilometers (28 miles) southeast of Sardis. It was founded by Attalus II (Philadelphus), who reigned as king of Pergamos from 159 BC until 138 BC Philadelphia was a center of the wine industry. Its chief deity was Dionysus, in Greek mythology the god of wine (the Roman Bacchus).

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus describes the church in Philadelphia as the faithful church and the church that stood at the gateway of a great opportunity (Rev 3:7-13). Christ said to this church, "See, I have set before you an open door and no one can shut it" (v. 8). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

> TWELVE KEYS FOR THE PHILADELPHIA FAITHFUL:

> KEY # 1 - (v7a) Philadelphia – "Brotherly LOVE"

- John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

> KEY #2 - (v7b) Jesus is "HOLY!"

- Luke 1:26-35 - *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the*

angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Mark 1:24; John 6:69)

> KEY #3 - (v7c) Jesus is "TRUE!"

- John 14:6 - Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* In the last days Jesus tells us not to be deceived by false Christs in Matthew 24:4-5 - *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

> KEY #4 - (v7d) Jesus has the "KEY OF DAVID!"

- Why is this mentioned? A key indicates control or authority; therefore, having the Key of David would give one control of David's domain, i.e., Jerusalem, the City of David, and the kingdom of Israel. The one who holds the keys has the authority. Thus, the "key of David" implies control of David's domain, which was promised to the Messiah in both the Old and New Testaments.

- *Isaiah 9:7 - Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

- *Luke 1:31-33 - And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

This means the Church has not replaced Israel; God will deal with Israel (the Jewish people) once again in the seven-years of Tribulation (Revelation chapters 6 – 19) and establish the promised "*Davidic Kingdom*" in the millennial reign of Christ at His Second Coming (Revelation Ch. 20), governed by the KING of kings, and the LORD of Lords!

- Jesus said in Matthew 19:28-30 - *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

- Jesus shares about Israel after His resurrection – Acts 1:4-8 - *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart*

from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Paul writes in Romans 11:25-27 - *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. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

The Bible promises peace and prosperity to Israel in the future, including its borders (Genesis 15:18-20; Numbers 34:1-12); a promise of a King from the line of David (2 Samuel Ch. 7); and a promise that Israel would one day be wholly devoted to God (Jeremiah 31:31-24); these are a few of the prophecies promised to Israel in the Millennial Reign of Christ.

- Jesus gives believers a great sign to look for in regard to Israel being restored! - Matthew 24:32-35 - *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”*

(See attachment on The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology)

- Did you know that 5/6th's of the bible is about Israel. That is over 83% of our bible. That is an awful lot of the bible to not have a good understanding. Below is a short listing of denominations and highlighted are those that it is their denominational position that God is done with Israel. It is a shocking 100 million American Church members that honestly just haven't been taught the full counsel of God's word. Approximately 100 Million American Church Members Have Very Little to No Understanding of Bible Prophecy - Bill Koenig

~ **The Church (The Replacements,)**

**U.S. Membership Denominational Ranking: Largest 25 Denominations/
Communities –2004 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches (14
Replacements out of 25)**

- 1. The Roman Catholic Church – 66,407,105**
2. Southern Baptist Convention – 16, 427, 736
- 3. The United Methodist Church – 8,251,042**
4. The Church of God in Christ – 5,499,875
- 5. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – 5,410,544**
- 6. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – 5,038,006**
7. National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. – 5,000,000
8. National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. – 3,500,000
- 9. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – 3,407,329**
10. Assemblies of God – 2,687,366
- 11. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – 2,512,714**
- 12. African Methodist Episcopal Church – 2,500,000**
13. National Missionary Baptist Convention of America – 2,500,000
14. Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc. – 2,500,000
- 15. The Episcopal Church – 2,333,628**
- 16. Churches of Christ, Corsicana, Texas – 1,500,000**
- 17. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America – 1,500,000**
18. Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. – 1,500,000
19. American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. – 1,484,291
- 20. African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church – 1,430,795**
- 21. United Church of Christ – 1,330,985**
22. Baptist Bible Fellowship International – 1,200,000
- 23. Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, Joplin, Mo. – 1,071,616**
- 24. Jehovah's Witnesses – 1,022,397**
25. Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn., – 944,857

- **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, a Palestinian led movement.**

~ **ISRAEL RETURNS TO THE LAND! (10 Signs)**

> **Sign #1: The Diaspora!**

The Bible prophesied the Jewish diaspora, this took place in A.D. 70 through the Roman government. The Nation of Israel would dwell for many years outside of their country and promised land. After this time had elapsed, they would return to their ancient possession. The predictions were exact and complete, making the nation's return a supernatural happening of our age. A modern miracle. They were dispersed for over 1,900 years. They are there again today.

- *Hosea 3:4-5 - "For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward*

the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days."

- Hosea 6:1 - "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds."

To see the rest of the passage fulfilled, Israel needs only to turn to God. For David to become their king once again, there will be a resurrection from the dead.

> Sign #2: The Return!

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible passages predict the return of Israel to the land of Palestine. Here are only two.

- Ezekiel 20:34 - "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath."

- Isaiah 11:11-12 NIV - "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."

> Sign #3: Buying back the land!

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. just as the nation of Judah was being destroyed and the people taken captive into the land of Babylon. He spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting nearly a century ago - they bought back the land.

- Jeremiah 32:44 NIV - "Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."

> Sign #4: Israel - Reborn in a day!

Israel, a nation that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was born in a day.

- Isaiah 66:8 NIV - "Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."

> Sign #5: The order of the return!

The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from the western countries of Europe, especially Germany. Then they came in great numbers from Russia (north) during the end of the 1980's. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south. This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet. (In 1948 the population of Israel was 806,000; today it is 9.6 million!)

- Isaiah 43:5-6,21 - "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..." "... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."

- Psalm 107:2-3 NIV - "Let the redeemed of the LORD say this -- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south."

> Sign #6: A pure language!

With the return of the nation, the ancient Hebrew language has been revived and become the official language of the state. Prior to this happening, the Jews spoke an impure form of the language called Yiddish. The return to a pure common language was again predicted by the prophets.

- Zephaniah 3:8-10 KJV - "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, [even] the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering".

> Sign #7: The shekel!

After nearly 2,000 years the shekel has been reinstated as the common monetary unit in Israel, again, just as predicted.

- Ezekiel 45:12-16 NIV - "The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel."

> Sign #8: Named cities of Israel!

There are many cities in Israel that bear the ancient names of previous Jewish cities. Some of these that bear their Biblical identification include: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being

destroyed, Ezekiel the prophet predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in the exact locations.

- Ezekiel 36:11; 24 KJV - "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

> Sign #9: Cities excepted - never to be inhabited

Jesus pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins today.

- Matthew 11:21-23 NIV - "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."

> Sign #10: From desolation to productivity

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. Should we say, "Again, just as predicted!"

- Isaiah 26:6 NIV - "In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."

- Isaiah 35:1-2 NIV - "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy...."

> KEY # 5 - (v7e) Jesus provides an "OPEN DOOR"

- The term "open door" means primarily access to God, but it also refers to opportunity for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is the door of salvation in John 10:7-10 - Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and

to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- There is a door of opportunity, Paul explains in Acts 14:26-27 - From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

(7f) Jesus also “shuts the door and no one opens” - Luke 13:22-30 - And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

> KEY #6 – (8a) Jesus has given the church of Philadelphia an “open door” and the church has a “little strength” to preach the gospel in the last days.

- Jesus said in Matthew 24:14- And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

(v8b) Jesus said this church “KEPT HIS WORD” – Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-27 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

- Jesus said in John 15:1-8 - *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

~ Note these significant promises in the Scripture.

- The Bible is the source of truth: *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (Jn 17:17).*

- The Bible is the source of God's blessing when obeyed: *"But He said, 'On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it'" (Lk 11:28).*

- The Bible is the source of victory: *"... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17).*

- The Bible is the source of the new birth: *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:22-25)*

- The Bible is the source of growth: *"... like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you grow" (1Pe 2:2).*

- The Bible is the source of power: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Ro 1:16).*

- The Bible is the source of guidance: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105).*

- Read Psalm 1, Psalm 19

> WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE TO THE BIBLE?

- Because the Bible is so important and because it provides unparalleled eternal benefits, then these should be our responses, we must:

Believe it (Jn 6:68, 69)
Obey it (1Jn 2:5)
Preach it (2Ti 4:2)
Honor it (Job 23:12)
Guard it (1Ti 6:20)
Study it (Ezr 7:10)
Love it (Ps 119:97)
Fight for it (Jude 3)

~ **Attachment: *The Origin and Outcome of Replacement Theology***

Author: Ron Matsen

Replacement Theology was introduced to the Church shortly after Gentile leadership took over from Jewish leadership. The premises of this belief are that Israel (the Jewish people and the land) are replaced by the Christian Church to fulfill the purposes of God and to become the historic continuation of “Israel” to the exclusion of the former.

What is Replacement Theology?

According to Replacement Theology, post the Pentecost event of Acts chapter 2, the term “Israel,” as found in the Bible, now refers to the Church. Therefore, the Jewish people are now no longer a “chosen people.” They are no different from any other national group, such as the English, Spanish, or French.

Replacement Theology teaches that apart from repentance, the new birth, and incorporation into the Church, the Jewish people have no future, no hope, and no calling in the plan of God. The promises, covenants and blessings ascribed to Israel in the Bible have been taken away from the Jews and given to the Church, which has superseded them. However, the Jews are subject to the curses found in the Bible, as a result of their rejection of Christ.

Is there a Basis for Replacement Theology?

A favorite starting point for this doctrine is found in the chastisement of backsliding Israel by the prophet Jeremiah. He declares, *The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away,*

and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

Jeremiah 3:6-8

During the later stages of the ministry of Jesus Christ He also spoke of a coming severe judgment on the nation of Israel. *Therefore, say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

Matthew 21:43

The apostle Paul declared, *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

Romans 2:28, 29

What is the History of Replacement Theology?

- **Ignatius of Antioch (ca 50-117 AD) — Taught that those who partake of the Passover are partakers with those who killed Jesus.**
- **Justin Martyr (100-106 AD) — Claimed God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid and that the Gentiles had replaced the Jews.**
- **Irenaeus (ca 130-202 AD) — Declared the Jews were disinherited from the grace of God.**
- **Tertullian (ca 155-230 AD) — Blamed the Jews for the death of Jesus and argued they had been rejected by God.**
- **Origen (185-254 AD) — He was responsible for much anti-Semitism, all of which was based on his assertion that the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus.**
- **The Council of Nicea (325 AD in Anatolia) — Prohibited Christians from sharing a meal with a Jew, marrying a Jew, blessing a Jew or observing the Sabbath. They changed the celebration of the Resurrection from the Jewish Feast of First Fruits to Easter in an attempt to disassociate it from Jewish feasts. The Council stated: "For it is unbecoming beyond measure that on this holiest of festivals we should follow the customs of the Jews. Henceforth let us have nothing in common with this odious people..." It decided that "the Sunday a week after the Sunday after Passover would be the official date, and that all celebrating on Passover would be considered anathema." This is when the persecution of the Quartodecimans begins. The term**

“Quartodeciman” is Latin for “fourteeners” and it referred to those that celebrated Passover on 14 Nisan.

- **Eusebius (ca 275-339 AD) — Taught that the promises of Scripture were meant for the Gentiles and the curses were meant for the Jews. He asserted that the Church was the “true Israel.”**
- **Hilary of Poitiers (AD 291-371) wrote: “Jews are a perverse people accursed by God forever.”**
- **Gregory of Nyssa (died AD 394), Bishop of Cappadocia wrote: “the Jews are a brood of vipers, haters of goodness...”**
- **Jerome (AD 347-407) describes the Jews as “serpents, wearing the image of Judas, their psalms and prayers are the braying of donkeys.”**
- **Augustine (354-430 AD) — Asserted that the Jews deserved death but were destined to wander the earth to witness the victory of the Church over the synagogue.**
- **During the Middle Ages, Passion plays abounded and they were used to cultivate hatred toward the Jewish people.**
- **In 1478, Pope Sixtus IV granted the monarchs of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella, the right to establish a special inquisition in Spain to deal with baptized Jews who were suspected of remaining faithful to Judaism. Thousands were burned at the stake by order of the Spanish Inquisition.**
- **In 1492, King Ferdinand decided that all Spanish Jews should be banned from Spain. It was feared that Jews were a danger to Christianity. Approximately 150,000 Jews were forced to leave Spain.**

What does this Doctrine of Replacement Theology produce in the Church?

- **Arrogance concerning its Duty & Destiny. When the Church boasts against the Jews and Israel, the Church becomes “branches” without “roots.” Many Christians boast of being New Testament (NT) Christians (ie: from the “Book of Acts” forward). As such, they see no reason to study the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).**
- **Allegorization of prophecies concerning Israel. Once Replacement Theology has been established as a foundational doctrine it turns all of the Prophetic Scriptures dealing with a future Israel into mystical predictions about the Church. They fall into the trap of changing the Primary understanding with any Secondary application.**

- **Aberration from sound Biblical exegesis.** It produces historic errors like **British Israelism** where the people of Western European, particularly those in Great Britain, are the direct lineal descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.
- **Amillennialism (No Millennium).** This is a classic misapplication of Biblical Eschatology. In other words, if there is “no Literal Israel” in the future then there is no need for a future Kingdom.
- **Anti-Semitism (Hatred of the Jews)** This is the natural result of **Arrogance + Allegorization + Aberration + Amillennialism.**

In 1543 Martin Luther wrote a pamphlet entitled “On the Jews and Their Lies.” They are: “A miserable and accursed people,” “Stupid fools,” “Miserable, blind and senseless,” “Thieves and robbers,” “The great vermin of humanity,” and “Lazy rogues.”

Luther went on to write: “For such ruthless wrath of God is sufficient evidence that they [the Jewish people] assuredly have erred and gone astray. Even a child can comprehend this. For one dare not regard God as so cruel that he would punish his own people so long, so terrible, so unmercifully. Therefore, this work of wrath is proof that the Jews, surely rejected by God, are no longer his people, and neither is he any longer their God”

- **In 1924 at a Christian gathering in Berlin, Hitler** spoke to thousands and received a standing ovation when he made the following proclamation: “I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of Almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake — and that is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all.”¹

Is there a Biblical Rebuttal to Replacement Theology?

One only needs to examine four of the unconditional covenants of God to find ample reason to question the Biblical soundness of the Replacement Theology doctrine.

1. **The Covenant concerning the Seed.** After the fall of Adam and Eve, God announced that the salvation of mankind would come through the “seed of a woman.”² Later the revelation of that saving seed would be revealed through a Chaldean resident by the name of Abram (later to be known as Abraham). In chapter 12 of the Book of Genesis we read,

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, ‘Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them

that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.'

Genesis 12:1-3

2. The Covenant concerning the Land. As Abram arrived in the promised land, he hears from God again.

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Genesis 13:13-17

Later, God confirms this Land Covenant with Abram by participating in an ancient ritual of purchase.³ Abram asks, "Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" God tells Abram to "take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram then "divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another." Because of the heat of the day Abram falls into a deep sleep. God then makes His declaration of an everlasting covenant without Abram's participation for God alone passes through the sacrifices.

Late in Abraham's life God reaffirms His covenant.

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Genesis 17:1-8

During the time of the kings in Israel, we read, Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

3. **The Covenant concerning the Throne of David.** Most Christians recognize the significance of the connection between King David and Jesus Christ. The prophet Nathan came to King David and said,

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

We are reminded of this promise in a prophecy of Isaiah.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6, 7

4. **The Covenant concerning the Discipline of Israel.** Not all of the covenants with Israel are pleasant. Solomon's wisdom reveals that "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."⁴ Moses recorded six progressive punishments that He would carry out "if you do not obey Me."⁵ It began with Distress, then Drought, Destruction, Disease, Desolation, Debased Mind, and ultimately Dispersion. From the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians (circa 587 B.C.) unto the 1948 reinstatement of the nation of Israel, the Jews have endured more than 2,500 years of discipline during which they were dispersed among the nations of the world.

Is God Finished with Israel?

The apostle Paul answers this question with an emphatic declaration. *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.*

Romans 11:1, 2a

The prophet Jeremiah offered this to Israel as they were being prepared for defeat at the hands of the Babylonians which would begin more than 2,500 years of dispersion.

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 31:35-37

Again, Jeremiah confirms the surety of God's covenants with Israel.

Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me. Jeremiah 33:20-22

The apostle Paul sums it up this way.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Romans 11:25-29

Notes:

1 Phyllis Petty, "Christian Hatred and Persecution of the Jews"

2 Genesis 3:15

3 Genesis 15:7-17

4 Proverbs 13:24

5 Leviticus 26