

Notes:

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

How did we get here?

And how do we get back?

Salt of the Earth



“You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

Psalm 145:16



Intro: Central to the view of Replacement Theology is the promises to Israel were fulfilled in Jesus, and the church, as a whole, has permanently replaced Israel in the working out of God's plan. Sadly, much damage has been done to Christian thought; theology, doctrine and practice due to the failure to take into account all the Biblical data concerning Israel. The two major errors that typify Replacement Theology are: Basic and contextual methods of Biblical interpretation being lost to allegorical and spiritualized methods; giving way to the loss of Jewish thought and worldview resulting in a theology set in Greek philosophy. Secondly, Israel's association only with the curses in Scripture abolishing any future favor with God and an assured Kingdom with Messiah. Is this true? Has God changed His mind? What part of God's character would lead us to think that? Not one, according to the Bible.

Historical events incorrectly interpreted, and Church Fathers who initiated and reinforced Replacement Theology and Ant-Semitism.

- ❖ Israel rejects/murders Jesus—(Seen as the rejection of God's grace, therefore God utterly rejected them as the 'chosen' people.)
- ❖ The destruction of the Temple and of Jerusalem-- (This was viewed as God's rejection of Jews and of the nation of Israel itself.)
- ❖ The exile of Jews from Israel by the Roman occupying force.

1.) Ignatius Bishop of Antioch; Epistle to Barnabas—(98-117 AD)

- *"...be not like some...saying the covenant is theirs as well as ours. It is ours, they lost it completely just after Moses received it."*

2.) Origen of Alexandria An Ecclesiastical writer/teacher—(185-254 AD)

- *"They have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming this conspiracy against the Savior of the human race"*

3.) John Chrysostom One of the 'greatest' church fathers—(344-407 AD)

- *"The synagogue is, a meeting place for the assassins of Christ..."*

4.) Peter the Venerable 'meekest of men, a model of Christian charity"

- *"Truly I doubt whether a Jew can really be human...I lead out from its den a monstrous animal."*

Scriptures used in writings and sermons to support Replacement Theology through History from the O. T. as well as the New Testament.

- ❖ **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**—*"The LORD will send curses on you...until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin..."*
- ❖ **Isaiah 62:1-7**—*"The nations will see your righteousness... you will be called by a new name that...the LORD will bestow."*
- ❖ **Matthew 21:43**—*"I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away...and given to a people who will produce it's fruit."*
- ❖ **Galatians 3:26-29**—*"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek...if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed...heirs according to the promise."*

So how do we review these passages correctly and discern the truth? Context, the first rule of correct Biblical Interpretation. Literal interpretation is the key; it was the method used by the Apostles and it's our calling to be as faithful with the precious Word as they were.

- **Jeremiah 31:31-37**—*"Only If these decrees vanish from my sight, will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me."*
- **Ezekiel 36:24-38**—*"Once again I will yield to the plea of the house of Israel...then they will know that I am the LORD."*
- **Romans 11:1-24**—*"Did God reject His people? By no means! Did they stumble as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all!"*
- **Hebrews 6:13-20**—*"When God made His promise to Abraham...He swore by Himself...God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised..."*

What lead the church down this destructive path? What made them think God would neglect His promises? The human condition (sin nature) is often times the culprit of our misunderstanding of God. Look at God's nature.

God's nature/character—This is who/what God is:

Merciful, gracious, loving, kind, compassionate, faithful, long-suffering, patient, peaceful, just, righteous, fair, Lord, King, judge, warrior, Father, provider, omniscient, omni-present, creator, sustainer and much more.

There is something more, something that sets God apart from everything else. In ancient times pagan nations would sacrifice themselves or their children and perform perverted and irrational acts during worship to invoke some kind of reaction from their "gods", unsure of what would appeal to them. This is not YHWH. He is *unchanging!!* This is what makes Him so much different; this is our hope, our guarantee! No one can take us out of His hand!

Conclusion: Replacement Theology is not the result of careful reflection on Scripture. Rather, it is human fear an insecurity that has led the way to ignorance of the Scriptures and arrogance of heart. This has boasted allegorical interpretation; spiritualizing Biblical realities and truths, as well as high mindedness; thinking the church was better and more faithful than the ancient Israelites. It is also evident through history that some sought to delegitimize Israel, indicating that Jews were carnal in heart and mind never understanding God as He revealed Himself, as if they were destined only to be an example of scorn to the church. Over time, the O. T. seems no longer to be a true story of how a community of people learned to relate to God, or the history of a people and a record of their successes and failures. It seems to have become the record of two communities; the pre-incarnate church, symbolized by the faithful Hebrews and the temporary and rejected people of the Jews. This method of interpreting the Scriptures has made it very difficult for Jews to take seriously the claim that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel.