

ISRAEL

and

PALESTINE

A Christian Response

Christian Views of God's Covenant with Israel

➤ The Church Replaced Israel

Israel was rejected by God for rejecting Jesus. The Church is the new Israel and God no longer has a purpose for the Jewish people.

➤ The Church Fulfills and Universalizes Israel

The promises and purpose of Israel are fulfilled in Christ and the Church for all nations, the Gentiles are grafted into the Jewish tree, and the Jewish people are accepted as are all others through Christ.

➤ The Church Is an Intermediate Dispensation until Israel Is Restored

When Israel failed to accept Christ, God created the Church to reach the Gentiles, until Israel is saved and the promises and prophecies to Israel are fulfilled and all nations come to Zion.



Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

The Promise of the Land

Genesis 13:14-15

“Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.”

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

- ❖ **The promises & prophecies were never completely fulfilled under either the old or new covenants.**
- ❖ **Promises must be understood in their context.**
- ❖ **Prophecies always had conditions.**

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

Concerning David's Offspring

2 Samuel 7:12-16 (God to David)

“I will raise up your offspring after you...
and I will establish the throne of his
kingdom **forever**...my steadfast love will
not depart from him, as I took it from
Saul...And your house and your kingdom
shall be made sure **forever** before me.
Your throne shall be established **forever**.”

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Concerning David's Offspring

1 Chronicles 28:6-7 (God to David)

‘It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts... I will establish his kingdom **forever** *if* he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.’

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The Promise of the Land

Leviticus 18:24-29

“...and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations...lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.”

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The Promise of the Land

Deuteronomy 28:15, 45, 63-64

“But *if* you will not obey the voice of the LORD...All these curses shall come upon you...till you are destroyed...And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other...”

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The Promise of the Land

Deuteronomy 28:68

“And the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt, **a journey that I promised that you should never make again**; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

The Conditions in Prophecy

Jeremiah 18:7-8

If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

The Conditions in Prophecy

Jeremiah 18:9-10

And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

Prophecy in the Bible

- Prophet was a preacher, not a fortune teller
- Prophesied doom to preach repentance
- Prophesied restoration to preach hope & faithfulness

Prophecy in the Bible

- Prophecies should be read in their original contexts before applying them to modern contexts.
- Interpreting a prophecy to apply it to modern events must not ignore the original message of the prophet.
- Rather than asking if the prophets predict modern events, we should ask what do the prophets tell us to do?
- Interpret the prophets through Jesus.

Should a Disputed Interpretation of Biblical Prophecy Be Used to Justify Not Doing What the Prophets Said?

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?



What did the prophets say to Israel?

Ezekiel 16:48-50

As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

What did the prophets say to Israel?

Isaiah 1:15-17

When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from
before my eyes;



What did the prophets say to Israel?

Isaiah 1:15-17

cease to do evil,

learn to do good;

seek justice,

 correct oppression;

bring justice to the fatherless,

 plead the widow's cause.



What did the prophets say to Israel?

Amos 5:23-24

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

What did the prophets say to Israel?

Hosea 6:6

For I desire steadfast love [mercy]
and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than
burnt offerings.

What did the prophets say to Israel?

Jeremiah 7:3-4

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:
Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let
you dwell in this place. Do not trust in these
deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord,
the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'



What did the prophets say to Israel?

Jeremiah 7:5-7

“For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever...



What did the prophets say to Israel?

Jeremiah 7:12-13

Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. And now, because you have done all these things, declares the Lord, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen...

What did the prophets say to Israel?

Jeremiah 7:14-15

I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen...

Jesus Did Not Claim an Earthly Kingdom

John 18:36

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Jesus Said That Worship in the Jerusalem Temple Would Be Replaced

John 4:20-23

“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...”

Jesus Prophesied the Destruction of Jerusalem, but Did Not Promise It's Restoration

Luke 18:41-44

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you...



Jesus Prophesied the Destruction of Jerusalem, but Did Not Promise It's Restoration

Luke 18:41-44

...and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Teaching of Jesus

- “this is the Law & Prophets”
 - “Do unto others...”
- “*Weightier* matters of the Law”
 - “justice, mercy, and faith” (Micah 6:8)
- “*Go and learn what this means*”
 - “I desire mercy and not sacrifice” (Hosea 6:6)
- “How do I inherit eternal life?”
 - 10 Commandments & give all to the poor
 - *Greatest* commands & Good Samaritan

The Second Greatest Command (a few verses later)

Leviticus 19:33-34

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Biblical Teaching and Modern Israel

- If we are going to apply Biblical prophecies and teachings to the modern state of Israel, should we focus on ancient promises removed from their context or on what the prophets and Jesus require us to do?
- Should our priority be favoritism toward a certain people group or the call to justice?
- Should we interpret prophecies in the light of justice and mercy or determine what is just in the light of our interpretation of prophecies?



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