

CROSSPOINTE CHURCH MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

July 29, 2015

End Times (pt. 4): Israel and the Church

I. THREE GENERAL VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

A. Israel and the Church are entirely distinct groups

- God has two distinct and separate programs in history, one for Israel and one for the Church
- OT promises that, some time in the future, God will establish an earthly Jewish kingdom
- Although OT Abrahamic covenant included promises to spiritual seed of Abraham, its central promise was that Abraham's physical descendants would be given the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession
- NT Church consists only of believers saved between Pentecost and the Second Coming
- NT Church is a parenthesis in God's plan for and dealings with Israel
- Once the Church is raptured out of the world, God will resume his dealings with ethnic Israel

Major challenge to this view: Sees too much discontinuity between OT and NT and thus misses significance of texts that point to continuity of Israel and the Church: Eph 2:11-19, Rom 2:28-29, Gal 3:16-29

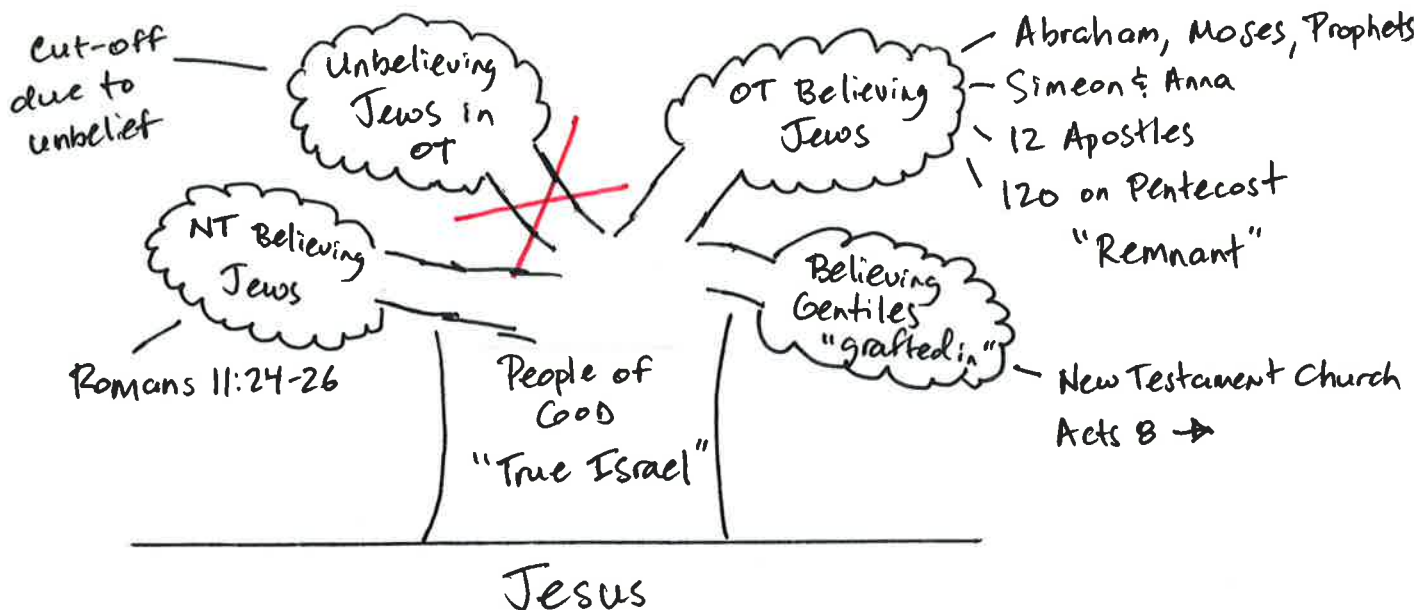
B. The New Testament Church replaces Old Testament Israel

- The NT Church has replaced OT Israel
- Jews may still be saved on an individual basis by coming to Christ
- But, nation of Israel as a people no longer have any part to play in redemptive history

Major challenge to this view: Romans 9-11, where Paul speaks of God's remnant chosen by grace in OT and NT and points toward God's mercy on ethnic Israel again

C. There are one people of God across the Old and New Testament

- Within ethnic Israel in the OT, there was always a believing remnant.
- Ethnic Jews that rejected Christ were cut off from the covenant
- Believing Gentiles are grafted into the people of God
- God will re-graft a great number of ethnic Jews back into people of God (Romans 11:24-26)



II. WHAT ABOUT THE LAND PROMISES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

- A. God promised land as an everlasting possession to Abraham and his offspring
- Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17
- B. Abraham's offspring is Christ, and those who are in him by faith
- Romans 9:1-8
 - Galatians 3:16-29
- C. In the NT, this promise to Abraham's offspring is expanded to include the whole world
- Romans 4:13
 - Galatians 3:16-29
 - 1 Corinthians 3:21-23
 - Matthews 5:5
- D. Hebrews sheds more light on Abraham's understanding of this promise
- Hebrews 11:8-16
 - Revelation 21:1-2
- E. Some implications about how Christians should view modern day political Israel

III. THREE THOUGHTS ON BETTER UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY

- (1) Read the Old Testament in light of New Testament
- (2) Read prophecy through a Christ-centered lens
- (3) Understand the "Already-Not yet" tension of the Scriptures

IV. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- (1) *Don't* be spooked or fearful about the end of this age
- (2) *Don't* be discouraged if all of this has been a little (or very) confusing
- (3) *Do* be ready and sober-minded
 - Ephesians 5:15-21; 2 Peter 3:8-13; 2 Timothy 4:1-8
- (4) *Do* be emboldened and encouraged
 - Romans 8:28-38