

### *The words of Stephen*

„Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers. ... And Saul was consenting unto his death.“ (Acts 7:52; 8:1) Soon after that Saul/Paul believed and he was called to be an apostle of the Lord.

We see that Jews – just like Gentiles – repent of their sins and come to know Jesus as their Messiah through a revelation of the Holy Spirit.

### *The parable of the vineyard*

„But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours. So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid.“ (Luke 20:14-16)

This parable is in context addressed to the Jewish religious leaders of Israel - not to the whole nation. Jesus was not taking the vineyard away from the house of Israel, on the contrary: in saying to Peter, "unto you I have given the keys of the kingdom", he was using an idiom to indicate that the spiritual authority for Israel was now being passed from the "old" unbelieving leaders to the "new", the believing Messianic Body – they also were all Jews and now the new husbandmen of God's vineyard.

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So we see that isolated Scriptures are being misinterpreted by replacement theology, rather than taken in the over-all context of the Word of God. Therefore we question the use of them to build upon it a teaching that has such far reaching consequences. On the contrary, there are literally hundreds of passages in God's Word speaking against replacement theology interpretation.

### **1.2 What does the Bible really teach?**

#### *Jesus himself*

confirmed that he was sent from God to bring the good news to Israel:

„But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.“ (Matt 15:22-27)

Jesus confirmed the covenants God made with Israel. Romans 15:8

#### *Paul*

said that the gospel is „to the Jews first, and also to the Greek“, a long time after the Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus.

### *Peter*

was also known as the 'apostle to the Jews'. He too kept proclaiming God's salvation and deliverance to the Jewish people.

### *Jews in the early church*

Peter explicitly speaks to Jews at Pentecost:

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:“ (Acts 2:14)

We see therefore that in the early days of the church thousands of Jews received Jesus as their Savior. Some more time passed until the first Gentiles were being saved (Acts 10). We see that in the first years after Jesus' resurrection it was obvious that Israel had not lost its status as being God's chosen people. Not only had God not rejected them, but the true church at the time was made up only of Jews!

### **2 Selected passages in favor of Israel**

#### **2.1 Old Covenant**

1. Deut. 28 and 29: Blessing and curse
2. Ezekiel 36: God's prophetic overview
3. Jer 31:31-34: The New Covenant is for Jews
4. Jer 31:35-37: God will never forsake Israel
5. Isa 54:8: God's eternal love for Israel

#### **2.2 New Covenant**

6. Romans 9 – 11: Israel's calling and salvation
7. Romans 3:1-4: God's faithfulness to Israel
8. Eph 2:11-22: Jews and Gentiles reconciled

#### **2.3 Last Days**

9. Eze 36:22-23: God glorifies His Name through His dealings with Israel
10. Eze 36:24: God will gather the Jewish people and bring them back into their own land
11. Eze 36:25-32: God will redeem Israel
12. Zech 14:4: Jesus will come back to Jerusalem to His people Israel
13. Rev 21:12: The New Jerusalem with 12 gates according to the 12 tribes of Israel

„Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness!“ (Rom 11:12)

„For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?“ (Rom 11:15)

### **3 Our personal view of God**

Probably the most important question in life is: What is God like? What nature does He have?

#### **3.1 Our God is faithful!**

The core of our topic has a big influence on how we see God. We want to emphasize two of God's attributes that are very relevant to our personal faith: his omnipotence and his faithfulness.

(1) **He is able to do everything that He promised.** (Exodus 3:14; Jeremiah 1:12)

(2) **God is faithful.**

Whatever He promises, He keeps. (Num 23:19) On His Word we can truly rely.

The Word of God will remain forever. Matt 24:35

God has called Israel in faithfulness: “ ..., but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.“ (Romans 11:28b-29)

#### **3.2 God's covenant with Israel**

The covenant that God made with Israel is an expression of His faithfulness to His word and to His people. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In it, he promises a land and a blessing to the people of Israel (Psalm 105:8-11). God never nullified this covenant, so it is still valid today.

*“I say then, Has God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.“ Romans 11:1*

#### **3.3 God's covenant with us**

Our own salvation was also sealed with a covenant of blood. We entered into a covenant with God, sealed by the blood of Jesus.

**If God were not faithful  
to the covenant with Israel,  
what guarantee would we have  
that he is faithful  
to the covenant with us?**

## 4 Israel and the last days

**The bible clearly states that  
Jesus will visibly return to this earth:**  
Matt 24:30, 1 Thess 4:16, 2 Tim 4:8, Rev 19:11-16

Let's look at **five requirements** for this to happen:

### 4.1 Jerusalem must specifically invite Jesus to return

Jesus says [to Jerusalem]:

„For I say unto you: You shall not see me henceforth, till you shall say: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!“ (Matt 23:39)

### 4.2 Therefore the Jewish people must still exist

The Jewish people must be still alive to invite Jesus to return. Without the Jewish people Jesus could not come back.

Jesus says:

„Verily I say unto you, This generation [or: this race] shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.“ (Matt 24:34)

### 4.3 The salvation of the people of Israel

For Jesus to return, something must happen in Jerusalem. That “something” is Israel's salvation (Romans 11:25-27). The special greeting – “Baruch HaBa BeShem Adonai” (“Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!”) is given only to one person – to the Messiah.

What Jew would ever say to “Jesus Christ” – under whose name Jews have been persecuted and killed for more than a thousand years, “Blessed are You who comes in the name, the very nature, of our God”? Only one kind of Jew alive today would truthfully say that – Messianic Jews who know Jesus as Messiah, Savior and Lord. So if Jerusalem must declare this **before** He returns, then Jerusalem must be saved **before** He returns, and the gospel is still to the Jew first (Romans 1:16) !

That scenario is what Zechariah 12:10 indicates as well:

„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 mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.“ The “upon” in Hebrew means, “they shall look **unto** Me,” that is, with spiritual sight, with revelation. Jesus also states this when He says that immediately after the tribulation of those days, “then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.“ (Matt 24:30)

### 4.4 The Land of Israel must exist

God calls Israel “His Land“ (Joel 3:1-2) and promised it to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as an everlasting possession. (Psalms 105:8-11; see various passages in Genesis). In Ezekiel 36 God says he will bring the Jewish people back from dispersion into their own land Israel. So this land has to exist. **This is why there is such a battle over God's/Israel's land.** Any plan, no matter from whom, that insists on dividing the Land is in fact a demonic attempt to prevent the return of the Lord.

### 4.5 The return of the Jews is necessary

Since “all Israel” will be saved in the Land of Israel (Rom 11:25-27, Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 36; Zechariah 12; etc.), that means Jews coming home (Aliyah) is a necessary component in God's end time plan.

**The restoration of Israel is essential. God is fulfilling his promises in our days – before our very eyes!**

### 5 The curse of replacement theology

At its core this teaching is blasphemous, promoting lies about God's nature – that He is unfaithful to His eternal covenants and promises, that He has lied or changed His mind, that if He knew in advance Israel would reject His Son, He would not have chosen them in the first place! This man-made doctrine destroys faith in God's Word and has diminished the fruitfulness of the church.

#### 5.1 Two different curses

Through Jesus' death on the cross we are redeemed from the curse of not having kept the Law. (Gal 3:13) Certainly this also applies to every believing Jew.

But in Gen 12:3 God says, „And [I will] curse him who curses you [Israel].“ Believers who reject God's eternal covenant with Israel (which even Jesus confirmed – see Rom 15:8) are therefore under this curse.

#### 5.2 The Olive Tree

In Romans 11 Paul talks about the Jewish olive tree: Gentiles who believe in Jesus were grafted in. God calls us to bless Israel because we „partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree.“ (11:17).

Let's face it: who wants to sit on a tree and cut down his own roots? On the contrary, God wants every Christian to actively stand up for Israel. In prayer, through finances and encouragement! For it is written,

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May they prosper who love you.“  
(Psalms 122:6)

# Replacement Theology

## Has God's Blessing shifted from Jews to Gentiles?

### True believers

We want to express our conviction that – no matter what our differences are on this subject – we recognize every true believer as our brother in the Lord.

### 1 What does replacement theology teach?

It teaches that, when the nation of Israel rejected Jesus the Messiah, they lost their status as God's chosen people, the Church – “spiritual Israel” – now inherits all the Old Testament blessings promised to Israel, but all the curses still apply to unsaved Jews.

#### Is that true?

An understanding of God's goals is vital to correctly interpret the Word of God.

A biblical understanding and discernment in the spirit enable us to discern whether an action or position is in line with His will or resisting it.

It also provides clarity for prayer.

#### 1.1 Scriptures used against Israel

Looking at various Scriptures that are being interpreted by some as if Israel has lost God's blessing, we clearly find the correct meaning in the context of the verse(s).

Here are some Scriptures that might need some explanation:

#### Jesus before Pilate:

„Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.“ (Matt 27:25)

Some interpret this Scripture as if the Jewish people have cut themselves off from Jesus forever.

What it really means is that the leaders of the people said they were ready to bear the consequences of Jesus' death.

And sure enough: the temple was destroyed and the Jews were dispersed into all the nations of the world – exactly as it was prophesied in the Tanakh (Old Covenant).

#### Peter at Pentecost

„Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:“ (Acts 2:23, see also 2:36)

The „men of Israel“ asked, repented and were baptized. (Acts 2:14-41)