

The Essential Glory of the Church and the Parenthetical Place of Israel in the Plan of God

1. The temporary place of Israel in the plan of God in human history is reflected in the following observations.

- A large part of human history had already taken place when God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeas. Before there was a nation of Israel souls were being saved by faith in Christ as He was revealed.
 - ❖ A righteous covering provided by God covered Adam and Eve. *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”* (Gen. 3:21).
 - ❖ Hebrews 11:4 declares that *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous”*.
 - ❖ In Hebrews 11:5 we read that *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”*
 - ❖ What was true of Adam and Eve, Abel and Enoch was true of Noah. Hebrews 11:7 reveals that *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*

If there are no gaps in the genealogical tables of the early chapters of Genesis then we know that from the creation to the flood was 1656 years. Many more years elapsed from the time of Noah to Abraham. During that period souls were being saved. God was calling out a people for Himself.

- The Covenant promises made to Abraham and his descendents were always conditional. There was to be gospel obedience in all matters.
 - ❖ *Genesis 22:18 And [Abraham] in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*
 - ❖ *Deuteronomy 28:58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 59 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. 60 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. 61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. 62 And ye shall be left few in number,*

whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. 63 And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. 64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. 65 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

- The fact that in AD 70 God set Israel aside and has been working through the Gentiles to advance His kingdom illustrates the limited place Israel has had in the plan of God. Speaking to the nation of Israel Jesus told them plainly that their gospel privileges would be taken and given to another nation. Matt 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.”* The Church is that nation. 1 Peter 2:9 *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation.”*
2. A transfer was made from national Israel to spiritual Israel, which has always included the Gentiles. This shift and emphasis is reflected in the following passages.
- ❖ *Romans 9: 6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.*
 - ❖ *Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*
 - ❖ *James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.*
3. A simple time line illustrates the abiding existence of the Church from the Garden of Eden to the Second Advent.

**The Church as the called out assembly is found
in all the ages while Israel has played an important
but limited role in the overall plan of God**

Creation * Fall * Noah * Abraham * Moses * Cross * AD 70 * Present to Seconds Advent

4. The Bible teaches plainly that Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her. *Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
5. God is neither a physical racist nor a nationalist. The only nation the Lord plans to exalt is the Church for of her citizens it has been promised, “*The meek shall inherit the earth*” (Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5).
6. The only people who reign in the New Testament are the saints.
 - ❖ *2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*
 - ❖ *Rev 20:4-6 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*
7. The only people in the New Testament who sit in judgment over Israel, the world and even the angels is the Church.
 - ❖ *Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
 - ❖ *1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?*
8. Spiritual glory belongs to the Church and not to any nation or race that hates Christ and rejects Him as Lord and Savior.
9. God reveals the glory of the Church in her election.
 - ❖ *Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in*

Christ: 4According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

10. The glory of the Church is revealed in the great cost that was paid to purchase her.

❖ *1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

11. The glory of the Church is revealed in the adoption of her members as children of God and the spiritual blessing that are accrued to include the kingdom of God (Luke 12:32), a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13) and a vision of God (Matt. 5:8).

12. The glory of the Church is revealed in the position it has been raised to of high royalty. The Church alone has the pre-eminence in the plan of God.

13. The essential glory of the Church may be seen in the wonderful purpose and central place she possesses in the Plan of God

14. The essential glory of the Church is revealed in the honor of her leadership, the Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ *Ephesians 1:22 And [God the Father] hath put all things under his [Christ's'] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (cf. Col. 1:15-19).*

15. The essential glory of the Church is revealed in the fact that she enjoys the personal and powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13,14; 3:16,17; Rom. 8:9-16).

16. The glory of the Church is seen in her quest for true holiness.

17. The essential glory of the Church may be reflected and revealed in her nearness and access to God.

18. The essential glory of the Church may be revealed in her spiritual knowledge of all the mysteries of the gospel (Ephesians 1:9; 3:2-5).

❖ *Eph 1:9 Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (cf. Ephesians 3:2-5).*

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(Handout)

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 - The Covenant promises made to Abraham and his descendents were always conditional. There was to be gospel obedience in all matters (Genesis 22:18; Deuteronomy 28:58-66).
 - The fact that in AD 70 God set Israel aside and has been working through the Gentiles to advance His kingdom illustrates the limited place Israel has had in the plan of God (Matthew 21:43; 1 Peter 2:9).
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6. The only people who reign in the New Testament are the saints (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6).
7. The only people in the New Testament who sit in judgment over Israel, the world and even the angels is the Church (Matthew 19:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

8. Spiritual glory belongs to the Church and not to any nation or race that hates Christ and rejects Him as Lord and Savior.
9. God reveals the glory of the Church in her election (Ephesians 1:1-6).
10. The glory of the Church is revealed in the great cost that was paid to purchase her (1 Peter 1:18-19).
11. The glory of the Church is revealed in the adoption of her members as children of God and the spiritual blessing that are accrued to include the kingdom of God (Luke 12:32), a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13) and a vision of God (Matthew 5:8).
12. The glory of the Church is revealed in the position it has been raised to of high royalty. The Church alone has the pre-eminence in the plan of God.
13. The essential glory of the Church may be seen in the wonderful purpose and central place she possesses in the Plan of God
14. The essential glory of the Church is revealed in the honor of her leadership, the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:15-19).
15. The essential glory of the Church is revealed in the fact that she enjoys the personal and powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13, 14; 3:16, 17; Romans 8:9-16).
16. The glory of the Church is seen in her quest for true holiness.
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Is the Modern Nation of Israel a “Sign” to the Christian Community?

1. One of the key concepts in Dispensational theology is the importance of Israel as a nation to world events and prophecy.
2. According to Dispensational teaching the world in general and the Christian community in particular should keep a careful eye on the modern nation of Israel as a sign of the time.
 - According to The System the time will soon come in which the Anti-Christ will appear following the Rapture of the Church.
 - When the church is raptured a seven-year period of great tribulation will break out on the earth.
 - The strong new leader embodied in the Anti-Christ will take unto himself unusual power.
 - He will offer a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East, which shall be negotiated by a treaty.
 - After three and a half years he will break this treaty which will precipitate a final conflict between the nations of the earth at the battle of Armageddon.
 - It is at that point that Christ will return.
3. As a child I was taught that the key to prophesy was Israel. I was told to keep my eye on Israel. And so I have— much to my regret for it has proven to be a clever way for the Enemy to keep eyes off of Christ and the truth found in the Word of God.
4. Here is the truth rooted in *Scripture* and objective observation.
 - For rejecting Christ as the Messiah and for killing the Son of God the nation of Israel was disciplined and divorced by God in AD 70.
 - Micah had prophesied, *"Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest. Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it."* (Micah 3:11-4:1).
 - Foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem forth years before it happened Jesus told the first century believers in essence to “keep an eye on the Holy City” for “*wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together*” (Matthew 24:28).

- Since the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 the Jews have been dispersed throughout the world to the point that the bloodline has been intermingled with the nations of the earth.
- There is not a single passage in the *New Testament* that predicts the re-gathering of the nation of Israel and its eventual exaltation among the nations of the earth. The *Old Testament* passages that spoke of Israel's re-gathering following judgement have been fulfilled.
- The Church must not get its eschatology from the Old Testament but from the New Testament for that is the final revelation of God.
- When the *New Testament* is searched the following facts are found.
 - The nation of Israel is under divine discipline.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

- The nation of Israel has forfeited all earthly spiritual promises and privileges. The only hope of Jews is to find salvation in Christ. Only then will "Israel" be saved. This salvation comes by being identified with, not in distinction from the Church illustrated in Romans by an olive tree.

Rom 11:23-24 "And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? "

5. The concept of "keeping an eye" on Israel has proven to be a false sign and a great distraction from the truth.
6. No longer are Christians looking for that blessed hope "*and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*" (Titus 2:13-14).
7. God's people have been taught to look for the Anti-Christ. Gods people have been taught to "*look to Israel.*" God's people have been taught to search for the "*signs of the time*" even though Jesus said that an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign (Matthew 12:39; 16:4).
8. Surely this must be the most evil of all generations for the fascination with the future satiates the soul of the Christian community.

9. It is possible to misread a “sign.” People have subjective experiences and ascribe to them any meaning they want and call it “prophecy fulfilled.”
10. The Bible invites us to “*come now and let us reason together*” (Isaiah 1:18).
11. The Bible commands believers to test the spirits. “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (1 John 4:1).
12. The spirits of this world can only be tested by an objective standard which is the Word of God.
13. Just because a person “*experiences*” something or finds a remarkable “*fulfillment*” of some obscure utterance spoken to them does not mean the origin of the “prophecy” is of God.
14. The biblical criterion for prophecy is clear.

- The prophets of the Bible had to be one hundred percent correct one hundred percent of the time.

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

- The prophets of the Bible had to be sent by God.

Jeremiah 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.