

Refuse To Be Intimidated by the Error of Replacement Theology

I. INTRODUCTION

Now I am speaking specifically to pastors and any others who teach the Bible. I do not mean only the pastor of a Sunday morning congregation. You may be pastoring people and discipling them through social media, through blogs, through conversations, through technology, through home Bible studies, etc. I have recognized a real problem in the body of Christ over the last years which is the intimidation that many pastors feel to address this subject of replacement theology.

I think most pastors do not really believe in replacement theology. I think they are intimidated or just unaware of the biblical narrative of Israel and, thus, are silent about it. They have just decided to leave it alone. I want to call pastors—like a million of them around the earth (I just made up that number)—to “arise for such a time as this” to search out the biblical narrative of Israel and not to be intimidated by a few seminary professors who taught replacement theology. I am calling them to be free from being passive about the error of replacement theology.

Replacement theology is a term that many of you have not used much, but you are going to be using it a lot in the months and years ahead. So determine to learn a few new terms and a few verses, and a couple of the biblical arguments so you are equipped to help people who need understanding about the biblical narrative of Israel.

- A. I believe history will change in context to the ***Isaiah 62 Fast***—well over 5 million committed to pray for Israel for 1 hour a day for 21 days (May 7-28), and 12,000 ministry hubs from 120 nations committed to mobilize people to pray for Israel. The info was translated in over 100 languages. I am guessing that 15 million+ believers are in a new conversation about the biblical narrative of Israel.
 1. I want you aware that something historic is unfolding so that it creates urgency in you to prepare yourself to help others to understand the biblical narrative of Israel. I am guessing that in the next 3 years the 15 million will draw 3-4 friends into this biblical conversation resulting in maybe 50 million being engaged. Because these 50 million love Jesus and the Bible, they will quickly see the biblical narrative of Israel, so this will lead to 100 million intercessors for Israel in the years to come. The historic arrogance and intimidation that has left millions in the Church in ignorance or deception will be totally reversed before Jesus returns.
 2. I am speaking tonight to pastors or to those who host Bible studies in person or via social media platforms. I encourage you to challenge the dangerous error of replacement theology.

Paragraph A: I believe that human history will literally change in the wake of what happened in the Isaiah 62 Fast in May 2023. Most of you know that well over five million Gentile believers committed to pray one hour a day for Israel for 21 days. There are over one billion believers on earth, so five million is a really small percentage. However, it is still a significant increase. The Isaiah 62 website [isaiah62fast.com] is mostly a “directory of ministries” that want to mobilize people to pray for Israel. Information for over 12,000 ministries is on that website, indicating that they want to mobilize people in their area and language to pray for Israel. We call them “ministry hubs”—because they are to be “a hub of activity” that mobilizes prayer for Israel in their geographic area. These 12,000 ministries are from over 120 nations. For many of them, I assume it is the first time that they have taken a public stand for Israel. The information about this 21-day Isaiah 62 Fast (May 7-28, 2023) was translated in over 100 languages—my point is that the Isaiah 62 Fast was a “God moment” in history. Something happened that none of us were expecting to happen. When we started this, a number of us were asking the Lord for 100,000 believers who would pray for one hour a day for 21 days.

We had no thought that 5 million from 120 nations and 100 languages, and 12,000 ministries would commit to this! Now, these are just general numbers that I am throwing out there. The numbers are not precise, but they give you a picture that something historic is happening so that it creates urgency, so that many say, “Wait! If something is growing quickly by the activity of the Spirit across the earth, well, I love Jesus, and I love the Bible, and I love the harvest, so yes, I want to be more involved in this!”

That is why I am sharing this tonight and why I am calling pastors to lay aside the intimidation related to Israel that is so common. I have spoken to many over the years who say, “You know, my church does not do ‘the Israel thing’ because I was taught in seminary that it wasn’t important, and so why should I talk about Israel? Because my ministry focus is on the harvest and revival and making disciples, I don’t think much about Israel.” These pastors do not understand that God touching Israel by the Spirit is deeply connected to the end-time revival among the Gentiles. Most pastors and leaders do not know that point. I am not going to break that down right now and am just throwing it out there.

So let’s do the math: if 5 million Gentiles committed to pray for Israel for one hour a day for 21 days in May 2023 (I assume this the first time that many have done something like this for 21 days), you can be sure that those 5 million each have two friends that they talked to about this prayer initiative in May. So I am guessing that 15 million—the 5 million who prayed plus another 10 million who asked them “Why are you praying for Israel? And where is that in the Bible?”—are now interested in talking about Israel.

So I believe that there are now over 15 million Gentiles that are talking about Israel. They are not all committed to pray for Israel, but they are asking questions—many for the first time—about the biblical narrative of Israel. This is significant because we do not gain new biblical understanding about Israel unless we ask new questions. And so this new global conversation that began in May is critical. I also assume that many of these 5 million who prayed do not know what Bible passages to use to help those who are asking them, “Where? When? What? Why? Give me some Bible information on this.”

Well, let’s give it three more years, and I imagine the 15 million who just beginning to engage in conversation about Israel right now each have two or three friends who love Jesus and the Bible. I am just giving a random date of three years from now. I am not prophesying. Those 15 million talking to three friends about Israel will soon result in 50 million engaging in conversation about Israel because they love Jesus and the Bible. They just do not yet have the biblical narrative of Israel. Then that 50 million will grow to 100 million which is a number the Lord has highlighted—100 million intercessors for Israel.

For about the last 1700 years of Church history the predominant theology in the Church has been replacement theology, which I will get to in a moment. For 1,700 years, there has never been a priority in the conversation of the global body of Christ to understand the biblical narrative of Israel.

- B. May 2023 was a catalytic time in the escalation of the global conversation of the biblical narrative of Israel in the body of Christ. Replacement theology was given a “head wound” like the stone that knocked out Goliath so that David might cut off his head. In May 2023, God “guided a stone” to wound “the Goliath of replacement theology” (1 Sam. 17:49). I assure you, after 1700 years, the error of replacement theology will be cleansed from global end-time Church before Jesus returns.

⁴⁹...the stone sank into his [Goliath’s] forehead, and he fell...there was no sword in the hand of David...⁵¹he ran and stood over the Philistine, took his [Goliath’s] sword...and cut off his head. (1 Sam. 17:49-51)

Paragraph B: This is kind of an odd statement here. David defeated the giant Goliath using a sling and stone. Now, David was probably a pretty good shot, but that is not why he defeated Goliath. God guided that stone to hit Goliath in the head. David did not even have a sword or any military equipment. The stone dazed Goliath, and he fell over. Then David took Goliath's own sword and cut his head off.

I believe that "the Goliath of replacement theology" will fall. The beginning, the "head wound" of "the Goliath of replacement theology," is happening now. In other words, that giant has been "dazed by a stone" that God directed in May 2023 by stirring 5 million to pray for Israel. That giant is not yet dead by any means, but before the Lord returns, I can assure you that the 1,700 year consensus of replacement theology in the body of Christ will be overcome. It will be gone! That "Goliath" is coming down completely.

- C. One emphasis in this message is that God's servants should ***no longer be intimidated*** by this error that will lead some to deny their faith in the end times (Rom. 11:22). There is no sound biblical basis for this popular, false idea. God's people are counting on their leaders to tell them the truth.

Paragraph C: One of my primary points which I will make over and over tonight is that the error of replacement theology has no sound Biblical basis I will give a number of verses without explaining each one. I just want you to be aware of some of these verses so that you can study them in the months to come and include them into conversation with a few of your friends. It does not have to be this week or this month but just sometime within the next weeks or months. The error of replacement theology has no sound biblical basis even though some of the greatest Bible teachers in history have promoted it under the cloak of scholarship.

1. Based on internet data, I am guessing about 700,000 people enrolled in a theological seminary in North America over the 50 last years. In this context, many future pastors were taught the error of replacement theology by gifted professors—so they assumed it was a biblical truth. I want to speak kindly against this error that some prominent scholarly seminary professors have promoted, but I want to speak clearly enough to stir pastors to resist being intimidated by their former professors and to begin to study the biblical narrative of Israel and to speak on it.

My primary emphasis tonight is that God's servants not be intimidated by this topic. There are so many pastors with seminary degrees who are intimidated by this subject. I saw some data on the internet about how many have attended a theological seminary—using this data, I estimate that there are about 700,000 people who have gone to seminary in the last 50 years in North America. I believe that most of those pastors are not deeply rooted and committed to replacement theology (that the Church has replaced Israel), but I believe that many are intimidated by a few of their seminary professors who maybe wrote a book on replacement theology. These pastors think, "Wow, I can't really say all that I was taught about replacement theology in seminary! I can't even remember it!" However, in my opinion, many pastors left seminary feeling intimidated by this topic and therefore, for the last 20 or 30 years, they have never ever talked about Israel to their congregations.

*I want to say to them—I want to say it tenderly but I want to say it in a way that encourages them to shake off the spirit of intimidation—it is a serious error that has no sound biblical basis. The vast majority (of these 700,000 who attended seminary in the last 50 years in North America) cannot defend replacement theology. I obviously have not met all 700,000 of them so I am just guessing that most of them would have very little to say if challenged by the biblical narrative of Israel. I want to repeat that there is **no** sound biblical basis for this doctrine which has been so dominant for 1,700 years. I believe this has been a satanic strategy to have the end-time Church unprepared for the greatest hour of history when the Church needs to be prepared to stand for Israel. We are in the generation where God will provoke unbelieving Israel by Gentiles. Thus, this is the most critical hour not to be ignorant of the biblical storyline. The enemy will not win this battle. So I am encouraging pastors again: their*

people are counting on them to tell them the truth on this significant Bible truth! Hundreds of millions of believers are saying, “Pastors, tell us the truth! Come on!”

2. When I consider how such a dangerous false teaching was so dominant for nearly 1,700 years without any sound biblical basis, resulting in over 90% of 2 billion professing Christians to be unprepared to stand for Israel, even as we approach a time when it is essential for Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy—I am struck by how zealous Satan is to perpetuate this deception. The end-time Church must be prepared to stand as messengers of His love and salvation to unbelieving Israel in the face of precedented anti-Semitism in the end times.
3. Over one billion believers are counting on their pastors to tell them the truth about Israel.

II. REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY: A SIMPLE OVERVIEW

- A. Replacement theology promotes the error that God is finished with Israel as a nation and the promises He made to ancient Israel in the Old Testament have been given to the Church. Thus, the Church is God’s “***new true Israel***” who inherits all the national promises He initially gave to Israel. Replacement theology historically has also been called *supersessionism* or *fulfillment theology*.

Okay, what is replacement theology? I will say it in a simple way: it is the theology that says the Church replaced Israel. Replacement theologians taught that many Old Testament promises to Israel and many end-time prophetic passages about Israel are not literal. They are to be spiritualized and understood symbolically. There are well over 100 prophetic Bible passages about Israel in the end times, some with great details and clarity. Much of this biblical information is dismissed by these teachings by saying, “Well, these passages now refer to the Church.” However, in many of those passages there is nothing about the Church. They are about Israel!

- B. Replacement theology spiritualizes rather than interprets the prophetic promises given to Israel in a literal, plain sense way. It embraces a non-literal, allegorical interpretation of these promises and/or insists that most of the end-time prophecies about Israel have been fulfilled in history.
- C. Many who teach replacement theology view the Church as *spiritual Israel* or *spiritual Jerusalem*. In the NT, the term, *Israel*, is used nearly 70 times, always referring to the physical people of Israel, never as a substitute for the Church. The phrases, *new Israel* or *spiritual Israel* are not in the Bible.

Paragraph C: There are several terms that point to replacement theology (which is a term being used much more in the last ten or twenty years). It is said the Church is “spiritual Israel” or that the Church is “spiritual Jerusalem.” The phrases, “new Israel” or “spiritual Israel” are not in the Bible, not even one time.

When I met Bob Jones in 1983, he said, “There is coming a day you are going to be on Truman’s property, and there will be 100 million intercessors for Israel!” I told Bob that I believed the Church was spiritual Israel. At that time, I had been pastoring for seven years and seemingly every pastor that I knew just assumed that the Church was spiritual Israel.

In the New Testament, the term, “Israel,” is mentioned 70 times (a couple more than 70 if you count different derivations of the word Israel). It always refers to physical, ethnic Israel. It is never talking about the Church. Some of the replacement theology scholars through history are really famous and smart, and they had a significant influence throughout Church history, so the majority of pastors were just silent on this subject of Israel, thinking that the famous scholars must be right in their stand for replacement theology.

Replacement theology has been a demonic strategy throughout history to create antisemitism which is horrific in itself. Satan wants Israel to be deeply offended at the Church. So much antisemitism or hatred against Israel was fueled by the teachings of the Church scholars who taught replacement theology! They said that the Church is Israel, so there is no more Israel in Bible prophecy. Many things have happened over 1,700 years, but even more serious than that—though that is very serious—is that the Church today has over billion believers (some say two billion; it depends on how they determine what a Christian is), and I believe that more than 90% of them are totally unprepared to stand for Israel, yet we are coming to one of the most dramatic hours in history where God wants to use Gentile believers to reveal the God of Israel to unbelieving Israel! Today, antisemitism or hatred against Israel is increasing quickly across the earth, yet many believers today are not equipped to stand for Israel. I assume many would dismiss or even deny the biblical commands to stand for Israel.

1. Not even one Bible verse clearly declares that the Church is now spiritual Israel.
2. In my first 7 years of pastoring (1976-1983), I assumed there were many Bible verses that proved that the Church was spiritual Israel. It was in June 1983 that I was challenged by messianic leaders to support my replacement theology views but I could not find one verse.

I met Bob Jones in March 1983, two months before the 21-day fast in May 7-28, 1983. During the fast of May 1983, I was still embracing replacement theology. I was not praying for Israel. I was using all of the Israel verses to pray for the Church and revival in America. I looked back over that and think, “Augh! How did I miss this?” There is not one Bible verse that declares that the Church is spiritual Israel. What is ridiculous is that I went through the 21-day solemn assembly praying Daniel 9 for revival in America. For my first 7 years of pastoring, I just assumed that the Church was spiritual Israel.

After we finished the 21-day fast in May 1983, a few messianic leaders asked me why I could not see Israel. I replied that everyone knows that “the Church is Israel.” They asked me for verses. I said that they are everywhere. They asked for even one. They were kind. Their kindness helped me to be open to this conversations. The kindness is the tone that we need (I want us to be kind and not try to win arguments but to win hearts). I responded, “Well everyone knows that the Church is spiritual Israel!” They said that in that case give them a few of those verses.

So I began to study it personally, and there is not even one verse! How did this happen that I became convinced that the Church was spiritual Israel yet without one verse stating it? So in June and July 1983 I shifted my position and then began to stand for the biblical narrative of Israel. Today, many are praying the Lord would wake up hundreds of thousands of pastors in the earth to see this demonic deception. Calling it a demonic deception hurts my heart because I value so many scholars throughout history who taught this. I still learn from them except in this area.

- D. Replacement theology has been taught by the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant churches for the majority of their history. Many Church Fathers—including Justin Martyr (AD 100-165), Augustine of Hippo (354-430), John Calvin, Martin Luther and more, espoused this doctrine.

Paragraph D: The majority of Church leadership for about 1,700 years has been influenced by replacement theology. Some relate the increase of replacement theology to the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD; Nicene Creed). Augustine, who was considered to be one of the greatest theologians in Church history (around 400 AD), strongly promoted replacement theology.

- E. There are 2 main approaches to replacement theology.

1. Israel's place as the people of God was **forfeited**. The Church replaced Israel due to God's permanent judgment on Israel for killing Jesus, saying Israel is disqualified forever. This view is just another expression of the **abolitionist view** of the Abrahamic Covenant.
2. Israel's role as God's people was **completed**. This view says that after Jesus came, Israel's mission was completed. The Church replaced Israel. God is no longer working through Israel. This is an expression of the **reconstructionist view** of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Paragraph E: There are two main approaches that these scholars take. One approach says that Israel's role as the people of God is completed. Meaning, God really used them in the Old Testament, but, when Jesus came, the Lord was finished using the Jews—they had completed their mission. This is a softer approach to replacement theology saying, "Hey, we think Israel had a role, but just not any longer."

The other view is much stronger and more harsh—it says that Israel forfeited her role because they are under perpetual judgment due to their sin of rejecting Jesus. And so they are under a permanent judgment of God; thus there is no significant purpose for them ever again!

- F. **Literal interpretation:** The best Bible teachers in history embrace the **historical-grammatical** method of interpretation. This interpretative grid seeks to understand each passage according to the original meaning that was intended by the one who wrote it. Literal interpretation seeks to understand the "plain meaning"—what the author intended as conveyed by its *grammatical construction* and *historical context*, including the cultural background of the author and its readers.

Paragraph F: Historical-grammatical is a new term to some. There are scholars who were great Bible teachers who wrote commentaries on many of the books of the Bible, from Augustine all the way through Luther, Calvin, and others throughout history—the majority of these men were excellent Bible teachers who taught through the books of Bible verse by verse. Why? Because they insisted on understanding the Bible with a literal interpretation. They insisted on it, and that is why their verse-by-verse teachings were so good. It is a method called the "historical-grammatical interpretation."

You might think, "Those are two big words in one hyphenated phrase!" It is a term that is easy to understand. "Historical" refers to these teachers interpreting Bible passages by considering the historical context in which it was given. "Grammatical" means these Bible teachers sought to understand the grammar or language in the way that the writer of the scripture (like Isaiah or Jeremiah) meant it to be understood. The historical-grammatical interpretation—which I believe is the right way to interpret Scripture—is referred to some simply as "the literal interpretation" in seeking to gain its "plain sense" meaning. In other words, they ask, "What did Isaiah want his readers to understand when they read his prophecies?"

The reason men like Augustine, Luther and Calvin and others were such great Bible teachers is because they interpreted scripture in a literal or "plain sense" way. However, when it came to Israel they did not interpret the Bible in a literal way but in a figurative or symbolic way! They violated their own principle of how to interpret Scripture in a literal way—even though they strongly promoted this method of interpretation. For most biblical passages they used historical-grammatical, seeking to understand its plain sense, meaning the literal sense.

Now, if you say "literal," some smart seminary graduate may warn you to not interpret it in a "wooden literal sense." For example, when David said, "We are the sheep of His pasture" (Ps. 100:3), or that the Lord "makes me to lie down in green pastures" (Ps. 23:2), David was not saying humans are really sheep that ought to find green pastures to rest in.

I love these Bible teachers. I have read them for years. They upheld the historical grammatical approach except with Israel. Martin Luther was used by God to shift human history, yet he was so wrong in his teaching about Israel, especially at the end of his life. He was one of the darkest voices in history in promoting this demonic deception of replacement theology. Yet he was one of the most influential voices that changed church history in many positive ways. He helped millions to read the Bible themselves.

- G. Replacement theology is one of the most dangerous errors promoted throughout history by many who are reputed to be trustworthy Bible scholars for many centuries. There is serious contradiction in their teaching—in that they consistently insist on the literal interpretation of Scripture **except when it relates to Israel**. In my opinion, it seems to be an blatant contradiction that is a serious blemish on their legacy of being honest scholars who are faithful witnesses of the truth.

Some replacement theology scholars blatantly violated their own biblical principles of interpretation. That is incredible when I think of how famous and how brilliant some of these men of God were, esteemed throughout centuries of church history. My burden is that this is one of the most serious and detrimental errors of Church history that was promoted for 1,700 year by the very scholars who insisted on a literal interpretation of Scripture except for the prophetic scriptures related to Israel. In my opinion this is—and I do not mean to be mean—but it is a blatant contradiction and a violation of their own biblical principles of interpretation.

Why am I telling you that? I am not trying to pick on John Calvin or Martin Luther. I am not trying to pick on Augustine and other scholars who were esteemed as great teachers through history. I just do not want you to be intimidated because they have written many books and commentaries. They earned theological degrees and knew many languages so many assume they must be right. Wrong. It is only right if the Bible supports it. That is the only thing that makes it right. In the forty years since I shifted my views about the biblical narrative of Israel in the summer of 1983, I have run into people intimidated by replacement theology many times, and it troubles me.

- H. Replacement theology is a dangerous demonic strategy that fueled anti-Semitism in the Church and emboldened Christians to persecute Jews, resulting in Jews being deeply offended at Christians.

Today antisemitism is escalating in many nations. Scripture prophesies end-time hatred against Israel and Satan's attack against Israel. Antisemitism in the Church is a serious error because the Lord requires the Church be the vessels of His love and mercy to unbelieving Israel. He is saying, as it were, "Body of Christ I am requiring you to partner with Me in this, but you have to have a basic understanding or you will not stand. Even if you do stand for Israel, you will not be able to make any sense of biblical end-time prophecy about Israel to unbelieving Jewish people."

We are to use their scriptures to show them what their prophets said and show them that we are willing to stand for them in the face of persecution, personal loss, and pain because we really believe what the Jewish prophets wrote in the scriptures. Many will be moved when they see that you believe the prophetic scriptures about Israel to such a degree that you will speak it to them and that you stand for them even in the face of great antisemitism. So it is important that we understand a least a little bit of the biblical narrative of Israel. We do not have to be experts at it. And the good news is, I have a lot of verses on the last page of this handout that will give many verses to draw from. There are a remarkable number of passages, and they are pretty straight forward.

III. GENTILE BELIEVERS MUST AVOID THIS 5-STAGE SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION (ROM. 11)

Roman numeral three: The importance of embracing the biblical narrative of Israel. I do not want to spend much time on this. You can read the notes to see catch this five-stage progression of darkness that ends up in disaster

if someone gets to stage five which describes believers being cut off by God as Romans 11:22 says. This is really serious.

- A. Believers must not remain ignorant of the biblical narrative of Israel because it is the beginning of a 5-stage progression of darkness and it can progressively lead believers into hardness of heart.

²⁵I do not desire...that you [Gentiles] should be ignorant of this mystery...that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶All Israel will be saved... (Rom. 11:25-26)

1. ***This mystery (11:25):*** Paul desired that Gentile believers not be ignorant of the mystery of “God’s grand family plan” that will result in Jews and Gentiles walking in deep love, humility, and gratitude toward one another (Jn 17:21-23; Eph. 3:3-10).

³“...He made known to me the mystery...⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ...⁹[that] all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God... (Eph. 3:3-9)

²³“...they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)

When you read God’s “mystery,” think of God’s grand family plan. He will use 7,000 years of history from Genesis to the end of millennium to cause Jews to love Gentiles with gratitude and humility and vice versa. That they fall into each other’s arms with love and gratitude. That is the mystery. Romans 11 is the ultimate passage on biblical narrative of Israel. For 2,000 years from Abraham to Jesus, Israel was the primary leaders in the global salvation conversation. For the next 2,000 years, from Jesus’ first coming to His second coming, Gentiles became the primary leaders in global salvation conversation. Both groups stumbled greatly. In the Millennium, the Lord will bring them both together in deep love.

2. ***Fulness of the Gentiles:*** Israel’s blindness will be lifted and all Israel saved in context to the fullness of the Gentiles which includes the *full number saved* (“billion soul harvest”), and walking in *fullness of love* (fearless, obedient love even unto to death) and *fullness of power* (Jn. 14:12) with *full understanding* of “God’s grand family plan” (Dan. 11:33; Rev. 10:7). Gentiles have a significant role in God’s eternal plan—an “international family of affection.”

⁷...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel...the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. (Rev. 10:7)

Let’s start in Romans 11:25. Paul says, “I desire that you are not ignorant of the mystery,” of God’s grand family plan—that is what I call it. God has a grand family plan to bring the Jews and the Gentiles together in such deep unity as an international family of affection forever as portrayed in John 17. Paul says, in effect, “I do not want you ignorant of this mystery (11:25a) which includes spiritual blindness in part of the Jews (11:25b), but God is going to wake up the Jews by the fullness of the grace of God on the Gentiles (11:25c).” This spiritual blindness on Israel will not go away on its own. It goes away in context to Gentiles are walking in fullness (11:25c) which includes the **full number** (billion-soul harvest), **full character** (humility and fearless love to obey Jesus even unto death in standing with Israel), **full power** (greater works/miracles; Jn. 14:12), and **full understanding** of the biblical narrative of Israel place in God’s grand family plans. When the fullness of the Gentiles comes into place, the Lord will use it in removing the spiritual blindness from the Jews. The result is that the Jews will love the

Gentiles forever and the Gentiles will love the Jews forever! It is a perfect plan! The Lord knows what He is doing! The Gentiles must be deeply involved and not passive in this!

This spiritual blindness will go away, but it is removed in context of hundreds of millions of Gentiles leaning into Jesus' leadership related to the salvation of Israel. In Romans 11:11, we read that God provokes the Jews to jealousy by using the Gentiles who are filled with the power of God. The Lord anoints Gentile leadership so it wakes up the Jews to salvation. The Lord's plan results in everyone—Jewish and Gentile believers—loving each other with humility and gratitude, with deep affection and confidence in the mercy of God because the story of mercy will be magnified on both sides (11:31-32; Mic. 7:15).

- B. **5-stage progression: Ignorance** (stage #1—v. 25) can lead to **“boasting against”** (stage #2—v. 18 with its passive resistance that does not stand for Israel) leading to **“arrogance”** (stage #3—v. 20) which can lead to **“failure to continue”** (stage #4—v. 22 with active resistance that persecutes Israel, which leads to **“being cut off”** (stage #5—v. 22e). In the fear of God (v. 20), we consider God's goodness (v. 22a) with gratitude for being grafted into “the olive tree of Abraham” (v. 17).

*¹⁷[Gentiles] were grafted into...the olive tree [Israel], ¹⁸do not **boast against** the branches [Israel]...
²⁰Do not be **haughty, but fear**. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches [Israel], **He may not spare you either**. ²²Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you [Gentiles], goodness, **if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you will be cut off...**
²⁵I do not desire...that you [Gentiles] should be **ignorant of this mystery...** (Rom. 11:17-25)*

*Many who love Jesus are not aware of the five stages of progression of darkness that Paul described in 11:17-25. In verse 18, Paul was writing to the church at Rome which was mostly Gentile believers who lived in Italy. Paul warned them not to boast against Israel (11:18). For the last 1,700 year many Bible scholars have boasted against Israel—one expression of this was by promoting that the Church replaced Israel and became the new Israel. Paul said, in effect, “Don't do it! If you are **ignorant** about Israel (11:25) then you may eventually become **arrogant** towards Israel!” He warned them not to be haughty against Israel but rather to fear the Lord (11:20) related to His sovereign plans for Israel and for Gentiles to provoke Israel to know God! (11:11). There has been much boasting and arrogance about Israel in the leadership of body of Christ for 1,700 years.*

Gentile believers are called to fear God (11:20) in context to the biblical narrative of Israel, knowing that if God did not spare the natural branches (Israel) for rejecting Jesus' leadership, then He might not spare them if they reject Jesus' leadership. Paul used the analogy of the branches of an olive tree (11:17-20) which I call “the tree of Abraham.”

“If the Lord did not spare the Jewish people who refused to embrace Jesus' leadership over Israel, then He may not spare you, Gentile believers in Rome who refuse to embrace Jesus' leadership plan for Israel!” (11:22). Paul wanted the Gentile believers in Rome to “consider” (11:22) or to think through the goodness and severity of God so that they would relate to Israel in humility and the fear of God. They were to “consider” God's goodness in allowing Gentiles to be grafted into the tree of Abraham (11:17). They must continue to be engaged in His good leadership (in context to them being grafted in). Here is the horrifying thing: Paul wrote, “Otherwise you will be cut off too!” Verse 22 is terrifying to me! I am thinking of a billion Gentile believers in the earth who this time are not humble before God related to the biblical narrative of Israel; they are mostly passive and not established in the goodness of God's family plan. Paul was saying, “I am warning you: this will have consequences one day.”

The Church must not remain ignorant. We cannot have 90% of the body of Christ remaining ignorant of the biblical narrative of Israel. Again, we do not have to be experts and scholars; we just need to know the broad strokes. Why? Because the ignorance mentioned in verse 25 leads to the arrogance of verse 18 in thinking, “I do

not need to bother with Israel. Is it Jesus' leadership over Israel that they are ignorant of? Some say, "Well, I am not interested in Israel. I do not really care." They are not aware that this is about Jesus' leadership plan for Israel! We are not talking about your seminary professor; we are talking about Jesus' leadership!"

Paul says, as it were, "Do not go there! Ignorance leads to arrogance!" Passive resistance means we are not overtly resisting but just remaining silent and not doing anything to support Israel. The problem is that passive resistance can turn into active resistance. That is what happened in Nazi Germany. A whole nation raised Lutheran and Catholic were taught replacement theology in their public schools. Martin Luther was adamant that there is no more divine purpose for Israel! German children were raised in their Lutheran schools and Catholic schools to be at least passive towards Israel. Hitler came along, and they became actively against Israel. Then it caught on like a terrible whirlwind of darkness. It took a few years for this to happen. In their active resistance, they participated in persecuting Israel. We are talking about good Lutheran boys in their youth group who, when aged 10, 12 and 15, were on the sports teams and all involved with the church. And when they were in their 30s, and 40s, they were burning Jews in the Nazi death camps! They were raised in a culture filled with Bible stories and activities, yet they went from passive resistance to active resistance. They were participating in killing Jews. Paul warned the Gentiles that arrogance can lead to being cut off by God (11:22)! Well, that is a pretty intense, but I want you to get your mind around that one!

- C. I have wrestled for years to understand how godly Bible scholars have promoted such a serious error that deeply hinders the end-time Church from being equipped to stand as faithful witnesses and vessels of love to Israel in the most important hour of history.
 - 1. I cannot make sense of why various godly biblical scholars throughout history intentionally violated their own value of and commitment to use the historical-grammatical interpretation.
 - 2. I want to honor these great Bible scholars who have been esteemed by many for centuries and I will continue to learn from them and acknowledge their outstanding biblical insights.

Paragraph C: I do not like saying this—because I really want to honor these great Bible teachers of history, and I do not want to be the guy who figures out where they missed it. These men were much smarter than I, and they loved the Bible as much as I love the Bible. They loved Jesus! They wrote many commentaries. They were really educated and smart scholars. However, for years I have wrestled with how could these godly, brilliant Bible scholars who devoted hours a day for 40 or 50 years to the Bible, how could they blatantly contradict their main principle of interpretation? I do not understand that! I do not know how that works!

- D. I do not know which famous scholars in Church history who promoted replacement theology could be described by one of the three spiritual problems that Paul's identified in Romans 11:18-25.
 - 1. **Ignorance** (11:25): Some replacement theologians may have been genuinely ignorant of the biblical narrative of Israel, even as Paul described some Hebrew scholars (Rom. 10:2).
²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (Rom. 10:2)

Well, maybe some of them were just ignorant or spiritually blind about Jesus' plan for Israel, similarly to how Israel has spiritual blindness related to Jesus being Messiah. Maybe they were sincerely ignorant and deceived. They read the Bible five to ten hours a day. So I do not fully not get how they were so entrenched in this!

2. **Arrogance** (11:20): Maybe some scholars just grew comfortable contradicting the straightforward way of interpreting Scripture in a literal way that they insisted was essential. Maybe some desired to appear scholarly by agreeing with other well-known scholars in history like Justin Martyr, Augustine, Calvin, Luther, etc. Maybe some were just unwilling to bear the stigma of standing with Israel—even though they knew Scripture requires this.

Well, some went far beyond being innocently ignorant. Some became arrogant toward Israel by contradicting the straightforward, literal interpretation of Scripture that they themselves insisted on except when interpreting prophetic passages of Israel when they contradict it blatantly.

I ask, “Why?” Maybe they want to be known as being in agreement with the smart scholars of history. I don’t know but arrogance against Jesus’ leadership plan for Israel is spiritually dangerous. Maybe they want to be known as one of the smart scholars of their generation with all the other scholars of history. Maybe they are just unwilling to bear the stigma of Israel, and so it is just better to explain it away intellectually. I have spoken to a number of Bible scholars over the years and showed them some of these prophetic passages in the Old Testament about Israel and asked them, “Are you saying that is the Church?”

Some responded, “Well, nobody really knows what that means.”

I respond saying, “It is clearly Israel! That is what clearly means.”

“Well, you cannot be sure.”

3. **Apostasy** (11:22): Paul warned that some can “cross the line” and end up being cut off by the Lord. Paul warned believers of heeding **doctrines of demons** which I define as any doctrine that results in people resisting the main and plain truths of Scripture in such a persistent way that it constitutes denying or departing from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1).

²²Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you [Gentiles], goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you will be cut off... (Rom. 11:22)

¹The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...²having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from foods... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)

There is a line that people can cross—I do not think the majority of scholars who pushed replacement theology for years have crossed that line—but there is a line where people get haughty about the biblical narrative of Israel and they put themselves in a position to get cut off! Ugh!

Paul talked about doctrines of demons, and I believe that some go so far as to embrace a doctrine of demons related to Israel. What do I mean by a “doctrine of demons”? That is a term that Paul used in 1 Timothy 4:1. I don’t know if there is a technical definition in theological dictionaries, but in my opinion a doctrine of demons is a doctrine that resists the main and plain teaching of Scripture. It is a doctrine that demons inspire, and if it gets established in one’s mindset so that they have boldness to resist the truth, they can actually end up denying the faith.

Paul talked about believers doing this. He said, “In the last days some are going to depart from the faith.” We are talking about people who are in the faith. Because they are paying attention to demonically inspired dark ideas and they stay with it and refuse to back away from it—I consider that a doctrine of demons.

- E. Even Peter was influenced by a demonic idea that he sincerely believed was a truth that honored God and supported His plan for Jesus (Mt. 16:16-23). What Peter believed was an offense to God.

²¹Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem...and be killed...²²Peter took Him aside...saying, “Far be it from You...”²³[Jesus] said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God...”(Mt. 16:21-23)

Peter wrestled briefly with what I consider a doctrine of demons in Matthew 16 after he said, “Jesus, You are the Christ!” Jesus assured him that the Father revealed that to him (Mt. 16:15-17), and then Jesus said that He was going to Jerusalem to be killed, And Peter said, “Far be it from You that You will die.”

Jesus said, as it were, “Satan put that idea in your mind, Peter!” So if a chief apostle can receive a demonically inspired idea, then we know this sort of thing can happen to other leaders in the body of Christ. I believe that replacement theology has been a demonic attack against both Israel and the Church for 1,700 years. The Gentile Church only walks in its full power and purpose in context to provoking Israel to jealousy (Rom. 11:25).

However, again, the passion I have and what I really care about is the end-time Church needing to be prepared to be God’s sovereignly chosen vessel of mercy that He will use to provoke Israel to become jealous to have the relationship with the God of Israel that they see the Gentiles walking in! And God says, in effect, “Gentiles, I am going to use you so that Israel will love you and you love will love them resulting in the John 17:23 international family of affection forever!” Thus, it is critical that Gentile respond to Jesus’ leadership as set forth in the biblical narrative of Israel.

IV. THE ERROR OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY IS DANGEROUS

- A. We must take a stand against replacement theology because bad theology leads to bad practice! Replacement theology has provided the rationale for much persecution against the Jewish people throughout Christian history. God has sovereignly ordained that Gentile believers provoke Israel to jealousy in the generation the Lord returns, resulting in all Israel being saved (Rom. 11:11, 25-26).

Bad theology leads to bad practices. The error of replacement theology is dangerous because as it has led to antisemitism for 1,700 years. The result of this has led to the Church in this hour being significantly unprepared as the time draws closer to the time of the greatest hostility against Israel rooted in antisemitism (Dan. 12:1) And the fact is that some can actually deny the faith related to this deception. This danger of apostasy will be far more obvious as antisemitism picks up on a global scale in the days to come and the Holy Spirit emphasizes God’s requirement for the Church to stand with Israel.

- B. John described Satan’s desire to exterminate the Jewish people, using a prophetic picture of Israel as a woman being attacked by Satan as a dragon (Rev. 12:1-17). Satan is the father of anti-Semitism and has had a special hatred, and rage throughout all history in seeking to destroy the Jewish people.

¹³The dragon [Satan]...persecuted the woman [remnant of Israel]...¹⁵The serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman...¹⁷The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who...have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:13-17)

Paragraph B: Revelation 12 is a really important chapter that highlights the danger of Satan’s great anger and energy to destroy Israel. All through history, Satan has sought to destroy Israel. He is the father of antisemitism. There are reasons for that, but that is not my point tonight. Know that Satan has a special focus to exterminate

the Jewish people and then will seek to destroy Gentile believers who stand with Israel. It is good to get familiar with Revelation 12. I believe Satan will even use apostate believers emboldened with replacement theology as part of his destructive plans, even as he did in Nazi Germany.

- C. The multitudes in the nations will all have to make a decision “for” or “against” Jesus’ leadership over Jerusalem in the end-time conflicts (Joel 3:14). I believe this will be a litmus test of obedience to Jesus’ leadership. We love Him; thus, we want to love who and what He loves (Zech. 8:2).

¹“...when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, ²I will gather all nations...to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [Jerusalem]; I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people...whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. ³They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine...

¹²Let the nations...come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat...I will judge all the surrounding nations...

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near...” (Joel 3:1-14)

Paragraph C: Another key passage is Joel 3. Here we see that before Jesus returns every person on the earth is going to have to make a decision about Israel. Literally, that is what is going on in Joel 3:14. When you read the Joel 3:1-3, he clarifies that God will judge the nations on account of the way they treated Israel (3:2).

The issues that the Lord will focus on include how the nations scattered the Jewish people and wanted to divide up the land of Israel (3:2) and how they sold the Jewish people into slavery and bartered with their lives similarly to what happened in the holocaust. The nations will do this again in the end times (Zech. 14:2). Through Joel the Lord said, “Because I am angry at the nations I will call them to ‘the valley of Jehoshaphat’” (3:2, 12) which is also referred to as “the valley of decision” (3:14). It speaks of an area that is in proximity to Jerusalem. He will gather these nations into His “battle for Jerusalem.” In context to this the Lord will force all the nations to choose to obey Him or not to obey Him in context to His end-time prophetic plan for Israel as set forth in Romans 11. The valley of decision in verse 14 culminates in Jerusalem (the valley of Jehoshaphat), but this demand to make this decision will be expressed all over the world. All will have to make the choice to stand for the Lord’s purposes related to Israel. This global issue will come to a head around the city of Jerusalem.

- D. The battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political, and military battle for the control of Jerusalem.

¹The day of the LORD is coming...²I will gather all...nations to battle against Jerusalem...

³Then the Lord will go forth [the return of Jesus] and fight against those nations. (Zech. 14:1-3)

Paragraph D: I call the battle for Jerusalem one of the litmus tests for the end-time Church. There is a battle; God will bring all of the nations to Jerusalem. This conflict will refine and purify the Church (Dan. 11:35). He will reveal Himself to unbelieving Israel through the end-time Church in context to this battle. The battle is often referred to as the final battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). This battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual battle, a theological battle, an economic battle, a political battle, and a military battle. This battle for Jerusalem is currently escalating in the earth.

- E. Gentile believers are called to ***provoke Israel with jealousy*** to know the God of Israel (Rom. 11:11). Many in Israel will desire to have a relationship with the God of Israel like the Gentiles enjoy. This will happen as Gentiles show them love in the face of unprecedented global anti-Semitism.

¹¹...to provoke them [Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

Paragraph E: The Lord will use Gentiles to provoke Israel so that Israel will love Gentile believers in the process and Gentile believers will love Israel (Jn. 17:23)! There are many processes and events connected to this that I will not develop any further tonight.

1. I am grateful that those with a dispensationalists pre-tribulation rapture theology do not embrace replacement theology. They do teach that a great revival will come to Israel during the Great Tribulation—but this will only occur “**after**” the Church is raptured. Thus, some do not engage with God’s purposes for Israel in a deep way in this hour because they do not see a large number of Jewish people getting saved until the Great Tribulation, and some do not see themselves as having an integral role with other Gentiles in provoking Israel (Rom. 11:11).

The dispensationalists believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, saying that the rapture could happening at any time. They believe that Israel will get saved, but only after the Church has been raptured. Many of them do not see that they have a big role in the salvation of Israel. Therefore, they are not overly engaged in preparing others to stand strong in in the end-time conflict related to Israel because they think they will be raptured before the trouble intensifies.

I talked to a very well-known man who was raised in dispensational theology. He loves Jesus and is a great Bible teacher. He loves revival, prayer, fasting, and more. He said, “I grew up with the idea that the Church will be gone so why would we need to know much about the aspects of biblical narrative of Israel that will unfold in the Great Tribulation!” He has been preaching thirty or forty years. As a dispensationalist, he technically believed in Israel’s great future, but to him it occurred after he was raptured so he did not see how it really matter to his ministry now! He settled into a kind of a lazy disengagement related to Israel. I do not mean to suggest by any means that all who have dispensational theology have this mindset.

2. The IHOPKC leadership embraces historic premillennialism with a victorious Church. We believe that the Church will go through the Great Tribulation yet in great power and victory. At that time the *fullness of the Gentiles* will come resulting *Israel being provoked to jealousy*.

We are historic premillennialists, meaning we believe that we will go through the Great Tribulation in great victory and power and will be used in a significant way to provoke Israel to see the truth about Jesus. The Church will be transformed to walk in mature love and godliness, there will be a “billion-soul” harvest with greater works than these, everybody will be moving in dreams, visions, signs and wonders, and Israel will come to salvation saying, “If that is what the God of Israel is like, then we want in!”

We will say, “Thank you Lord for using us!” That is what the historic premillennialism is that we embrace.

- F. The Church must take a stand to boldly declare God’s purposes for Israel so all the nations hear it

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed [mandated] to the end of the world [Gentiles in the nations]:
“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming...’” (Isa. 62:11)

¹⁰“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off and say,
‘He who scattered Israel will gather him and keep him as a shepherd...’” (Jer. 31:10)

Paragraph F: The Lord commands the Gentiles to: “Say the biblical narrative of Israel” (Isa. 62:11). You might say, “Well, my church does not ‘do’ Israel.”

I say that it is time to start “doing” Israel! We are all called to “say” the message to the nations! And, we must tell Israel the biblical narrative for Israel—because most of them do not know it. Tell them and stand for them

even if it costs you! Because then they will see there is reality in this biblical narrative when they see Gentiles standing for it even unto death.

V. COMMON PASSAGES USED TO REFUTE REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

Roman numeral five: Common passages used to refute replacement theology which says, “God is done with the nation of Israel. He has replaced her with the Church. There is no more future or purpose for ethnic Israel.”

- A. Paul clarified that Israel’s sin did not result in God’s rejecting them and their national promises (Rom. 11:1-2). If replacement theology is right in saying that the Church replaced Israel, then when Paul wrote of the “failure of Israel” it would mean he was referring to the “failure of the Gentile Church”—how could the “failure of Gentiles” result in “riches for the Gentiles” (Rom 11:12)?

¹“...has God cast away His people [Israel]? Certainly not!...²God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew...¹²their [Israel’s] failure [results in] riches for the Gentiles... (Rom. 11:1-12)

We have already read this verse, but it is just a good one to read. Paul asked, “Has God cast away Israel?” That is what he is talking about. “No!” Verse 2, “God has not cast away the people that He foreknew—even before Genesis 1 the Lord knew that He would chose Israel!” Then why are the scholars saying that they are out of the picture?”

- B. Almost without exception, church historians agree that the early church fathers embraced **historic premillennialism**—the literal fulfillment of end-time prophecies related to Israel with a 1,000-year reign by Jesus over the earth from His throne in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17; Mt. 19:28; Rev. 20:4-6).

²⁸“...in the regeneration [Millennium], when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:28)

Paragraph B: Almost without exception, the two hundred years of Christianity, including the apostles and their disciples and the next generation, almost universally scholars agree they were “historic pre-mill.” They believed in a literal millennium. They believed in a literal provoking of Israel at the end of the age. They believed that Gentiles would be used by God to impact Israel! That is the clear biblical understanding for the several hundred years. Even the scholars who are against Israel and historic premillennialism agree that for the several hundred years the primary eschatology was historic premillennialism. This view is called “historic” because so many of the church fathers embraced it including Papias, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Methodius, Lactantius, Justin Martyr, Theophilus, Nepos of Arsinoe, Tatian, Hippolytus, and Victorinus. Modern proponents of historic premillennialism include Charles Spurgeon, George Ladd, Albert Mohler, John Piper, Francis Schaeffer, D.A. Carson, and Carl Henry.

- C. Peter assured the Jews that all God’s prophetic promises for Israel will be fulfilled (Acts 3:19-21).

¹⁹Repent...and be converted...²⁰that He may send Jesus...²¹whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by...all His holy prophets... (Acts 3:19-21)

Peter told the Jews, in effect, “I assure you that Jesus will stay in heaven until you repent (as a nation) and then God will fulfill all of His promises to Israel. He did not dismiss the promise but waits for Israel as a nation to repent.” He did not give all Israel’s promises to the Gentiles. Every promise that He gave to Israel, He will bring

it to pass (Acts 3:21). It is so clear. I did not see these things when they were first teaching me in the summer of 1983.

- D. Paul warned the Jews that their outward conformity to the law would not save them (Rom. 2:28-29). He was saying that Jews who say yes to their Messiah are the “true Jews.” He was not saying that Gentile Christians are “spiritual Jews” or “spiritual Israel” who replace the role of messianic Jews.

²⁸He is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart... (Rom. 2:28-29)

Next, I briefly mention some of the main arguments that replacement theology has. Some who hold to replacement theology say that Gentile Christians are spiritual Jews. Paul never taught that. One of main verses many use is in Romans 2. If you talk with a replacement theology person, they will turn right to Romans 2:28 as one of the first verses that they go to (some may go to Galatians 6:16 first). Paul wrote that “he is not a Jew who is one outwardly. They have got to be a Jew inwardly.” Some interpret Paul to be saying that Gentile believers are spiritual Jews. That is not what that verse said. Paul was talking about Jews who say yes to Jesus being the true spiritual Jews. He is not saying that Gentile believers have replaced Israel. That view is inferred from this verse, but when I have had a discussion with a pastor who embraces replacement theologian, and they go to this verse, I say, “This does not say that the Gentile believers are now spiritual Israel.”

They say something like, “Well, it sort of implies that.”

I say, “No, it does not even imply that. It says that if you are a Jew and you are not obeying God, then you are not a Jew after God’s order. Paul is rebuking the Jews and calling them to believe in Messiah.”

- E. Paul used the term “Israel” in two ways: First, to refer to the whole nation of Israel. (9:4). Second, to refer to “true Israel,” which is saved Israel or messianic Jews (9:6). He is explaining what a true Israelite or Jew is before God. He is not saying the spiritual Israel consists of Gentile Christians. Paul never used “Jew” or “Israel” to refer to Gentile believers—as replacement theology claims.

⁴who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants...and the promises... ⁶They are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷nor are they all children [spiritually] because they are the seed of Abraham [physically one of Abraham’s descendants]... (Rom. 9:4-7)

Paragraph F: It is the same thing. Paul says, “Not all who are Israel are Israel,” so replacement theology says, “See! Not all of the Jews are Israel. The Gentiles are now spiritual Israel!” But that is not what that verse says at all. You do not need to be intimidated those who misinterpret this verse. That is not at all what that verse says. I have a little bit on this, and by the way there are many new Bible teachers in the last ten, twenty, thirty years who are making these verses really clear in blogs and in social media conversations. There is a lot of new teaching coming out that is clear in the last ten, twenty, thirty years. These verses are breaking them down. I am just giving you the verses, the ones which will be brought to you.

- F. Paul confirmed that God did not transfer Israel’s national calling to Gentiles. God’s sovereign callings on peoples and nations are irrevocable (*Webster*: not capable of being changed or reversed).

²⁸concerning [God’s sovereign] election they [Jewish people] are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Rom. 11:28-29)

Paragraph G: They say God has replaced Israel with the Church. But Paul taught in Romans 11:29 that “the callings of God on Israel are irrevocable!” God will never take them away, never! So I have asked various scholars, “Why are you saying that He took them away? Paul said they are never taken away.”

1. God looks at Israel in terms of His sovereign election related to their national destiny and calling that He declared to the Jewish fathers (Abraham, Isaac, Moses, David, Isaiah, etc.) Thus, the Lord has seen Israel throughout history and even in Paul’s days as “beloved.”
2. God’s sovereign calling on Israel as a nation will never change because of the fact that their fathers said yes to His covenants, so God’s commitment to Israel’s national destiny will continue forever. God’s gifts (Rom. 9:4-5) and calling (purpose) are irrevocable (Deut. 7:6-9). He did not choose Israel because of her goodness, and does not forsake her in her failure.

6“You are a holy people...God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all [nations]...7The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number...8but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...9Therefore know the LORD...is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him...” (Deut. 7:6-9)

- G. The Gentiles saints in Macedonia understood their “duty” to financially help the saints in Jerusalem.
26...to make a contribution...[for] the saints in Jerusalem...27they [Gentiles] are their debtors [to Jewish believers]. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things [entrusted by God to Israel], their duty is also to minister to them in material things. (Rom. 15:26-27)
- H. God is always watching Jerusalem day and night. He never stops speaking or watching (Isa. 62:1).
16I have chosen...this house [the temple in Jerusalem], that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. (2 Chr. 7:16)
- I. Our test in understanding Roman 11 is our response: “Oh, the depth of God’s wisdom” (11:33).
33Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! (Rom. 11:33)

The test that we understand the main ideas in Romans 11—that the fullness of power comes on the Gentiles to provoke the Jews to jealousy resulting Israel’s national salvation. Then Israel comes to the fullness of the power of God resulting in the millennial earth being filled with the glory of God, and ultimate result is the family of God living in supernatural unity together forever—Paul said, as it were, “If you get all of this, you say, ‘Oh, the depth of the wisdom of God!’”

Replacement theologians read Romans 11 and conclude that Israel has been replaced. I say, “How is the awestruck response to the depth of God’s wisdom seen in God breaking His eternal promises to Israel and replacing Israel with the Church?”

VI. COMMON PASSAGES USED TO SUPPORT REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

- A. One reference often cited is Galatians 6:16, but Israel is never used in Scripture to refer Gentile believers. The “Israel of God” is a reference to Jewish believers in Jesus through church history. Paul made a clear distinction between Jews, Greeks (unbelievers), and the Church (1 Cor. 10:32)

¹⁵In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

**¹⁶As many as walk according to this rule, mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.
(Gal. 6:15-16)**

Galatians 6:16 is a passage that is often used by those embracing replacement theology. They will talk about “as many as have walked according to this rule” in being a new creation (verse 15). “The mercy of God be upon those who are a new creation in Christ AND upon the Israel of God.” They say the Israel of God is Gentiles!” Seventy plus times that Israel is mentioned in the New Testament, never are they Gentiles; they are always physical, ethnic Jews. The Israel of God is Messianic believers who believe in Jesus. That is who it is.

³²Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God... (1 Cor. 10:32)

- B. Israel’s kingdom leadership was under the Sanhedrin who had the political and spiritual leadership over Israel—including secular and messianic Jews. God removed the spiritual leadership from them and gave it to another “*nation*”—a spiritual nation made up of saved Jews and Gentiles (1 Pet. 2:9). The leadership over this “*nation*” initially were the Jewish apostles (Mt. 19:28). Within 100 years the primary leadership of this spiritual “*nation*” were mostly Gentiles as evidenced by God anointing them to lead the great missionary initiatives and revivals throughout church history, etc.

**⁴³“...the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”
(Mt. 21:43)**

Matthew 21 is another verse that replacement theology emphasizes. Jesus taught a parable of the vineyard saying, “The kingdom of God is going to be taken away from you.” He was talking to the Sanhedrin, the governmental leadership of Israel. “The kingdom of God is going to be taken from you and given to another nation!” Replacement theology assumes the “other nation” is the Gentiles, that the kingdom is taken away from the Jews and now they are out of the picture and it is only given to the Gentiles.” I encourage you to read the notes here and talk it over with friends and think it through.

1. Peter, when writing to Jewish believers, called them “a holy nation” (1 Pet. 1:1-2; 2:9). Thus, *messianic leaders* initially replaced Israel’s *secular leaders* (Sanhedrin) over a “holy nation.”
⁹But you [1:1 Jews] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation... (1 Pet. 2:9)

¹Peter...to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia... (1 Pet. 1:1)

2. Many agree Peter wrote this to Jewish believers in Jesus who were “dispersed abroad.” The Greek term he uses is “*diasporas*” or the scattering of the Jewish people (the Diaspora). Scholars have debated who Peter’s audience was. The majority of classical scholars saw it as a Jewish audience. Calvin wrote in his commentary on 1 Peter 1 “...*the word dispersion...can apply only to the Jews.*” Today, scholars see 1 Peter as written to Gentiles, in order to support for the idea that the Gentile church has replaced Israel as “the true Israel and people of God.”
3. ***Salvation to the Gentiles***: The primary leadership in spreading the gospel to the nations was initially entrusted to Jewish apostles as seen in the book of Acts. Then it shifted from Jewish leadership to Gentile leadership *to make Israel jealous*. This primary leadership role will be given back to Jewish leaders when Jesus returns leading to the fullness of Israel (Rom. 11:12).

¹¹“...to provoke them [Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.” (Rom. 11:11)

- C. Replacement theology has two positions in attempting to explain away the Abrahamic covenant:

1. **Abolitionists**—they see God’s covenant with Abraham as **abolished**. Paul taught that Jesus died so that believers would receive the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant as Abraham’s children according to the promise (Gal. 3:18), thus he did not see the covenant as abolished. The Abrahamic Covenant with its promises to Israel of eternal ownership of the Promise Land was not abolished (Gen 17:8)—the Abrahamic covenant is eternal (Ps. 105:8-10).

“I will establish My covenant between Me and you...an everlasting covenant...⁸I give to you and your descendants...all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession...”
(Gen. 17:7-8)

Paragraph C: Many replacement theologians say the Abrahamic covenant has been abolished; there is no longer that covenant. However, the covenant God made to Abraham was “to give the land forever to his descendants.” He promised Abraham that the Jews will possess the land forever! This is the Abrahamic covenant. Replacement theologians say, “They only were to have the land until AD 70.” But, in 1948, they got it all back! That changed many conversations about Israel about Abrahamic covenant being abolished! Suddenly against all odds, in 1948, God allowed the state of Israel to be re-established! So in replacement theology they have two different versions of the Abrahamic covenant. One view says “It has been abolished, done away with.” This is a false teaching.

2. **Reconstructionist**—they see God’s covenant with Abraham as **reconstructed** so that God’s promises to give the land to Israel are now spiritualized and not literal. This theory is based totally on human presuppositions that the Scriptures never affirm. They emphasize God’s promise to Abraham as being made not to his “seed” (the plural people of Israel), but to his “seed” (in the singular, meaning only Jesus (Gal. 3:16-18). Reconstructionist emphasize that since the singular “seed” (Jesus) has come, the promise to the plural “seed” (Jewish people) is no longer valid. However, Paul also used the “Abraham’s seed” in the plural (Rom. 9:6-7).

“¹⁶To Abraham and his Seed [Jesus] were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ... (Gal. 3:16)

The second view is also a false teaching, but it is a little nicer. It says, “The covenant is not abolished but re-constructed so all of the promises are real but they are now just spiritual and not physical anymore.” The covenant to Abraham which has all of these physical promises are now refashioned and seen as figurative and spiritual, and they are given to the Gentiles. We are talking about the greatest teachers in Church history taught these things. And multitudes in Church history just stare like a deer in the headlights and say, “Okay, they are smart. I am not that smart, so they must know the biblical position on this.” So silence prevailed with passive resistance that can turn into arrogance after a period of time if they are not careful, and then that turns into apostasy.

3. **Abraham’s seed is both singular and plural.** God’s promised blessing to Abraham is only in Jesus, but the means by which the singular “seed” (Jesus) came into the world was through the plural “seed”—Israel. The one truth does not contradict the other but compliments it. The Hebrew and Greek words translated “seed” (Heb. *zera*, Gr. *sperma*) are collective singulars. Scripture uses the phrase “the seed of Abraham” to refer to 4 entities—Jesus (Gal. 3:16), Abraham’s *spiritual children* (believers, Gal. 4:6-9, 29), his *physical descendants* (the Jews, Gen. 12:1-3, 7), and his *physical and spiritual posterity* (saved Jews, Rom. 9:6, 8; Gal. 6:16).

Here are some notes on the seed of Abraham which is a little technical. I am not going cover it though—the seed of Abraham. Know that most who teach replacement theology will take you right to these five verses—Romans

2:28; 9:6-7; Galatians 6:16; 3:18; and Matthew 21:43. Their arguments from these five verses are not convincing. These five verse each have pretty simple explanations! The truth is, it is straight forward.

- D. The main theme of these chapters are related to Israel (Deut. 28-33; Isa. 60-66; Jer. 30-33; Ezek. 34-48; Joel 2-3; Zech. 8-14; cf. Ps. 2; 44; 45; 65-68; 72; 79; 80; 83; 85-87; 94; 102; 118; 122; 132; 144-147).

Paragraph D lists whole chapters of which large portions of these chapters are about Israel. For example, in the seven chapters in Isaiah 60-66, you will find many passages that give clear information about the biblical narrative that is not difficult to understand! You may not get to all of those chapters, but you can just begin working your way through them.

- E. Specific passages that give insight into God's heart and plans for Israel (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-18; 15:7, 18; 17:1-8, 19; 22:15-18; 26:2-5; 27:29; 28:10-15; 32:24-32; Num. 23:7-10, 18-26; 24:1-19; Deut. 4:27-31; 30:1-10; 33:26-29; Isa. 2:1-4; 4:2-6; 6:9-13; 9:1-7; 11:11-16; 12:1-6; 24:14-16; 19:18-25; 26:1-13; 27:1-6; 28:14-29; 29:17-19; 30:18-30; 32:13-19; 33:2-17; 35:1-10; 40:9-11; 43:1-7; 44:1-8; 45:17-25; 51:3-11; 52:6-10; 54:1-17; 59:19-21; Jer. 3:14-19; Ezek. 11:17-20; 16:60-63; 20:33-44; Dan. 9:4-27; Hos. 2:14-23; 5:15-16; 6:1-3; 14:1-8; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4:1-13; 5:2-15; 7:14-20; Hab. 3:1-20; Zeph. 3:8-20; Hag. 2:6-22; Zech. 1:12-17; 2:1-13; Mal. 3:1-6; 4:1-6).

Paragraph E lists short passages, not chapters. These are just a sample of more passages about Israel. My point is that there is much information—that is the point I am telling you—that has been dismissed by replacement theology and explained away as being symbolic and figurative and not literal.

- F. See <https://mikebickle.org/resource/21-prayers-for-israel-and-the-isaiah-62-fast>

Paragraph F: I gave this handout (and provided a transcript in my teaching library) where I give explanations and the 21-prayers for Israel, but there are about a hundred prayers. I just picked twenty-one because of the 21 days in May 7-28, 2023. These verses are easy to understand and pray!

Well, amen and amen! Let's stand before the Lord.

Father, here we are before You and, Lord, we say thank You! Oh the depth of the wisdom that You are going to use weak people like us and 100 million more to show the power and love of God to unbelieving Israel so that we would love them and so that they would love us and we would love You together forever! Lord, I ask You to have mercy on us as a people! We are a weak people in the flesh. Lord, we do not know much; we are not that smart, but You have made it clear and easy to understand.

Father, across this room I ask You to mark us. Mark us in a new way, Lord. Give us a new hunger. Stir us up in a way that would even surprise us. Lord, cause pastors across the earth to arise with courage and to take the time to eat the scroll— to get clarity from the Word.

Pastors, your people are counting on you! Their children have to be equipped to stand in the next ten to twenty years. The trouble is escalating. We have to equip our people!

Open my eyes to see the depth of the wisdom of God! Open my eyes to see! Oh, that we would love Israel and that Israel would love us and we would love You, the international family of affection forever!! Wonderful! Oh, the depths of Your wisdom, God!