

Who Are God's Chosen People

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. John 17:21

Is the Christian church one as Jesus prayed it should be, of course it is not.

Just as there are marked divisions within Judaism today ranging from the ultra orthodox in Israel to Tel Aviv being declared the most gay friendly city in the world, with Islam also having its two main groupings the Sunni and the Shia.

Christians the world over are divided amongst the Protestants, and their many sub groups, the Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox, etc.

The subject we are hoping to deal with today mainly concerns a divisive issue amongst many Protestants, no it's not the doctrines of pre tribulation rapture or post tribulation rapture.

The issue we want to concern ourselves with today is; do Israel and the Jews continue to remain God's chosen people or have they been replaced by the Christian church.

Supersessionism, also called replacement theology or fulfillment theology, is a Christian doctrine which has parallels in Islam.

In Christianity, supersessionism is a theological view on the current status of the church in relation to the Jewish people and Judaism. It holds that the Christian Church has succeeded the Israelites as the definitive people of God or that the New Covenant has replaced or superseded the Mosaic covenant.

Supersessionism has formed a core tenet of the Church for the majority of its existence.

Subsequent to and because of the Holocaust, some mainstream Christian theologians and denominations have rejected supersessionism. Wikipedia

We are going to examine some verses from both the Old and New testaments in hopes that we can come to an understanding and the truth of the matter.

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time **restore** again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. Acts 1:6-7

The key word to examine here is restore. Jesus' disciples were asking Jesus if the Kingdom of Israel was to be restored at this time, sounding like as something they were fully expecting to happen. Jesus answered in such a way as would indicate it would be restored but it was not for them to know when. Instead the Temple and Jerusalem were utterly destroyed in 70 AD by Titus and the Roman legions. This must have been very dis-heartening for those looking forward to the restoration of the kingdom. In fact Israel had not been a united kingdom since approximately 930 BC

The United Monarchy (Hebrew: **הממלכה המאוחדת**) is the name given to the Israelite kingdom of Israel and Judah, during the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon, as depicted in the Hebrew Bible. This is traditionally dated between 1050 BCE and 930 BCE. On the succession of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, around 930 BCE, the biblical account reports that the country split into two kingdoms: the Kingdom of Israel (including the cities of Shechem and Samaria) in the north and the Kingdom of Judah (containing Jerusalem) in the south. Wikipedia

The Kingdom of Israel was destroyed in 722 BC by the Assyrian empire and the Kingdom of Judah along with Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar. As already mentioned the Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed in 70 AD.

There was no entity called Israel from that time until May 14 1948 when the United Nations declared a homeland for the Jews in what was then Palestine. A key verse many point to as the fulfillment of the Kingdom of Israel is:

Who has heard such a thing? and who has seen after this manner? Has the earth travailed in one day? or has even a nation been born at once, that Sion has travailed, and

brought forth her children? Isaiah 66:8

Then we have verses such as the following:

I will establish my covenant between thee and thy seed after thee, to their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be thy God, and the God of thy seed after thee. And I will give to thee and to thy seed after thee the land wherein thou sojourneest, even all the land of Chanaan for an everlasting possession, and I will be to them a God. Genesis 17:7-8

The word everlasting appears in both verses. Well, everlasting.

Does this mean Israel and the Jews continue to be God's chosen people.

Let us look at some scriptures with a different perspective.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. Matthew 21:42-43

This would seem to be completely at odds with what God promised Abraham in Genesis 17. Can we reconcile this seemingly conundrum?

Let's look at some interesting thing Paul said concerning Israel and the Jews in Romans 9 and 11.

But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because [they sought it] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but [rather] through their fall salvation [is come] unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Now if the fall of them [be] the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, [they are] enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, [they are] beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance.

For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

Romans 9:31-33, 11:2, 11-12, 23, 26-31

There is a key word and a key phrase which are very important to note in the above scriptures, "grafted" and "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

Jesus made a similar statement in Luke 21 concerning the Gentiles.

Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Luke 21:24

Paul and Barnabas also said something interesting in Acts chapter 13 concerning the Jew and the Gentiles.

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God

should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46

What are the times of the Gentiles. Many believe them to be the present Church age until the return of Jesus. Remember the time of the Gentiles will be fulfilled, ended.

Paul seems to say that Israel will once again be restored to prominence as God's chosen people when the times of the Gentiles are completed, not before then.

With the present compromises in much of the Christian "Church" much of Christendom has ceased to be a light on a hill to lead people to the truth in God. Matthew 5:14-16

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Luke 18:8

Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come,] except there come a falling away first. 2 Thessalonians 2:3

During the thousand year reign of Christ, the Millennium, it would certainly appear God is once again using Israel and the Jews as well as the saved Christians as His people.

For in the last days the mountain of the Lord shall be glorious, and the house of God shall be on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall come to it. And many nations shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will tell us his way, and we will walk in it: for out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:2-3

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and compassion: and they shall look upon me, because they have mocked me, and they shall make lamentation for him, as for a beloved friend, and they shall grieve intensely, as for a firstborn son.

Zechariah 12:9-10

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall be left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem, shall even come up every year to worship the king, the Lord Almighty, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever of all the families of the earth shall not come up to Jerusalem to worship the king, the Lord Almighty, even these shall be added to the others.

Zechariah 14:16-17

In that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and will rebuild the ruins of it, and will set up the parts thereof that have been broken down, and will build it up as in the ancient days:

Amos 9:11

So, are Israel God's chosen people, or is the Church of Jesus Christ God's chosen people? Both are correct within a specific time frame.

Could it be the Jews will be ministering in the Temple and in Jerusalem and the Christians helping to rule the nations during the thousand year reign of Christ, the Millennium.