



One New Man Study Lesson Seven: Is The Church The New Israel? Part One

The idea that the Church is the "new" Israel is by no means a "new" thing. However, in recent years this doctrine seems to be making a comeback among many circles seeking to preclude Israel from the plan of God. The doctrine of "replacement theology" means that the Church has finally and forever replaced Israel in the purposes of God.

In this lesson we will examine the following questions, "Do the Jewish people as such still have any significant place in the plan of God?" "Do God's territorial promises to Israel still stand?" and "Does the modern State of Israel have prophetic significance, or is it an historic accident?"

Replacement Theology Defined

The doctrine of replacement theology rests on four main pillars:

1. Israel has been replaced by the Christian Church in the purposes of God, or, more precisely, the Church is the historic continuation of Israel
2. The Jewish people are there no longer "Israel." They are just another people group, like all other nations and religions, who need, and can receive, salvation in Jesus the Messiah.
3. Apart from salvation, and incorporation into the Body of Messiah, the Jews have no future, no hope, and no calling
4. Since Pentecost, Israel, properly so-called, IS THE CHURCH.

In arguing their case, replacement theologians plead the following points:

- To be a son of Abraham is to have faith in Messiah Jesus. Galatians 3:29 shows that son ship of Abraham is seen in spiritual, not national terms.
- The promise of Canaan to Abraham was only a "starter." The real Promised Land is the whole "world." (Romans 4:13). It will be the Church, not Israel that will inherit the world.
- The nation of Israel was only the seed of the future Church which would arise, incorporating people of ALL nations (Malachi 1:11)
- Jesus taught that the Jews would lose their spiritual privileges and be replaced by another people (Matthew 21:43). The question raised by the apostles in Acts 1:6 is ignored by Jesus as unworthy of comment.
- A true Jew is anyone born of the Spirit, whether he is racially Gentile or Jewish (Romans 2:28-29)

- Paul shows that the Church was really the same "olive tree" as was Israel. Therefore to distinguish between Israel and the Church is, strictly speaking, false. Indeed, people of Jewish origin need to be grafted back into the Church i.e., into Israel proper (Romans 11:17-23)
- All the Old Testament promises made to Israel, unless they were historically fulfilled before the first coming of Messiah, are now the property of the Christian church. They are not to be interpreted carnally and literally, but spiritually and symbolically. Therefore, OT references to "Israel," "Jerusalem," "Zion," and the "Temple," where they are predictive, refer to the Church (2 Cor. 1:20) In the NT all these things are understood spiritually (Gal. 4:21-26; 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 12:22)

The attraction of this doctrine comes from the Church's past. It is historically well rooted in the Church Fathers (Origen and Tertullian), Martin Luther's writings and the Reformers. It has an intellectual appeal, because it does not require literal interpretation of the Bible. It has a freshness appeal, because it goes along with the view of the "Last Things" that cuts across the often fanciful end-time teachings, which have been current in the Church (through the influence of the Plymouth Brethren and the Scofield Bible) over the last century or so. It also appeals to that side of human character, which has difficulty in acceding the election to others. Furthermore, it feeds into and from the Anti-Semitic past of the Church.

B. Replacement Theology Exposed

We have seen the case FOR Replacement Theology. Now let's look and see the case AGAINST this doctrine that is yet another effort by Satan to keep Jews and Christians apart.

Some general statements first:

- To be a son of Abraham is open to ALL FAITH, but physical son ship still exists. Israel (the Jews) have and will have an important place in the purposes of God
- By no means is it true that every Israelite has been, is, or shall be, saved.
- Unlike any other nation, Israel has been chosen by God for His purposes of redemption for the whole world
- Through Israel the promised Redeemer and Messiah came into the world. Both the FIRST and the SECOND comings of Jesus are to be on their territory
- Individually, Jews, as well as Gentiles, can only be saved in this age through faith in the person and work of the Messiah (Yeshuah) Jesus.
- Historically, a large part of the nation (though by no means ALL, if we are to believe the record of the book of Acts) rejected the true Messiah, and

- for that reason lost possession of their land, and their destiny as a priestly nation - *for a season*.
- There has, in all the centuries since Jesus the Messiah, been a number of Jews, who came to know and love Jesus, though at the expense of being swallowed up in a Church, which by this time had forgotten it's Jewish origin.
 - The Jewish people are unique in human history: they retained their identity as a people, despite having no homeland or political structure, despite frequent attempts at genocide and forcible conversion, and despite their own desires to become indistinguishable from their Gentile neighbors.
 - God made some very clear promises to the Jews as a people. How could He possibly redefine them to apply to another people without be charged with deviousness?
 - Since the 1840s there are more Jews believing in Jesus than since the first century
 - The State of Israel has been reestablished, though yet in unbelief. It has been so far preserved remarkably, it not miraculously, through many crises. Those who believe in the sovereignty of God within History find in this the marks of Divine Providence.
 - There is YET to be a time when Jews in large numbers will turn to Jesus, having strong influence on the evangelization of the Gentile world.
 - In our day there are significant and growing congregations of Hebrew speaking Jews in Israel, who proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Savior to their own people. They are not part of any Gentile denominational organization. They bear the marks of a fresh direction in the work of God.

C. What The Scriptures Say About Israel:

The general pattern of scripture is that its histories and predictions are literal, though often trimmed with poetic and pictorial language. This allows for the use of "type" and "antitype" in scripture. Some examples:

- The prophecy about the altar at Bethel. 1 Kings 13:2 gives the prediction; 2 Kings 23:15-17 shows the fulfillment
- Messiah is to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23)
- Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). For those who spiritualize the prophecies, it would not have mattered had He been born in Birmingham.
- Messiah will ride into Jerusalem on an ass (Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:5)
- Messiah will suffer excruciating pain at the hands of men (Psalm 22)
- Messiah will be killed, and buried in a rich man's grave (Isaiah 53:8-9)
- Messiah will be alive again after His death (Isaiah 53:10)

If in the case of fulfilled prophecy the fulfillment is literally, then it is logical to expect unfulfilled prophecies to be literal too. Thus, when God speaks of Jerusalem, Judah, and Israel in the last days, we can accept this at face value. Jesus, for example, predicted the destruction of the Temple (Matthew 24:2), and that the Gentiles would dominate Jerusalem until much later in history (Luke 21:24). How can this ever be interpreted as "the church?" In fact the predictions were fulfilled in AD 70 and 1967. The Bible, of course, also refers to "the heavenly Jerusalem," but there is no difficulty perceiving when it means the earthly and the heavenly Jerusalem.

The Meaning Of "Israel" and the "Jew" In The New Covenant

There are about 77 references to "Israel" in the New Testament. One refers to the land of Israel, and every single one of the rest refer to the Jewish people either historically, in their unbelief, or as the believing remnant. The one reference which is debated is Galatians 6:16 where Paul says, "as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." In view of the fact that the word "Israel" never refers elsewhere in scripture to the Christian Church, it is best to interpret Gal. 6:16 as referring to the body of Jews who believe in Jesus, who are, of course, part of the Church.

The word "Jew" or "Jews" occurs over 190 times in the New Covenant. These terms ALWAYS refer to the Jewish people, whether to those who rejected the Messiah, or to those who accepted Him. It is never used to describe a Gentile Christian. Romans 2:28-29 does not extend the title of "JEW" to the Gentile Christian world but it actually RESTRICTS the true Jewishness to those Jews who are circumcised in heart i.e. who accept Jesus, and are born of the Spirit.

While insisting that Jews and Gentiles within the Church constitute "ONE NEW MAN", and that the spiritual standing of Jews and Gentiles in Messiah is equal (Gal. 3:28; 6:15), Paul did make a practical distinction, not only between MEN and WOMEN, but also between Christians of Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

This is illustrated by his attitude to his two colleagues, Timothy and Titus; Timothy, who was Jewish, he circumcised:

Acts 16:3 - Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

But he sternly resisted pressure to circumcise Titus, because he was a Gentile:

Galatians 2:3 - But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

Paul did not teach that either Jews or Gentiles had a superior position within the ecclesia on grounds of race. This outlaws discrimination against ANYONE within the CHURCH on ground of his racial origin. Paul in fact distinguishes between three groups of peoples in the world:

1. **Jews**
2. **Gentiles**
3. **The Church of God (Comprised of both Jews and Gentiles)**

This means that a Christian has transcended his racial background, though for practical purposes he is still a member of his own nation.

This principle is further illustrated in the epistles of James and Peter. James addresses his epistle to "the twelve tribes in the Diaspora. Clearly, he saw the Jewish Christians, to whom he was writing, as still Israelites. He describes their meeting as a "synagogue," (2.2). Peter was given as "apostleship to the circumcision (i.e., to the Jews)" (Gal. 2:8). This is why Peter's first epistle is written from Babylonia, where the largest First Century Jewish community resided (1 Peter 5:13), and was addressed to "chosen exiles of the Diaspora." (1 Peter 1:1)

Paul himself was a Jew, and also the chosen apostle to the Gentiles. (There is not one even one non-Jewish apostle in the New Testament). Paul's epistle to the Romans is the theological heart of the New Covenant. Chapters 9-11 contain his mature teaching about Israel.

D. Romans 9-11 - The Olive Tree - The Church DOES NOT Replace Israel!

The following is a summary list of the points Paul makes in Romans 9-11 in his great teaching on the nation of Israel and how she relates to God's prophetic time clock and future:

- The Jews, even in their rejection of Jesus are STILL Israelites: - Romans 9:4
- To Israel still belong the ADOPTION, the GLORY, the COVENANTS (including the New COVENANT), the GIVING OF THE LAW, the SERVICE OF GOD, and THE PROMISES (9:4c)
- The main body of Israel has forfeited salvation through rejecting the Messiah - Romans 9:30-33; 10:21 –

- Paul desires and PRAYS for their salvation - there is NOT anti-Jewishness in Paul's heart - quite the opposite - Romans 9:1-3
- Israel is NOT finally rejected (Romans 11:1-2). Even in OT times, there was only a remnant of true believers among a nation largely composed of unbelievers. In Paul's day, nothing had changed (Romans 11:2-6)
- God has judicially blinded the unbelieving majority to the truth - Romans 11:7-10.
- Israel has paid the price of rejection to give the Gentiles a chance. However, their restoration is assured and will be "**life from the dead.**" - Romans 11:12-16
- Unbelieving Jews are like olive branches cut off from their own tree. Believing Gentiles are wild live branches grafted in. But Gentiles are not to BOAST AGAINST THE JEWS, because God is able to graft them in again. The Olive Root speaks of the spiritual riches, which flow from God via the Patriarchs, which the Church (comprised of Jews and Gentiles) now enjoys, and which unbelieving Israel has temporarily lost –
- A Future national repentance is expected for Israel. This is laid before us as a mystery (a secret which can now be revealed - Romans 11:25-27). Compare Zechariah 12:10, where the prophet also speaks of a national repentance towards a Messiah, who is also God. Romans 11:25-27 -
- Israel, even in its unbelief, is chosen and loved by God - Romans 11:28 - As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.
- "As concerning the gospel they are enemies for "your sakes" (i.e. YOU GENTILES). This alone should bring about great thankfulness and love towards the Jews from Gentile Christians.
- "The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 - This is firm ground on which to believe that God has not rejected Israel.
- Paul still identifies himself as a Jew, after coming a Christian (Acts 21:39)
- The NT epistle addressed to the Hebrews is a warning to Jewish believers not to return to Judaism as a religious hope, but it clearly still sees these believers as Jewish. It's not a militant call against the Jewish race as some church fathers have taught. ¹

E. What Yeshuah Said About Israel

No better source of teaching on this than to look at the teachings of Yeshuah Himself, the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Our Lord Jesus does not teach the permanent rejection of Israel. In the parable of the Tenants of the Vineyard in Matthew 21:33-44, He says: "**The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**" This is a threat, not to the Jewish PEOPLE as such, but to the leaders, specifically the chief priests and Pharisees:

¹ Roth, Sid. *The Last Lap*. This entire lesson was taken from a supplement at the back of Sid's book.

Matthew 21:33-44 - Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: [34] And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. [35] And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. [36] Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. [37] But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. [38] But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. [39] And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. [40] When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? [41] They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. [42] Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. [44] And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Jesus foresees a time when the religious Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem WILL accept HIM as Messiah and this will precede His return:

Matthew 23:37-39 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kills the prophets, and stones them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! [38] Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. [39] For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Another teaching from Jesus is a promise to the 12 apostles " they will rule the 12 tribes of Israel."

Matthew 19:28 - And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:30 - That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Our Lord's FIRST mission to earth was to ISRAEL rather than to the Gentiles:

Matthew 10:5-6 - These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: [6] But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

F. The Promises Of God To The Jews

God solemnly promised a land to Abraham (Gen. 15:18-21). This promise is reiterated in sevenfold affirmation in Psalms 105:8-10:

Genesis 15:18-21 - In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: [19] The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, [20] And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, [21] And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

Psalm 105:8-10 - He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. [9] Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; [10] And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

Reading these two passages it is impossible for anyone (except those with an Anti-Semitic heart) to apply it metaphorically to the Church. Indeed, if such violence could be done to clear statements of God, then the apparent promises in the NT to the Church would be capable of reinterpretation, and of reapplication to some new people (Why not to the Moslems, who claim to have replaced the Church?) The Psalm's language clearly indicates God wants ISRAEL, not the PLO or any other group of national origin, to possess the land of Canaan.

Look at this five-fold affirmation:

1. He has remembered His COVENANT forever....which covenant He made with Abraham
2. And His OATH unto Isaac
3. And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a LAW
4. And to Israel for an everlasting COVENANT
5. Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the LOT of your INHERITANCE

The words, "covenant," "oath" "law" and "everlasting covenant," have great meaning for GOD and those who will seek to oppose His plan will only find heartache and destruction.

G. God's Plan For Israel

God's purpose for Israel has always depended on His initiative and election, but Israel's enjoyment of God's blessings has depended on their response as a righteous nation:

Deut. 7:1-7 - When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; [2] And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: [3] Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. [4] For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. [5] But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. [7] The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

Israel is promised abundant blessing when living in a right relationship with God (Lev. 26:1-13; Deut. 28:1-14), but God promised discipline (NOT REJECTION) when the nation rebelled (Lev. 26:14-46, Deut. 28:15-68). Scattering among the nations was the ultimate disciplinary measure, with the promise of regathering ultimately to fulfill His purpose. (Deut. 30)

A second key factor in God's dealing with Israel was His promise to David. God promised David a royal dynasty reaching eternal dimensions in Israel's Messiah (2 Sam. 7:11-17); 1 Chr. 17:10-15). Matthew demonstrates that Jesus is that Messiah (Matthew 1:1-16). The angel Gabriel tells Mary that her Son will "reign over the house of Jacob forever." (Luke 1:33). The name "Jacob" can hardly apply to the Church. Jesus is still related to JUDAH and to DAVID! Rev. 5:5 and 22:16.

2 Samuel 7:11-17 - And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the Lord telleth thee that he will make thee an house. [12] 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. [13] He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. [14] 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: [15] But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. [16] And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for

ever. [17] According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

1 Chron. 17:10-15 - And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the Lord will build thee an house. [11] And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. [12] He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever. [13] I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: [14] But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. [15] According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

*Luke 1:33 - **And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever;** and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

*Rev. 5:5 - And one of the elders saith unto me, **Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David,** hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

*Rev. 22:16 - I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David,** and the bright and morning star.*

When God promised a New Covenant to "the house of Israel" and "the house of Judah" (Jer. 31:31), He promised that there would come a day when the Jews should "all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them." (v. 34). Since such a blessing has never occurred in Israel's history, this event is YET to come! In Ezekiel 36 the "Lord Jehovah" declares, "I will do it" 22 TIMES concerning Israel's restoration, both to her land, and to her Savior, Messiah. Here is a summary of the things He said He would do through Ezekiel:

- He will judge the nations for ill-treating Israel (36:3-7)
- He will regather Israel to their promised land (v. 8-15)
- He will judge Israel for shedding blood in the land, for preferring idols, and for profaning God's name among the nations (v16-21)
- He will make Israel righteous for the sake of His holy name, not Israel's sake (v.22)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: [32] Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to

bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: [33] But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36:1-22 - Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord: [2] Thus saith the Lord God; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession: [3] Therefore prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy of the people: [4] Therefore, ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God; Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken, which became a prey and derision to the residue of the heathen that are round about; [5] Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey. [6] Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen: [7] Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame. [8] But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. [9] For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown: [10] And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: [11] 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. [12] Yea, I will cause men to walk upon you, even my people Israel; and they shall possess thee, and thou shalt be their inheritance, and thou shalt no more henceforth bereave them of men. [13] Thus saith the Lord God; Because they say unto you, Thou land devourest up men, and hast bereaved thy nations; [14] Therefore thou shalt devour men no more, neither bereave thy nations any more, saith the Lord God. [15] Neither will I cause men to hear in thee the shame of the heathen any more, neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the people any more, neither shalt thou cause thy nations to fall any more, saith the Lord God. [16] Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, [17] Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. [18] Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: [19] And I scattered

them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. [20] And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land. [21] But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. [22] Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

As a result of Israel's national salvation, God will demonstrate to the nations that He is Jehovah:

Ezekiel 36:23-28 - And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. [24] For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. [25] Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. [26] A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. [28] And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

When all this has occurred, Israel will know rich spiritual and material blessings that Paul describes in the New Covenant as "Life from the dead." (Romans 11:15)

Ezekiel 36:29-36 - I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. [30] And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. [31] Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. [32] Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. [33] Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. [34] And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. [35] And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. [36] Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.

H. God Has No Plans To Replace Israel

Jeremiah 31:37 and 32:37-41 gives us God's solemn word that He will NOT REPLACE ISRAEL EVER!

*Jeremiah 31:37 - 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 32:32-37 - Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [33] And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. [34] But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. [35] And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. [36] And now therefore thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; [37] Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Such a promise was not fulfilled when a small number of exiles returned from Babylon under Ezra. Jeremiah gives further insight to God's heart for Israel:

Jeremiah 33:24-26 - Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Lord hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them. [25] Thus saith the Lord; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; [26] Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

God does not mince words. When He speaks we know He is not a man who should lie or repent. His WORD GUARANTEES a spiritual and territorial future for the Jewish people!

I. The Church's Complete Fulfillment Will Not Be Realized Before The Salvation Of Israel

Romans 11:12 - Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

Romans 11:25 - 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.

The Greek word in both cases is *pleroma*. The implication is clear: just as Israel provided the foundation members, and the apostolic band which founded the Church, so Israel will be the "fulness" of the Church, the top stone to the whole structure. The national salvation of Israel will involve the great bulk of the Jewish people returning from their apostasy to their own Redeemer, Jesus, the Son of God, and God the Son. Israel will thus find her rightful place as part and parcel of the CHURCH of which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 16:18:

Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This event will mean a lot of uncomfortable reconsideration for Gentile Christian theologians as well as for Rabbis!

God's Promise To The Church:

Ephes. 1:11-14 - In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: [12] That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. [13] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, [14] Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

If the clearly worded promises to Israel can be transferred as some teach then how can we as Christians be sure that the promises given to us (the above verses) shall not be transferred to another people? God's faithfulness to Israel's promises is the measure of His constancy to us, His Church. The Church is "grafted in" to Israel's olive tree! Her members are "citizens of the commonwealth of Israel" (Eph. 2:12). How can we then do but the equally significant and specific promises of grace and election to Israel? If we do, we undermine the foundation of the Church itself.

It is sadly true that very soon after the death of the Jewish apostles, the Church began to hate and oppose the Jews> many of the early Church Fathers were rabidly anti-Jewish, as was Martin Luther, the great Reformer, in his latter years. However, many godly men have affirmed God's continued purposes for Israel, men such as Bengel, the Wesley brothers, Horatius Bonar, Dr. J.C. Ryle, Charles Spurgeon, and Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, to name but a few. The whole dealing of God with Israel has been mysterious. Indeed, His purpose with the Church was mysterious also. It was not fully understood before the first century AD as Paul writes in Ephesians 3:2-6:

Ephes. 3:2-6 - If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you ward: [3] How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, [4] Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) [5] Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; [6] That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

If Israel's leaders had not rejected Jesus, Jesus would not have died, but then there would have been NO ATONEMENT, NO RESURRECTION, and therefore NO SALVATION either for Jew or Gentile! Both the blindness of Israel and the corruption of Pilate were necessary to bring about God's redemption of the Human race. In the light of what has been set forth in these two lessons we can see that God has decreed the re-establishment of the territorial State of Israel. Both the State of Israel, and the calling out of Jewish assemblies are clear signs to believers that God's purposes are being worked out, and that exciting, though difficult, times are in view for both the Church and Israel. Our redemption is drawing nigh!

The information in Lessons Eight and Nine were taken DIRECTLY from a teaching by the Rev. J. Keith Parker, MA (Cantab), BA (Keele) Brought up in the Church of England, Keith was converted in 1954, studied English and Philosophy at Keele, and Theology at Cambridge. He served 11 years as a Methodist Minister, and in 1970 began an 18-year pastorate of an Evangelical church in York. He now exercises trans-local ministry of teaching and preaching. His article was used by permission and was found in "The Last Lap, The Emergence Of The One New Man," by Sid Roth, Messianic Vision Publishing. Keith's Ministry: Prayer For Israel, P.O. Box 328, Bromley, Kent, United Kingdom is a ministry focusing on the Messianic Fellowships in Israel)

Study Questions On Lesson Seven:

1. The doctrine of "_____ " means that the Church has finally and forever replaced Israel in the purposes of God.

2. The attraction of this doctrine comes from the Church's past. It is historically well rooted in the Church Fathers (Origen and Tertullian), Martin Luther's writings and the Reformers.
3. To be a _____ of Abraham is open to ALL FAITH, but _____ son ship still exists.
4. Paul did not teach that either _____ or _____ had a superior position within the ecclesia on grounds of race.
5. Israel has paid the price of _____ to give the Gentiles a chance. However, their _____ is assured and will be "**life from the dead.**"
6. A future _____ repentance is expected for Israel.
7. To Israel still belong the _____, the _____, the _____ (including the New COVENANT), the _____ of the _____, the _____ of God, and the _____ (9:4c)
8. Paul desires and _____ for the Jews' _____ - there is NOT anti-Jewish ness in Paul's heart - quite the opposite
9. The word "Jew" or "Jews" occurs over _____ times in the New Covenant. These terms always refer to the Jewish people
10. Israel, even in its unbelief, is _____ and loved by God
11. Unbelieving Jews are like _____ branches cut off from their own tree. Believing Gentiles are _____ live branches grafted in
12. Paul himself was a _____, and also the chosen apostle to the _____.
13. Paul in fact distinguishes between three groups of peoples in the world: _____, _____ and the _____.
14. Since the _____ there are more Jews believing in Jesus than since the first century
15. If in the case of _____ prophecy the fulfillment is literal, then it is logical to expect _____ prophecies to be literal too. Thus, when God speaks of _____, _____, and Israel in the last days, we can accept this at face value.
16. Jeremiah 31:37 and 32:37-41 gives us God's solemn word that He will never replace _____.
17. Both the _____ of _____, and the calling out of _____ assemblies are clear signs to believers that God's purposes are being worked out, and that exciting, though difficult, times are in view for both the Church and Israel.
18. As a result of Israel's national salvation, God will demonstrate to the nations that He is Jehovah
19. God's word guarantees a _____ and _____ future for the Jewish people!
20. The Church is "grafted in" to Israel's olive tree! Her members are "_____ of the commonwealth of Israel" (Eph. 2:12).