

ISRMELOLOGY

The Missing Link in Systematic Theology

By

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is <u>God's rule</u>.

- Right to rule authority granted
 God had the sovereign power to rule
- Realm of rule place & subjects
 God has subjects in Heaven & Earth
- Reality of rule actual exercise
 God does exercise His rule



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Kingdom issues that may seem to be contradictory.

- Time Kingdom both present & future
- Scope Kingdom both universal & earthly
- God's rule administered
 - directly by Him over all the universe
 - indirectly through humans on earth



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Universal or Eternal Kingdom

Refers to God's eternal, sovereign rule everywhere over His entire creation.

- Universal Kingdom
 - Emphasizes the sphere & scope
- Eternal Kingdom
 - Emphasizes the timeless aspect



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Spiritual Kingdom

This Kingdom is composed of all believers, from Adam to the end of human history, who have been born again by faith through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Spiritual Kingdom

For Covenant Theologians:

This is the totality of God's earthly program

For Dispensationalists:

This is only one facet of His program



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Spiritual Kingdom

- From Acts 2 until the Rapture:
 - Spiritual Kingdom & Church are the same
- But the Spiritual Kingdom:
 - Existed before the Church
 - Will continue after the Church removed



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Theocratic Kingdom

This Kingdom refers to God's rule by means of and through a theocracy over one nation, Israel.

- Established by Moses with the Law laying the foundations of the nation
- Ended with King Zedekiah



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Theocratic Kingdom

Mediatorial Form: God ruled through

Moses, Joshua, the Judges, to Samuel

Monarchial Form: God ruled through Kings

of the house of David

<u>With decline</u> – the Prophets spoke of a future Kingdom – the Messianic Kingdom



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Theocratic Kingdom

With the Babylonian Destruction:

- Theocratic Kingdom ended
- Times of the Gentiles began



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Messianic or Millennial Kingdom

This earthly Kingdom will be ruled directly by Messiah Himself from David's throne in Jerusalem.

- Messianic emphasizes Messiah's rule
- Millennial emphasizes a literal 1000 yrs



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Messianic or Millennial Kingdom

This kingdom was <u>rejected</u> by the Jewish leaders at Messiah's 1st Coming

- From a human perspective postponed
- From a Divine perspective
 - Not postponed, but part of divine plan

It will be <u>reoffered</u> to the Jewish generation of the Tribulation who will accept it



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Mystery Kingdom

(Matt 13; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26-27)

A New Testament Mystery is a divine truth, which was not revealed in the Old Testament, but is revealed in the New Testament.



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Mystery Kingdom

(Matt 13; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26-27)

Because of Messiah's rejection (1st Coming)

- Messianic Kingdom postponed
- Mystery Kingdom is initiated



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

The Mystery Kingdom

(Matt 13; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26-27)

The nine Mystery Kingdom Parables

(Matt 13:1-53; Mk 4:1-34; Lk 8:4-18)

They describe the outworking of the Mystery Kingdom in this present age



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Mystery Kingdom Parables

- 1. Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:3-9, 19-23)
 - Characterized by sowing of Gospel seed
 - Different preparations of the soil
 - Opposition from the world, the flesh, & the Devil
 - Four different responses to the Word
 - Those who fall by the wayside
 - Those who fall on rocky places
 - Those who fall among the thorns
 - Those who fall on the good ground



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Mystery Kingdom Parables

- 2. Parable of the Growing Seed (Mk 4:26-29)
 Seed will germinate producing eternal life
- 3. Parable of the Tares (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)
 - True sowing followed by counter sowing
 - Two types of seed wheat & tares
 - Judgment at the end will separate the two



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Mystery Kingdom Parables

- Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13:31-32)
 Huge growth, but resting place for birds
- Parable of the Leaven (Matt 13:33) Kingdom marked by inward doctrinal corruption
- 6. Parable of the Treasure (Matt 12:44)
 Remnant of Jews will come to faith



Israel Present

The Kingdom of God

Mystery Kingdom Parables

- 7. Parable of the Great Pearl (Matt 13:45-46)
 Gentiles will come to salvation
- 8. Parable of the Net (Matt 13:47-50)
 Kingdom ends with Gentile judgment
- 9. Parable of the Householder (Matt 13:51-52)
 Some similar aspects & some new



Israel Present

The Mystery Kingdom

(Matt 13; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26-27)

Must be kept distinct from other facets of God's Kingdom program

- 1. Limited in time 1st to 2nd Coming
 - Not the same as the Eternal Kingdom
- Not limited to one nation (whole world)
 - Not the same as the <u>Theocratic Kingdom</u>
- 3. Comprised of both true & false believers
 - Not the same as the Spiritual Kingdom
- 4. Messianic Kingdoms was not a mystery
- Not limited to the Church Age (Includes the Tribulation Period)



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

- Jesus offered Himself as Israel's Messiah
- The coming of the Kingdom was contingent upon Israel's acceptance of Him

 When He was rejected, there were significant changes to the Kingdom program



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 12:22-45)

His miracles in Matt 4-12 served as signs:

- To authenticate His person (Messiah)
- To authenticate His message (Kingdom)

Signs to the nation of Israel to get them to come to a decision – accept or reject



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah

Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 12:22-45)

Israel's leaders concluded:

- Jesus was not the Messiah
- Declared Jesus to be demon possessed

Result: Jesus declared that this generation had committed the "unpardonable sin"



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah

Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 12:22-45)

The Unpardonable Sin

The national rejection by Israel of the Messiahship of Yeshua while He was present on the basis of being demon possessed



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 12:22-45)

Ramifications of the Unpardonable Sin

- National sin, not individual
- 2. That sin was limited to that generation
- 3. No other nation can commit that sin
- Offer of Kingdom rescinded
- 5. That generation will be judged (AD 70)



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 12:22-45)

Israel's leaders demanded another sign:

The sign given: The Sign of Jonah

The sign will come to Israel on 3 occasions

- Resurrection of Lazarus (Fulfilled)
- 2. Messiah's own resurrection (Fulfilled)
- 3. Resurrection of 2 Witnesses (Future)



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(John 11:1-44)

First sign of Jonah: Resurrection of Lazarus

- Many responded correctly & believed
- Sanhedrin:
 - Issued a decree of rejection
 - Sought opportunity to put Him to death



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah

Its Results & Consequences

Rejection of Jesus in Matthew 12
Culminated in John 11
with a decree of death



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(Luke 19:41-44)

Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

- Jesus wept over the city as He drew near
- Jewish masses proclaimed His Messiahship
- But because of the unpardonable sin Judgment was already set



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah
Its Results & Consequences

(Matthew 23:1-36)

Denunciation of Jewish Leaders 7 woes of judgment

Jewish leaders accountable:

- Not only for their rejection
- But also for leading the nation to rejection



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

Second Sign of Jonah: Resurrection of Messiah

- Many responded correctly & believed
- Sanhedrin:
 - 2nd Sign is rejected (Acts 1 7)
 - Result: Gospel goes out to non-Jewish world



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(After Matthew 12)

Resulting Changes in Messiah's Ministry

- 1. Purpose of His Miracles
 - No longer for signs of His Messiahship
 - But to train His Apostles



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(After Matthew 12)

Resulting Changes in Messiah's Ministry

- 2. For whom the Miracles performed
 - Only in response to individual needs
 - Required them to have faith
 - Required their silence after the miracle



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah

Its Results & Consequences

(After Matthew 12)

Resulting Changes in Messiah's Ministry

- 3. Concerning His Message
 - Apostles not to proclaim His Messiahship
 - Policy of silence (Matthew 16:20)
 until Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)



Israel Present

The Rejection of Messiah Its Results & Consequences

(After Matthew 12)

Resulting Changes in Messiah's Ministry

4. Teaching Method – Parables

(Matt 13:10-18)

- To hide the truth from the masses
- Illustrate the truth to disciples
- To fulfill prophecy (Isaiah 6:9-10)



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants

Covenant Theologians believe:

The Biblical covenants made with Israel are now being fulfilled in the Church

<u>Dispensationalists believe</u>:

The Biblical covenant made with Israel are eternal and unconditional and thus are still operational and all their provisions will be fulfilled in the future



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants Abrahamic Covenant

Seed – Today, the nation of Israel still exists

The fact that the Jews have continued to survive as a people, despite many attempts to destroy them shows that this covenant continues to operate.

The history of the Jews shows that this covenant continues to operate.



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants Abrahamic Covenant

<u>Land</u> – In 1948, Israel was reborn in the Land 1st independent government since AD 70

Since AD 70, no independent government has ever been setup

The land has always been ruled from somewhere else



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants Abrahamic Covenant

Blessing – History has shown:

- Those who have blessed the Jews have been blessed
- Those who have cursed Israel were cursed



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The Land Covenant

It promises:

- The Jews will suffer persecution
- The Land would become desolate
- After a world-wide scattering, there will be a world-wide regathering

The fact that these promises have & are being fulfilled shows this covenant is still working itself out



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The Land Covenant

Covenant Theologians insist that God's promises concerning the Land have been completely fulfilled

Joshua 11:23 says: Joshua took the whole land

But the book of Joshua continues to describe the land that was not fully conquered



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The Davidic Covenant

Consisted of 4 eternal things:

- House
- Throne
- Kingdom
- Descendant



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The Davidic Covenant

The fact that Messiah, the eternal descendant, is now seated at the right hand of the father shows that this covenant is still functioning.



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The Davidic Covenant

Covenant Theologians insist that the promise of the throne was fulfilled when Jesus sat on His Father's throne.



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The New Covenant

While the present outworking of this covenant results in individual Jewish salvation, there is no national salvation of Israel.

National salvation is a future provision



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The New Covenant

Law of Messiah

- Contains individual commands
- Some are the same as the Law of Moses
- Some commands are different
 - No Sabbath law
 - No dietary restrictions



Israel Present

The Unconditional Covenants The New Covenant

Law of Moses:

Do, in order to be blessed

Law of Messiah:

You are blessed, therefore, do



Israel Present

The Church's Relationship to the Unconditional Covenants

According to Jeremiah the Covenant is made with Israel, not the Church

Two types of covenant promises:

- Physical (limited to Israel)
- Spiritual (given to Israel, but extent to Gentiles)



Israel Present

The Church's Relationship to the Unconditional Covenants

The Mosaic Covenant functioned as the Middle Wall of Partition

It kept Gentiles from enjoying the spiritual blessings of the unconditional covenant



Israel Present

The Church's Relationship to the Unconditional Covenants

Gentiles in the Church are <u>partakers</u> of the spiritual blessings (salvation), but they are not <u>taker-overs</u> of the physical & material blessings of the unconditional covenants.



Israel Present

The Gentile Obligation

(Romans 15:25-27)

Because Gentiles are partakers: they are indebted to the Jews

This indebtedness can be paid by ministering to Jewish believers in material things.



The Purpose of Gentile Salvation

To gather a people for His name

(Acts 15:13-18)

Also (Amos 9:11-12; Isaiah 49:5-6)

For Gentiles to provoke Jews to jealousy

(Romans 11:11-14)



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Issues between Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism

<u>Dispensationalism</u>:

We are not under the OT Law but are under the NT Law



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Covenant Theology:

If God is immutable,

then the NT Law must be the same as the OT Law

But Covenant Theologians are forced to pick what parts of the OT Law are in force today, & what parts are not.



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

The Unity of the Law of Moses (Two factors of confusion)

- 1. Dividing the Law into:
 - Ceremonial
 - Legal
 - Moral
- 2. The 10 Commandments are valid, but the other 603 laws are not



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

1) Romans 7:1-7

When a husband dies, wife is free of husband's law

Theological application (vv 4-6)

Vs 4 – Believes made dead to the law though the death of Messiah

Vs 5 – Law no longer rules sin nature

Vs 6 – We have been discharged from the law



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

2) Romans 10:4

Messiah is the end (termination) of the Law

Final Analysis:

- Messiah is the goal of the Law
- Messiah is the end of the Law



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

3) Galatian 3:19

- Law was meant to be temporary
 Until the seed (Messiah) came
- Law added to make sin clear
- That man falls short of God's standard



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

4) Hebrews 7:11-18

New Priesthood of Melchizedek

- Levitical priesthood couldn't bring perfection
- Only Messiah's blood sacrifice could



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

Hebrews 8:13

- The Law became old under Jeremiah
- The Law vanishes when Messiah dies



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

5) Ephesians 2:14-15

The Middle Wall of Partition:

- To keep Gentiles from spiritual blessings of the unconditional Jewish covenants
- Broken down with the death of Messiah



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

6) Galatian 3:23 – 4:7

The Law served as a tutor over a minor to bring him to mature faith in Messiah

Once faith has come, he will no longer be under the tutor (the Law)



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

7) II Corinthians 3:2-11

Covenant Theologians believe that the 10 Commandments are still in effect

If the 10 Commandments were in effect, they would be a "ministration of death"

vv. 7 & 11 – say the law has passed away



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

In Summary the Law reveals:

- God's standard of righteousness
- Man's state of sinfulness
- Man's need of substitutionary atonement

But, it has completely ceased to function as a rule of life



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

What about the Moral Law?

Covenant Theologians believe that the Moral Law & 10 Commandments are the same & still in effect today

Dispensationalist believe there is a difference



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

The Moral Law:

- Did not begin with Moses
 - Adam broke the Moral Law before Moses
 - Satan broke the Moral Law before Adam
- Did not end with Messiah
 - It remains in effect today and is part of the Law of Messiah



Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Moses Rendered Inoperative

Covenant Theologians cite Matt 5:17-18

to claim it is still in effect

"To abolish" means to fail to fulfill it

"To fulfill" means to bring it to an end,

to accomplish all that is demanded of it



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Messiah

(Galatians 6:2)

- Law of Moses Disannulled
- Law of Messiah Has replaced it

They are not the same



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Messiah

(Galatians 6:2)

Observations:

- Many commandments are the same
- Many commandments are different
- Some are intensified
- There is a new motivation
 - Law of Moses do, in order to be blessed
 - Law of Messiah because you are blessed, do



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Law of Messiah

The Law of Moses has been rendered inoperative

We are now under the Law of Messiah



Israel Present

Mosaic Covenant & Law of Moses

Principle of Freedom

The believer in Messiah is:

- Free from the Law of Moses
- Free to keep parts of the Law

Dangers:

- Believing that by keeping the Law he is contributing to his justification
- Expecting others to keep the same laws



Israel Present

The Sabbath

Sign, seal, & token of Mosaic Covenant

<u>Dispensationalism believes</u>:

Since Mosaic Law ended

Sabbath command also ended

Covenant Theology believes:

Mosaic Law still in effect

Therefore, the Sabbath Law still applies



Israel Present

The Sabbath

Covenant Theology:

- Ignores how Law says to keep Sabbath
- Day changed from 7th to 1st

The claim that Sabbath observance is part of the New Covenant is not supported by New Covenant scriptures



Israel Present

Is the Sabbath a Creation Ordinance?

Genesis 2:2-3

If the Sabbath is a Creation Ordinance then mandatory for both Jews & Gentiles

Passage says:

- Nothing about what man should do
- But only states what God did Rest



Israel Present

Is the Sabbath a Creation Ordinance?

Genesis 2:2-3

OT Usage:

- No record of practice from Adam to Moses
- Job sought to know his whole duty to God Spoke of Creation and many obligations, but not the Sabbath
- In the NT Genesis 2:2-3
 - Not treated as creation ordinance
 - But treated eschatologically as Messiah's salvation rest (Heb 4:3-4)



Israel Present

Is the Sabbath a Creation Ordinance?

Genesis 2:2-3

Summary:

- 1. Does not use term Sabbath, but 7th day
- 2. No command to obey as day of rest
- 3. No record of keeping the 7th day prior to Moses
- 4. 7th day a day of rest, not observance



Israel Present

The Perpetuity of the Sabbath

Those who argue for this position use:

- Observe throughout your generations (Ex 31:13)
- Sabbath to be a perpetual covenant (Ex 31:16)
- To be a sign for ever (Ex 31:17)



Israel Present

The Perpetuity of the Sabbath

While these English terms imply eternality, the Hebrew term <u>olam</u> has a time limit

Olam often means:

- End of a man's life
- End of an age
- A Dispensation
- Till the end of human history



Israel Present

The Sabbath
Law of Moses - Inoperative

The clear teaching of the NT is that the Law of Moses is inoperative with the death of Messiah



Israel Present

The Division of the Law

Mosaic Law is a Whole

- Can be divided for the purpose of study
- But Scripture never divides it into parts

No scriptural basis for separating the 10 Commandments from the 613



Israel Present

The Division of the Law

Adherents of Mandatory Sabbath keeping realize that a majority of the OT Law of Moses no longer applies.

Law Divided into:

- Ceremonial
- Civil
- Moral (Still in effect today)
 - Sabbath viewed as part of the Moral Law



Israel Present

The Sabbath Law Moral or Ceremonial?

If it is conceded (and it is not) that the Mosaic Law can be divided,
then is it Moral or Ceremonial?



Israel Present

The Sabbath Law Moral or Ceremonial?

If Moral:

then believers who fail to keep Sabbath are immoral

But, the Law of Moses does not treat it as Moral, but as Ceremonial



Israel Present

The Sabbath Law Moral or Ceremonial?

Example:

- Adultery is always immoral (on any day)
- Activities forbidden on the Sabbath
 But are allowed on all other days
- The forbidden activities are not immoral



Israel Present

Sabbath Conclusions

No basis for mandatory Sabbath keeping

Problem begins when people pick & choose what part of the Mosaic Law is in effect & what part of the Law is not



Israel Present

Sabbath Conclusions

Hermeneutical Principles:

- The Mosaic Law given to the Jews today, we are not legally bound by it
- Determine its original purpose & meaning
 - Why did God issue it? His motives?
- Determine its theological significance
 - What does the Law reveal about God?
- Determine its practical implications



Israel Present

The Sabbath in the Gospels

Three major areas of conflict:

- 1. His claim to be Messiah
- 2. Authority of Mishnah & traditions
- 3. Proper way to observe the Sabbath



Israel Present

The Sabbath in the Gospels

Jesus observed the Sabbath according to the Law, but not always in the manner of Rabbinic Judaism



Israel Present

The Sabbath in the Gospels

Rabbinic Judaism:

- Made the Sabbath an end in itself
- Added many rules & regulations
- The Sabbath became a burden

The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27)



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Acts

Mentioned 9 times:

- Reference to Sabbath day's journey
- Sabbath observance in the Synagogue

No command in Acts for Jews to hold corporate worship or day of rest



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Acts

Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-29)

Issues:

- Circumcision of Gentiles
- Keeping of the Law of Moses
- What Gentiles obligated to do or not do

If the Jews were unable to keep the Law, then why put a yoke on the Gentiles



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Acts

(Acts 21:20-24)

No specific mention of the Sabbath

Passage Teaches:

Jewish believers are <u>free to observe</u> the Law, but they are <u>not required to keep</u> the Law



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Paul's Writings

(Colossians 2:16-17)

No where does Paul teach that the Sabbath is mandatory

Sabbath was a shadow of things to come But when the light (Messiah's death) is come -- it is no longer needed



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Hebrews

Sabbath treated typologically = Rest

- Present Salvation Rest
- Future Heavenly Rest



Israel Present

The Sabbath in Hebrews

New Testament teaching is clear:

- Day of Sabbath has not changed from 7th day to the 1st day
- No obligation to observe the Sabbath day
- Believer is free to choose



Israel Present

Sunday Teachings

Covenant Theologians often teach:

- Sunday is now the Sabbath
- As the Sabbath commemorates
 - God's creation rest
 - Sunday speaks of Christ's resurrection
- Sunday worship only began:
 - Law of Constantine (AD 321) or -
 - Council of Laodicea (AD 364)



Israel Present

Sunday Teachings

New Testament teaching:

- NT only states what believers did
- Sunday is never called the Sabbath

Churches & Messianic Congregations are free to worship any day

It is wrong to make one day obligatory



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Covenant Theologians:

The Church has replaced Israel

Dispensationalists:

Clear distinction between Israel & Church



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Evidences for the Distinction

The Church was born at Pentecost

- Church is the body of Messiah (Col 1:18)
- Entrance is by Spirit-Baptism (1 Cor 12:13)



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

- 1) The Church was born at Pentecost
 - Church is the body of Christ (Col 1:18)
 - Entrance is by Spirit-baptism (1 Cor 12:13)



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

- 2) Certain events in the life of Messiah were prerequisites to establishing the Church
 - His atoning death (Matt 16:18, 21)
 - His resurrection (Eph 1:20-23)
 - His ascension (Eph 4:7-11)



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

- 3) The mystery character of the Church
 - Jewish & Gentile believer are one new body
 - Doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - The Church as the Bride of Messiah
 - The Rapture of the Church
 - The seven stars & the seven lamp stands



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

- 4) The Church is called the "one new man" Jews, Gentile, new man (Eph 2:15)
- 5) Same 3 groups distinguished from one another (I Cor 10:32)
- 6) Term Israel is never used of the Church



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

The Use of Israel in the NT

The term Israel is used 73 times

The context of each verse clearly shows that Israel does not mean the Church



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Who is the Israel of God

Galatians 6:16

- 1. The Church (Covenant Theology)
- Believing Jewish remnant within the Church (Dispensationalism)
- Believing Jewish remnant within the Church – but the remnant is future



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Messianic Jewish Identity

Two False Concepts:

- 1. Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews
- 2. No Difference between Jew & Gentile



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Meaning of "Spirituality":

Wrong view: National transformation of a Gentile into a Jew

Right view: Spirituality based on relationship with the Holy Spirit



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Spirituality requires:

- Regeneration
- Holy Spirit
- Time



DISPENSATIONAL ISRAELOLOGY Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Biblical Passages Used:

- Galatians 3:6-9
- Galatians 3:29
- Romans 2:28-29



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Galatians 3:6-9

If Gentile believers by faith become children or sons of Abraham,
then are they spiritual Jews? - NO

Terms "sons" often means "followers"



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Galatians 3:6-9

Passage Context:

Is Salvation by works or grace?

Abraham was declared righteous based on faith, not works

True followers of Abraham are righteous for the same reason - Faith



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Galatians 3:29

If Gentiles are the "seed" of Abraham and heirs according to the promise, then are they spiritual Jews? - NO



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Galatians 3:29

The "seed" of Abraham:

- 1. Physical seed (descendants)
- 2. Messiah the unique individual Seed
- 3. The Church Jewish & Gentile believers
- 4. Remnant of Israel Jewish believers



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Galatians 3:29

Becoming heirs to the promise:

(Ephesians 2:11-16 & 3:6)

- Does <u>not</u> mean Gentiles mystically become Jews
- <u>But</u> that they become "Partakers" of the spiritual blessings (salvation)



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Romans 2:28-29

If a true Jew is one who is one inwardly,
then is a believing Gentile also an inward Jew and

thus a spiritual Jew? - NO



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Romans 2:28-29

Greater Context: Romans 2:17 - 3:9

- 1. Privileges of the Jews (2:17-20)
- 2. Practices of the Jews (2:21-24)
- 3. Position of the Jews (2:25-29)
- 4. Promises to the Jews (3:1-8)
- 5. Paul's Conclusion (3:9)



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Privileges of the Jews: (Romans 2:17-20)

(Privileges carry greater responsibility)

- Bears the name Jew (praise of God)
- 2. The Law was given to the Jews
- Knew & worshiped the one true God
- 4. Had a knowledge of the Divine will
- 5. Instructed in the Law



DISPENSATIONAL ISRAELOLOGY Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Privileges of the Jews: (Romans 2:17-20)

Privileges carry greater responsibility

The Jews should have been evangelists, instead they claimed to be superior



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Privileges of the Jews: (Romans 2:17-20)

Claims of Superiority: As reinterpreted through Pharisaic Judaism

- Guide to the blind
- 2. Light to those who lived in darkness
- 3. Corrector of fools (atheists)
- 4. Teachers of babes (Gentile proselytes)
- 5. Form of knowledge & truth



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Practices of the Jews: (Romans 2:21-24)

The actions of the Jews revealed that they had fallen short of the righteous demands of the Law

They are confronted with 5 questions, which demand affirmative answers



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Practices of the Jews: (Romans 2:21-24)

- 1. You that teach others, do you not teach yourselves?
- 2. You who preach that a man should not steal, do you not steal?
- 3. You who say, do not commit adultery, do you not commit adultery?
- 4. You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- 5. You who glory in the Law, do you not break it?



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Position of the Jews: (Romans 2:25-29)

The Pharisaic concept was that all who were circumcised would make it into God's Kingdom

- Ritual does not bring justification
- God demands an inward circumcision of the heart



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Position of the Jews: (Romans 2:25-29)

A true Jew is one who is circumcised both outwardly (physically at birth) & inwardly of the heart (at salvation)

Context: The Distinction is between:

- Jewish believers & non-believers
- Not between Jews & Gentiles
- Not between Israel & the Church



Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Promises to the Jews: (Romans 3:1-8)

If Paul is teaching (and he is not) that there is no longer any distinction between Jews & Gentiles, then what remains of their promises?



DISPENSATIONAL ISRAELOLOGY Israel Present

Israel & the Church
Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Promises to the Jews: (Romans 3:1-8)

What Paul is teaching is that <u>in salvation</u> there is no longer any distinction between Jews & Gentiles

Both have fallen short of God's standard



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Promises to the Jews: (Romans 3:1-8)

Three Objections:

- What happened to their covenant position?
 The Promises are still valid
- Has their unbelief canceled the promises?Dependant upon God's faithfulness
- 3. Why does God judge man if God is proven faithful by man's sin? Man will still be judged



Israel Present

Israel & the Church Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews

Paul's Conclusion: (Romans 3:9)

The context of Romans 2:17 – 3:9

Paul is <u>not</u> teaching that Gentiles believers have become "spiritual" Jews <u>but</u> that not all Jews are true Jews

The Distinction of this passage is:

- Not between Jews & Gentiles
- Not between Israel & the Church
- But between Jewish believers & non-believers



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Messianic Jewish Identity

No Difference between Jew & Gentile

(I Cor 12:12-13; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11)

A careful study of these passages in their context will show that the distinction between Jews & Gentiles is erased only in certain area and not in all



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Messianic Jewish Identity

No Difference between Jew & Gentile

(I Cor 12:12-13; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11)

When critics of the Messianic Jewish distinction refer to these passages, often only the "Jew & Greek" statement is cited & the rest ignored



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Messianic Jewish Identity

No Difference between Jew & Gentile

(I Cor 12:12-13; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11)

These same critics also overlook the rest the passage which also eliminates the distinction between male & female, slave & free man

These distinctions have not been erased



Israel Present

Israel & the Church

Messianic Jewish Identity

Two False Concepts:

- 1. Gentile Believers become spiritual Jews
- 2. No Difference between Jew & Gentile

Conclusion:

- Gentile (and Jewish) believers are spiritual when controlled by the Holy Spirit
- Distinctions remain between Jew & Gentile



Israel Present

Israel Today

On **May 14, 1948**, a nation that had not existed for almost 2000 years was reborn – the nation Israel

Covenant Theologians struggle with this event, wishing that it did not exist

But OT Prophets clearly spoke of its day



Israel Present

Israel Today

Two Regatherings:

- Regathering in unbelief for judgment (Tribulation)
- Regathering in faith for blessing (Messianic Kingdom)



Israel Present

Remnant of Israel

I Peter 2:1-10

Book written to the Jewish believers (remnant) living outside the land

Spiritual State: To show that while the non-remnant has failed in their calling, the remnant has not failed



Israel Present

Remnant of Israel

I Peter 2:1-10

Stone of Stumbling: (vv. 4-8)

Yeshua is the Stone of Stumbling

- Rejected by men
- Elect & precious with God

The Jewish Remnant:

- Living stones part of spiritual house of Israel
- A holy priesthood Israel's national calling



Israel Present

Remnant of Israel

I Peter 2:1-10

Stone of Stumbling: (vv. 4-8)

Concerning the Remnant

Messianic Stone precious to remnant

Concerning the Non-remnant

- Messianic Stone rejected by leaders
- Stone of stumbling & offence



Israel Present

Remnant of Israel

I Peter 2:1-10

Status of the Remnant: (vv. 9-10)

- Elect (chosen) race (Isaiah 43:20)
- Royal Priesthood (Melchizedek)
 - Now right to approach sanctuary
 - Future exercise authority in Kingdom
- Holy Nation
- People for God's own possession



Israel Present

Remnant of Israel

I Peter 2:1-10

Purpose of their Election: (vv. 9b)

- To show forth the excellence of God
- To proclaim the gospel outside of Israel

Summary:

- While the non-remnant has failed in their calling, the remnant has not failed.
- It is fulfilling the calling of the nation.



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Introduction:

The Place of Romans 9-11

Rom 1-8 – Theology of God's Righteousness

- All have sinned & fallen short
- What God has done to provide righteousness
- Nothing can separate us from God's love

Rom 9-11 – Vindication of God's Righteousness in relationship to Israel

Rom 12-16 – Application of God's Righteousness



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Three Questions

- 1. Why are so few Jews being saved?
 - Not due to a failure of God's promises
 - Not due to an injustice by God
 - But due to their own rejection

God will provide:

- Individual salvation to the remnant
- National salvation & restoration in the future



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Three Questions

- 2. How can Gentiles trust God, when His promised to Israel remain unfulfilled?
 - Israel's failure due to pride & self-sufficiency
 - Israel's rejection not complete or total
 - Individuals will be saved (the remnant)
 - Israel's rejection not final
 - A future generation will accept Messiah



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Three Questions

3. Has the gospel nullified God's promises to Israel?

NO



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Romans 3:1

The question: What advantage does the

Jew have? or What profit is circumcision?

This will be dealt with and expanded upon in Romans 9 - 11



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

(Romans 9:1-5)

- Paul's sorrow over Israel's rejection
- Israel's privileges do not assure salvation



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

Israel's privileges: (Romans 9:1-5)

- 1. Israel's nation adoption
- 2. Glory visible manifestation of God's presence
- 3. Four unconditional covenants
- 4. Law & Mosaic Covenant
- 5. Their service to God (priesthood, etc)
- 6. The Promises (1st & 2nd Coming, Kingdom)
- 7. The Patriarchs
- 8. The Messiah



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

In Light of Biblical History: (Rom 9:6-13)

The point is that God's word & divine plan has not failed

The rejection by Israel of Messiah was part of God's plan

Contrast between Remnant & Non-Remnant



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

Two Illustrations: (Rom 9:7-9 & 10-13)

- Ishmael & Isaac
 - Both physical descendants of Abraham
 - But only Isaac was the child of promise
- 2. Esau & Jacob
 - Esau was first-born, but Jacob was chosen
 - Issue was national election, not descent



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

Paul's point:

- 1. God's word has not failed
- 2. Spiritual blessing not based on descent
- 3. Spiritual blessing comes by grace
- 4. Physical descent and spiritual appropriation



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

In Light of Biblical Principles (Rom 9:14-18)

- Q1 Is there unrighteousness in God?
 - A1 God Forbid, may it never be
 - A2 God has right to dispense mercy as He pleases (Ex 33:19)
 - A3 Divine Sovereignty & Justice (Ex 9:16)
 - Moses experiences God's goodness
 - Pharaoh experiences God's severity



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

In Light of Biblical Principles (Rom 9:19-29)

Q2 – Why does God find fault?

If God hardens hearts, how can He blame them when they are doing what He willed them to do?

Not answered directly,
Paul deals with the heart attitude
that produced the question



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

In Light of Biblical Principles (Rom 9:19-29)

Q2 – Why does God find fault?

Illustration: Potter & the Clay

- God has the right to make of the clay what he chooses
- Point is to place man in a proper relationship to His Creator



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

In Light of Biblical Principles (Rom 9:19-29)

Q2 – Why does God find fault?

Illustration: Potter & the Clay

Men are not lost because the are hardened; men are hardened because they are lost



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Theology of Israel's Rejection:

Summary -- Divine Sovereignty

- God's plan & program was not a failure
- Israel's rejection part of God's plan
- Mercy was extended to the Gentiles
- Remnant of Jews would come to faith
- God is Sovereign
 Vessels of mercy & vessels of wrath



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9 - 11

Explanation of Israel's Rejection:

After explaining Israel's rejection from the standpoint of Divine Sovereignty,

Paul now explains Israel's rejection from the viewpoint of human responsibility



Israel Present

Theology of Israel

Romans 9:30-10:21

Explanation of Israel's Rejection:

Why did Israel fall?

- 1. The Stumbling of the People (Rom 9:30-33)
- 2. Israel's ignorance of the Channel of Salvation (Rom 10:1-11)
- 3. Israel's ignorance of the Character of Salvation (Rom 10:12-13)
- 4. Israel's ignorance of the Universal Preaching of the Gospel (Rom 10:14-21)



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

The Stumbling of the People

(Rom 9:30-33)

- Gentiles who lacked the law of righteousness obtained righteousness
- Jews who pursued the law of righteousness failed to arrive at it

Why?

- They pursued it by works, not by faith
- They stumbled over the Stone of Stumbling



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's ignorance of the Channel of Salvation (Romans 10:1-11)

Israel sought their own righteousness by the way an individual kept the Law to the glory or their own works

Righteousness of God is attained by faith plus nothing



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's ignorance of the Channel of Salvation

(Romans 10:1-11)

Israel failed to realize:

- No man could keep the Law (Lev 18:5)
- Goal of the Law was faith in Messiah
- The Law had ended as a rule of life
- The Law was never a means of salvation



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's ignorance of the Channel of Salvation

(Romans 10:1-11)

- Righteousness is by Faith
- No amount of human merit can achieve it
- Faith has content Jesus the Savior
- What one confesses, he believes



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's ignorance of the Character of Salvation (Romans 10:12-13)

Since the Law was given to the Jews and not the Gentiles, they wrongly concluded that God only intended to save the Jews

- Because salvation is free, it is universal available to both Jew & Gentile
- All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved



Israel Present

Explanation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's ignorance of the Universal Preaching of the Gospel

(Romans 10:14-21)

Because of Israel's ignorance of the universal character of salvation, they failed to preach salvation by faith to the Gentiles



Israel Present

Consolation of Israel's Rejection

Israel's Rejection is not Total

(Romans 11:1-10)

Has God rejected His people? NO

God, in His foreknowledge, chose Israel knowing they would reject the Messiah



Israel Present

Consolation of Israel's Rejection

Purpose of Israel's Stumbling

(Romans 11:11-15)

Has Israel stumbled that they might fall?

No, Israel's stumbling is not irrevocable

Israel's stumbling was for Gentile salvation
Gentile salvation was to provoke Jews to
jealousy



Israel Present

Consolation of Israel's Rejection

Purpose of Israel's Stumbling

(Romans 11:11-15)

If by the fall of Israel Gentiles received the gospel, how much more will the Gentiles be blessed by Israel's return

- Second Coming
- Establishment of the Kingdom



Israel Present

Consolation of Israel's Rejection

The Olive Tree

(Romans 11:16-24)

Olive Tree is not Israel or the Church It is the place of spiritual blessing

- Root = Blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant
- Natural branches = Jews
- Wild branches = Gentiles



Israel Present

Consolation of Israel's Rejection

The Olive Tree

(Romans 11:16-24)

When the wild branches (Gentiles) are grafted into the root (place of blessing), they become partakers of the sap

Gentiles are partakers of the Jewish spiritual blessings (salvation) of the Abrahamic Covenant – but they are not taker-overs



DISPENSATIONAL ISRAELOLOGY Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Remnant of Israel:

There always were, are, & will be Jews who believe in the Messiahship of Jesus and these will make up the Israel of God

Together, with Gentile believers, they form the Body or the Church



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Definitions

Who is a Jew?

- Descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- A Jew can never become a non-Jew

Who is a Gentile?

Not a descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

Who is a Christian?

Jew or Gentile who believes in Jesus as Messiah



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Definitions

Who is a Hebrew Christian or Messianic Jew?

- Descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- Believes in Jesus as Messiah

These terms are interchangeable, and a matter of preference



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

Basis for Messianic Jewish Distinctives:

- 1. The Abrahamic Covenant
- 2. The Doctrine of the Remnant
- 3. The Doctrine of the Olive Tree
- 4. The Doctrine of the Israel of God



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

The Abrahamic Covenant:

- An eternal, unconditional covenant
- Law of Moses was an addition to it
- Through the cross:
 - Mosaic Law (addition) rendered inoperative
 - Abrahamic (the original) remains in effect



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

The Abrahamic Covenant:

- God promised a great nation
 All Messianic Jews are still Jews
 Descendants of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob
- God promised a Land
 No matter their nationality, their home is Israel
- God promised blessing & cursing
 Jewish history shows its outworking
- 4. The Sign of Circumcision
 Since they fall under the other provision of the Abrahamic Covenant, this one also applies



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

(Romans 11:1-10)

The Doctrine of the Remnant:

- Messianic Jews are the Remnant today
- They are also part of the Church



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

(Romans 11:16-24)

The Doctrine of the Olive Tree:

Olive Tree = Spiritual Blessing of Israel

- Natural Branches = Jewish Believers
- Wild Branches = Gentile Believers



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

Distinctives

(Romans 9:6-8)

The Doctrine of the Israel of God:

Two Israels:

- Israel the whole = composed of all Jews
- Israel of God = composed of believing Jews



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Distinctives

<u>Conclusion</u>: A Messianic Jew is a distinctive element within the Body of Messiah

Distinctives are:

- Position (Jewish nationality)
- The Israel of God (the Remnant)
- The natural branch of the Olive Tree
- 4. Gentile relationship in blessing & cursing



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Practices

What is the basis for distinct Messianic Jewish practices?

- Some look to the Law of Moses
- Some look to rabbinics
- Majority look to both (mixture)

But solid practices need to rest on a solid theological foundation



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Practices

Theological Foundation:

- 1. Cannot be based on Law as an obligation
- Cannot be based on Rabbinic Judaism as an obligation
- 3. Advantages to keeping Jewish elements
- 4. Freedom to choose which elements to keep
- 5. Freedom to develop own style of worship



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew Practices

Advantages to keeping Jewish elements:

- Allows believer to identify with their Jewishness
- Basis for teaching Jewish culture & history
- Provide opportunities to worship God
- Provide opportunities to share their faith

Warning: With freedom comes the responsibility to ensure that practices have a Biblical origin



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

New Testament Writings

Of the 4 Gospels:

Matthew written to the Jews

- Book of Acts: First 15 chapters
- Of the 21 Epistles: 5 written to the Jews Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, & Jude
- Book of Revelation:

Israelology of the Tribulation & Kingdom



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

New Testament Writings

Matthew written to the Jews:

- Presents Yeshua as Israel's Messianic King
- The offer of the Kingdom to Israel
- Rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus
- Results of His rejection judgment
- Mystery Kingdom inaugurated
- Trial & atoning death of the Passover Lamb



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

New Testament Writings

The Book of Acts:

- Continuation of the Book of Luke
- Gospel proclaimed to Jews in Jerusalem
- Church growth among the Jews
- Opposition & Stoning of Steven Final rejection of the resurrection message (sign of Jonah)
- Dispersion of Jewish believers
- Peter's revelation concerning Gentile believers
- Paul's conversion & missionary journeys



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

New Testament Writings

Jewish Epistles:

- Written to scattered Jewish believers
- Sheep without a shepherd
- Problems addressed:
 - Persecution
 - False doctrine



Israel Present

Hebrew Christian / Messianic Jew

New Testament Writings

Book of Revelation:

- Tribulation
- Second Coming of Messiah
- Establishment of the Messianic Kingdom

Will be further discussed under Israel Future