

WILL ISRAEL BE IN THE END TIMES & THE BOOK OF REVELATION? PART I

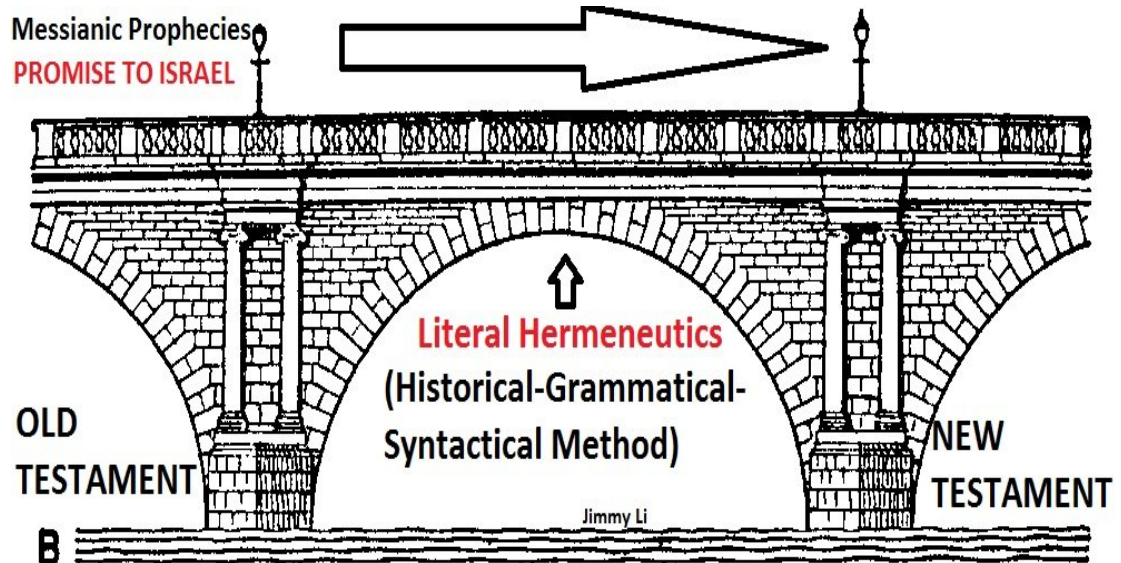
- I. Purpose: To understand what is replacement theology and why we believe the Jews and the nation of Israel will have a role in the book of revelation and one day experience national restoration in the Millennial Kingdom and beyond.
Then next week we will evaluate arguments against Israel being in the end times from the example of the latest Amillennial book by Sam Storm.
- II. What is replacement theology?
 - a. Some people believe that Israel is no longer God's people. They believe that God has the church replaced Israel for good and no promises given by God to them in the past applies anymore.
 - b. Replacement theology believes that the church has taken over Israel's place as God's special people.
 - c. Important note: While we believe the church is God's special people and a vehicle of salvation in the current church age, we also believe that does not take away Israel from being God's people; nor does that mean the promises God has for them no longer applies today.
- III. Sample of statements by those subscribing to replacement theology
 - a. Origen (185-254): "And we say with confidence that they [the Jews] will never be restored to their former condition. For they committed a crime of the most unhallowed kind."¹
 - b. Martin Luther (1483-1546): "Therefore the Jews have lost this promise, no matter how much they boast of their father Araham...They are no longer the people of God."²
- IV. Why we believe Israel will be in the end times:
 - a. The Book of Revelation makes explicit reference to Israel
 - i. Scriptures
 1. **Revelation 7:4**= "*And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:*"
 - a. Note how **verses 5-7** then breaks down the 144,000 into 12 literal tribes of 12,000.
 - b. Jehovah Witnesses' tend to see this reference to Jews as it being not literal. But if this is not literal, then the 144,000 is also not literal.
 2. **Revelation 14:1**= "*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads*"
 - a. Note how this 144,000 allude back to the 144,000 back in **Revelation 7:4**.
 - b. Note how these Jews were with the Lamb "*standing on Mount Zion,*" i.e., Jerusalem.
 3. **Revelation 20:12**= "*It had a great and high wall, ^lwith twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel*"

¹ Origen, *Against Celsus* 4:22, ANF 4:506.

² Quoted from Michael J. Vlach, *Has the Church Replaced Israel?*, (Nashville: Baker Academic), 86.

This is after Christ's second coming, the Tribes are here memorialized on the gates.

- ii. The problem: Some see the Book of revelation as symbolic and that this allusion to Israel is symbolic and not literal and represents the church.
Next week we will evaluate whether replacement theology is justified from the passages they say is their support.
- b. God's promises through the Covenants must be kept because of who God is. Therefore because God has to fulfill His covenants we expect this to unfold in the end times after His second coming.
 - i. Note: The reason why God has to keep His promise is because of who He is; here we see our systematic theology, in particular, our theology proper reinforce our conclusion that God will keep His covenant.
 - ii. God does not lie
 - 1. "So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us."(Hebrews 6:18)
 - 2. See also **Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6, Romans 3:4, Titus 1:2**, etc.
 - iii. God is all powerful to keep His promise (**Matthew 19:26, Luke 1:37, etc**)
 - iv. Therefore, He will keep His promise to Israel.
- c. The same heremenutics we use to show that Christianity is true via Messianic prophecies, is the same hermeneutics we see that God has His future promises for Israel.



- d. The New Testament itself teaches that Israel has not been replaced by the church.
 - i. See **Romans 11:25-29**.
 - ii. No where does the Bible ever teach the church has replaced Israel. This will be the subject next week when we see the verses Sam Storm will attempt to bring up to say it's otherwise.