

Scriptures and Doctrine :: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?**What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal? , on: 2016/4/3 19:20**

Jeff, I would have posted in the other threads, but it seemed appropriate to start a new one because it is after all a different subject but one that I think we have to deal with if we are going to understand prophecy.

This is not a thread about the state of Israel. Please don't make it about the physical state of Israel. Down below I describe the difference between natural Israel and spiritual Israel from the point of view of the Scriptures. They are not one in the same. We are discussing scriptures, and what is meant by spiritual, natural and literal meanings.

The contrast in the Bible is not between the spiritual and the literal, but between the spiritual and the natural. Literal means "true to fact", so "Literal" can refer to that which is spiritual or natural. In other words scripture may be speaking about something which exists in the natural realm or it may be speaking about something which exists in the spiritual realm.

For instance: Satan and fallen angels literally exist, but you cannot see them in the natural except as their character is manifested in men. Literal does not mean you can see it with physical eyes. It just means it is absolutely true.

In another example, we read: "There was a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels" (Rev. 12:7). Also, that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

This is literally (true to fact) in the spiritual realm.

So, understanding the difference between that which is spiritual, natural and literal is very important to understand since many proponents of futurism are sowing confusion by replacing the natural with "literal" and by not allowing the word "literal" to be used for spiritual realities. A "literal" interpretation does not call for something to be visible or material. All prophecies which refer to Israel, Jerusalem and Zion do not refer to that which is ONLY in the natural realm and should not be interpreted that way.

Jesus is referred to as a "Door", but is He literally a door?

He is referred to as a "Branch" in Zechariah, and the "Root of Jesse", in Isaiah and repeated in Romans by Paul.

Rom 15:12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Is Jesus reigning over the Gentiles physically? No. He is ruling and reigning over His Body, spiritually.

As I said before, literal means "True to fact". It is a reality!! In the natural realm or the spiritual realm, it is a reality.

Let the Word be the Word. Human reason as the final measure of truth strips the Gospel of it's supernatural, and the curse of the allegorical method obscures the true meaning of the Word of God. There has to be a balance and scripture provides that for us.

The Bible is not a mystery book but a Revelation to be understood. Revelation means to "uncover" or "reveal", meaning there are realities that cannot be seen that are revealed.

The NT is crystal clear regarding the "seed of Abraham". I don't think anyone here would argue that to whom "all the promises of God" belong are those who believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's look at the Word of God.

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that THEY WHICH ARE OF FAITH, the same are the children of Abraham.

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

I hope you can see that this is literally true (redundant) and yet it is a spiritual reality.

The New Testament also plainly reveals that Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac and Paul uses this to draw a distinction between natural "Israel", "Zion" and "Jerusalem" and also a spiritual counterpart of each. Just as Ishmael preceded Isaac but was cast out and not to be the "heir" with the son of the freewoman, even so natural Israel, Zion and Jerusalem preceded the spiritual realities of the same (Israel, Zion and Jerusalem). God's order in the working of His eternal purposes is first the natural and then the spiritual.

1 Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

Hopefully, so far we are all agreeing with the plain reading of scripture.

And who is the "Heir", who is the TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD? It is no other than Jesus Christ, Himself. This is literally a spiritual reality. Jesus is the obedient Son and Paul shows us the promises were made to Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his SEED were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; BUT AS OF ONE, AND TO THY SEED, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.

And if you and I are in Christ we are heirs with Christ so that all who are in Christ are the spiritual Israel, not the natural Israel.

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

The Church does not replace natural Israel. This is error. Natural Israel coexists alongside spiritual Israel.

Circumcision or uncircumcision of the flesh mean nothing in spiritual Israel, circumcision of the heart (Rom 2:28), is what is important.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the ISRAEL OF GOD.

Paul again draws the distinction between Jerusalem below and Jerusalem above. He says the one below (natural Jerusalem) is in bondage with her children (natural Israel), but Jerusalem above is free and the mother of us all (spiritual Israel, those who have faith in Jesus Christ). Paul uses an allegory to reveal spiritual realities.

Gal 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

Gal 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

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

Hopefully, we are all still in agreement as it is pretty difficult to make of these verses some other interpretation.

Now, if you are going to say that the true Zion, of the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem does not literally exist in the spiritual realm and that there is no literal "holy nation" and "royal priesthood" of which Peter speaks, then I can understand why many who believe in futurism find it difficult to understand Old Testament prophecies which speak of these spiritual realities name above which are RIGHT NOW IN EXISTENCE.

Zechariah 3, is referring to Jesus Christ

Zechariah 6, "the Man whose name is the BRANCH" who shall build the temple of the Lord"; "He shall bear the glory, and He shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne."

I think we all agree that this prophecy was fulfilled and is presently being fulfilled, now. (Heb 2:9, 8:1). And the prophet goes on to say that crowns shall be given also to certain men, whom he names, and that "they that are far off" (a scriptural designation of Gentiles, see Acts 2:39 and Eph 2:13), "shall come and build in the temple of the Lord."

Furthermore, in Zechariah 9:9 we have the familiar passage: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! behold, thy King cometh unto thee"; and we know to a certainty, from Luke 19:38, that that prophecy was fulfilled when Christ came

to Jerusalem to die for our salvation.

Zechariah 13:7-9 is speaking about the atoning death of Christ. Smite the Shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered (also in Matt 26:31).

Zechariah 14:8 - "And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former (or eastern) sea, and half of them towards the hinder sea" - in other words, both eastward and westward "in summer and in winter it shall be" that is, all the year round.

What was Zechariah talking about?

During a visit to Jerusalem, at the season of one of the feasts, "in the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any man thirst, let him come to Me and drink, he that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

I wonder what the "literal" crowd thinks of rivers of living water flowing out of one's belly?

"And many nations shall be joined unto the Lord IN THAT DAY" (Zech 2:11).

Act 3:24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these DAYS.

What is the single most important day in human history? The day Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world.

And so, when Zechariah says (13:1) "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness," we understand clearly that he is foretelling the cross of Christ; as very plainly appears from verse 7, "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My Fellow, says the Lord of hosts; smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered."

Where futurists say 2/3 of Jewish people will die at the 2nd Coming of Christ? What does the Word say?

Zech 13:8

"And it shall come to pass that in all the land, says the Lord, two parts shall be cut off, and die; but the third part shall be left therein." And in agreement with this prophecy, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, were "cut off"; but a third part, the disciples of Christ, were left. And as to these, the prophecy goes on to say: "And I will bring the third part through the fire and will refine them as silver is refined" (1 Pet. 1:6 and 4:12); and further "they shall call on My Name and I will hear them. I will say, it is My people; and they shall say, the Lord is My God" (Rom. 11:1,2).

Since the resurrection of Christ, Jews and Gentiles are being "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, grows into an holy temple in the Lord". (1 Pet 1:20,21)

With all this in view, Zechariah's prophecies explained by the New Testament scriptures, how can I believe in futurism, (another age after the Church age where certain people are given another chance at salvation) and the verses I have named above in Zechariah have a clear spiritual fulfillment in this age via NT scriptures? I would have to completely ignore how scripture is interpreting scripture. I would have to literally ignore what is happening in the spiritual realm.

Anyway, I have never heard of Joel Richardson, and my time is limited during the week, so you will have to give me some details on him and specifically what to read as I just can't sit down and read a book. Maybe you can some of a few of his most important premises.

Re: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal? , on: 2016/4/3 19:41

Good Lord Julius,

I have to admit, I didn't even read your (VERY LONG) post, because it's disingenious. I feel it's crafty, but dishonest (just being real brother). "This is not about Israel, please don't make it about Israel....now let me build my case for Preterist/Supersessionism/Replacement Theology..." If you want to be taken serious by me, maybe be willing to read the book I recommended. To state your article isn't what it's clearly getting at, is well.....dishonest/sneaky. I'm not trying to be harsh or obstinate, just honest.

God Bless,

Jeff

Re: The gang, on: 2016/4/3 19:59

the devil is very crafty Jeff, You are catching on to those here

Re: , on: 2016/4/3 22:03

Jeff,

Please! If we can't talk about what is spiritual and natural and what is the meaning of literal, then why discuss?

And if we can't talk about why OT prophecies which are clearly fulfilled with NT scripture witness, then we are both speaking a language neither understands.

So, you think all the prophecies in Zechariah are awaiting a physical fulfillment sometime in the future and the NT scripture witness to those verses are being taken out of context?! That is a rhetorical question/statement, no need to answer because I already know from your initial response what you think. And I was not expecting your response.

I don't think you see the danger in a large part of the Church ignoring the spiritual fulfillment of OT scriptures and then making up a future dispensation where these scriptures are supposed to be fulfilled and at what a horrible cost to natural Israel. Self-fulfilling prophecy of John Hagee who is calling for an Armageddon in the Middle East. He thinks he can hasten the day of Christ by precipitating Armageddon and 70 million listen to him. This belief will bring so much harm to natural Israel. Whether you see that or not, that is what I am seeing in the future with this theology. But, my post was not about that. If you and I can't get on the same sheet of music as to the difference between spiritual and natural and what literal means, then we are wasting our time.

So, you and others get to freely talk about future events, but no one is allowed to contest what you say with scriptures lest they be ridiculed. They can only agree with you because if they disagree they are dogged with unkind remarks and lies and slander. Do you like that? Is that what you want?

docs does not believe like I do and he has not acted in any way hostile such as others. He has been the only one in the forum courageous enough to speak up when slander and lies and accusations and just plain evil speech is hurled. We try to have conversations and he tries to also but the threads are always ambushed so we can never get into any coherent thought process and conversations about eschatology. Everything ends up being "choppy" and no one really ends up knowing the whole story, (what we believe).

You did not even address the topic of what is spiritual, natural and literal. I can only surmise you did not have an answer for the scripture witness in the NT and that is why you reverted to name calling and judging my motives. Wow! Easy way out since a few others have become expert at name calling (they don't have any substance to talk about) and now you are joining them. Is this a taste of the behaviour of the Church in the end times towards Christians that don't believe as you and others regarding future events? Apparently so. And I can see that very few Christians will be brave enough to speak up. Are the evil attitudes that are coming out now a taste of things to come? People who don't believe your eschatology will be branded as Jew haters? If the comments of 3 or 4 other characters and then your comments are a preview of what people can expect who don't embrace your views, then I don't see your views as bearing good fruit at all. Why do you and others have to bully people into submission and ridicule them into believing as you believe? Rhetorical question. Please don't attempt to answer.

That's it I guess, and I will just be reading all of your eschatological views without responding, else if you can't handle something I say, then unkind accusations of dishonest, sneaky or grouping me with murderers from the past will take place. I guess all I can say is enjoy your unchallenged eschatology and all the high fives you are getting. I won't address you personally again in your eschatology threads.

Just being real, brother.

Re: , on: 2016/4/3 23:02

That's fine, I will discuss. My point is/was that you were clearly deceitful in your intent with, "I'm not talking about Israel..." When you CLEARLY are bringing up the subject for that EXACT purpose. I'll read the 25 paragraphs you sent as soon as I get a chance. And I haven't laid out endless articles, paragraphs, etc. espousing "my eschatological views" like I have noticed you now do over and over and over and over. There's been more of this literal vs symbolic, Phillip Mauro, etc. I laid out then you can shake a stick at lately. It's not me pushing, but you.

I do believe some things were fulfilled. I do believe some things are literal & some symbolic. I believe some were partially fulfilled in type of art of dual fulfillment prophecies with still more to come. But you still haven't answered my 2 (Short) simple questions on Romans 11 (clearly not symbolic), or Acts 1?

And my posting Spurgeon just now today was the first premillennial view article I have EVER posted on SI. So I'm not cramming it down your throat. And I try to treat you kindly, respectfully, graciously, etc. even when you make comments directed at me, are sarcastic (which has been a few times now), etc. Fact is, if you look back at the threads over the last several weeks, it's you accusing, piping off at me (which I acknowledged but didn't return in kind), etc. My point is that I'm not cramming my views down your throat. I feel more like am choking trying to keep you from cramming yours down mine. And when it's bad enough for you to disguise your intent in deceit to try to continue on, I gotta say something.

And as far as The list of hateful murderous supercessionists who advocated genocide down through history, it just is what it is. Send me the nonexistent list of Premillennials who advocated genocide in the name of Christ. If You know a tree by its fruit has any simlance to this issue, it ain't looking good for your view. Just saying.

Anyways brother, I'll read all your long extensive articles & answer your questions as soon as you answer my 2 questions on Romans 11 & Acts 1.

God Bless,
Jeff

Re: Zech 13:8 - posted by a-servant, on: 2016/4/3 23:21

Julius21 said:

"Zech 13:8

And it shall come to pass that in all the land, says the Lord, two parts shall be cut off, and die; but the third part shall be left therein. And in agreement with this prophecy, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, were cut off; but a third part, the disciples of Christ, were left."

You disregard the context of Zech 13:8 and create your own context. There is no reference anywhere that the disciples of Christ are considered to be a "third part" of anything in any context. The real prophecy continues to explain what Zech 13:8 is about:

Zechariah 14:2 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.

That's the real context, and your interpretation belongs in fantasy land, and not in the scriptures section of a Christian forum, you are making stuff up as you move along with your theories.

References to any "third part" do not appear in the gospels but a lot in the book of revelation, and ONLY there in the NT. None of those 9 refer to a time of 70 AD, unless you create or follow a big delusion first and then try to squeeze them all in.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 0:46

And please don't compare what I believe to John Haggee. He believes in the falsity of dual covenantal theology. I don't believe that. So, once again, using some unrelated extreme straw man isn't helpful. I don't believe what John Haggee believes. I wrote down & quoted people who do believe as you believe. So their theology led to their statements, & then to their actions or their incitement of others to those ends. I don't believe in the same theology as John Haggee. Not even close.

Like I said, I believe the same way as John Bunyan, Charles Spurgeon, Horatious Bonar, JC Ryle, George Mueller, Robert Murray Mccheyene, Michael Brown, Art Katz, Corrie Ten Boom & her family, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, etc., etc., etc.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 1:51

Jeff, do you believe 2/3 of the state of Israel will be destroyed just before the Messiah comes? Do you believe the Scriptures teach that?

What do historical books put the number at that were destroyed in 70AD?

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2016/4/4 6:14

You ask the wrong question. You want historic events to validate your belief system.

To get out of any possible error you would have to believe what a prophet Of God says first of all, that's what believers do, and not vice versa, and then look into history to check if any of your historical books mentioned something like this to happen:

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

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."

That you cannot explain historically from past events unless you break the basic understanding of what the expressions here mean. I guess in order to complete that error you would have to transfer this into a pseudo spiritual view where the Lord might have fought nations in spirit, and his feet did stand on the mount, just not in the sense that anybody could verify it. Then there would be witnesses - a record of it - and we would have a reason to discuss it. Since it's not about His first coming where the intention never had anything to do with fighting nations. So why then close the mind to it to fit a theory?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 8:37

A-servant-

I recommend that you read Matthew Henry's commentary of Zechariah 14. Even if you disagree with his interpretation (I am sure you will) AT MINIMUM it shows that a extremely respected commentator has a different viewpoint that is perfectly sound and reasonable.

It is therefore wise not to be so dogmatic about such issues. Why not rather have a preference for a certain interpretation, but at the same time in the back of your mind realize that you might be incorrect.

When it comes to "end time" prophecies that are exceedingly difficult and mysterious, this would seem to be the best course of action.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 8:42

Julius:

Once again: "Anyways brother, I'll read all your long extensive articles & answer your questions as soon as you answer my 2 questions on Romans 11 & Acts 1."

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 9:30

Jeff, I'm good if you're good.

Let's just move on and get back to Jesus. We are not making any progress and that's ok. It really is. We don't want to de stroy each other in the process. Not that we would, but it's just not a conducive environment for brotherly discussion. Yo u love the Lord and I do too and our eschatology does not define us. Neither one of us have all the truth, but Jesus does and we need to just keep looking to Him and loving each other.

Passerby said it in another post, "It's all about sin".

2,000 years ago, Jesus signed the New Covenant in His blood and invites Jew and Gentile alike to come to Him and join Him in His kingdom that "is not of this world". Many have turned to Him and many more will. Praise God for that.

Have a blessed day in Christ.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 9:34

Wait, I just went to GREAT LENGTHS (& Time) in the other post to pose some questions on Romans 11, Acts 1, "Spirot ual vs Natural" Israel, etc. I would appreciate it if (since you repeatedly start these threads & discussion) you would expl ain the passages I quote in view of your Supercessionism/Amillinealism since I took all the necessary time to post it brot her.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/4/4 9:39

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? - Th ey still seemed to dream of an outward, temporal kingdom, in which the Jews should have dominion over all nations. It s eems 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 und erstood that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 9:49

Quote:

-----by jeffmar1130 on 2016/4/4 9:34:53

Wait, I just went to GREAT LENGTHS (& Time) in the other post to pose some questions on Romans 11, Acts 1, "Spirotual vs Natural" Israel, etc. I wo uld appreciate it if (since you repeatedly start these threads & discussion) you would explain the passages I quote in view of your Supercessionism/Am illinealism since I took all the necessary time to post it brother.

Jeff,

This is where we have a big problem. I am not a supercessionist and am not a "Replacement Theologist". You and I are are speaking different "languages" when it comes to our respective viewpoints on OT prophecy.

Sorry you went to great lengths, but if it is any consolation you won't have to keep doing that.

Truly, our discussions are not bearing any fruit, so I don't see any point in continuing. Plus, the blind sided, wicked ambushes are being allowed to continue so it really is not an environment that is conducive to being a "Berean" in our searching together of the scriptures.

This answer by proudpapa is what I believe and I gave a similar answer a month ago.

Quote:

-----by proudpapa on 2016/4/4 9:39:08

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.

You never hear this again in the Scriptures after they received the Holy Spirit. They now understood, as PP said, that His "Kingdom is not of this world".

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:03

Actually, you are, you just clearly don't rightly understand those terms by definition. And you STILL didn't answer my questions. Quoting commentators doesn't answer the question brother., I can send you other commentators not of that theological/eschatological bent string otherwise. I am asking YOU, Julius, who is so sure & who KEEPS re-bringing this issue to the forums/discussion, YOU TELL ME why Jesus didn't correct their ignorance like he always did, but actually reinforced/solidified it? And Romans 11 was AFTER Pentacost brother. Was Paul not filled with the Holy Spirit? He wrote Romans to explain all theological aspects of the Gospel. He explained "spiritual Israel" in God's eyes in Romans 9. Fair enough. I agree. But in Romans 11 (2 chapters LATER, he is CLEARLY talking about NATURAL/NATIONAL/PHYSICAL Israel). These discussions and the avoidance of it squarely remind me of when I was an Armeniast & would avoid people's direct questions on Romans 7 because I had no answers. Now that I believe in election, we can talk about any passage in the Bible (election/predestination/sovereignty &/or the warnings/exhortations/assurances, etc.). If you don't answer Romans 11 (& explain WHY in Acts 1 Jesus deviated from his normal pattern of correcting the disciples when they "didn't get it" and actually reinforced it - wouldn't that be Christ avoiding correcting ignorance & dishonest/disingenuous?), then stop bringing up your view in a million different ways. And quit quoting all the hardcore Amil pet doctrine guys so people will start eating up all their goodies like hot cakes. Just answer my questions for yourself

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:08

Jeff, I don't mind continuing, but I am worn down by all of the attacks and mis-characterizations. We can continue via email if you like. If I continue in SI, the vicious and rude interruptions will continue. I prefer peaceful discussions, don't you?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:11

It's interesting cause I listened to a full debate a Ron Preston (a known Preterist apologist) & Michael Brown (clearly Pre-Mil) & Preston did the same thing. He avoided answering questions on Romans 11 like he never even heard them & moved on to building his case with "symbolic" scriptures. Can any Preterists/Amilinealists/Supercessionists please answer the question of Romans 11 & give a real answer on Acts 1 & why Christ apparently (in their view) intentionally fortified the disciples ignorance in deceit?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:13

I do, & I am not attacking you brother (never have). We can discuss however you like. You started these discussions publicly in the forums so I was/am proceeding in the parameters you set up. Email me if you like. Pretty sure my address is in the file. But please, in the email: answer my questions on Romans 11 & Acts 1.

God Bless,
Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:21

You will notice that I did not start all these discussions. Many have been started by others and I joined in as a participant. As an example, 2 of 3 that are going right now, I did not start. I am just saying that this is not a good environment to discuss. The attacks are giving the wider audience an incorrect view of things.

God bless you, too.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 10:56

That's cool. Just email me your explanation of Romans 11 in context. And why YOU think Jesus didn't correct the disciples in Acts 1, but further deceived them. And FYI - I'm not loaded with cash or anything, but if you don't have the \$ to buy the book, "When a Jew Rules the World" & would read it, I would send it to you. I think some of the info in there is so unknown to most of the church (was to me - I just always mentally rolled everything over on the Roman Catholic Church, but that's not the whole story/truth/history) & so shocking (historical facts, not opinions or vague scriptures where it's 50/50 on the interp) that I believe this needs to be read.

In Christ,
Jeff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 12:02

Jeff- I know this is your and Julius' discussion but I was hoping you could answer a quick question.

In regard to Rom 11:26 which says "***and in this way**" (some versions say "and so all) Israel will be saved" what do you think this phrase is referring to in reference to v 25? To me, at least, it seems to be saying that all "Israel" will be saved when the full complement of Jews and Gentiles make up the completed olive tree. Of course this would mean that "Israel" would mean the same thing it does in Rom 9. In other words, Paul seems to be saying (to me at least) that the fact that Gentiles are saved is part of the equation of all Israel being saved. If I was to write the equation it would look like this:

All saved Gentiles + All saved Jews = all saved Israel

And, since all saved Gentiles + all saved Jews= The Church, then:

The Church = all saved Israel (at least the Israel Paul is talking about)

I know you will disagree with this equation so you just need to show me how you see it differently.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 12:12

TMK, you are most welcome to participate in the conversation. Any loving contributions (from anyone) are appreciated even if they are divergent views.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 12:25

I don't disagree that natural believing Israel + grafted in gentile believers = Eternal Israel above! But that wouldn't explain away the final in gathering of Natural Israel who are hardened for a time & get regrafted in by sovereign election at the end. We can't pull verse 25 out from the context of verses 1, 11-24, 28-32, etc.

And also, why do you TMK think that Jesus didn't correct the disciples in Acts 1:6-7 if there was to be no restoration of the kingdom to Israel ever at all? Was Jesus just too busy to answer/correct them? Did he want them to intentionally stay confused? Had he changed His normal course of action of always previously correcting them so they would remember & understand later what He meant? And why did He actually solidify such ignorance by saying the times and seasons are not for them to know, but only by His Father? Intentional misleading disingenuousness?

Scriptures and Doctrine :: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?

And of course TMK you are welcome to discuss brother! ðŸ˜‰

TMK - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/4/4 12:46

good questions.

and Jeff how do you make these versus work in your eschatology since you have thrown out the pretrib rapture myth.

"...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"

Do yo believe that this is referring to a time in which every Gentile that can be saved will be saved and than after the door has been shut to the Gentiles than : "all Israel shall be saved"

I see how they make it work with the pretrib rapture myth.

as well as explaining those versus that speak of being prepared for the imminent return of christ. but when we throw out the pretrib rapture myth, I do not see how we can still interput those scriptures the same way

"as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

Also notice that it says he will come out of sion

It did not say that he will come from heaven or from the clouds.

"...The deliverer shall come - Yea, the deliverer is come; but not the full fruit of his coming..." - Wesely

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 12:48

I remember Jesus being similarly obtuse in John 21(I remember because I wrote a post called "breakfast on the beach" based on John 21 last week):

John 21:21-23 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

Jesus did not always clarify his disciples' misunderstandings. I think he was rather dismayed about how often they "missed" it.

So it possible, although I agree not certain, that in Acts 1 he decides not to clarify.

It seems that the question must have been answered on Pentecost because the disciples thereafter did not talk about re-establishment of an earthly kingdom. Jesus himself told Pilate that his kingdom was not of this world. At the time of his ascension the disciples still did not understand this.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 12:48

Quote:
-----by jeffmar1130 on 2016/4/4 12:25:43

I don't disagree that natural believing Israel + grafted in gentile believers = Eternal Israel above! ðŸ˜Š But that wouldn't explain away the final ingathering of Natural Israel who are hardened for a time & get regrafted in by sovereign election at the end. We can't pull verse 25 out from the context of verses 1, 11-24, 28-32, etc.

Ahh, good.

What we agree on:

1. We both believe in Eternal Israel as you put it, which I agree because Eternal Israel has to be a spiritual kingdom. Any thing eternal is spiritual. You and I are part of a spiritual kingdom, now (right?).
2. And we probably both agree that many natural Israelites (Paul, Peter, 1st century church and Jews throughout the centuries) have been grafted back into the olive tree and more yet, will be grafted back in.
3. And we both agree that any country on earth has the right to defend itself, that includes Israel.
4. And we both agree that all the Arab nations are being manipulated by Satan to come against natural Israel. And that he is manipulating the world at large to stand against them. These are facts, this is what we see happening. Why God is allowing this we may have a disagreement on because it goes to our beliefs in the endtimes.

So, our only disagreement is what happens in the end times and whether Jesus will set up a physical kingdom on earth.

And, I don't believe this is a barrier to fellowship in Christ and we probably won't make much headway on this. Just being realistic since you see OT prophecies as having a fulfillment in another dispensation yet to come than and I don't.

Would you agree with everything I have listed? I don't want to put words in your mouth, just trying to encapsulate our conversation.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 12:51

If a re-establishment of an earthly kingdom was known about by Paul, he would have preached about it and not received all the persecution he received by the Judaizers who still believed the Messiah had not come and when He does come He will establish His physical kingdom on earth. Paul received no end to persecution about this.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 13:20

TMK, that is different. That text in John clearly says that Jesus says "if..." & then says "they thought this meant Jesus was saying He would not die....but Jesus never said this."

Not the case in Acts 1 AT ALL (nor did Luke say, "they thought this meant that Israel would have restoration but Jesus didn't say this..."). In other words in John, God made sure the whole of the passage was clear. In Acts 1, not the case at all. Apples and oranges.

Wait, Jesus didn't answer them, but it was clear on Pentacost that the clear teaching concerning natural Israel coming to Him after a partial hardening in Romans 11? Say what? This is scriptural Twister gymnastics. When was Romans written? Around 60 AD. So Paul was speaking about the "partial hardening" of Israel for just the next 10 years & the fullness of the Gentile's came in already at that point? No way. In fact, very little of natural Israel came into the kingdom between 60-70AD (they stayed hard as a rock overall), but many Gentile's came in. BUT, they (Natural Israel) are starting to come in mass NOW before Christ's REAL second Coming, the day of the Lord. And Gentile's are still coming in to at this point. It's actually not that difficult & doesn't require Phillip Mauro or Don Preston to understand & follow it.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 13:25

Not true Julius.

Paul preached that Christ WAS THEIR MESSIAH & was coming again, and that they crucified him, which is why he received such persecution. And He preached that He was coming again & that they should repent, as do I.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 13:34

I agree with "most" of what you said, but your using Paul, Peter as "being grafted back in" I don't think is contextually accurate to what it's talking about. If it's an eternal spiritual kingdom that started at Calvary, Peter & Paul weren't re-grafted in after Gentile's (like Romans 11 speaks of futuristic ally), because those were the first grafted in at all post resurrection.

Anyways, I'm not saying we can't fellowship. Never have. I'm saying people of your view KEEP BRINGING THIS AROUND & then get bent & refuse to answer questions when someone finally takes the substantial time to discuss it line by line in a loving, kind, non-attacking manner (not saying everyone has done this, but I have certainly been aware of this & tried to. When it has been super contentious & hateful, ugly comments are getting thrown around, I have tried to stay TOTALLY out of it as much as possible - I hope that's been noticed?).

I would again really appreciate your thoughts after having read the book I recommended. Even if it doesn't change your eschatological timeline, it will give you food for thought I'LL PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEE you weren't aware of (I sure wasn't).

I have a job, it's my wife's birthday, I have work to do, & my wife needs to go to the OB-GYN & may be having our 7th baby here soon. I can't spend any more time on this right now everyone. I'm sorry. I am not ashamed/scared to promote Joel's book, "When a Jew Rules the World" though because I believe it has beneficial historical information regardless of your end times eschatological framework/belief.

May God Bless you all!

Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 13:53

Paul preached many things and another thing he preached was that being a JEW in the flesh does not give you standing and righteousness in the kingdom of God. That they must embrace the New Covenant and the "Better Country" which is above and that earthly countries do not matter any more.

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.

They did not like that. They wanted to hold onto this notion of a physical kingdom on earth and persecuted Paul because he preached about a spiritual kingdom and that a physical kingdom no longer had any relevance.

Heb 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

The people that died in faith in the OT saw the spiritual promises that you say are physical. Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Zechariah, all saw a spiritual kingdom and realized they were "strangers and pilgrims on earth."

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Now read the rest:

Heb 11:14 "For they that say such things declare plainly that THEY SEEK A COUNTRY" - What country?

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. (in other words, there is no opportunity)

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. (Jerusalem above).

They saw afar off a heavenly city...the spiritual kingdom of God. God gave them revelation of many things. Isaiah saw a spiritual redeemer coming to save their people from their sins not their physical enemies. Ezekiel-new heart and new spirit. Micah, Jeremiah, Zechariah were all given revelation of the spiritual kingdom not a natural kingdom.

We have no "city" on earth -

Heb 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Heb 13:14 FOR HERE (on earth) HAVE WE NO CONTINUING CITY, but we seek one to come.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 13:55

Quote:
-----by Jeff
I have a job, it's my wife's birthday, I have work to do, & my wife needs to go to the OB-GYN & may be having our 7th baby here soon. I can't spend any more time on this right now everyone. I'm sorry. I am not ashamed/scared to promote Joel's book, "When a Jew Rules the World" though because I believe it has beneficial historical information regardless of your end times eschatological framework/belief.
May God Bless you all!
Jeff

Go, go, what are you doing here? ;-)

I will buy and read that book. I promise.

God bless and happy birthday to your wife.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 15:02

I don't disagree with your post Julius (at least the first part mostly), but now Gentile's don't like the fact that God is going to restore them by SAVING THEM ALL BY HIS RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND, & giving them a place among the nations as Christ rules & reins from Jerusalem (still to come). Orthodox Jews are lost Jews. We don't disagree on that. BUT GOD, is going to save them in a way that astounds the whole earth when they are trusting in their security, surrounded on every side, humbled & desecrated in something more widespread & massive than the holocaust (they don't like that hearing that either, so know I'm not cowering to orthodox Jewish opinion of the Gospel), but that ultimately when it is HOPELESS for them, their Messiah (who was all along there but they were hardened for the most part, as far as their numbers, against Him), they will look on Him whom they pierced & be saved, when the fullness of the Gentile's has come in!

I am not exalting lost Jews who reject God. I am exalting God's Sovereign election & praying & watching for the day these things happen and HE HIMSELF comes & destroys Israel's enemies, saves ALL ISRAEL, & I can rejoice with them & see my King who died to save me!

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 15:20

Jeff-

Jesus intentionally kept his disciples in the dark on some things, as here:

Luke 9:44-45 "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men. But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying."

Based on your last post, you seem to be saying that Jews will be saved when Jesus returns. I asked Rev this and will also ask you (don't think he answered): what if a person is only 5% Jewish; what about 40%? What is the cutoff %? Not trying to be irreverent- it's a legitimate question.

Also you seem to be saying that a special way of being saved is reserved for just the Jewish people- namely that when J

Scriptures and Doctrine :: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?

Jesus returns and reveals himself to them in person THEN they will believe. If true, does that apply to Gentiles as well? And if true, how is that fair to the millions currently in torment because they did not have such an opportunity, namely seeing Jesus return in all his glory?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 15:35

Quote:
-----by jeffmar1130 on 2016/4/4 15:02:22

I don't disagree with your post Julius (at least the first part mostly), but now Gentiles don't like the fact that God is going to restore them by SAVING THEM ALL BY HIS RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND, & giving them a place among the nations as Christ rules & reigns from Jerusalem (still to come).

I don't know what "Gentiles don't like it", but God was and is always about restoring men to Himself not a piece of dirt on earth. And He is ruling and reigning as He sits at the right hand of God, even now. He is ruling and reigning in His Church.

Quote:
-----Orthodox Jews are lost Jews. We don't disagree on that. BUT GOD, is going to save them in a way that astounds the whole earth when they are trusting in their security, surrounded on every side, humbled & desecrated in something more widespread & massive than the holocaust (they don't like that hearing that either, so know I'm not cowering to orthodox Jewish opinion of the Gospel), but that ultimately when it is HOPELESS for them, their Messiah (who was all along there but they were hardened for the most part, as far as their numbers, against Him), they will look on Him whom they pierced & be saved, when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in!

I think Jesus did save them in an astounding and totally unexpected way, already. People look upon him with spiritual eyes like you and I did. How will He provide salvation again? It is and always will be by faith in the shed blood of Christ. The work and the word of the Cross.

Eph_1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened..."

Jesus is talking about spiritual eyes, understanding here.

Rom 11:8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Rom 11:9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them:

Rom 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away.

Jesus is now done with His program of salvation.

Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOR EVER, sat down on the right hand of God;

Christ came to restore them to Himself and the Father not to earthly dirt. He will restore them to a "Better Country", an heavenly one", not an earthly one.

Great talking with you.

Good questions, TMK.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 16:01

As far as "is that fair?" Have you not read Romans 7 concerning election?

As far as %, I'm not pretending to have all the answers, but I would assume anyone from Israel lineage would be included? I don't have all the answers.

Again, where He kept them in the dark for a season, just like the passage you mention now, the context IS CLEAR that He was doing JUST THAT (& it says it), but in Acts 1, it says/shows no such thing, & in fact Jesus says something after that hat would solidify their ignorance all the more? Wouldn't that be Christ being deceptive if that were true?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 16:07

You said "Jews don't/didn't like it" when Paul told them they were lost without Christ. I agree. And many "Gentiles" now in the flesh don't like it when you share Romans 11 & that Christ is going to Sovereignty save Israel again at the end of the age by Sovereign election. Luther didn't like it. Calvin didn't like it. Augustin didn't like it. Hitler didn't like it. Mohammed didn't like it. Phillip Mauro didn't like it. Etc., etc.

The only important thing about "the dirt" there is if Jesus really is returning with His feet on the mount of olives & ruling & reigning from that "dirt". That makes not the "dirt" important (like some weird RCC sacred dirt weirdness), but the place where Christ is going to return & rule & rein from special. Wherever Christ is & whatever is in his plan, is special.

But that's fine, explain away plain texts of scripture in Romans 11 & elsewhere to accommodate your doctrines. I'm not mad at you. But just let me know what you think of the book we talked about. God Bless!

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 17:09

Quote:

As far as "is that fair?" Have you not read Romans 7 concerning election?

But there is also scripture that says He does not show favoritism. If your scenario is correct he is most certainly showing favoritism.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 17:28

Then is election "favoritism"?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 17:42

Cause you are clearly not able to distinguish between election spoken of in Romans 7 & in Romans 11 ("gifts & callings of God are irrevocable") & the passages in context about God showing no partiality. Romans 2:11 & Acts 10:34. This "partiality" in context means no Jews (or anyone) who reject Christ until they die will receive salvation. But that doesn't trump election & Sovereign Grace. Romans 7 & Romans 11 are clear God saves who He wants to save for His purposes & He is calling & gifts are irrevocable. So not showing partiality doesn't exempt election or cause God not to keep all His promises. Jews who die in unbelief will suffer same fate as you/I would have if we died in our unbelief. Don't confuse/mix the two

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 17:58

Jeff, I don't know what you mean by "sovereignly save". How is that different from a Jew or Gentile getting saved, today? There is only one plan of salvation, isn't there? It's not that I don't like it, I don't see the scripture witness.

I think you are saying that God will bring the dispersed as a body again, after the day that gospel salvation is ended, to Palestine "in unbelief"; and will there convert the entire nation, not by faith, but by the physical sight of Jesus Christ standing on the Mount of Olives!

I'm not trying to "explain away texts". Who would purposely do that? Even if I thought the same of you, I wouldn't be so rude as to accuse you of it.

You do know that the prophets used figurative speech to give deeper, spiritual meanings. Olive tree = Israel, Wild Olive - Gentiles, Two olive trees in Revelation = Jew and Gentile, Mount of Olives =

More prophetic imagery and role of the Mount of Olives and interpretation of Zech 14. Let me just say, I am in agreement with Kevin Daly, below about the Mount of Olives. A good read if you are so inclined.

<http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/the-feast-of-tabernacles-its-origins-and-prophetic-significance/>

Re: The woman of Canaan (Mt 24:22-28) and election - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/4 18:05

I believe his thoughts on the millennium etc., which are open for debate, are not as important as what he wrote about election and its purpose etc.

(BEGIN)

Why the Jew?

By Reggie Kelly

An email to a correspondent concerning a previous message on "The Tents of Shem."

Your comments have come on the heels of some recently revived discussion over Art Katz's controversial use of the term "to bow" in order to enter into the "tents of Shem." I would like to suggest another important aspect of this seminal and multifaceted prophecy, showing from the first, that God's eternal purpose in grace would be mediated through Abraham's elect line, but why?

As you rightly point out, Noah did not bless Shem directly, but the God of Shem, whose distinctive character is unknowable apart from the Spirit of revelation. You rightly suggest that Shem's distinction lies solely in the distinctive character of his God. Thus, the blessing of dwelling in the "tents of Shem" signifies coming into the true revelation of God as mediated through a priestly people that reflect His nature.

In order to dethrone pride, God elects to place the blessing in a despised and disregarded place

Apart from this priestly character, Jewish descent avails nothing so far as salvation is concerned. However, God is most selective of the means by which He is pleased to mediate the revelation of Himself. This is why Jesus would have the woman at the well understand that "salvation is of the Jews." It is a perfect wisdom that shuts the hidden manna of divine revelation and salvation within, and never outside, the chosen tents of Shem as the hideaway of divine blessing. In order to dethrone pride, God elects to place the blessing in a despised and disregarded place into which one must "stoop" to enter. There is something about tents of badger skins and jars of clay that speak eloquently of this divine jealousy. So indeed, we must "bow" in the sense of "stooping" to come into and receive what is outwardly weak, foolish, and disallowed of men.

But this is not the whole answer, because we must still ask "who makes one to differ from another?" (1 Cor 4:7). It is not surprising that God has chosen the meek, the faithful, and those who reflect His priestly character as the channel of His blessing, but why should natural descent count for anything? Since we know that "in the flesh is nothing good," why distinguish ethnicity in the first place? Why single out a "distinct" people as the locus and channel of divine blessing, if indeed priestly character is all that counts? Do the Jewish people, by some natural virtue possess a unique aptitude and faculty for the cultivation of moral religion? Some imagine this; but this is to miss the point entirely.

So now that faith has come, why continue to distinguish between Jew and Gentile, and between Israel and the Church? Since the covenant is fulfilled in Christ, so that "in Him" there is neither Jew nor Greek, why does Paul continue to speak of a covenant "with them" (the "natural branches") that is unfulfilled until the Redeemer's return (Isa 59:19-21; Ro 11:26-27)? It is a distinction that God has sworn to preserve for an important prophetic purpose (Jer 30:11; 31:35-37). What is that purpose? In other words, Why the Jew? As cleverly put to verse, "How odd of God to choose the Jews."

Why isn't faith and priestly character sufficient by itself to mediate blessing to the world? Why should this require embodiment in a specific race of people? Why does God take no rest until Israel fulfills its original calling to be a mediatorial nation of priests to bless all nations (Ex 19:6; Isa 2:3; 62:2)? This is Israel's millennial destiny (Isa 61:6).

Theologians have called this the "scandal of particularity." Indeed, if "all that counts is a new creation" (Gal 6:15), then why is it necessary that the life of this new creation be personified and exhibited through Jews as Jews ("the natural branches"), as a distinct nation ALL holy in their land as long as the earth shall last (Isa 4:3; 45:17; 54:13; 59:21; 60:21; 66:21 et al)? Notably, such uniform salvation (not one unsaved among the Jews; Jer 31:34), and the eternal security of a divinely guaranteed perseverance in grace (32:40) is not assured to any other nation. Though the nations will enjoy an unprecedented abundance of salvation in the millennium (Isa 27:6; 66:19; Jer 3:17; Mic 4:1-8; Hab 2:14 et al), many will remain unsaved (Isa 26:10; 60:12; 65:20; Zech 8:23; 14:17; Rev 2:27 et al), so that by the end of the millennium, an innumerable host from all nations are ready at Satan's behest to launch another futile assault against the chosen locus of God's government on earth (Isa 2: 3; Rev 20:7-9).

What is God saying in all of this? I believe it is what He's been saying all along, and intends that Israel demonstrate for one thousand years in the sight of all nations (Ps 98:2-3; Ezek 39:27). Israel exists as a distinct nation for the sake of an ultimate demonstration in history. This is the very purpose of the millennium. This is what makes "the tents of Shem message" so controversial; it underscores a profound mystery.

God hides His secret from pride by mediating the revelation of His salvation through... someone that is... despised

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter (Prov 25:2). "Truly You are God, who hides Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!" (Isa 45:15). It is important to understand that apart from special revelation the hidden things of God are unintelligible to the natural man, but only by revelation is the heart changed. God hides His secret from pride by mediating the revelation of His salvation through something or someone that is disallowed or despised (1Cor 1:27). "He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isa 53:2). It is a defining principal of all divine dealing and testing. The secret of God's intention (Eph 1:9) is hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed to babes (Mt 11:25-27). "To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? (Is 53:1).

Divine mystery is like the "flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." It is a sword of two-edges. To pride, it is a trap and a snare, a rock of offense and a stone of stumbling (cf. Isa 8:14-17; 29:11-14; with 1Cor 1:19; 2:7-14). Conversely, revelation of "the hidden wisdom ordained to our glory" is the kiss of divine friendship (Gen 18:17; Amos 3:7; Jn 15:15) to those who receive what flesh and blood is incapable of receiving (Mt 16:27; 1Cor 2:7 et al). Even when the mystery "hid in other ages" is revealed and preached to all nations (Mt 24:14; Ro 16:25-26), it remains a "sealed vision" to the children of pride (Isa 8:14-17; 29:11; Dan 9:24; 12:9-10). This is the test by which the world is judged.

The mystery of the gospel (Ro 16:25; 1Cor 2:7-8; Eph 6:19; Rev 10:7; 19:10b) that stumbled Israel (Isa 8:14-17; 49:7; 53:3-5; Mt 21:42) will once more stumble, not only Israel, but all nations, as Last Days' events press the question of the "everlasting covenant." Any literal reading of the great volume of prophetic scripture describing world conditions leading up to the Day of the Lord shows clearly that the age will not end before all nations are in great agitation over the question of the land of Israel, and the city of Jerusalem, which is also the question of the everlasting covenant (1Chron 16:17-18; Isa 24:5). The "controversy of Zion" (Ps 2; Isa 34:8; Zech 12:1-2; 14:1-9) is destined to plunge all nations into a final "valley of decision" (Joel 3:14).

Manifestly, God intends that the entire world be confronted over the question of His sovereign choice of Jacob. It is an ultimate point of divine contention that provokes an ultimate act of divine intervention.

"I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land" (Joel 3:2). "Therefore wait ye upon me, says the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation" (Zeph 3:8).

Scripture appears to regard the attitude of the nations towards Israel as the measure of their attitude towards God. Significantly, in the imagery of John's apocalypse, an attack on the people, land, and city of the covenant is regarded as an attack on the Lamb (Rev 17:12-14). This final assemblage of the nations against the symbols of the "holy covenant" (Ezek 38-39; Dan 9:27; 11:22, 28, 30-32; 12:11; Joel 3:2; Zech 12:1-2, 9; 14:2; Mt 24:15-29; Lk 21:24; Rev 11:2; 16:14-16; 19:15-21 et al) is treated in scripture as a consummate effrontery that causes God's "fury to come up in His face" (Ezek 38:18).

Only if the question of Israel were in some direct way related to the gospel could it become such a watershed issue of divine testing at the end of the age, because the gospel is the only ground of the believer's justification. Evidently,

the "blood of the everlasting covenant" (Heb 13:20), which is the heart of the gospel, is inseparable from the literal provisions of the "everlasting covenant" as it pertains to both the people and the land of Israel (1Chron 16:17; Ps 105:10-11; Ezek 37:25-26 et al), assuring the restoration of both (Lev 26:42; Isa 62:4; Mic 4:1-8; Acts 1:6; 3:18-21; Ro 11:25-29). Therefore, the everlasting covenant is inseparable from the everlasting gospel, as all are comprehended within the mystery of Messiah's twofold appearing to Israel.

As Israel stumbled at Jesus, so will all nations stumble over Israel by reason of the same prophetic mystery. "But the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand" (Dan 12:10). Anti-Semitism reveals an autonomous contempt for the constraints of God's sovereign election and rule. Because anti-Semitism results from a failure to regard the sovereignty of God in all things, it is a form of deicide. Not understanding the profound implications of such phrases as "through their fall" (Ro 11:11) and "for your sakes" (11:28), the nations have laid presumptuous and bloody hands on the servant "who is blind" (Isa 42:19) for their sake.

It was foreordained that Israel should reject him temporarily in order that the Gentiles might accept him. Here again is an example of God permitting his people to be bruised that the world might be healed" (Jacob Gartenhaus; Rebirth of a Nation; pg 59; Broadman).

In the mystery of God, Israel's rejection of "the heir" (the Servant-Son Messiah) is answered in the rejection of Israel (the Servant-Son nation) by the nations. As Israel has said, "We will not have this man rule over us!" so the nations have said, "We will not have this nation rule over us!" All have said, "We will not have THIS God rule over us!"

Because God's pre-temporal decision is not based on works (Ro 9:11-23), it exposes a latent resentment and envy in the natural heart that is disinclined to agree with the righteousness of God's choice, which is ultimately the question of His rule. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am good?" (Mt 20:15). This deep seated quarrel with the election, and therefore the Word and rule of God explains the rage of the nations in the Last Days' siege against the people, land, and city of "the covenant" (Isa 2:4; Isa 34:8; Joel 3:2; Dan 9-12; Mt 24:15-29; 2Thes 2; Rev 11:2; 12; 19). It is the eschatological manifestation of Satan's long war against the covenant (Rev 12:4).

God has predetermined history in a way that defies human understanding. However, the believer knows that nothing concerning God's election is arbitrary or left to chance. Rather, it is indispensable to the glory of His eternal purpose (Gen 18:25). To the natural mind such apparent discrimination will seem arbitrary and unfair, but this is precisely the point. Such a radical challenge to human understanding profoundly discovers the true disposition of the heart. This seems to be the point in Jesus' momentary refusal of the woman of Canaan in Mt 15:22-28. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." What does Jesus seek in this woman that causes Him to require her acknowledgment of Israel's unique covenant status and privilege? Something high must come down in order for grace to abound. The apparent "exclusion" of covenant restriction becomes God's opportunity to "include" (on the basis of grace alone) all who will "bow" to the authority and justice (Gen 18:25) of His sovereign right to "have mercy on whom He will have mercy" (Jn 5:21; Ro 9:18 et al).

Paul explains that the election of Jacob is necessary so "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth" (Ro 9:11). All is to underscore the great maxim of Romans 9:16, "so then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy." History and prophecy will bear this out; the entire drama of redemption, its ends and ultimate goal, depends on the initial establishment and preservation of an essential ethnic distinction between Jew and Gentile. For this cause, Christ must "come out of Jacob" (Num 24:19), and be made of the seed of David according to the flesh (Acts 2:30; Ro 1:3), and for this cause He will "return" to "the remnant of His brethren" (Deut 30:3; Mic 5:3), Paul's "kinsmen according to the flesh" (Ro 9:3), who will "in that day" return to Him (Hos 3:4-5; 5:15-6:2; Mt 23:39; Ro 11:25-29). To lose the distinction is to lose the point. It is also to lose the great landmarks of divine instruction. Furthermore, it is to set light by the enormity of divine cost that such an eschatological demonstration implies. "For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel" (Isa 4:23). "Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified" (Isa 60:21).

Through Israel, God will be known to all nations as the God who chooses, and that His favor is not based on anything He "finds" in man, but on what He has determined to "put within" (create, birth, quicken) those whom He has foreknown (Jer 31:33; 32:40; Ezek 36:26-27; Ro 8:29-30). "Jacob have I loved" (9:13) before he becomes

Israel, before he has done good or evil. This opens the question: was the election of Jacob based on divine foresight of the change in his character, or did God's election assure that change? The answer to this question is not left to theological speculation; it is answered by prophecy, and will be ultimately answered by history itself. It is not the change that determines election; it is election that assures the change. This seems to be the point of Paul's analogy of the potter's freedom in Ro 9:21. The same principle that removes the ground from all boasting (Ro 11:18; 1Cor 4:6-7; Eph 2:9), provides the assurance that "God is able to graft them in again" by no might of their own (Ro 11:23).

Because the truth of election is ultimately humbling, it is ultimately redemptive. It is the death sentence to everything that is lofty and self-assured, but the seal (2Tim 2:19) of a "blessed assurance" where "confidence in the flesh" has been shattered. Nothing else so profoundly offends and tests the natural heart, and this is why I am in agreement with the controversial use of the term "bow," when used in this context. Though strange to modern hearing, it is, after all, a very biblical metaphor (Isa 49:23; 60:14). The only bowing that scripture intends is before the God who is distinguished by what He has spoken and performed (Rev 19:10b).

Through Israel's restoration, the covenants of promise receive final historical vindication. Apart from this great apocalyptic act of divine power, the covenant is incomplete; but because the election cannot fail, "all Israel shall be saved" (cf. Isa 54:13; 59:21; Amos 9:9; Jn 6:45; Ro 9:6; 11:26). God has gone to utmost lengths of imponderable divine cost in order to make ultimate and public demonstration of this principle through a people that history has shown to be hopelessly incapable of covenant fulfillment. This is precisely the point. Israel's impossible condition exists for the glory of God (Jn 9:3 with Jn 11:3, 15).

The conditional promise which said "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land" (Isa 1:19), is made secure by an eschatological act of transforming grace ensuring Israel's collective "willingness" IN THAT DAY.

"Your people shall be willing in the day of Your power" (Ps 110:3)

All of the blessings and promises of the conditional covenant are unconditionally guaranteed by the sovereign "wills" of God's predetermined purpose (cf. Jer 24:7; 31:33; 32:39-40; Ezek 11:19; 36:27 et al), ensuring that "from THAT DAY and forward" (Ezek 39:22), "all Israel" will know Him distinctively and experientially as the "God who raises the dead" (Ps 102:20; Ezek 37:13; Hos 6:1-2; Eph 2:1; 2Cor 1:9). Then will all Israel say with one voice "blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Ps 118:22-26; Mt 23:39 with Zech 12:10)

The covenant, in its totality, is incomplete until "they all Israel that are of Israel" (Isa 60:21; Jer 31:34). This is the climax of the covenant. This was the expectation of the OT prophets and it remained the expectation of Paul. This is what Paul means when he says "and so all Israel shall be saved" for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sin" (Ro 11:26-27). This miracle of national transformation comes through the supernatural regeneration of the surviving remnant (Isa 4:2; Zech 13:8-9) by the revelation of their rejected and now returning Messiah (Ps 118:22; Zech 12:10). It will come suddenly and at once ("in one day"; Isa 66:8; Ezek 39:22; Zech 3:9), "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (Mt 24:29), "when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered" (compare Deut 32:36; Dan 12:7 with Jer 30:7; Dan 12:1). It is the Day of the Lord. "Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken" (Ezek 39:8, 22; Rev 16:14-17). It is Joseph revealed to his brethren. It is the persecutor Saul arrested in his opposition to become Paul to the nations.

In the same way that Paul could say "When it pleased God to reveal His Son in me" (Gal 1:15-16), even so, at "the time appointed" (Ps 102:12; Dan 11:27, 35) the nation of the Jews will know the mystery that was revealed to Paul in its own Damascus Road experience (cf. Isa 8:14-17; Dan 9:24; 12:9; Ezek 39:22-23; Zech 12:10; with Rev 10:7; 20:2). Israel's final restoration to covenant favor at the second coming of her rejected Messiah is history's ultimate answer to the question "hath God really said" (Gen 3:1). This is why God has unfinished business with "the natural branches."

For this cause, Israel must be transformed into a holy nation of priests in the sight of all nations, as an ultimate testimony to the sovereignty of God's ways in grace, whereby men from every nation (Isa 55:3; 61:8-9; Zech 8:23 et al) are made to see, to be humbled, and so cry out "while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by!" I believe that this helps to explain why the "contents of Shema" message is so controversial. It touches issues of great sensitivity that challenge comfortable categories. True prophetic revelation provokes and requires a deep wrestling with implications that are not always spelled out, because God still hides His secret from autonomous self-reliance, even in the plain hearing of it.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 19:08

Quote: then is election "favoritism"?

Yes, which is why it cannot be true applied to individuals ;)

No more Calvinism debates in these here parts- please.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 19:15

Lol. Sorry. I'm not a "Calvinist", but I can't deny the Biblical truth of election. I can't tear all the pages out of my Bible on election (Like the whole chapter of Romans 7) anymore than I can tear out Romans 11.

God Bless,
Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 19:20

I will definitely read Reggie's article as soon as I have time (& quiet to focus). I have always liked what I have read of his, but I generally REALLY have to have out my Bible & total quiet to stay following (he can move fast & through a lot of scriptures at times). I don't have the world's best attention span admittedly. ðŸ˜Š

Thanks!

Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 20:06

Quote:

-----by Julius21 on 2016/4/4 17:58:02

Jeff, I don't know what you mean by "sovereignly save". How is that different from a Jew or Gentile getting saved, today? There is only one plan of salvation, isn't there? It's not that I don't like it, I don't see the scripture witness.

I think you are saying that God will bring the dispersed as a body again, after the day that gospel salvation is ended, to Palestine â€”in unbelief; and will there convert the entire nation, not by faith, but by the physical sight of Jesus Christ standing on the Mount of Olives!

I'm not trying to "explain away texts". Who would purposely do that? Even if I thought the same of you, I wouldn't be so rude as to accuse you of it.

You do know that the prophets used figurative speech to give deeper, spiritual meanings. Olive tree = Israel, Wild Olive - Gentiles, Two olive trees in Revelation = Jew and Gentile, Mount of Olives =

More prophetic imagery and role of the Mount of Olives and interpretation of Zech 14. Let me just say, I am in agreement with Kevin Daly, below about the Mount of Olives. A good read if you are so inclined.

<http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/the-feast-of-tabernacles-its-origins-and-prophetic-significance/>

Hey Jeff,

Got a follow-up question to my post above where you are talking about Jesus returning physically and the Jews "looking upon Him" (you say this refers to physical eyes). What is it about Jesus physically that will make all the Jews repent? If it is the wounds in His hands and feet then you do know that a lot of men around the world during Easter hang themselves on crosses and literally pierce their hands and feet. How will the Jews know this is Jesus their Messiah? Why will they turn to Him? Will they experience an internal operation of the Spirit? A spiritual circumcising?

Why are they not required to have faith in the preaching of the Gospel like all other men? How do Gentiles make them jealous of the Gospel and then they get to see Jesus face to face? Isn't that reserved for either damnation of men or glorification with Jesus?

I just don't know why they get to see with their physical eyes and not their spiritual eyes.

Also, they did reject Him the first time with their physical eyes.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?

So, I was wondering what it is the second time around that will cause the Jews to receive Him? Plus, isn't salvation by faith and faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things NOT SEEN?

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2016/4/4 21:20

TMK: "It is therefore wise not to be so dogmatic about such issues. Why not rather have a preference for a certain interpretation, but at the same time in the back of your mind realize that you might be incorrect."

You mean clear scripture when presented cannot be addressed directly, we have to consult an interpreter or commentator first, since plain words obviously cannot be taken as absolute because its indications are merely to be taken as a suggestion that I then would be able to make mine own as a preference? Sounds like the policy of 3 letter agencies to keep truth off public forums. Yes I understand these politically correct statements that leave everybody in the dark, the problem is I'm not part of that movement.

Hi Julius: "So, I was wondering what it is the second time around that will cause the Jews to receive Him? Plus, isn't salvation by faith and faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things NOT SEEN?"

Good question, but why not for once go to the source and realize who it is that says "And I will pour...."

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

If God says He will pour the spirit of grace on someone, what are you concerned about? Why does He need your acceptance to do anything just as He said He would?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/4 22:15

The point is that Matthew Henry may, just possibly, be a tad wiser than you on this point. There are hundreds of different eschatological positions. All say they are based on a plain reading of scripture. All cannot be right.

So what makes you so sure you are absolutely right?

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 23:13

Quote:
-----by a-servant on 2016/4/4 21:20:00

Hi Julius: "So, I was wondering what it is the second time around that will cause the Jews to receive Him? Plus, isn't salvation by faith and faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things NOT SEEN?"

Good question, but why not for once go to the source and realize who it is that says "And I will pour...."

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

If God says He will pour the spirit of grace on someone, what are you concerned about? Why does He need your acceptance to do anything just as He said He would?

a-servant,

Didn't God pour out His Spirit upon the house of David in the book of Acts? If He did not do that, then what happened in Acts 2? Acts is a perfect fulfillment of Zech 12:10.

Peter attests to what Joel says and confirms that they are in the LAST DAYS and that the Holy Spirit being poured out is that which was spoken by Joel. Peter is explaining to the Jews what is actually happening to them.

Act 2:16 But THIS IS THAT WHICH WAS SPOKEN by the prophet Joel;

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the ****LAST DAYS****, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Peter is addressing the House of David. He says, "Ye men of Israel"

Act 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

They were pricked in their heart and God gave them grace and supplication to repent. They "looked" upon the one that was pierced. God opened up their spiritual eyes to recognize JESUS CHRIST was their MESSIAH.

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

To create a whole other dispensation outside of the Church Age when God poured out His Spirit on the House of David is not the plain and simple reading of Scripture by any means. It is the creation of fables and the people that get saved in this future generation, outside of the Church age, don't even need faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the good news that He died for our sins? They somehow will see a man with holes in his hand and feet and will believe? That did not happen the first time!

The Jews wanted a sign that they "may see and believe". And they were speaking in the physical sense of seeing. Jesus says, "Hey, you have seen me and believe not."

John 6:36 But I said unto you, THAT YE ALSO HAVE SEEN ME, AND BELIEVE NOT.

They reject the ONE that they saw with their physical eyes!

The Cross and a wounded Messiah who did not stand up for Himself or defend Himself against Israel's enemies (Rome) was a scandal to the Jew, and still is. They want a powerful deliverer FROM MAN, not a Deliverer FROM SIN.

Jesus tells His disciples not to fight flesh and blood because His Kingdom is not of this world. Are we now to believe that the Messiah is going to go against what He has told His disciples and come down to earth and destroy Israel's physical enemies (flesh and blood) and set up an earthly kingdom when He has told millions through the last 2,000 years that the battle is not against flesh and blood and His kingdom is not of this world? I'm just thinking that millions of Jews could have been spared horrible things through the centuries if He just came the first time showed His glory and power and set up His kingdom on earth.

But, I will go along with you a little more...Sure, if God comes to earth in glory and shows off His power then everyone on earth will believe not just the Jew. If seeing Him in His glory and power is not enough to save someone, then I don't know what is. But, why would Christ do this? Unfortunately, this is not how Jesus chooses to operate. When He comes, it is over and that is the plain reading of scripture. His plan for Israel right now is to repent and turn to Jesus Christ, just like what happened in the book of Acts. God's plan has not changed and will not change. He poured out the Spirit of Grace and Supplication in the first century and He has been doing that ever since to all who turn to Him in faith and look upon the Crucified One as their Savior.

Jesus does not operate by being flashy and convincing men of His divinity by showing them His incredible power. Jesus tests our hearts and wants to know if we truly do love Him and are willing to bear His cross, daily. He wants us to follow and love Him by faith. The Jews in the 1st century "looked upon Him who was pierced" and were saved and the Jewish people in subsequent centuries did the same thing. All the Jews in Messiah around the world today, also "looked upon Him" with their spiritual eyes and were saved.

Jesus Christ is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 23:15

That's one weird (seemingly sarcastic) question Julius (the whole people crucifying themselves as imposters on Easter thing)? Really?

Look, you & I hardened our heart against Christ initially right? I did. I didn't repent & put my full faith & trust in Christ & get born again the first time I ever heard of him. But that's why I fully believe in election & irrefutable grace (that's "like a hound from heaven out of Romans 7 tracking me down" as John Piper once said). I don't have it all figured out. And I still hold it somewhat loosely. I don't know exactly what it all "looks like". Fact is, NOONE but the Lord does (as far as every aspect, manifestation, how it plays out, etc.). Prophecy is easier to see & explain as it actually finally passes you & you turn and see it in the rear-view, than way off in the distance (we see through a glass dimly, in part).

So I reserve the right to be wrong about any of the specifics. But Romans 11 is pretty clear to me as a general blueprint or something concerning natural Israel coming in mass at the end. I just was getting really tired frankly of the "Phillip Mauro-A thon" & the condescending, straw men, so sure of themselves arguments day after day after day after day, so wanted to share the way I see/interpret the scriptures. And I'm in pretty good company when I looked into it. And a lot of the other company for your view is REALLY bad company with really rotten fruit.

Re: , on: 2016/4/4 23:31

A lot of that goes on during Easter, around the world.

By the way, what do non-religious Jews know about a Messiah? A lot of people today are believing and seriously looking for super intelligent alien life.

Our five senses are deceiving and that is another reason that God gave us the witness of His Spirit.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

What is it about Jesus appearing physically that non-religious, atheistic, transcendental, Kabbala observing, totally lost Jews will find captivating? How will they be born of the Spirit, when Jesus is right in front of them? Granted, they are no different in that respect than a lost Gentile. Non-religious people today are into so many different satanic things. How will Jesus convince Jewish people that He is God?

What if a Gentile is also convinced? Will they be saved?

A lot of people today have Jewish blood in them and don't know it by the way.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/4/5 0:06

RE: /// I'm in pretty good company when I looked into it. And a lot of the other company for your view is REALLY bad company with really rotten fruit.///

What you did not provide as company was anyone in the first 1,000 years of Christianity/christianity.

Where are you getting your information ?

You claimed that Dietrich Bonhoeffer believed like you do.

"Bonhoeffer's defense of the Jews, however, was based on Christian supersessionism - the Christian belief that Christianity had superseded Judaism as the new chosen people of God. Despite his outspoken defense of victims of Nazi persecution, Bonhoeffer still maintained, on a religious level, that the "Jewish question" would ultimately be solved through Jewish conversion to Christianity. The Church strongly advocated this view, as did the ecumenical movements most responsible for aiding Jewish refugees fleeing Nazism."

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Bonhoeffer.html>

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/5 0:14

The Hebrew world view never contained the notion that the God of Israel would one day to away with the physical earth and universe and take His people completely into a spiritual kingdom only. None of the OT saints and prophets ever expressed a desire to just make it to the other worldly kingdom. The Hebrew world view always included the earthly and the spiritual in harmony and complimenting each other. The New Jerusalem, the city above, the heavenly Zion is eventually coming to EARTH. Jesus said go and make disciples of all nations. The popular retort Jesus didn't die for a earthly kingdom has stripped the saying of Jesus out of all context when He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." I'm assuming the nations he said to go into and make disciples were earthly nations. Why is Jesus coming back go a physical earth? The Hebrew world view of the spiritual and the earthly dwelling together in harmony has been virtually erased by by the amill perspective that anything of the physical earth is crass and inferior.

Re: , on: 2016/4/5 0:19

How about some scriptures, doc?

Re: John 18:36 - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/5 0:37

John 18:36 - NASB

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

It won't matter what I share with you bro because you recently heartily endorsed the view that we are already and presently living in the new heavens and new earth. That view is a contradiction in itself of your view that the kingdom Jesus spoke of is spiritual ONLY because if we are living now in the new heavens and earth which are supposed to be spiritual realities then why are we still surrounded by a physical earthly existence.

It doesn't matter though good bro. I'm bowing out of this thing tomorrow because the recent blanket guilt by association employed in what I see as a not so honest way against Joel Richardson is about it for me. It's all I want to partake in at this point. Even though I chipped in a bit today, it's not worth being exposed to this anymore.

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; (Hebrews 12:15 - NASB)

Besides being personally defiled I have the view that the whole forum has been sullied and defiled because of a few and I'm disentangling and walking free of the bitterness which causes the defilement. I'm sorry and apologize for anything at any time I may have said that was unwarranted and unnecessary. You and I go at it sometimes but I always walk away looking forward to next time and not overly offended or bitter. I was a moderator on a forum once and every time we allowed the participants to moderate and police themselves and their own motives it never worked. Some people just want to do it because they don't want to do it. I count Greg as among the most patient people I have ever encountered. Combined with the precious thing I believe God is doing in my life right now, Greg's recent words that we should not even want to win an argument against another in the first place but rather look to serve and edify speaks volumes to me right now. Being committed to winning an argument against another precious believer at all costs may actually be a revelation of a place in our heart we have not allowed Jesus into yet.

Blessings my friend.

Re: , on: 2016/4/5 1:12

Quote:

-----by docs on 2016/4/5 0:37:02

John 18:36 - NASB

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

It won't matter what I share with you bro because you recently heartily endorsed the view that we are already and presently living in the new heavens and new earth. That view is a contradiction in itself of your view that the kingdom Jesus spoke of is spiritual ONLY because if we are living now in the new heavens and earth which are supposed to be spiritual realities then why are we still surrounded by a physical earthly existence.

Do you deny we are "seated with Christ in heavenly places". "New Heavens" is figurative speech to communicate a spiritual reality to us. Why do we need physical new heavens. In eternal life, heavens aren't physical, they are spiritual.

When a Christian is born-again everything "on earth", figuratively speaking is new. New way of living, new way of thinking, new way of dealing with everything in life. Everything is now done all by the Life of Christ.

2Co_5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are experiencing aspects of eternal life, now on earth? Peace with God, union with Christ, freedom to not sin, grace to overcome, power over Satan and the flesh, ruling and reigning with Christ over the powers of darkness, having all the power of heaven at our disposal through prayer and fasting, and just asking Jesus, etc, etc?

You think "new heavens and new earth" are physical, I get it.

I do see now what you and others that believe in this eschatology are doing, now. It took me awhile, but now I understand. You are taking words the Holy Spirit meant as figurative to reveal a spiritual truth/reality and you are making them literal. You are missing completely the spiritual realities that should be in your life that the Bible is trying to communicate to you.

This is why you and others use the word literal. You want to convince us that the prophetic figurative speech the Holy Spirit is using in the OT to teach spiritual realities in the NT is literal and not figurative. But, you will not be consistent with it because if you were, then all the figurative words/phrases in the OT, made literal would be ridiculous. You are picking and choosing the figurative phrases that should be literal, yet you follow no hermeneutical rules or consistency about it or just plain common sense.

When is prophetic figurative speech, figurative and when is it literal? Whenever you say it is.

Ok, so we have been going all day and not getting anywhere. That is because we really are speaking two languages.

And what is the end of the matter? We are not in sync in just basic Bible hermeneutics.

We are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses". Is it a real cloud?

Jesus is coming on the "clouds", are they real clouds?

Jesus said, "Take eat, this is my body". What are we eating?

The Holy Spirit used figurative language all through the OT to reveal spiritual realities. Men are earthbound and God used the things we are familiar with to communicate and explain spiritual truths to us.

Jesus continued this when He was on earth.

Mar 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Mar 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

But the Bible interprets much of itself for one who has the Holy Spirit (discernment) so we don't have to read into it meanings that don't exist.

You can't force a square block into a circle so I guess we should pray for each other for a time and maybe come back to this later to see if the Lord has given each of us more light on our respective positions. Sound good? It does to me.

God bless.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/4/5 1:20

RE: ///It doesn't matter though good bro. I'm bowing out of this thing tomorrow because the recent blanket guilt by association employed in what I see as a not so honest way against Joel Richardson is about it for me. It's all I want to partake in at this point. Even though I chipped in a bit today, it's not worth being exposed to this anymore.///

That Hurts. I sure did not want to hurt you Docs.

I hold great respect for you, and feel awful that you got hurt.

I am going to allow the Lord to work on me about this.

I sure do apologize for hurting you.

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2016/4/5 4:00

Hi Julius:

"Acts is a perfect fulfillment of Zech 12:10."

no it is not, you only read parts that have something in common, and make a comparison out of that. This is a later time here in Zech. Where is the following great mourning in Jerusalem - in Acts? When did Jesus cut off the names of the idols out of the land? and also He will cause "unclean spirit to pass out of the land." And there are more things happening, all about what Jesus will do at that time. Where is that in Acts? It isn't.

12 Â And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

13 Â The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

14 Â All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

Zechariah 13:1 Â In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

2 Â And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land

Re: , on: 2016/4/5 8:22

a-servant, whole families got saved in Acts, the Fountain is Jesus Christ.

Time to go, other things to talk about.

May the Lord help us all.

Re: Nope julius - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/5 10:29

/I do see now what you and others that believe in this eschatology are doing, now. It took me awhile, but now I understand. You are taking words the Holy Spirit meant as figurative to reveal a spiritual truth/reality and you are making them literal. You are missing completely the spiritual realities that should be in your life that the Bible is trying to communicate to you.

This is why you and others use the word literal. You want to convince us that the prophetic figurative speech the Holy Spirit is using in the OT to teach spiritual realities in the NT is literal and not figurative. But, you will not be consistent with it because if you were, then all the figurative words/phrases in the OT, made literal would be ridiculous. You are picking and choosing the figurative phrases that should be literal, yet you follow no hermeneutical rules or consistency about it or just plain common sense.

When is prophetic figurative speech, figurative and when is it literal? Whenever you say it is. (END)

No, not at all julius. Those are just things I believe you have been taught and have read from others. It's a common observation that is basically the same wherever it is presented but it's just wrong and doesn't take into account the true views of the side it criticizes.

Yet I will have no more to say and am bowing out.

Re: PROUDPAPA I'M STILL OUT - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/5 10:51

What struck me was just because Joel Richardson has appeared at some conferences alongside of Cahn etc. that somehow he must be guilty of something nefarious because look who he runs with and rubs shoulders with. It just isn't true that if you say appear at a conference with other speakers that you are also a person intent on peddling books or whatever. And what if Richardson has spent some time with Jim Baker and his wife? Maybe they invited him. Richardson said they were nice, humble and down to earth hospitable people. What if you or I spent some time with them and found them to be nice, humble and down to earth hospitable people? Should we continue to hold Baker's past failures against him? Look at who Richardson runs with is just a bit much for me, blanket guilt by association, and is just another example that there is substantial personal poison that has crept into and now saturates these discussions. It's morally shabby and is a sin against the Holy Spirit. Repentance for all of us can yield sweet and peaceable pure fruit. Months ago I made a post and wanted to discuss in a civil manner the question of why would a millennial exaltation of Israel disrupt the unity of the one new man. Much to my surprise, and after my appeal up front for civility, that thread turned very nasty and personal and basically it has continued for months. I believe the issue of Israel and its future is monumentally important for the church and the role it will be called on to play during the last days. Christ ascended from Israel and will return to Israel at His second advent. But it can be discussed in a civil and respectful manner. But it hasn't been discussed in a civil and respectful manner much of the time and I've had enough. I'm afraid to even mention or bring up the subject now because I know that two or three posts and replies into the thread rudeness will have already shown its head and the thread is ruined and the rest of the forum is defiled. Basically the unnecessary rudeness of a few have a lock on the forum in my opinion. I will compliment you though because your side and view have for the most part been many more times civil than the other few folks. Kudos to you for that. I don't see you as a Jew devouring person wallowing in outright deception although I don't agree with many things you have shared. But heck, it's a discussion forum. There are always going to be a multiple variety of views shared. Meanwhile, I know Joel Richardson a tiny bit and he isn't the person that was portrayed. And this type of demeaning brothers and sisters needs to stop. So I'm bowing out and plan on tending to my own garden and heart for a while. What a disappointing series of months of uncivil dialog this has been. Thank you for your calls for more polite dialog with one another. Theology I guess can fool us if we think we have it but spew personal bitterness toward others. It reeks to high heaven, has been a spiritual negative weight to the forum and its vision, and shows there are many doors in our hearts we have kept shut up against the divinely pure and undiluted love of the Holy Spirit that God wants to shed even more abundantly into all of our hearts.

I'M OUT of this and meanwhile consider you a brother. How can I serve you or pray for you? I sincerely ask that.

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2016/4/5 19:51

"a-servant, whole families got saved in Acts, the Fountain is Jesus Christ."

yes, but you did not address the point (or any previous points) I gave you to consider. You pick the above main point and think that's it, and ignore the rest in Zech, because your pre-text in your understanding convinces you that it would be ok to be ignorant on all the smaller points you cannot fit, in order to make it work and sound coherent.

That's why you miss what Zech is talking about - completely. You cannot differentiate between 2 events that look similar - but are not. Your studies on this have no depth, it's more like the quick fix solution for people that choose to stay on the outside, but never get to the bottom of one topic.

See this whole thing you tried to identify here "What is spiritual, what is natural and what is literal?" totally escapes you, in order to get any understanding on this you would need to withdraw yourself from the permanent forum chatter you engage yourself in to keep yourself busy expressing opinions on every idea that presents itself, and for once try to really understand something by reading the full contexts of the scriptures slowly you so quickly gloss over and read into, instead of letting them read to you.

Re: , on: 2016/4/5 20:08

David,

I hope I haven't been perceived as coming across in that way in these discussions? If I have, it's certainly not my heart. I may have seemed defensive, but the view that Israel still has a prophetic calling in the last days fulfillment seemed to be getting so slammed in the forums IMHO that I felt it was time to speak up for a different view. Hopefully I didn't come across as argumentative, unloving, or arrogant? And yeah, Joel seems to be a real genuine brother. And also, in fact, the first time I watched the new Jim Bakker show I had some reservations & I know what he did in the past (& I don't agree with him on everything I would bet), but when I put personal "appearance/preference" judgementalness/criticalness out of my heart, I found him to be repentant, humble, broken, & with a desire to see people serve God & prepare their hearts & lives based on the vision God gave Him. I have realized in recent days that sometimes we can even have "the gift of discernment" & not realize we are actually internally at times using that as an excuse to "unrighteousness judgement", speculation, having a critical spirit, etc. & not be walking in what 1 Cor 13 says love actually looks like. Humbling. Anyways, I'm not fully there where I want to be, but I would hope those that know me best would say they can see the growth in my life in recent years in these areas. May I/we all continue to grow from glory to glory in Christ by going low & being humble, gracious, & loving (while still not compromising truth). You have my email. Please keep in touch & send me anything you want & send me anything good from Reggie Kelley concerning Israel in the Last Days.

May God Richly Bless you in all things,

Jeff

Re: jeffmar - posted by docs (), on: 2016/4/6 7:53

You didn't come across that way. Spirited discussions are not anathema at all if somehow and some way the love of Christ for each other can be maintained.

/the view that Israel still has a prophetic calling in the last days fulfillment seemed to be getting so slammed in the forums IMHO that I felt it was time to speak up for a different view.

Yes it was and it wasn't wrong to bring the opposite view. It's needed since the latter day controversy of Zion is here to stay and it itself is so wrapped up in a large part of what the church's role is to be during the end days. It's just that this discussion ended up getting heated and very nasty. In my opinion it may be and have been the worst season of personal insults and carnality this forum may have ever seen. It became grieving in a very big way. And now I feel reluctant to even try and discuss the issue in a civil way because it will get bitter very quick when it doesn't have to. And in my opinion, some on the pro-Israel side were very rude and overly accusatory. Then the hearsay accusations against Joel Ricardson were enough for me. If it's going to go that way then I want out.

Peace and blessings.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2016/4/6 9:28

Matthew 21:43

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

1. Does the 'kingdom of God' here pertain to kingdom of Israel.
2. 'You' are the physical descendants of Jacob in contrast to 'spiritual Jews'?
3. 'Nation' refers to church?
4. What is the spiritual interpretation of this verse.

I'm just wondering how this verse validates preterism or replacement theology.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2016/4/7 15:49

Acts 28:26-31 Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

This does not negate the promises God has made to Israel, there is plenty left for God to do with National Israel. Be it His timing, not ours or even looking to the scripture and thinking we know what and when God is going to finish the work He has begun with Jew and Gentile in Christ and The Promises of God which cannot be taken away. Who knows the mind of God and who can give Him advice?

All we can do is be of One Mind in Christ, taking, "Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence," for all those that the Father sends Him and us.

What does it matter what God does for Israel? Our concern is what is God doing by speaking to us by His Son unto salvation till He comes? Wanting to know what God is doing or going to do is a good thing but we cannot allow it to divide the brethren in Satan's name, just so we can prove who is right, which no man truly knows.

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Yes, even for Israel.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2016/4/7 16:08

I do think it matters. If there's prophecy in the Word of God, it's written throughout the OT Prophets & discussed in Romans 11, Acts 1, Revelation, etc. to say "why difference does it make?" Seems kinda obvious to me?

Is it "the most important thing"? No. Is it "all that matters"? No. But to say "what difference does it make?" When God took the time to put it in His Word? The verse you laid out in Hebrews actually in context talks about not again laying foundations of milk (& names them) on to "meat". Let's not add to the Word of God by our assumptions. That verse actually doesn't nullify my whole point, but strengthens it.

You may not care about the Issue of Israel & that's fine I guess, but God obviously does" ("ALL scripture is spirit breathe

d/inspired & is useful for teaching, correcting, reproving, rebuking & training in righteousness"). Again, prophecy isn't "the only thing" or "the most important thing", but it's not "nothing important" based on what any man says, but what God says in His Word.

And I'm not out "preaching the Gospel of Israel" day to day but the Gospel to every creature. But I didn't start this OP & I'm just replying. To say "this causes division where satan can work". I agree! But I think if you study church history thoroughly you will find that it's actually the doctrine that "Israel is no more important at all" that satan has used best to bring forth his fruit. One in nullifying the Word of God, 2 in saying parts of the Word of God don't matter, 3 in saying God doesn't keep His promises/Word, 4 in saying that we can "spiritualize" any text we want at will out of context to suit our favorite theological paradigm. No small matters in my book. "Let God be true & every man a liar" is what my Bible says.

Also, if you look at the historical fruits of both views, I think it's evident that it at THE VERY LEAST "CAN matter" tremendously. Likewise, I believe it will matter in the days ahead. Anyways, not trying to be divisive, just honest & faithful to the best of my ability.

God Bless,
Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/7 16:31

Post pulled.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2016/4/7 18:12

It is not of "no matter" that God is still dealing with Israel, for they are still in full sight of God and His dealing with the whole world by and through them. It still leaves man in simple statement of the "Gentiles will hear it". Hear what? That Jesus Christ is the central figure in all scripture, be it for Jew or Gentile and making Israel relevant or not relevant is obviously not the most important part of the central figure of salvation. The Jewish people are still God's people and He will surely deal with them at His coming. I love the Jewish people and pray for them always and am inflamed at the present administration in Washington of their disregard and plain bad will toward them.

If this is too much Jeff, Greg, or anyone else, please disregard this post and pray for me that I might be more understanding of God's plan for my salvation when it comes to where Israel is concerned. As I have said, Israel has a special place in the Heart of God and mine. All I wish I could do is hug every one of them and tell them how much I love them and wish their salvation and the goodness of God for all. Because without them God would have had to use a different way to bring me to Christ.

I don't understand exactly where you are coming from Jeff, but I will continue to hope for your love and growth in the things of God and ask that you continue for me.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2016/4/7 19:04

Oh I agree brother!

Good words. My salvation is not dependent on Israel. Never said that nor do I believe anything like that. I was just responding/replying to the things you said in your first post reply. No worries brother. ðŸ˜Š No offense intended nor taken!

God Bless!
Jeff

Re: , on: 2016/4/8 1:35

Hey brothers,

On another subject:

The patterns/shadows God gave on earth reveal the patterns and spiritual realities in heaven and we are seated with Him in heavenly places.

Heb_8:5 Who serve unto the example and SHADOW of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in t

he mount.

So, God showed the prophets patterns/vision to build something on earth, but they had a greater significance as they were shadows of things to come.

For instance, there was a physical Tabernacle of David in the OT and it was a shadow of spiritual realities concerning the rebuilding of the "Tabernacle of David as was spoken in Acts 15, but in this respect it is His Church. Why does God liken the Church to the Tabernacle of David and not the Tabernacle of Moses? At one time the Tabernacle of Moses actually existed during the same time as the Tabernacle of David.

The Tabernacle of Moses also contained patterns/shadows of heavenly things, but why the Tabernacle of David mentioned in Acts 15 and not the Tabernacle of Moses?

Here is the context:

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Acts 15:15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

Acts 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Acts 15:17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.