

The Destiny of Israel – The Missing Key of ‘Systematic’ Theology

Systematic Theology – Common Divisions of Theology

- Bibliology The Bible
 - Theology Proper Attributes of God
 - Christology The Lord Jesus Christ
 - Pneumatology The Holy Spirit
 - Angelology Angels – fallen and unfallen
 - Anthropology Man
 - Soteriology Salvation
 - Ecclesiology The Church
 - Eschatology End Times, Last Things
- Missing aspect to most ‘Systematic’ theology:
- Israelology Israel as God’s chosen instrument of redemption
This constitutes over 80% of the Bible, yet is often omitted
Instead there is a Replacement Theology view

Replacement Theology

- Says that because Israel rejected her Messiah, the promises the God made to Israel now fall upon the Church
- This view is a heresy – it denies Israel’s place in God’s programme (*Romans 9-11*)
 - It is biblically incorrect
 - It effectively calls God a liar – many verses speak of God’s eternal covenants and commitment to the nation of Israel; e.g.
 - The Everlasting New Covenant – with Israel *Jeremiah 31: 35-37*
 - Jesus to sit on David’s Throne *Luke 1: 33*
 - It lays the basis for Christian Anti-Semitism

Israel and the Church

- Distinctions
 - Different:
 - Origins Israel – origins in Abraham & Abrahamic Covenant
Church – origin at Pentecost & Giving of Holy Spirit
 - Missions Israel – God’s vehicle of world redemption
Church – Making Disciples *Matthew 28: 18-20*
 - Destinies Israel – The beloved of God, an unfaithful wife who will be reconsecrated to her God. The land of Israel the focus of the Millennial Rule of Christ
Church – The Bride of Christ – kings and priests of the Lord
 - The ‘70 Weeks’ prophecy of Daniel 9 deals specifically with Israel
- Paul’s trichotomy: Jews, Gentiles, Church (e.g. *1 Corinthians 10: 32*)
 - During the period from the giving of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost (Acts 2) to the Rapture of the Church the focus is on the Church, which is neither Jew nor Gentile
 - After the Rapture of the Church, as Revelation chapters 6-20 make clear, God is once more going to deal with planet earth through the nation and land of Israel, as He used to
- The Distinctives reappear after *Revelation 5*
 - The Church is in Heaven – *Revelation chapters 4 & 5*
 - Israel is the focus of *Revelation 6-20*