

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV

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Prayer Study #264

First Love Ministries, Inc.

## **The Church's Proper Response to Natural Israel**

### THREE MAJOR POSITIONS

**Legalizers or Judaizers:** These people believe that we should go back to the Jewish dietary laws, circumcision, the Jewish festivals and sacrifices, and all the teachings of the Torah. Paul specifically condemned this in several places in scripture, especially in the book of Galatians. This is an *every wind of doctrine* that puts the believer under the law and not grace. It is gaining a lot of popularity today. I believe that it is an affront to those who are under the New Covenant and causes its adherents to be entangled with the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1).

**Replacement Theology Proponents:** These people, incorrectly I believe, say that the Church has replaced physical Israel and is spiritual Israel. The New Covenant has replaced the Mosaic Covenant. Thus, the covenant that God made with Israel is invalid, and the promises of God only apply to the Church, not to natural Israel. God is finished with Israel. Prophetic scripture is allegorical and not literal. The Jews are not God's chosen people, and God does not have specific plans for the nation of Israel. Israel is therefore irrelevant as pertaining to the end times. Of course, we believe that all of these statements are false. If Israel has been condemned by God, how do we explain the miraculous re-establishment of the nation of Israel and the supernatural survival of the Jewish people. Churches who teach replacement theology and who do not teach prophecy include Roman Catholics, United Methodists, Presbyterians USA, Lutherans, AME, Church of Christ, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, to name a few. I have been told that one reason that George W. Bush did not stand against the division of Israel is because he believed in replacement theology. Again, we strongly believe that this is false doctrine, and we strongly believe that Israel has a chosen and unique place in the prophetic time table of the end times and remains God's chosen land.

**Those who see Israel as important both as Natural Israel and as Spiritual Israel.** We hold to this position which says that Gentiles are grafted in the vine (Romans 11), but that natural Israel is a signpost for the end times, that the Jews are still God's chosen people, and that He has an everlasting covenant with Israel. We believe that He will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. The Church is part of spiritual Israel, but natural Israel is still of preeminence in the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. This does not mean that we have to follow the Torah because we are under a New Covenant, but we highly respect the Jewish people and see the land of Israel as the main stage for the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.

### **Scriptures that Deal with the Hebrew People:**

Genesis 12:3: *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

Genesis 13:14-15: *And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever..."*

Deuteronomy 7:6-10: *"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments..."*

Psalms 122:6: *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.*

Romans 9:3-8: *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham, but "In Isaac your seed shall be called." That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.*

Romans 11:25-32: *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion; And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.*

Ephesians 2:11-18: *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promises, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you, who once were far off, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

AWAKE, O ISRAEL  
Awake, O Israel! Put off thy slumber  
For the truth shall set you free.  
For out of Zion comes thy Redeemer  
In the year of Jubilee!

In the furnace of affliction  
I have chosen thee, behold!  
And for iron I'll give you silver,  
And for brass I'll give you gold.

You are my chosen,  
For I have called thee,  
Thou art engraved upon my hand!  
And I will gather all those I scattered,  
They shall come back into their land!

#### I WANT TO SEE ISRAEL MARCHING

I want to see Israel marching,  
I want to hear the kingdom call!  
I want to see Zion's mountain,  
I want to see great Babylon fall!  
I want to see Jesus reigning,  
Upon King David's royal throne.  
O, won't that be a glorious sight to see  
When Israel comes marching home!