

Scriptures and Doctrine :: A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel

A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/21 13:24

This is an honest question. I've often heard that if the millennium exists and Israel has a place of headship among the nations that this is building again a wall of partition again between Jew and Gentile. How so is my question? It's said that it would not be fair for God to exalt the Jewish nation over other nations after God made Jew and Gentile one in Christ with equal access to the Father. How would this "exaltation" of Israel being over the nations perhaps be lording it over other people and nations and building dividing walls again? I believe the scriptures portray just the opposite but I'm asking for answers from those who believe it would be building dividing walls again. What is your reasoning for this?

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near;

18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:14-22 - NASB)

Part of my question and thoughts are, have Gentiles forgotten that when they became believers in Christ and part of the commonwealth of Israel (true Israel within Israel) that they were then participating in promises and covenants made to the Jewish commonwealth? How would Christ returning to earth and ruling the nations from Jerusalem during a millennium nullify the one new man He created in Himself? Foreigners and strangers have always been allowed to join Israel since OT times and scripture states it will be so during what I believe will be the millennium. But the bottom line is, if Israel becomes a servant head to the nations following the example of the Messiah they will then believe in how will this be creating new walls of division and destroying the one new man? The whole earth will be able to partake of Israel's blessing in that day so how will the Gentiles be shortchanged and placed back in a position of supposed inferiority? I don't see it as so because the whole foundation is a covenant made with the Jews to begin with.

I'm not interested in if or maybe the millennium will actually exist. I believe it will. I'm not interested in the debate whether the thousand years of Revelation is symbolic or not. My question is, if the millennium will indeed exist then how would that be setting up walls of partition again and nullifying the one new man in Christ? I don't buy that it will because there is no unrighteousness in God. The restoration of the remnant of the natural branches, in Christ and within specified geographical borders, is portrayed as an event that will be life from the dead whose blessings stagger the imagination even now and was part of the original promises and covenants made to Israel. It's what the Gentiles signed in to when they became part of the commonwealth of true Israel by faith. How could this restoration of the natural branches in Christ be building

g walls again?

Comments welcome but if you want to be contentious please give it a rest and just forego. Sound, reasoned and well thought out replies are welcome. Remember we are going to spend eternity with one another. I've failed in the past but there's no need to go at each other. It's possible to talk and dialogue decently and with respect. The faith we have works by love.

Re: A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/21

Hi Docs,

I just received this week : "My Beloved Israel by Steve Yoder, excellent book, I would highly recommend it to everyone. It is recommended by David Bercot an expert on early church history.

'Steve Yoder. In this well-researched book, Yoder discusses the Old and New Testament prophecies about Israel. He sets forth and defends the prophetic view held by the early Christians, the Anabaptists, the Reformers, and in fact all Christians before the 19th century. He describes the persecution of the Jewish people by "Christian" governments and their inhuman treatment by Hitler. He also explains the history of the Zionist movement that led to the creation of the modern state of Israel. He argues that there is only one Israel of God—comprised of both Jews and Gentiles who are children of Abraham through their faith in Christ.'

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/product3404.html>

I will discuss this more later but got to go to work now

Re: A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/21

The idea that the physical nation of Israel has a place of headship among the nations in the future is a view that was not held by most of the early Christians, the Anabaptists, the Reformers, and in fact most Christians before the 19th century.

Darby through Scofield the same stream that popularized the pretrib rapture is the same stream that has popularized the idea of : "physical nation of Israel has a place of headship among the nations in the future "

Jesus said of the leaders of Nation of Israel in his day: "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Whom is this nation that the Kingdom is given to ? Peter tells Us : But ye a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;.....

Yoder writes on p.22 : "He (Jesus) always condemned them and their system and as far as we know He never regressed on His actions in any way...."

Let's remember the Bible clearly says that God is not a respecter of persons.

The idea that the physical nation of Israel (because of the race of their flesh) has a place of headship among the nations in the future is a view that goes against the understanding that God is not a respecter of persons as well as Paul's argument in Romans 9-11 that clearly makes the point that : 'They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.'

Who are the children of the promise ? : Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

to be continued

Racism is done away with in the Body of Christ - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/21 22:25

RE: /// but I'm asking for answers from those who believe it would be building dividing walls again. What is your reasoning for this?///

Racism is done away with in the Body of Christ :

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.'

'Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond free: but Christ all, and in all. '

'For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.'

' Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

to be continued

Re: Racism is done away with in the Body of Christ - posted by Oracio (), on: 2015/10/21 23:41

Amen proudpapa.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/22 0:13

RE: ///Part of my question and thoughts are, have Gentiles forgotten that when they became believers in Christ and part of the commonwealth of Israel (true Israel within Israel) that they were then participating in promises and covenants made to the Jewish commonwealth?///

Physical Israel's role as the commonwealth was done away with.

•Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.•

We have a 'better covenant, (an everlasting covenant) which was established upon better promises.'

Re: , on: 2015/10/22 3:48

Quote: "Part of my question and thoughts are, have Gentiles forgotten that when they became believers in Christ and part of the commonwealth of Israel (true Israel within Israel) that they were then participating in promises and covenants made to the Jewish commonwealth? "

Quote "He argues that there is only one Israel of Godâ€ comprised of both Jews and Gentiles who are children of Abraham through their faith in Christ."

Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ

When God made some of the promises to Abraham and his seed, the nation Israel didn't exist.

Now i want to briefly look at Calvary. Jesus' sacrifice was 100% perfect, He drank the whole cup , all the sins were put on Him.

1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Ephesians 4:5 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.â€

Therefore i most strongly believe that there will be only one kingdom and one King, the Lord Jesus Christ and everyone in His kingdom is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Jesus alone is worthy to be King and he does not share His Glory !

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/10/22 7:46

David-

I am afraid if you can't find people here who agree with your premise, you won't get the discussion you are looking for.

The verses from Ephesians you quoted indicate that all believers comprise the holy temple and God's dwelling place, so I am wondering if you believe that temple worship will be reinstated in the literal millennium you think is forthcoming.

I can tell you that years ago when I believed in a literal millennium etc that the idea of reinstituted temple worship with animal sacrifices to boot really bugged me.

Re: Briefly to TMK - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/22 9:40

Actually I'm looking for those who may disagree with me as I'm trying to understand better the foundational reasons as to why they disagree. Particularly why if Israel became the head of the nations why this is somehow erecting a wall of partition again and disrupting the one new man. Yes the commonwealth of Israel is now the spiritual seed of Abraham who believe in Christ but believing Gentiles became part of the covenants made with this believing Israel. So why now are some of the promises made to Abraham supposedly no longer valid because there is no Jew or Gentile in Christ. These promises are part of what Gentiles signed in to.

The temple controversy, and controversial it is, is secondary to my question of why a regenerated and restored Israel becoming a priestly servant nation and washing the feet of the nations would be a disruption of the one new man.

Re: Thank you proudpapa - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/22 9:52

I may be a bit getting back to you in more depth but I will try soon. I have read your comments and will again. I may get that book "My Beloved Israel" you have spoken of. I might do that soon.

Yu said Yoder has written,

"He argues that there is only one Israel of God—comprised of both Jews and Gentiles who are children of Abraham through their faith in Christ."

I believe that also. Yet if Israel, emptied of nationalistic self conceit and reliance on their own strength versus God's, and redeemed in Christ, became a servant to the nations under the headship of Christ then how is this destroying the one new man? If one member of this one new man (bless God for this man!) is honored then aren't all members honored? If one member is honored shouldn't all members rejoice? I spoke once to a fellow Christian about what I believed would be Israel's future as a redeemed nation and he said that can't happen because there is no Jew or Gentile in Christ. That is what I don't understand.

Thanks to the others also who have responded.

- posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/22 10:11

RE: ///I may be a bit getting back to you in more depth but I will try soon///

I look forward to your thoughts and getting a better understanding of your position.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/10/22 11:04

David- how do you know that when God made his promise to Abraham that he (God) didn't have the Church ultimately in mind?

Re: Abraham and the Church - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/22 11:17

TMK: David- how do you know that when God made his promise to Abraham that he (God) didn't have the Church ultimately in mind?

Docs: I do believe that. The Abrahamic promises are only obtainable through Christ.

26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

28 You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:26)

-27)

If God puts His Spirit within them then they will be part of the Church because the Church is the only entity on earth that has the Spirit dwell within each individual member. To have the Spirit within they will have had to place their faith in Christ. I believe God had this in mind when He first spoke to Abraham. If this is true why isn't the "You will live on the land that I gave to your forefathers" also true? How would living on this land, in Christ and with the Spirit within, be erecting a wall of partition again between Jew and Gentile since the blessings coming from this would fill the whole earth?

Thanks.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/22 12:13

Docs,

Am I understanding you correctly ? are you of the understanding that verse 26 and 27 of Ezekiel chapter 36 is fulfilled through Christ in this present dispensation but believe that there is a dispensational gap between versus 27 and 28, In which verse 28 : "You will live on the land that I gave to your forefathers" will not be fulfilled until the millennial dispensation ?

Could it be possible that there is not a Gap and that versus 26-28 were all fulfilled at the same time ?

Could that be what these verses are referring to ? :

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels Heb 12:22

Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27For it is written, Rejoice, barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. 28Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. Gal 4

add : Or are you of the impression that 26-28 is only addressing physical Israel in the millennial dispensation ?

Re: Not much time today - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/22 20:36

Thanks proudpapa again for your thoughts. I just don't have much time tonight but heck, replies don't always have to come immediately. It's fun and perhaps wise to muse a bit and let things percolate you know before answering.

One short thought.

You quoted,

"Jesus said of the leaders of Nation of Israel in his day: ~~â€œ~~Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Did that mean He was forever through with them though? He also said,

37 ~~â€œ~~Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me UNTIL you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matt 23:37-39 - NASB)

There is a strong implication of a day and time to come when they will say of Christ, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." After the UNTIL.

What difference will it make when Christ returns to Israel and Jerusalem from whence He ascended? Where do you believe Christ will return to? It's He that promised to return to the place and nation He left. Will this have any significance for Israel and set them apart in any way? If Christ returns to Israel will this be showing respect of persons and partiality?

Blessings. I'll get back at you.

Doc's - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/23 0:22

Docs, You have me searching the Scriptures.

RE: ///It's He that promised to return to the place and nation He left.///

Could you give the Scriptures that you are referring to ?

Re: , on: 2015/10/23 0:55

The people of Israel in the Old Covenant compared with the Church in the New Covenant serve as various types, shadows, prefigurations and illustrations. Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5

The Jewish people were not abandoned by God anymore than any other people were (Rom 11:1), and the Christian people are a fulfillment of the people of Israel. There is a continuity of the "faith of Abraham", now expressed in the Gentiles (and Jews) through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore there is a continuity of the "Israel of God". Neither Jew nor Greek, but one new man in Christ.

The comparative designation of Christians is also "Israel". "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:" (Rom 9:6)

"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." (Gal 6:16) The "Israel of God" are all those who have the life of Christ indwelling them.

There is no longer any continuity with an external, physical Jewish nation.

The labels of Old Covenant Israel are now applied to those who are born from above:

1. Christians are known as the Children of God (Jn 1:12; Rom. 8:14; Phil. 2:15; I Jn. 3:1)
2. Christians are the children of Abraham (by faith) (Rom. 4:11,16; Gal. 3:7,29)
3. Christians are the Heirs according to the promise and of the kingdom (Gal. 3:29; James 2:5)
4. The Church is considered the House of God (Eph. 2:12,19; Heb. 3:6; 10:21; I Pet. 4:17)
5. Christians inhabit the Kingdom of God (Col. 1:13; 4:11; Rev. 1:6)
6. Christians are the People of God (Rom. 9:25; Eph. 5:3; Titus 2:14)
7. Christians are Priests unto God (I Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10)
8. The Church is the Bride of God/Christ (II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:31,32)

9. The Church is the Chosen People (Col. 3:12; I Pet. 2:9)
10. The Church is the Circumcision (Rom. 2:28,29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11)
11. Christians are the People of Zion, Jerusalem (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 21:10)
12. The Church is the Remnant (Rom. 11:5)
13. The Church is Israel (Rom. 9:6; Gal. 6:16)
14. Christians are true Jews (Rom. 2:28,29)

Christians only become any of the beforementioned things because of faith in Jesus Christ who is the personified fulfillment of the promises of God to Israel.

Our identification with Israel can only be viewed in one way, with Christ as the center. We serve as Israel only as we are "in Christ" and He "in us". If Christ is not living and functioning in us we are not regarded as the Israel of God. The title of "Israel" is a spiritual designation now, related to abiding in Christ. There is no longer any biblical basis for assuming that the physical, geographical nation of Israel has anything to do with Biblical prophecy.

Israel today is not Israel of old. The name "Israel" was chosen deliberately to connect modern Israel with ancient Israel, but modern Israel is a 20th century world political organization, it is not Biblical Israel and has no claim to any promises or rights of Biblical Israel. Modern Israel is just like any other nation on earth and just like every other nation on earth, modern Israel cannot be considered a chosen nation with divine destiny. If modern Israel ceased to exist it would not alter Biblical prophecy one iota. God's unchangeable character and faithfulness is not dependent on the changeableness of man's politics and warfare. Nations will come and nations will go, but God will never change.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Only the spiritual nation of Israel is eternal! Israel is only a spiritual nation of blood bought saints!

When you read about Israel in the NT, Israel is spiritual.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/23 4:17

ACTS 1:6-7.

"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'

"And He (JESUS)said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"

I find this very interesting question and answer. The disciples who had been with Jesus every day for 3.5 years still seemed to have the understanding that the Kingdom would at some point be restored to Israel. You would have thought that if this major prophetic plan that was the foundation of the Jewish nation for years had been changed then Jesus would have made that very clear to them during those years. Even more, here was the ideal opportunity for Jesus to correct their thinking about it, but instead He just says in essence, 'It's not for you to know when this will happen'.

Clearly, if you or I were one of those Jewish disciples there on that day, we would have not taken it any other way than He meant it WOULD happen sometime in God's timing!

Where did Jesus ever state that all those many, many prophecies in the OT that speak clearly of a future earthly Kingdom of Israel were now redundant? I don't know anywhere.

It seems to me that if God spoke in times past and said that certain things would come to pass and they don't, it is a slur on God's integrity. He would be saying in effect 'I've changed my mind' or 'well, it did not quite work out as I said it would'. I don't believe this is right.

Regarding the early church, it is incorrect to say they did not believe in a millennium kingdom on earth. The early Church Fathers did believe in a millennium Kingdom. This view only changed later when the church had drifted away from its roots. The accepted view of the pre-nicene church fathers was pre-millennial.

For example: Justin Martyr (AD 100-165) in his Dialogue With Trypho c. AD 140, made the following premillennial statement: "But I and others, who are right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection

of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then he built, adorned, and enlarged, as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare."

and also this.... "And further, there was a certain man with us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, who prophesied, by a revelation that was made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would dwell a thousand years in Jerusalem; and that thereafter the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgment of all men would likewise take place." (Justin Martyr, Dialogue, chapter 81).

Irenaeus (AD160-230) was a disciple of Polycarp who knew the Apostle John said "John, therefore, did distinctly foresee the first 'resurrection of the just,' and the inheritance in the kingdom of the earth, and what the prophets have prophesied concerning it harmonize ." (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, book 5, chapter 36, paragraph 3).

Re: , on: 2015/10/23 9:46

Jesus did not come to establish an earthly Kingdom. The Jews always believed the Messiah would come to establish on e. God does not have an earthly people (Jews) and a heavenly people (Christians).

The Church is not an "interim" solution, or Plan B, until Plan A can be carried out.

For God to restore physical Israel, He would have to go against much of what He said in the Scriptures.

ALL GOD'S PHYSICAL PROMISES TO ISRAEL WERE FULFILLED.

There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; ALL CAME TO PASS. (J os 21:45)

And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not on e thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, AND NOT ONE THING FAILED THEREOF. (Jos 23:14)

Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath NOT FAI LED ONE WORD OF ALL HIS GOOD PROMISE, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. (1Ki 8:56)

And so, after he had patiently endured, HE OBTAINED THE PROMISE. (Heb 6:15)

AND ALL SPIRITUAL PROMISES WERE FULFILLED IN CHRIST.

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. (Luke 2 4:44)

After this, JESUS KNOWING THAT ALL THINGS WERE NOW ACCOMPLISHED, that the scripture might be fulfilled, s aith, I thirst. (John 19:28)

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES MAD E UNTO THE FATHERS: (Rom 15:8)

All Messianic promises were fulfilled in Christ. His mission was not to develop an "elect people" or create a physical king dom for Israel.

His primary objective was completed which was to restore men to the Father, by the indwelling presence of God in man.

Re: Heydave - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/23 11:44

ACTS 1:6-7.

"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'"

"And He (JESUS) said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"

The question is not being asked in Acts 1.

Luke is simply recalling how the question was asked of Jesus in the past. The context is that it is part of Luke's introduction for what is fixing to take place in chapter 2

Wesley's Notes for Acts 1:6

1:6 Dost thou at this time - At the time thou now speakest of? not many days hence? restore the kingdom to Israel? - They still seemed to dream of an outward, temporal kingdom, in which the Jews should have dominion over all nations. It seems they came in a body, having before concerted the design, to ask when this kingdom would come.

People's Bible Notes for Acts 1:6

Ac 1:6 Wilt thou at this time, etc.? They still held to their old ideas of a worldly restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Their only question was, "Wilt thou restore it 'now'?" After the Holy Spirit was given, this delusion was dismissed, and they understood that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

Add : Did any one write that there where no millennialist before the 19th century ? I do not believe I wrote that because that was not my understanding.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/23 12:22

Proud papa, you gave me the impression that you were making a case that 'most early Christians did not believe in an earthly kingdom for Israel' and that it was just a recent thing. I showed this was not the case. The reformers, Anabaptist, etc., were not early Christians, certainly when compared to the pre-nicene church Fathers. They are 1200 years after the fact!

Julias, Why does it have to be either, or? Plan A or plan B? Why can't it be both?

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/23 12:31

Proud papa,

With respect, you are mistaken in your reading of Acts 2. It certainly was a conversation that took place at the time just before Jesus ascended to heaven. Read verse 9 "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight".

It cannot be more clear in telling us when these things were spoken! :)

Re: , on: 2015/10/23 12:59

I don't see any widespread belief in dispensationalism before the 19th century. It is widely believed to have started with Darby and the Plymouth Brethren.

I also don't see in scripture where God has an earthly people now, along with a heavenly people.

The Kingdom of God is not earthly and no earthly Kingdom is in the works.

Re: heydave - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/23 13:12

I am currently in a place of transition from my previously held position of historic premillennialism to that of a NonChilist position.

Having formally held a historic premillennialist view I was of the understanding that the pre-nicene church Fathers were chilist but much different in their understanding from Darby Dispensationalism that is widely held today.

The foundation of Darby Dispensationalism is the role of physical Israel in Prophecy.

My understanding thus far is that that view was not held by most of the early Christians, the Anabaptists, the Reformers, and in fact most Christians before the 19th century. That seems to be the understanding of Bercot who has dedicated years of studying the pre-nicene church Fathers in their context.

I want to get this download : What the Early Christians Believed About Israel in Prophecy.

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/product2814.html>

edit add : RE: /// It certainly was a conversation that took place at the time just before Jesus ascended to heaven.///

I was not trying to refute that.

I was pointing out that Acts 1 is the introduction to Acts 2.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/23 13:36

Nobody was talking about Darby and dispensationalism here, so please don't confuse the issue. The discussion as I understood it was about does Israel as a nation still have a place in God's plan. You don't have to be a Darby dispensationalist to think they do.

About God not being a respecter of person, that is not strictly true is it? He does respect certain nations and in particular He chose Israel above all nations of the earth. Individuals may be not, but nations certainly He did choose between.

Re: Heydave - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/23 14:42

RE: ///Nobody was talking about Darby and dispensationalism here, so please don't confuse the issue. The discussion as I understood it was about does Israel as a nation still have a place in God's plan. You don't have to be a Darby dispensationalist to think they do.///

I think that this is indeed the heart of the issue, Why we interpret the Scripture the way that we do.

My research thus far seems to conclude that Justin Martyr believed that it is the Christians that shall inherit the holy land.

add: I do not think Justin Martyr was a Christian Zionist. (I am finding just the opposite) I am not finding that any of the pre-nicene fathers were Christian Zionists

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR

DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO :

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/justinmartyr-dialoguetrypho.html>

Re: , on: 2015/10/23 14:45

I believe the scriptures teach that God has completed His work with Israel as a physical nation on earth. Previously, I listed many verses where God had fulfilled all His promises to Israel.

I might have missed them and my apologies if I have but did someone list scriptures indicating a future building of an earthly nation of Israel?

Point taken about Darby, HeyDave. I think PP already mentioned it, anyway.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/23 16:52

It does not help to use labels such as 'Christian Zionist' and 'Dispensationist'. It just puts people into boxes as if one categorise all their views, when all they are seeking to do is consider what is truth. I don't consider myself either of these, but they can mean different things to different people.

No one has suggested an answer to for why Jesus replied to the disciples the way He did in Acts 1 when He said "it is not for you to know the times or season" when God will restore the kingdom to Israel.

I thought PP originally suggested that Jesus did not say this at the point of His ascension, but then then said he did not say this, anyway that is clearly not correct, so that leaves the question open?

Julias, I will come back to you later with the many scriptures that say Israel has a future, when I have time to do this.

Re: , on: 2015/10/23 17:11

Ok, that's great Hey Dave. I will work on the Acts 1 scripture and get back to you. Very interesting discussion. I agree about not putting people in boxes as that is not my intention.

Re: Heydave - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/23 18:01

Heydave wrote : RE: ///No one has suggested an answer to for why Jesus replied to the disciples the way He did in Acts 1 when He said "it is not for you to know the times or season" when God will restore the kingdom to Israel.

I thought PP originally suggested that Jesus did not say this at the point of His ascension, but then then said he did not say this, anyway that is clearly not correct, so that leaves the question open?///

PP wrote : RE: ///The question is not being asked in Acts 1. Luke is simply recalling how the question was asked of Jesus in the past. The context is that it is part of Lukes introduction for what is fixing to take place in chapter 2///

What I was trying to say was that Acts 1 is the introduction for Acts 2.

Luke is recalling past conversations that occurred before and after the Ascension acts ch 1 1-11

Acts Chapter 1 Verses 4 and 5 are fulfilled in Acts 2.

And with that in mind I posted Both what Wesley and Peoples said about verse 6 :

Wesley's Notes for Acts 1:6

1:6 Dost thou at this time - At the time thou now speakest of? not many days hence? restore the kingdom to Israel? - They still seemed to dream of an outward, temporal kingdom, in which the Jews should have dominion over all nations. It seems they came in a body, having before concerted the design, to ask when this kingdom would come.

People's Bible Notes for Acts 1:6

Ac 1:6 Wilt thou at this time, etc.? They still held to their old ideas of a worldly restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Their only question was, "Wilt thou restore it 'now'"? After the Holy Spirit was given, this delusion was dismissed, and they understood that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

Do you understand my point ?

add : "Wilt thou restore it 'now'"? After the Holy Spirit was given, ((Acts 2)) this delusion was dismissed, and they understood that Christ's kingdom is not of this world." :

Re: For heydave - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/23 18:09

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ACTS 1:6-7.

"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'

"And He (JESUS) said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"

I find this very interesting question and answer. The disciples who had been with Jesus every day for 3.5 years still seemed to have the understanding that the Kingdom would at some point be restored to Israel. You would have thought that if this major prophetic plan that was the foundation of the Jewish nation for years had been changed then Jesus would have made that very clear to them during those years. Even more, here was the ideal opportunity for Jesus to correct their thinking about it, but instead He just says in essence, 'It's not for you to know when this will happen'.

Clearly, if you or I were one of those Jewish disciples there on that day, we would have not taken it any other way than He meant it **WOULD** happen sometime in God's timing!

Where did Jesus ever state that all those many, many prophecies in the OT that speak clearly of a future earthy Kingdom of Israel were now redundant? I don't know anywhere.

It seems to me that if God spoke in times past and said that certain things would come to pass and they don't, it is a slur on God's integrity. He would be saying in effect 'I've changed my mind' or 'well, it did not quite work out as I said it would'. I don't believe this is right.

Regarding the early church, it is incorrect to say they did not believe in a millennium kingdom on earth. The early Church Fathers did believe in a millennium Kingdom. This view only changed later when the church had drifted away from its roots. The accepted view of the pre-nicene church fathers was pre-millennial.

For example: Justin Martyr (AD 100-165) in his Dialogue With Trypho c. AD 140, made the following premillennial statement: "But I and others, who are right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned, and enlarged, as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare."

and also this.... "And further, there was a certain man with us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, who prophesied, by a revelation that was made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would dwell a thousand years in Jerusalem; and that thereafter the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgment of all men would likewise take place." (Justin Martyr, Dialogue, chapter 81).

Irenaeus (AD160-230) was a disciple of Polycarp who knew the Apostle John said "John, therefore, did distinctly foresee the first 'resurrection of the just,' and the inheritance in the kingdom of the earth, and what the prophets have prophesied concerning it harmonize ." (Irenaeus, Against Heresies, book 5, chapter 36, paragraph 3).

Doc: I believe as you do above. In your opinion, why do you think or not think it will be nullifying the one new man in Christ if Israel becomes a priestly nation of servants and is given a position of headship over the other nations. I've been very curious about this notion for a long while. If someone were to tell you that Israel becoming the head cannot happen because there is no Jew or Gentile in Christ and if they become head that is building a wall of partition again what would be your reply to this statement? It's an honest inquiry by me.

Re: For julius - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/23 18:13

You wrote,

"I believe the scriptures teach that God has completed His work with Israel as a physical nation on earth."

Where do you think Christ will return to when He returns? When His feet touch down on real terra firma earth soil again where do you think this might be?

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 0:04

Hi David,

We know that the temple is now the Church and not a literal physical temple, as well, the "Israel of God" is also the Church. He is coming in the clouds...

In the book of Revelation there is no mention of a rapture, nor any mention of a seven year tribulation, and even the scriptures on Christ's return to earth are very general and provide little detail. But they do provide assurance for Christians.

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

We also know that Jesus came the first time to bring redemption to the world the second time He comes will be in glory to consummate all things.

Regarding the millenium, there is no such word in the Bible, but I know it is used to refer to the "thousand years" in Revelation. Christianity has built a various grids and overlayed Scripture with their millenial "grids" to create several narratives. These are called pre-millennialism, post-millennialism, amillennialism, etc. It is a shame that we have allowed 6 verses (Rev 20:2-7) to cause so much division in the Body of Christ with the different millenial theologies. Are we to take these thousand years as a strict, physical thousand years or more of a symbolic and figurative thousand years? After all, almost all the other numbers in Revelation are symbolic. I don't think we really have any right to assume these are 1000 thousand physical years, do we? Are we to look at the ten-headed and seven-horned monster literally. I don't think we can use simple arithmetic and apply it to God's "numbers".

Here are other Biblical references to a thousand years.

â€œa thousand years in Thy sight are like yesterday..." (Psa 90:4)

â€œone day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Pet. 3:8)

And here are other numbers used in Revelation (1/2, 7, 10, 12, 24, 666, 144,000) all of which are symbolic and figurative references. The number of "one thousand" seems to represent completion in other scriptures. It is a number the Lord uses to represent the "full scope," of things. We have several examples.

Deu 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Does this mean that after a thousand generations God will cease his faithfulness and compassion? No, this is a picture of the "comprehensiveness" of God's character. (See also I Chron 16:15, Psa 105:8).

Psa 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

Is Psalm 50 implying there is a limitation to what God owns? No, He owns all the cattle in the world and the number of a thousand only points out the complete scope of His control.

We have a saying, "If I have told you once, I have told you a thousand times..."

So, we should be very careful in treating all the other numbers in Revelation with figurative and symbolic meanings yet ascribe a literal, physical meaning to a thousand years.

This comprehensive period of "a thousand years" could very well have begun when our Savior was crucified, died and was buried and on the 3rd day, rose from the grave. I believe we are living in that symbolic "thousand years", now.

Till the "thousand years" be fulfilled, could be the comprehensive time between Christ's first coming (redemption) and His second coming (consummation).

Do you see now how these verses could be understood in a completely different light?

Rev. 20:2 - "Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years"

Rev. 20:3 - "till the thousand years should be fulfilled"

Rev. 20:4 - "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years"

Rev. 20:5 - "until the thousand years were finished"

Rev. 20:6 - "and shall reign with Him a thousand years"

Rev. 20:7 - "when the thousand years are expired"

The cross was Christ's victorious defeat of Satan.

The victory of Christ over Satan was accomplished at the cross. Satan was defeated and no longer has universal unlimited ability to deceive mankind.

Satan began deceiving the nations in the garden, and his deception soon encompassed all of mankind.

Act 14:16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

Satan defeated the first Adam, but he could not defeat the "last Adam".

1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

From that time on, through the preaching of the Gospel the life of God could be restored to man.

We live and reign in life with Christ during this time (now). (Rom. 5:17,21)

Christians are seated with Christ in the heavenlies (now) (Eph 2:6)

We participate with Christ in His Kingdom, (now) (Col 1:13)

We have to remember that Jesus explicitly said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36); "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20,21).

I don't see the Book of Revelation as a chronological sequence of events as much as I see it as a panoramic display of what happens between Christ's first and second coming. Physically, it has been 2,000 years, but symbolically, it will end up being quite "comprehensive" (as a thousand years). When I read Revelation, I see the spiritual conflict that has been raging for millenia.

Each scene in Revelation does not have to necessarily be tied to a physical, historical event on earth. And each scene in Revelation seems to end in victory and thus is an encouragement to every generation. The letter to the 7 churches has

been instructive and encouraging to the Church in every generation. The final victory in Revelation showcases the defeat of Satan and the medium of religion (Babylon) that he manifests himself through to wage war against Jesus Christ and His people.

I fear that once again, just as with the earthly minded Jews looking for a political and militaristic Messiah that would vanquish all their foes, an earthly minded church is looking also for the same kind of Messiah.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 4:01

Quote : "Where do you think Christ will return to when He returns? When His feet touch down on real terra firma earth so il again where do you think this might be?"

I believe Jesus will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 Years.

But everything will be made new. Jerusalem as it is today is not fit for the King of Kings!

Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/10/24 8:43

You nailed it Julius.

If Jesus is going to reign a literal 1000 years in Jerusalem, when are the new heavens and new earth going to be created?

Re: A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel - posted by rookie (), on: 2015/10/24 8:5

David wrote:

"My question is, if the millennium will indeed exist then how would that be setting up walls of partition again and nullifying the one new man in Christ? I don't buy that it will because there is no unrighteousness in God. The restoration of the remnant of the natural branches, in Christ and within specified geographical borders, is portrayed as an event that will be life from the dead whose blessings stagger the imagination even now and was part of the original promises and covenants made to Israel."

In short, David you are on the right path.

I must first set a thought of what Peter said of Paul's wisdom....

2Pe 3:15

and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

2Pe 3:16

as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Peter teaches us to carefully consider what Paul is revealing to us in his epistles, for there will be those who "twist" the Scriptures. Peter clearly exhorts us to carefully consider what Paul teaches because there are "some things hard to understand". So with that thought in mind...let us consider Paul's teaching in Galatians 4.

Gal 4:26

but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Gal 4:27

For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren,

You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband.â€œfn

Paul mentions "the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all." And then Paul selects a Scripture found in Isaiah 54 to be commentary on what he is trying to teach the Galatians.

So what precept do we find in Isaiah 54 that serves as commentary in Galatians 4? And what do we find considering God's promise to the nation of Israel?

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/24 11:27

Heydave wrote :/// It does not help to use labels such as 'Christian Zionist' and 'Dispensationist'. It just puts people into boxes as if one categorise all their views, when all they are seeking to do is consider what is truth. I don't consider myself either of these, but they can mean different things to different people.///

I used those terms to try and clear up a misunderstanding on your part.

You posted some quotes from Justin Martyr as proof that I had given a false impression (which I do not feel that I did)

you wrote:

RE: ///"Proud papa, you gave me the impression that you were making a case that 'most early Christians did not believe in an earthly kingdom for Israel'(((implying Israel as a race))) and that it was just a recent thing. I showed this was not the case. The reformers, Anabaptist, etc, were not early Christians, certainly when compared to the pre-nicene church Fathers. They are 1200 years after them!"///

You did not show that this was not the case.

You used the Quotes of Justin Martyr out of context.

Justin was a chiliast : he did believe that Christ would return and reign a thousand years on earth from Jerusalem but with the Christians and patriarchs not with the Jews.

Justin was clearly a strong supersessionist!

There is no substantial evidence that any of the early church fathers believed that physical Israel (((Israel as a race))) plays any significant role in prophecy.

I would encourage everyone to read :

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR

DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO :

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/justinmartyr-dialoguetrypho.html>

Re: Reply for julius - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/24 11:29

You wrote,

"In the book of Revelation there is no mention of a rapture, nor any mention of a seven year tribulation, and even the scriptures on Christ's return to earth are very general and provide little detail. But they do provide assurance for Christians."

If you had asked the early church and the original 12 apostles where Christ would return to do you think they would have replied we have very little details about this and therefore do not know?

Also,

"I fear that once again, just as with the earthly minded Jews looking for a political and militaristic Messiah that would vanquish all their foes, an earthly minded church is looking also for the same kind of Messiah."

I don't believe that is so. All streams of theology look for a risen and glorified Savior to return to earth, I believe to the place from whence He ascended. We do not look for a militaristic figure but one who will put an end to war as the nations beat their swords into plowshares.

Could not His words, "My kingdom is not of this world" be a reference to the fact that His kingdom does not operate by the same power and principles as this world system does. Could it be that it has its origins in heaven but will eventually be played out on this earth without becoming as the worldly kingdoms? The earth and its blessedness was part of the Hebrew concept of reality and was the place where the kingdom of God would eventually be lived out.

Back to my original question - if Israel is to obtain a special significance in the nations by the return of its long absent Messiah how would this be disrupting the one new man in Christ and erecting walls of partition again between Jew and Gentile? God is no respecter of persons it is said but is it true to say that if this happens then it is an automatic sign God is respecting persons and nations over others? If so, why?

Re: Reply for proudpapa - Ezekiel 36:24-28 - posted by docs (), on: 2015/10/24 11:52

You wrote and asked,

"Am I understanding you correctly ? are you of the understanding that verse 26 and 27 of Ezekiel chapter 36 is fulfilled through Christ in this present dispensation but believe that there is a dispensational gap between versus 27 and 28, In which verse 28 : "You will live on the land that I gave to your forefathers" will not be fulfilled until the millennial dispensation?"

24 For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

28 You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

I see verses 27 and 28, as well as verses 24-27, as being part of the millennial scenario. Verse 24 mentions return from the nations where the nation has been in exile and then comes the placing of God's Spirit within them as they obediently live on the land given to their forefathers. The new birth, the placing of the Spirit within, will give them the moral ability to live obediently on the land.

One major thing though. The gospel and the ministry of Christ revealed and brought to light a mystery not previously revealed. That being the fact the Christ unexpectedly brought the powers of the age to come into this age BEFORE the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord was commonly seen in Jewish thought as the time when the wicked would be purged from the nation and Israel's eschatological enemies finally vanquished by the appearance of the Messiah. Then the Spirit was supposed to be poured out on all mankind. But Christ unexpectedly brought the pouring out of the Spirit into this age before the next age began (see Hebrews 6:5). We have already tasted of the powers of the age to come. But that doesn't mean the Spirit will not be poured out in the age to come. There is presently a overlapping of the ages so to speak. What is coming in its fullness in the next age is already here in its infancy in this age. We haven't seen anything yet! But we and Israel will see it and the remnant of Israel will live obediently in the land given to their forefathers just as He promised

Abraham in the beginning.

How this will disrupt the one new man is Christ is still beyond me. That is my question and thought. Can't God have respect for His original Abrahamic promisers without being labelled a respecter of persons? Following that train of thought, He was a respecter of persons in choosing Abraham over other men. Wasn't He then obligated to do for every man what He had done for Abraham? Where does it say the sovereign God is obligated to treat all nations the same? That's not being a hard pro Israel zealot. It's just asking a logical question. If God chose Israel to have a place of distinction and honor among nations does that automatically obligate God to do the same for every nation? What if this nation is to be a servant nation that does not lord it over the nations as they have in this age but is a servant nation that is a vessel to pour forth immense blessings to the rest of the earth? How is that erecting a wall of partition again and making God a respecter of persons?

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 12:03

I would like to make a case why the "new heavens and new earth", is figurative language which transmits a spiritual truth and not some future Star Trek "Genesis" effect that will literally create a new earth. We are living as a NEW CREATURE (New man and new authority on earth. The redeemed ones) participating in Jerusalem above (New heavens), now. Seated with Christ in Heavenly Places (New Heavens).

Please follow me carefully and let's go through the Word, together.

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a NEW THING; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (Isa 43:18-19)

Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee NEW THINGS from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them. (Isa 48:6)

The Spirit is talking about doing a NEW THING on this present earth.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS are passed away; behold, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW. (2Co 5:17)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but A NEW CREATURE. (Gal 6:15)
As men that come from the earth, (from dust to dust) we are now a "NEW EARTH" but the New Earth also speaks of a New Authority living in men as the Old Authority has been cast out. (Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. Joh_12:31)

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (Rev 21:5)

That he who blesseth himself IN THE EARTH shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth IN THE EARTH shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. (Isa 65:16)

For, behold, I create NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. (Isa 65:17)

Here, the Spirit of God is linking verse 17 with 16 and trying to convey to us that there is a new way of living (not literal new heavens and new earth). In verse 17, "the former shall not be remembered", links up well with vs 16, "because the former troubles are forgotten". This is speaking about the "new birth", which makes us a "new creation" and gives us a "new spirit" (Eze 11:19, 18:31, Eze 36:26), and causes us to walk in peace and joy because we are now joined to the Lord as one spirit and have been given a NEW HEART. (Rom 14:17).

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever IN THAT WHICH I CREATE: for, behold, I CREATE JERUSALEM A REJOICING, AND HER PEOPLE A JOY. (Isa 65:18)

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Rom_14:17)

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. (Php 4:4)

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. (Isa 65:19)

Isa 65:18,19 are happening now to the New Creation. We are participating in the New Jerusalem (New Heavens) as a New Creature, now.

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. (Gal 4:26)

For it is written, REJOICE, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. (Gal 4:27)

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. (Isa 2:2)

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW, AND THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM. (Isa 2:3)

The "New Creatures" (Christians) who dwell in Zion with a New AUTHORITY in them (Spirit of God) preach the Law of Christ and the Word of the LORD. This new law and word are from the Jerusalem above and not the Jerusalem below (Legalism, Law of Moses).

Isaiah 2:2-3 has been happening since the Resurrection of Christ and the birth of the Church in the Book of Acts.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:4 has been happening since the Birth of the Church. Much martyrdom in the last 2,000 some odd years ("thousand years"). Remember what I said about a "thousand years" in my previous post? How that it is a figure of speech for a comprehensively long time? The mark upon their foreheads is not a physical mark it refers to not having a renewed mind (new spirit). We are living and reigning with Christ now, not worshipping the beast, nor his various images (religion) on earth.

I don't have time right now to expand on all of this, but it should give you some material to think about and I trust the Holy Spirit will expand upon it for you.

New Earth - There is a new person that has never existed before on earth. It is the redeemed man, full of the Spirit of Christ. And there is a new authority on earth which dwells in these redeemed men, taking authority over the powers of darkness and setting the captives free.

New Heavens - Speaks of Jerusalem above which we participate in, now.

There will be no new physical earth. What is the point?

All Abrahamic promises have been fulfilled in Christ. I will supply the verses, later.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/24 12:06

Here just a few of many scripture prophecies regarding Israel's promised future inheritance.

Jeremiah 33:24

“Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, ‘The two families which the LORD has chosen, He has also cast them off’? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before Me.”

Which people today say this (that Israel should no longer a nation)? Is it not Islam the enemy of God? Why would Christi

and can't align themselves with such an anti-Christ spirit??

Jeremiah 33:25-26

Thus says the LORD: If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.

So until day and night cease to exist, God said He will not cast away the descendants of Jacob.

Jeremiah 16:14-16

Therefore behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, but, The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them. For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

Note: They will come back from ALL the lands where they had been driven. This has not been fulfilled before.

Jeremiah 30:1

For behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah, says the LORD. And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

Context here is the time of Jacob's trouble (the tribulation).

Jeremiah 31:8-10

Behold, I will bring them from the north country,
And gather them from the ends of the earth,
Among them the blind and the lame,
The woman with child
And the one who labors with child, together;

A great throng shall return there.
They shall come with weeping,
And with supplications I will lead them.
I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters,
In a straight way in which they shall not stumble;
For I am a Father to Israel,
And Ephraim is My firstborn.

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 does his flock.

When were Israel scattered to the ends of the earth? Only in AD70 by the Romans. Only in the last century have they been gathered back into the land. God's word is true and does not fail.

Zehariah 12:9-10

It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

"Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

This is one of the most wonderful prophecies of the Jews recognising their Messiah, Jesus. When has this ever been fulfilled that ALL the nations that came against Jerusalem were destroyed? When have Israel as a nation looked upon Him how was pierced and grieved?

Are we to dismiss all these passages as not literal? If so, we might as well dismiss the whole bible as mythological! If Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies exactly concerning His first coming, surely all the prophecies related to His second coming will be fulfilled literally.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 12:25

Let me add a few things just to summarize my previous post.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: FOR THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY. (Rev 21:4)

Sorrow and mourning take a back seat to the Joy of the Lord and there is no more death (spiritual death) for the New Creature.

Isa_51:11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. (Rev_21:1)

These "former things" in verse 21:4 are part of the "first heaven and the first earth", which for the Christian are passed away.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; behold, ALL THINGS are become new. (2Co 5:17)

We now dwell in the New Heavens and New Earth. The "first heaven and first earth" included Satan, sin, death, all of which pass away along with the beasts and Babylon. We have been set free, and able to answer God's call to "come out of Babylon". Even the "sea" has passed away which is symbolic of the depths of Satan's working which we no longer participate in. We do not participate in Satan's evil world system anymore, we are participating in the regenerated "new heaven and new earth", where God has made all things new.

The Lord showed Isaiah that He would "do something new" (Isa. 43:19) by "creating new heavens and a new earth" (Isa. 65:17). The New Heavens and New Earth represent the following:

"new creation" (Gal. 6:15)

"new and living way" (Heb. 10:20)

"new covenant" (Heb. 8:13; 9:15; 12:24)

new birth (John 3:3,7)

"newness of life" (Rom. 6:4)

"new Spirit" (Ezek. 36:26)

"new man" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)

"new creature in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17)

"new song" (Rev. 5:9; 14:13)

"new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:11,13).

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/24 12:30

Julias,

So what you seem to be saying is that any future prophecy or scripture that talks about the future is an analogy and not to be taken literally? I will just agree to strongly disagree with this assumption. Jesus fulfilled literally what was prophesied about Him. I'm sure there were Rabbis when He came who considered the prophecies as just analogical. Just as well that the wise men from the east took it literally! :)

It explicitly says a number of times (as you quoted) in Revelation that there is a 1000 year period AFTER Christ returns and BEFORE the new heaven and earth. I don't have the liberty of deciding that this does not mean what is clearly said and it means something different. 1000 years is a millennium is it not? If it is not to be taken literally, then neither is any

of the other detail in that passage to be taken literally. So the Devil (if he is real that is, or maybe just a metaphor for evil) is not cast into the bottomless pit. Do we really reign with Christ (for 1000 years) and act as priests unto God? Are these all just analogies?? Where do you stop at deciding what is actual and what is metaphor? I would suggest it is a dangerous game to play.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 13:14

Quote:

-----by Heydave on 2015/10/24 12:06:48

Here just a few of many scripture prophecies regarding Israel's promised future inheritance.

Jeremiah 33:24

“Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, ‘The two families which the LORD has chosen, He has also cast them off’? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before them.”

Which people today say this (that Israel should no longer a nation)? Is it not Islam the enemy of God? Why would Christians align themselves with such an anti-Christ spirit??

I don't believe Christians are aligning themselves with Islam. That is an uninformed accusation that shows you don't understand what this "land" is that God will bring them back to, or what the new nation is. The land is the "New Heavens and New Earth" and the nation is the "Holy Nation" of all the redeemed. The "better country" spoken of in Hebrews and the City where God is not ashamed to be called our God is New Jerusalem (above).

Quote:

-----Jeremiah 33:25-26

“Thus says the LORD: ‘If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.’”

So until day and night cease to exist, God said He will not cast away the descendants of Jacob.

Rom 11:32 For God hath concluded THEM ALL IN UNBELIEF, that he might have mercy upon all.

Heb_8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL and with the house of Judah:

Heb_8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, HE HATH MADE THE FIRST OLD. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Quote:

-----Jeremiah 16:14-16

“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.”

Note: They will come back from ALL the lands where they had been driven. This has not been fulfilled before.

Yes, I am sorry to say it will be a spiritual "land". This will be the same land that the Gentiles who are in Christ are now inhabiting. The promised land is the City of Jerusalem above.

Jer 16:19 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, THE GENTILES SHALL COME

UNTO THEE FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

The Key is "COME UNTO THEE". Where does Christ dwell, now? In the Zion. In Jerusalem above, in His Church.

Quote:
-----Jeremiah 30:1
"For behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah," says the LORD. "And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

God indeed does have a "better country" for them as recorded in Hebrews 11:16. This comes with the New Covenant. The Old Covenant is no longer in effect.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

So we see that God has made a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Hebrews talks about this new covenant having better promises, better sacrifices (9:23), better country (11:16), better and enduring substance (10:34), better hope (7:19), better testament (8:6), better things for you, (6:9).

Quote:
-----Context here is the time of Jacob's trouble (the tribulation).

Jeremiah 31:8-10
"Behold, I will bring them from the north country,
And gather them from the ends of the earth,
Among them the blind and the lame,
The woman with child
And the one who labors with child, together;

A great throng shall return there.
They shall come with weeping,
And with supplications I will lead them.
I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters,
In a straight way in which they shall not stumble;
For I am a Father to Israel,
And Ephraim is My firstborn.

"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 does his flock."
When were Israel scattered to the ends of the earth? Only in AD70 by the Romans. Only in the last century have they been gathered back into the land. God's word is true and does not fail.

Zehariah 12:9-10

"I shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

"Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

This is one of the most wonderful prophecies of the Jews recognising their Messiah, Jesus. When has this ever been fulfilled that ALL the nations that came against Jerusalem were destroyed? When have Israel as a nation looked upon Him how was pierced and grieved?

Are we to dismiss all these passages as not literal? If so, we might as well dismiss the whole bible as mythological! If Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies exactly concerning His first coming, surely all the prophecies related to His second coming

will be fulfilled literally.

There is no such thing as nation(al) pride or racial pride in Christ.

You are forgetting about the old covenant being abolished. All men come to the New Heavens and New Earth, and the "Better Country" the same way...through Christ.

Isa 55:5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

Why would physical Israel come to physical Jerusalem and the Gentiles get to come to Jerusalem above (spiritual Jerusalem)? Do Gentiles really get the "better country" of Hebrews 11:16, and the Jews get the old city and country from the Old Covenant, and first things (first heavens and earth, Rev 21:1)? Makes no spiritual sense at all.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire A BETTER COUNTRY, that is, HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a CITY. This heavenly COUNTRY and CITY is in direct opposition to any earthly country and city linked to the Old Covenant.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 13:24

Quote:
-----by Heydave on 2015/10/24 12:30:26

Julias,

So what you seems to be saying is that any future prophecy or scripture that talks about the future is an analogy and not to be taken literally? I will just agree to strongly disagree with this assumption.

That is quite alright, HeyDave. I could not see this for a long time, myself.

Quote:
-----Jesus fulfilled literally what was prophesied about Him. I'm sure there were Rabbis when He came who considered the prophecies as just analogical. Just as well the wise men from the east took it literally! :)

There are many literal, symbolic and figurative things in Revelation. Most of the numbers the Church views as symbolic, but for some reason the 1000 year period they view as physical. Go figure. It is a figure of speech meaning a comprehensively long time. God is not going to say 2039 years or whatever.

Quote:
-----It explicitly says a number of times (as you quoted) in Revelation that there is a 1000 year period AFTER Christ returns and BEFORE the new heaven and earth. I don't have the liberty of deciding that this does not mean what is clearly says and it means something different.

We really do not have the liberty to say most of the numbers in Revelation are symbolic but the 1000 years is not, do we?

By the way, we are ruling and reigning with Christ on earth, now.

Is this symbolic or literal?

Rev_12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev_13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Is 666 literal or physical?

Is the 144,000 literal or physical?

Was the half hour in Rev 8:1 really 30 minutes?

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 14:07

What does the number 7 signify? It signifies completeness, maturity and divine perfection.

I am beginning to think that the 7 year tribulation is symbolic of all the tribulation the Church will experience until the Lord comes back.

Christians in every century have suffered from "great tribulation" of being "in the world but not of it."

They have faced the hostility of Satan's "world-system" and his fake religious "store front" and along with religious persecution just the constant tribulations of life.

What has happened in the interim between the Lord's first coming of redemption and His second coming of consummation has indeed been tribulational for the Church.

Jesus said that "In the world ye shall have tribulation" (John 16:33). Paul mentioned that "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22).

There has undeniably been "great tribulation" since the birth of the Church in the first century. How much greater tribulation can one experience than what has been experienced during the middle ages or other periods of time? If you are not familiar with the modes of torture and persecution there is plenty of historical literature available. Even now, in various parts of the world, families are wrenched apart, violated, tortured and killed.

I am beginning to view this "7 years" of tribulation as a appointed, completed time of the Church on earth to be persecuted and go through tribulation.

The Scriptures are pretty clear that Christians will be hated (John 15:18), persecuted (Mark 10:30; John 15:20; II Cor. 4:9; II Tim. 3:12); afflicted (Col. 1:24); suffer (Acts 9:16; Rom. 8:17; II Cor. 1:5; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24; I Pet. 2:21; 4:13); experience tribulation (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Rev. 1:9); and experience death (II Cor. 4:10,11; Phil. 3:10).

They have not had to wait for a mythological, physical 7 year period in the future for this as it has been happening since the Resurrection of Christ.

Jesus said, "do not be deceived". I will not be deceived in supporting any physical nation on earth, either. All men, Jew or Gentile must come through Christ and embrace the New Covenant promises all found in HIM.

Sorry, Tim Lahaye, just not buying your fiction.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/24 14:47

REW: ///I see verses 27 and 28, as well as verses 24-27, as being part of the millennial scenario. Verse 24 mentions return from the nations where the nation has been in exile and then comes the placing of God's Spirit within them as they obediently live on the land given to their forefathers. The new birth, the placing of the Spirit with, will give them the moral ability to live obediently on the land.///

It would appear to me that Ezekiel chapter 36 24-27 has been fulfilled.

Ezekiel 36 : 24 "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

Acts 2:5 "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven."

Ezekiel 36 : 25 "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."

Hebrews 10:22 : Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Ezekiel 36 : 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 3:3

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Hebrews 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:16

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Ezekiel 36 : 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Acts 2

Ezekiel 36 : 28 You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Hebrews 12:22

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels

As far as trying to make a case that God is obligated after the second advent to further fulfill the promises to the natural seed of Israel than what He already has, I am not persuaded that the Bible teaches that. And neither was the Church for more than 1,000 years of its existence.

Paul would say:

..., Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 15:32

Just my final thoughts on this;

Quote from the first post: "I've often heard that if the millennium exists and Israel has a place of headship among the nations..."

For me this is impossible because Everyone has to submit to Jesus, All things belong to Jesus now.

It will not be Jesus' Kingdom - plus someone else - or All things under His feet - except...

If this would be the case then we would reduce Jesus and His sacrifice !

It is paramount that Jesus remains at the Highest place!

Re: Promises Fulfilled to Abraham, Spiritually, on: 2015/10/24 15:40

Amen, proudpapa. Eze 36 has been fulfilled in Christ.

And amen, markuskiwi!! Jesus will have the preeminence in all things. In order to understand the last days, one must have a Christocentric understanding of the Scriptures.

These are the promises to Abraham that were fulfilled. They were fulfilled, spiritually to Abraham's seed in Christ.

The promise of God to Abraham's seed.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Who are his seed?

The Children of the Flesh are not the Children of God.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

All those who are of Christ are also Abraham's seed:

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Paul writing to the Gentile church in Galatia:

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, ARE THE CHILDREN OF PROMISE.

As the "sands of the sea"

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

His seed is a nation and community - I Pet. 2:9; Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:19

His seed has inherited a land, country, city, and place - Heb. 4:1,9; 11:10,13-16; 12:22; Jn. 14:2,3; Gal. 4:26; Eph. 2:6; II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 3:12; 21:1,2

His seed has inherited the blessing - Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:8,9,14

Jesus confirmed the promises made to the nation of Israel:

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: (Rom 15:8)

All fulfilled in Christ!

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (2Co 1:20)

JESUS CHRIST is the ~~the~~ hope of Israel:

No other "HOPE" exists.

And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: (Act 26:6)

For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain. (Act 28:20)

The people of God are Christians:

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Tit 2:14) and 1 Pet 2:9.

The Church is "Spiritual Israel":

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: (Rom 9:6)

True, Spiritual Jews:

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. (Rom 2:28-29)

Those in Christ inherit the promises to Abraham:

For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. (Gal 3:18)

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (Heb 9:15)

Christians are the recipients of better promises:

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. (Heb 8:6)

Christians are partakers of God's rest by coming to Christ:

Matt. 11:28,29; Heb. 4:1-11

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/24 15:43

RE: ///It is paramount that Jesus remains at the Highest place!///

Very good, the new man has one body and one head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 15:48

Everything happening to the geo-political nation of Israel today in the physical is Satan's only way of counterfeiting what is happening to true, spiritual Israel in the heavenlies and taking people's eyes off of God's true "nation" and objective which is the gospel, which is Christ! This is how the Enemy works; distraction, physical realm and reasonable alternatives. He will not deal with the spiritual realm or risk revealing it to people. He always tries to bring men's thoughts into the physical realm. Walk by sight and not by faith.

And many are being deceived.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2015/10/24 17:32

Or is it the replacement theology that is counterfeit deception of Satan.

Think prayerfully about it, let everyone read their bible personally and don't be lost or be deceived in the convolution of words and insertions of doctrinal presumptions in the integrity of the word and promises of God.

If God had dealt thus with the physical nation of Israel then the gentile church would have been cast out long ago because of sin. Thankfully, it is the grace and integrity of God that keeps all the branches alive and not the doctrines of man.

Jeremiah 31:35-37

35 Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

37 Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

Zechariah 14:1-4

14 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

This did not happen in 70 AD unless one is reading it in the light of some doctrinal presumptions.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 19:16

Quote:

-----by passerby on 2015/10/24 17:32:53

Or is it the replacement theology that is counterfeit deception of Satan.

Think prayerfully about it, let everyone read their bible personally and don't be lost or be deceived in the convolution of words and insertions of doctrinal presumptions in the integrity of the word and promises of God.

If God had dealt thus with the physical nation of Israel then the gentile church would have been cast out long ago because of sin. Thankfully, it is the grace and integrity of God that keeps all the branches alive and not the doctrines of man.

Passerby,

They are both deceptions.

There is no such thing as a Gentile Church, just like there is no such thing as a Jewish Church. There is only the Church of God. (Act 20:28, 1Co 1:2, 1Co 10:32, 1Co 11:22, 1Co 15:9, 2Co 1:1, Gal 1:13, 1Tim 3:5)

The Enemy is a divider, a segregationist and wants us to think in these terms, (i.e. Gentile Church, Jewish Church).

There is no reference to the Church of the Jews or the Church of the Gentiles in Scripture. If anyone understands the work of Christ, they would understand that those are ridiculous phrases.

There is no Gentile Bride or Jewish Bride, only the Bride of Christ. For the first 15 years after Pentecost, the Church was made up of only converted Jews until Cornelius in Acts 10 -- so this so-called "Gentile Church" thing is just not true and can only lead to anti-Semitic attitudes which dampen the need to reach His Chosen People.

There is no Body of Christ without Jew and Gentile which have taken on the identity of Jesus Christ.

Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: BUT CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, but one new man.

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Christ suffered and died to do away with all enmity between Jewish and Gentile Believers.

I will keep saying that without a Christocentric view of scriptures men will always get bogged down in earthly mindsets.

1Cor 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, NOR TO THE CHURCH OF GOD;

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 20:08

Bears repeating:

Jeremiah 31:35-37

35 Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

37 Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

Zechariah 14:1-4

14 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2015/10/24 20:47

Indeed there is one spiritual church which the apostle Paul described having the natural and wild branches:

Romans 11:17-18 " But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

Do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you".

Many things you have said were true but you have gone overboard with these daring statements:

1. I believe the scriptures teach that God has completed His work with Israel as a physical nation on earth. Previously, I listed many verses where God had fulfilled all His promises to Israel.

2. For God to restore physical Israel, He would have to go against much of what He said in the Scriptures.

What is that to you if God restore again the ancient land of Israel in the fulfillment of His words, for the sake of their forefathers, perhaps for their last chance to repent.

Re: A sincere question about the one new man and covenants made with Israel - posted by yuehan, on: 2015/10/24 21:2

Here are my thoughts - would love to hear your views on them:

1. I believe Romans 11:26 ("and in this way all Israel will be saved...") merits some attention because it is regularly brought up in eschatological discussions concerning Israel.

My belief is that "all Israel" in this verse refers to spiritual Israel, which would concur with the earlier passages in Romans 11.

Some have adopted a different interpretation, arguing that this verse implies all ethnic Jews would be saved, but I believe such an interpretation would not be consistent with John 5:43 ("if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him" - a prophetic allusion to the antichrist), as well as verses such as Matthew 24:15-22 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

2. The promise that God extended to Abraham's descendants concerning the land of Israel was unconditional.

The question is then - who are Abraham's descendants? In John 8 and Romans 9, it is made clear that the children of Abraham and those who are in Jesus Christ. Christians are the real Jews (Romans 2:28-29).

Hence my take on this issue is that the land of Israel has been given to Christians by God through Abraham. But we do not have the prerogative to take the land by force - there is no need for that, because Christ will reclaim the land for Himself. This especially makes sense if you believe that the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth would be fulfilled literally.

3. Incidentally - lest such a belief contribute to antisemitic attitudes, Paul explicitly warns against that in Romans 11 (c.f. cultivated olive tree v.s. wild olive tree). He deftly discusses both ethnic Israel and spiritual Israel, their importance to God, and their respective roles in His plan for the future. Don't forget that Jesus is a Jew, and He's the firstborn among many brethren.

These theological perspectives do not directly tell us whether we should support a pro-Israel foreign policy. Neither do they tell us whether a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be pursued. However, these political considerations are of earthly matters, and hence not significant from the broader, spiritual perspective. We can be sure that there can be no lasting peace in Israel until Jesus reigns.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 21:42

Quote:

-----by passerby on 2015/10/24 20:47:42

What is that to you if God restore again the ancient land of Israel in the fulfillment of His words, for the sake of their forefathers, perhaps for their last chance to repent.

Does "BETTER COUNTRY" mean anything to you?

God has a much better "country" and "city" in mind than any earthly land.

Heb_11:16 But now they desire a BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, AN HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: FOR HE HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Jews last chance to repent, not an earthly land or city. It was good enough for Paul and

d thousands of Jews in the 1st century and it will have to suffice for Jews in our day. Not just Jews but all men.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 21:46

Quote:

-----by yuehan on 2015/10/24 21:29:09

We can be sure that there can be no lasting peace in Israel until Jesus reigns.

When Jesus reigns in men's hearts He is reigning on earth.

Re: , on: 2015/10/24 21:50

by Rev__Enue on 2015/10/24 20:08:01

Bears repeating:

Zechariah 14:1-4

Re-read Zech 14 and you will (hopefully) see that many things have already been fulfilled.

For instance:

Zec 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Living waters are going out from "Jerusalem above", the Church. The word "sea" is symbolic of many, many people. The former sea is most likely the Jews and the hinder sea, the Gentiles. Living waters, the Life of Christ is for Jew and Gentile alike who make the one new man in Christ.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2015/10/25 0:01

Julius21, I was tracking with you and saying amen all the way up until you stated that the new heavens and new earth are spiritual and not literal. I've never heard of that interpretation before. So I felt led to ask you out of curiosity, how would you reconcile that interpretation with this passage from 2 Peter 3 which seems to clearly teach that the present heavens and earth will be physically dissolved with fire and that there will be a new physical heavens and earth to replace this one:

"9 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless"

I also think about our Lord declaring that the meek will inherit the earth.

Regarding Revelation 21-22, I know Revelation is full of symbolism, therefore I'd say that the measurements of the New Jerusalem are not to be taken literally. In fact I also know that this City mentioned there is not a literal city but is in fact a symbolic depiction of the Bride of Christ (Rev.21:9-27 clearly shows this imo). That said, I also cannot get away from a literal physical new heavens and new earth based on other, non-symbolic scriptures.

But don't get me wrong, I completely agree with you on the spiritual Jerusalem from above, as that is a crystal clear teaching in God's Word.

Btw, in case anyone is interested, Tim Conway (a featured preacher here on SI) has recently been doing a series on end times which I believe is excellent. So far he has 8 messages completed from the series. In general I would recommend starting with the 2nd one, as the first one is an intro that can be confusing to some since he deals with all kinds of issues in one short message. Here's the link to them:

(Look for the ones that have (Part..) at the end of the title)
<http://illbehonest.com/topic/end-times>

Re: , on: 2015/10/25 0:31

Hi Oracio,

Heaven is new because of the church of the firstborn that is seated with Christ in heavenly places. In other words there is a new thing in heaven that has never happened, hence a new heaven.

Likewise with earth, there is one new man on earth, hence a new earth. Never has there been someone on earth who Christ dwells in. And not just one person but a whole new race of people. New earth.

What helped me to understand "new heaven" and "new earth" was to consider what had taken place in them to make them "NEW".

For instance we are the same old physical body, yet we are considered a "new creation" (Gal. 6:15). Because of Christ we are a "new creature" (II Cor. 5:17) and because of Christ there are "new heavens" and "new earth", now.

And righteousness does dwell NOW, in the "new heaven" and "new earth" through the Redeemed.
"new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:11,13).

And we are also considered a "new man" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10), though our outer shell is still old and aging.

Since all Abrahamic promises are fulfilled in Christ, I don't see the point in a new, physical earth.

Look up how "fire" is used symbolically as both a cleansing agent (purifying) and an agent of judgment.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2015/10/25 0:50

Not all that was promised to Abraham was spiritual:

Genesis 15:12-21

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

This is our new place in the future, for all the earth shall be dissolved.

2 Peter 3:12-13

As you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved and the elements will melt with fire. But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2015/10/25 1:06

Thanks for the reply Julius21. Interesting. I guess I haven't looked that much into the preterist or partial preterist views, hence I was a bit surprised by that interpretation. I understand that that full/hyper preterism is completely heretical as it denies the physical resurrection of believers and the literal Second Coming of Christ.

So let me get this straight, in your view, when Christ comes back He will utterly destroy this earth, judge the wicked and cast them into hell forever, and will raise believers from their graves and give them new physical bodies, and then take them back to heaven?

you wrote:

Quote:

-----Since all Abrahamic promises are fulfilled in Christ, I don't see the point in a new earth.

I guess to me the point of a new earth correlates with the future bodily resurrection of the saints. From what I've always understood, the present Third Heaven is purely spiritual in nature. Therefore considering that believers will receive new physical bodies it makes sense to me that there would be a new physical earth to house us all.

Re: , on: 2015/10/25 3:34

Yeah, Oracio, I am not a Preterist, and could never be one with the way I see God's Word. But, I did find a very interesting and informative video on it that I put in another thread. It was the most I have ever learned about Preterism and it just confirmed my personal view about it.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/10/25 6:05

Julius,

You know, we have agreed on many things on this forum, but I have to say the things you have stated on this topic leave me perplexed. I cannot see how you can honestly interpret scripture the way you do.

You state that if God was to restore Israel as an earthly nation, He would go against much of His word. In fact the opposite is true! If God does not keep to the promises such as has been shown in Jeremiah 31:35-37 and others then He would contradict His word. You have given no answer of how to reconcile that. Also still have not heard any explanation on the Acts 1 passage where Jesus does imply that the Kingdom will be restored to Israel in God's timing.

More concerning is how you spiritualise every passage that predicts any future physical event. This would include basic truths such as New heaven and earth, a rapture (saints being caught up to God) of any description, a tribulation period. All of which are clearly stated in the scriptures many times. It makes me wonder if you believe that Jesus will actually physically return to earth again as the scriptures teach or do you spiritualise that?

You boldly state that all future prophetic events have been fulfilled. But what you mean is that you have changed the meaning to make it spiritual and not an actual real earthly event. For example the Zechariah 14:1-4. There is no historical basis for this way of interpretation. In mean look at all the prophecies regarding Jesus' first coming that were all fulfilled literally. Where He was born, where He grew up, what tribe He was from, how He died, His betrayal, etc, etc (I could go on and on). This all actually happened. Jesus' prediction of Jerusalem being destroyed by the Romans in AD70 was literally fulfilled. Why now is it that all future prophecy is dismissed as not 'really going to happen' and it has been 'fulfilled spiritually'. Of course there is a spiritual truth that applies to Christ and the church in all scripture, but that does not mean that it does not also have an actual fulfilment as well. It is both. Did the Israel cross the Jordan and enter the promised land? However it also speak of a spiritual reality to us who enter into the heavenly rest. But that does not mean it was not also

a real life event for Israel (unless you don't believe that either).

Re: Heydave - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/25 10:56

Heydave wrote

Quote:

If God does not keep to the promises such as has been shown in Jeremiah 31:35-37

Is the 'Day of the Lord' before or after the millennium ?

Re: , on: 2015/10/25 10:56

Dave,

Regarding Acts 1:

What is your definition of kingdom? Obviously your definition of the kingdom of God is a physical kingdom. I simply don't think the scriptures teach that.

What is your definition of Israel?

By your statement you think of Israel in terms of a physical race of people distinct from Gentiles. Again, I don't think the scriptures teach that.

As far as "restoration", I think our definitions must also vary on this.

Jesus obviously was not going to get into a long diatribe on what the Kingdom of God really was all about, but He was going to show them. (Kingdom of God is not in word but power). The very next thing He told them was to wait for the promise from the Father of the Holy Spirit.

What does the Holy Spirit have to do with the kingdom of God?

The power of the Holy Spirit will be needed for them to take the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth, once they realize they have been "translated into the kingdom of His dear Son."

The very next time the "kingdom of God" is mentioned in Acts is 8:12, where Philip is preaching concerning the "kingdom of God". And many more times it is mentioned in the book of Acts. They are preaching about something they are becoming quite familiar with.

They knew the kingdom of God had been restored to Israel (I hope we are not confused who Israel is) by their confession and their actions concerning the kingdom.

1Cor 4:20 - for the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. They knew it was all about the spiritual power and authority of Christ in them through the Holy Spirit.

"In them" - "kingdom of God is within you"

What is within them? What was promised to them after they asked, "when will you restore the kingdom?" The Holy Spirit!

After the baptism of the Holy Spirit it all began to make sense to them as the Holy Spirit progressively illuminated them with the truths of the kingdom.

1Cor 15:50 - "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"

You must become a spiritual man (born again) to inherit a spiritual kingdom.

So, with that thought, even if there is a physical kingdom on earth in the physical land of Israel (which now must replace spiritual Israel as we have come to know it), Is a physical Jew going to inherit it or a spiritual Jew? If a spiritual Jew then what happened to spiritual Israel which they already inherited and are a part of? Do we now have two Israel's, one physical and one spiritual? Do we now have two Jews? One spiritual (one new man) and one physical, or is the physical land of Israel now inhabited by all born again believers (spiritual Jews) in the world. The problem with all of this is that God no longer deals with an individual, physical race of men (physical Jews) based on THEIR blood lineage. He only deals with men based on HIS BLOOD!

Why would God transition from the spiritual back to the physical when the whole NT is God transitioning/translating us from the physical to the spiritual (kingdom of His dear Son) raising us up to sit with Him in heavenly places?

To God, the prize is not land, but people. Jesus died for people not earthly real estate. And to the Christian, the spiritual Jew, our prize is not Terra Firma, either. Our prize is Christ.

2 Tim 4:18 describes the kingdom of God as an "heavenly kingdom".

Col 1:13 - Paul says we have been "translated into the kingdom."

So to answer your question, the kingdom has been and is being restored to Israel. Only, they are spiritual Jews in spiritual Israel. You can't blame the disciples in Acts 1 for not knowing how to ask the right question, or being slow to understand God's word through the prophets. That's ok. They came to understand after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Do a study on the kingdom of God in the NT, and you will see how much they came to understand the kingdom of God. And guess what? They never asked that question that they asked in Acts 1:4, again.

Re: Doc's - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/25 11:16

Quote:

One major thing though. The gospel and the ministry of Christ revealed and brought to light a mystery not previously revealed. That being the fact the Christ unexpectedly brought the powers of the age to come into this age BEFORE the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord was commonly seen in Jewish thought as the time when the wicked would be purged from the nation and Israel's eschatological enemies finally vanquished by the appearance of the Messiah. Then the Spirit was supposed to be poured out on all mankind. But Christ unexpectedly brought the pouring out of the Spirit into this age before the next age began (see Hebrews 6:5). We have already tasted of the powers of the age to come. But that doesn't mean the Spirit will not be poured out in the age to come.

Are you implying that you believe that "The day of the Lord" is the beginning of the millennium ?

Re: , on: 2015/10/25 11:21

Quote:

-----by Heydave on 2015/10/25 6:05:59

Julius,

You know, we have agreed on many things on this forum, but I have to say the things you have stated on this topic leave me perplexed. I cannot see how you can honestly interpret scripture the way you do.

You state that if God was to restore Israel as an earthly nation, He would go against much of His word. In fact the opposite is true! If God does not keep to the promises such as has been shown in Jeremiah 31:35-37 and others then He would contradict His word. You have given no answer of how to reconcile that. Also still have not heard any explanation on the Acts 1 passage where Jesus does imply that the Kingdom will be restored to Israel in

God's timing.

More concerning is how you spiritualise every passage that predicts any future physical event. This would include basic truths such as New heaven and earth, a rapture (saints being caught up to God) of any description, a tribulation period. All of which are clearly stated in the scriptures many times. It makes me wonder if you believe that Jesus will actually physically return to earth again as the scriptures teach or do you spiritualise that?

Dave, now you are giving me much too much credit.

It was not my idea to spiritualize everything.

I did not invent the:

spiritual jew (Rom 2:28)

spiritual Israel (Rom 9:6, Gal 6:16)

â€œnew creationâ€ (Gal. 6:15)

â€œnew and living wayâ€ (Heb. 10:20)

â€œnew covenantâ€ (Heb. 8:13; 9:15; 12:24)

new birth (John 3:3,7)

â€œnewness of lifeâ€ (Rom. 6:4)

â€œnew Spiritâ€ (Ezek. 36:26)

â€œnew manâ€ (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)

â€œnew creature in Christâ€ (II Cor. 5:17)

â€œnew songâ€ (Rev. 5:9; 14:13)

â€œnew heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.â€ (II Peter 3:11,13).

I have just come to understand that God is a Spirit, we are spiritual men now, that have received a spiritual kingdom and though the physical world is tied to the spiritual world and there are still more physical events to take place, there are far more spiritual things happening. We are by nature "earth bound" and much of the typology in the Bible at first glance is physical because this is our frame of reference, but with the Holy Spirit we are supposed to come to an understanding of what God really means. I don't think everything "at face value" is as it seems, anymore. Jesus changed all that.

The disciples were misinformed in their thinking in asking the question that they asked in Acts 1:4. They did not have spiritual discernment, yet.

The Spirit through Paul tells us that he doesn't speak in words which man's wisdom teaches.

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

And also, that the things of God are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I am not saying that the way I see things is the absolutely correct way. I am just sharing how I see these things, today. As I receive more illumination from the Holy Spirit, I expect some of these things to change, they always do. A lot of what people say on this forum actually has provided missing links to my understanding and I really appreciate the give and take, here. Please don't take anything I say personally, I can only share what I think I understand. I am completely open to guidance, correction, tuning. I seriously take into consideration everything someone posts and after sitting and thinking about your Acts 1 question, I gave the answer that best resonates with my spirit.

I also agree with so much of what you say, but you don't always want me agreeing with you if I do have some other thoughts, right? I actually covet your correction and instruction. My goal is the truth. I don't think I really have a good handle on Zechariah 14 and am seeking the Lord for some more light.

Interesting take on Zionism: <http://littleguyintheeye.com/biblical-studies/end-times/zionism/>

Docs - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/10/25 12:05

Quote:

What difference will it make when Christ returns to Isarel and Jersualme from whence He ascended" Where do you believe Christ will return to? It's He that promised to return to the place and nation .

I always thought of the Day of the Lord as a global event that : will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are t herein shall be burned up.