

Israelology - Part 1

Reading: Jeremiah 31

Introduction:

- **Theology:** Compound Greek word: “Theos” / God - Greek suffix “ology” meaning the study of. Placed together “Theology” is the study of God.
 - There are various books on what is referred to as “Systematic Theology” - studying God in a systematic manner.
 - Grudem’s definition of Systematic Theology: “Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, “what does the whole Bible teach us today? about any given topic?”
 - A study through Systematic Theology naturally examines any number of “doctrines” or teachings. There are 7 basic categories recognized in various circles, I’m using Wayne Grudem’s book on Systematic Theology which is a popular book on the subject. There are many to choose from.
1. **The doctrine of the Word of God.** (as a person, Jesus Christ. As speech by God. The canon of scripture. Scriptural authority, inerrancy, sufficiency.
 2. **The doctrine of God.**
 3. **The doctrine of man.**
 4. **The doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit.**
 5. **The doctrine of the application of redemption.**
 6. **The doctrine of the church.**
 7. **The doctrine of the future.** (Eschatology)
([Foundations of the Faith study](#))
- A missing study, or one that is overlooked - which is addressed in Arnold Fruchtenbaum’s book on “Israelology” (The study of Israel) which he has subtitled “The Missing Link In Systematic Theology.” 
 - Understanding Israel’s role in our Judao-Christian faith is essential to properly understanding the scriptures, especially in these last days as we approach the end of the church age.
 - As I mentioned on New Year’s Eve there are a **couple of important keys to understanding the Word of God, understanding our Bibles.**

1. The Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit to properly understand God’s Word.

John 16:13 “¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of / on His own authority, but whatever He

hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 “⁹But as it is written: eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

- We need the Holy Spirit to understand, interpret, and apply God’s Word to our lives.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

2. The second key to understanding God’s Word, especially in these last days is **Israel**, literally God’s chosen people. Understanding in the scriptures and distinguishing when the Scriptures are speaking of Israel and when it’s speaking of the church. It seems that more often than not, the Scriptures are speaking about Israel.

Isaiah 5:1 “Now let me sing to My well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My well beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.”

- He goes on to describe the blessings He poured out upon His vineyard and the effort He made to bless and preserve them, but they were rebellious and would need to be corrected to which the Babylonians would oblige Him.

Isaiah 5:7 “For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant...”

- All of this is in spite of their rebellion, which He would soon address.

Going back a little farther:

Deuteronomy 7:6-8a “⁶For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other

people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers,..."

- One of the most disturbing trends that we've seen in the last couple of years is the exponential rise of anti-semitism and what I see as the fulfillment of Matthew 24:9.

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."

- Anti-semitism has been around for a long long time and it's had it's ebb and flow through our culture and through the world over the millennia.
- Anti-Semitism has made a dramatic resurgence since the horrific massacre of October 7, 2023 - so many senseless and demonically inspired events since then, including the Bondi Beach massacre in Australia this last month.
- Sadly anti-semitism has long been ingrained in our State Department and Intelligence services, and in most of our government. I read a book entitled "The Devil's Chessboard" by David Talbot that clearly lays this out.  
- I'm in the middle of a book entitled "From Time Immemorial" - "The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine" by Joan Peters which chronicles the anti-semitic hatred spawned by Islam all throughout the middle east and now throughout the whole world. It's a good book for anyone who wants to understand the root of the Arab-Jewish conflict, which at it's core is based on anti-semitism.
- As I am asked about anti-semitism or as I comment about it I would routinely describe it generally as demonically inspired, straight from the pit of hell - and I stand by that.
- I am accustomed to seeing it from certain groups in a historical sense, whether it's adherents to Islam, white supremacists, or Nazi sympathizers; I hate to say it but to me that was somewhat normal.
- What bothers me and has my attention at this critical moment in time is that anti-semitism is now coming from "conservative circles," places that I didn't expect it from. People like Tucker Carlson, Candice Owens and Nick Fuentes, who are spewing this insipid non-sense, but even worse - it's coming from a large portion of the church.
- Like you, I've watched as "replacement theology" has taken root in the church. When it was the Roman Catholic Church embracing this heresy I didn't flinch because they've already embraced so many heresies, what is one more? When the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, and the Methodists

embraced replacement theology, and the anti-semitism that comes with it, it just kind of re-enforced my view that these onetime vibrant movements had fallen much farther into error than I had first thought. Reformed theology generally leads to replacement theology and the anti-semitism that comes with it.

- There are too many more denominations to list, but it's staggering to me that all these different "Christian" groups seemed to have forgotten that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, the True and Righteous King of kings and Lord of lords was and is a Jew!
- As evil and sinister as this is, I believe there is something that is even more diabolical and devious about anti-semitism within the church.

If Israel is one of the keys to understanding the Bible correctly, if you toss that key away you'll be missing out on something, there will be some things that you're unable to unlock, your understanding will be skewed, it will be off.

Genesis 3:1 "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "has God indeed said...?"

- The first questioning, the first attack on God's Word.
- The Bible, God's Word is the anchor, the Rock upon which our faith is built.
- As believers we rely on God's Word and if the enemy can't get us to recant our faith, the next best thing is to wreck your testimony, or get you to set aside God's Word, or confuse the message or your understanding of it.
- The old saying that the Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible is true.
- If the enemy can't get you to set it aside, the next best thing is to confuse the message, to keep you from properly understanding it.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show yourself approved of God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

- As a New Testament believer we're taught not just to be a hearer of God's Word but to be a doer of God's Word - so many times whether it's the OT or the NT we're looking for personal application of the scriptures, which is a good thing.
- I tend to be somewhat ego-centric, and often when I read Scripture I read myself into it, again in an attempt to live out the scriptures and be pleasing to my Lord.
- The thing we have to be careful of is that while there may be application to us as believers, we have to be careful not to read Israel out of it because Israel is one

of the key things to properly understand what we're reading and rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Examples:

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

- Reading it from an ego-centric standpoint I read myself and the church into it and “*My people*” becomes me and or the church, because as Christians we're called by His name - and the land that is healed becomes my land, America that definitely needs healing.
- There is application here but the right understanding based on the context is that “*My people*” - His people are the Jews - the church didn't exist when this was first written.
- Same thing with “*their land*,” their land is Israel - the Church and America didn't exist when this was first written to the Jews.

Another example:

Matthew 24:9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.”

- While there is room and application for us as Christians, this was written to the apostles, Jewish men, and to the Jews in general.
- What do we see happening today? They, the Jews are being delivered up to tribulation, killed, and hated by all nations... There is currently a lot of persecution against the church, many are being tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus - there is that application to Christian, but this was written at the time to the Jews.

Daniel 9:24 “Seventy weeks are determined for your people ^(Jews) and for your holy city, ^(Jerusalem) to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.” ^(Messiah)

- So many Christians have tried to make this apply to themselves and the church when it is so clearly about the Jews and Jerusalem. It totally skews their understanding of end times events and scripture in general.
- The time of Jacob's trouble is just that, it's Jacob's trouble - yes some Gentiles are caught up in it / left behind, but it's about the Jews because the church is already out of the picture.

- I said it last week, and I'll say it again, that anti-semitism is amongst other things a gigantic psy-op keeping Christians and others from understanding their Bible correctly and doing the bidding of the Devil himself.
- Anti-semitism, when embraced by the church is putting them in an oxymoron kind of situation when they say they love the Lord God Almighty but hate the ones that He loves and to whom He has made unconditional promises to that He will certainly keep.
- He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - He is the God that died for the sins of the whole world. If we love Him, then we're to love those that He loves - Jew and Gentile alike.
- One of the manifestations of Anti-Semitism within the church is the Anti-Zionist movement, or Anti-Zionism. People, Christians, and churches will declare that they are not Anti-semitic, they don't hate the Jews, they are simply "Anti-Zionists" - meaning that Israel doesn't have a right to the land of Israel / Palestine.
- This means in effect that they don't want the Jews to have a homeland, that they should remain in a subjugated state in the various host countries around the world where at the whim of the populace and governments they have been persecuted and tormented for centuries, particularly in the middle east, but essentially all over the world, including the western nations.
- In these places the Jews have been denied citizenship, denied certain types of employment, denied basic human rights, lack of legal standing, unable to testify in court, forced to wear distinctive clothing and patches singling them out for persecution, forbidden to exercise gather or exercise their religion.
- I heard a Pastor say recently that their church doesn't have issue with historical Israel, it's modern day Israel that they take issue with. Political Israel, historical Israel, modern day Israel, is all Israel. This is so lame and poorly thought out. That was a so called Calvary pastor I might add.
- We've had people leave our own fellowship over the issue of Israel, our displaying the Israeli flag and our unwavering support for Israel - past, present, and future.
- This is all why I wanted to do this brief series of studies on Israel.

I'm hoping over the next few weeks to answer just a few basic questions.

- 1. Why should we as Christians support Israel?**
- 2. What should the Christian response be to anti-semitism.**
- 3. What is Israel's claim to the land of Israel?**
- 4. Are we Zionist's or Anti-Zionist's?**

5. What is Israel's prophetic role in the last days events?

- [Questions about Israel / suggestions - we'll search out the answers & include.](#)

1. Why should we as Christians support Israel?

- Ted Cruz "Because that is what I learned in Sunday school."
- There a number of reasons I hope to articulate but they all derive from God's Word, we love and support Israel because that is what the Bible calls us to. We love and support Israel because God loves and supports Israel.
- We don't support Israel because they are righteous, holy, or deserving in any way, we support Israel because that is what the Bible calls us to. It's not our job to judge Israel, although we can certainly discern what is happening there, we can see whatever fruit is being produced - it's not or job to judge, our job is to obey God's Word.

Deuteronomy 9:4-6 "4Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you. 5It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the Word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

- What is grace? It is God's unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor.

Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- I want the blessing that comes with obedience to this verse.
- Israel is the apple of God's eye: We love Israel because God loves Israel!

Zechariah 2:8 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."

- The Bible describes Israel the same way in **Deuteronomy 32:10** **Psalms 17:8**

Zechariah 8:23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." (Future, get a jump start.)

[Paul writes:](#)

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

- Jesus ministered to everyone, but His focus, the apple of His eye was on Israel:
Matthew 10:5-6 “⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Romans 9:1-5 “¹I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, (Hebrews) ⁴who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is God over all, eternally blessed. Amen.”

- Notice amongst other things that this is written in the present tense, rebellious Israel is still Israel! The promises of God are still in effect!

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

Romans 11:13-27 (turn to / read) Branches were broken off so we could be grafted in, saved. But God isn't done with Israel, who will once again be grafted in and saved.

Zechariah 9:9-10 “⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

- This speaks of His triumphant entry - where did that happen? Jerusalem.
- Who's he speaking to? The daughters of Zion.
- Who's being spoken of? The Messiah.
- What kind of kingdom? Nations, meaning the world, dominion from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.
- We love and support Israel because our Lord and Savior Jesus was born in Israel, He lived, ministered, died in Israel. Jesus resurrected and ascended from Israel, and Jesus is returning to - Israel!

Ezekiel 36:22-28 (Turn to / read)

Jeremiah 31:35-36 “³⁵Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar, the LORD of hosts is His name: ³⁶If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.”

- Israel is the epicenter of God’s prophetic plan:

Ezekiel 5:5 “Thus says the Lord GOD: this is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.”

- Israel is mentioned over 2,500 times in the Bible, He is identified as the God of Israel 201 times.
- First mentioned in **Genesis 32:28**, last mentioned in **Rev. 21:12**. New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:2-3 “²Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy / burdensome stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”

- Paul commands us to watch Israel as an example:

1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

1 Corinthians 10:18 “Observe Israel after the flesh:...”

Jeremiah 31:1-3 “¹At the same time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people. ²Thus says the LORD: the people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness - Israel, when I went to give him rest. ³The LORD has appeared of old to me saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”