

The Future of Ethnic Israel
Video Supplement
May 2026

Over the course of human Hx there have been competing views regarding Ethnic Israel. Questions such as “Is God done with Ethnic Israel?” “What about the OT promises?” “Is there any future for Israel?” They carried the promises of God that would lead to the coming of the Messiah. When their Messiah came, they rejected Him. Now what? What happens with Israel?

If you’re coming upon this video, it’s important that you take in sermon from May 10th “Rescued: 16 The Unfolding Plan of God & Ethnic Israel” from Romans 11, a critical passage in understand the biblical perspective on the future of Israel.

- **Not to divide:** Godly, well-meaning followers of Christ, committed to the Word of God and so much more, disagree. If you disagree we do not wish to separate.
- **Modern Israel:** We will discuss modern ISR. We agree it is a secular state, don’t embrace all of their decisions, & in the creation & defending of that nation, there have loss of life, the displacement of people... Does not alter the notion that G is involved in their recreation & in their future.
- **Pathway for Salvation** – there is no special plan for access to God for Jewish people, the nation of Israel or anyone else. All come into relationship with God the one and only way – Faith in JC. But that doesn’t mean that in unfolding plan of God there aren’t unique steps on the process.

Special note – no slides. I will try to give you as much warning as possible regarding the scripture so you have time to turn there. Feel free to pause the video if you need to catch up.

- Foundations of Replacement Theology
- OT Scriptures
- NT Scriptures
- Church Fathers and Reformers
- Current Nation State of Israel

1. Foundations of Replacement Theology

When Messiah came & was rejected by His own people, God changes His focus. The CH has transcended & fulfilled the terms of the Covenant given it ISR. The OT covenants w ISR have been broken. All promises to IRS in the OT were then transferred to the CH. **The result** is that there is no present or future place for national, ethnic ISR in the plan of redemption.

Our historical faith is not one of incorporation not abrogation. Our faith is building toward a climax that has a beginning & end but there are **phases** of God's redemptive plan. And let me say – one does not need to be a strict Dispensationalist to believe that there is a future for ISR.

Key questions – OT in particular – take these passages literally or spiritually. For example, any OT scriptures that refer to promises regarding the Land, must be seen in Sp terms and not literal terms. As w all texts we should seek to understand:

- The author's intent
- The reader's understanding
- The more-plain meaning of a text, all things considered.

In Repl Theo all promises need to be subsumed by the church.

Referenced to the future fulfilment of prophecies need to be seen as connected to JC and/or the CH & not something further into the future related to ISR.

2. OT Scriptures – promises that speak of a future for Israel's Redemption

Most foundational elements of OT scriptures regarding the future of Ethnic Israel begin with G's relationship w Abraham and promises made to him. There are several covenant promises in the OT. The NT the covenant that JC came to fulfill is the Mosaic Cov. JC fulfilled, lived perfectly, the Law & superseded that covenant. In that sense, this covenant is no longer in force.

The Abrahamic covenant is another matter entirely. There is no mention in the NT about the cessation of this covenant.

Genesis – Multiple passages.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land..." Genesis 15:18 ESV

"I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to

him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. Genesis 17:1-4 ESV

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you **throughout their generations** for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” Genesis 17:7-8

2 critical elements of Covenant are a people & the land. Bruce - additional video specifically on the land. For today – no biblical mention that elements of this covenant are not still in play.

Many OT passages (& NT) that indicate ongoing future.

Hermeneutics – the study of how to study the Bible. What principles do you use to determine what a passage means.

- Plain meaning of the text

Jeremiah – turn to chapter 23

Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will **bring them back to their fold**, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. ⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for **David a righteous Branch**, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness **in the land**. Jeremiah 23:3-5 ESV

“Righteous branch” could be the CH but wait – “in the land.”

⁷“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought

up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' ⁸ but 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land." Jeremiah 23:7-8 ESV

This is why Many see modern state of ISR as fulfillment. Must see these passages as dealing with the church. One element that cannot make any sense for the church is that "they are coming back from being scattered out into the nations." In what sense could we say that the church – mostly Gentiles would be brought back out of a place that God had driven them?

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁵ "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. ⁶ I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. ⁷ I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart. Jeremiah 24:4-7 ESV

All verbiage indicates literal Israel and literal land. Jeremiah wrote during the time of the exile, but there is no sense that even when a remnant returned that they were truly a people after God's heart. We see this as still having a future fulfillment.

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² **not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out**

of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33 ESV

This must be seen in a spiritual way to mean the church. The new covenant language is clearly in contrast to the Old Covenant with at the Mosaic Covenant. (not Abraham)

Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. Jeremiah 32:37 ESV

Many see re-establishment of Nation of ISR as a critical step in the process, But no one can say that as yet “God’s law is within them, written on their hearts and they are dwelling in safety. If this applies to the Ch, in what sense do we “dwell in safety?”

The old covenant that is obsolete is the Mosaic covenant NOT the Abrahamic covenant.

Ezekiel 593 BC (20, 36)

“There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts along with all your holy sacrifices. I will accept you as fragrant incense when I bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will be proved holy through you in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the land I had sworn with uplifted hand to give to your ancestors.” (Ezekiel 20:41-42)

The language here is very specific. The recipients have been scattered among the nations. And then they will be regathered. This is difficult to reconcile if we consider the fulfillment as pertaining to the church. In what sense was the church gathered and in what sense will the church be gathered?

But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, ‘These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land.’ ²¹ But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.

Ezekiel 36:20-21 ESV

There is a critical & unique element in the Passage not yet seen. In what sense could it be said – if this is the church – they profaned God among the nations? They are the nations.

²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:24-28 ESV

Reference to the land must be seen in spiritual terms.

37- valley of bones. “Bones are the bones of the house of ISR”

37:24 David shall be my prince forever. Certainly Messianic

37:26 set my sanctuary in their midst forever.

Some will see a partial fulfillment in the return from the exile but acknowledge that this time period comes up short with the later part of the passage related to spiritual renewal. They are left with seeing the fulfillment as in the church.

Zechariah (12, 14)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on **him whom they have pierced**, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. ¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² The land shall mourn, each family by itself... Zechariah 12:10-12 ESV

We must ask the question – has ISR looked on the one they have pierced and mourn over that decision? No. If it the Gentiles or Romans who we would say pierced him – how does that work?

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. Zechariah 14:1-4

The plain reading of the scripture points to a future return of Jesus Christ to a place – the Mount of Olives.

3. NT Scriptures – clarifying the Questions

Luke (21)

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.** Luke 21:20-24 ESV

For 2k yrs ISR trampled underfoot by Gentile nations. “Until” means “as far as.” Imply the “X of the Gentiles” will come to an end & then something else will happen – JER will no longer be trampled underfoot by Gentiles. Many perked up w ISR became a nation again. Rom 11 – Gentiles grafted in, then all ISR saved.

Galatians 3:6-7

Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. Galatians 3:6-7 ESV

- Used to indicate all who believe, including Gentiles, are “SP Jews.” All SP Jews then make up a SP Israel.
- Not all physical descendants of Abe are Jews = Arabs
- A spiritual son of Abe does not make them Jews. They are spiritually grafted in but remain gentiles.

Galatians 3:28-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So

then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:23-29 ESV

All who believe are part of the line of Abraham by faith. There are no divisions or factions among us as it relates to being justified by grace through faith. Fits cleanly with the notion of Gentiles being grafted in and have one olive tree.

For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon **the Israel of God**. Galatians 6:15-16 ESV

- Could be but it is unlikely that *Kai* means “even.”
- Argument is that “Israel of God” referring to all believers.
- The rebuttal has a couple of points – one is that using *kai* to be “even” is unusual. To mean “and” is common/natural.
- Context of book is the Gentile believers being potentially drawn into the spell of Judaizers and their teaching about needing to come under the Law of Moses to be saved.
- Vs 15 points out to Gentile believers all Jewish stuff Judaizers are trying to thrust on you, & then refer to those Gentiles as “the Israel of God” would be confusing and counter-productive. “In other words, you don’t need to become Jewish, but I will then turn around and refer to you as ‘The Israel of God’ in spite of that sounding odd.”

Galatians 3:28 & Colossians 3:11

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 ESV

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Colossians 3:11 ESV

- The argument is - all distinctions are removed. To then say that there is a place for Israel, or that Jews and Gentile remain as such, although part of the larger people of true faith is counter to these verses. But wait...
- Go back to Acts: that clearly Jews & Gentiles both in the body but identities are not erased is clear. Neither Jews nor Gentiles were penalized for maintaining those identities.
- When it comes to faith, spiritual growth and eternity there are no distinctions at the foot of the cross.
- It doesn't mean there are no distinctions.

Romans 2:27-29

²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 2:28-29 ESV

- At first glance this seems to be a challenge. It seems to be speaking about a spiritual reality in which all believers are essentially spiritual Jews. One could understand how this is an idea to be considered.

- However, passage is not intended to teach that CH became spiritualized version of Israel. He was showing the Jews of the day that outward compliance to the Law was not at all salvific, and has always been, an inward reality of the heart.

Romans 9

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,** ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring...

Romans 9:6-7 ESV

- Passage is often used to indicate a notion of Spiritual Israel broader than Ethnic Israel, and that there are Jews who are a part of it and those who are not, leaving the door open (although not explicitly stated) for Gentiles who believe.
- The more natural reading is that in the scope of Israel, there are some who are true believers and some who are not. The notion of a remnant and some who were not of faith is a simple and common thought.

1 Peter

This passage has various components that seem to indicate somewhat contrary views.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia... 1 Peter 1:1 ESV

The leaning on this is that the word Dispersion is a technical term that applies to Jews scattered from their home land. James wrote “to the 12 tribes in the Dispersion.” Admittedly, at this point in the development of the church & its increasing Gentile complexion, it is more challenging to understand why Peter would write to only Jews.

Here is where some questions arise:

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

The Jewish language makes it very much sound like he is talking to Jews. But then it says in Vs 10 “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people.” If he is only talking to Jews – this could be a challenge. If we are saying that Jews are “God’s people” in what way is Peter saying that they weren’t and now they are.

But then it gets more complicate.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV

If Peter is writing largely to a Gentile church that is scattered everywhere, encouraging them to keep their conduct honorable “among the Gentiles” seems a bit on the awkward side.

My personal position on this passage is mixed, HOWEVER.

Let’s say that Peter is talking to the integrated Church of Jews & Gentiles using very Jewish sounding wording, it does not take away from the reality that God having a place for Israel in the future would be off the table.

Hebrews

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the

house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt... In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Hebrews 8:8-9, 13 ESV

Those who do not believe in a future for Israel conflate the Abrahamic Covenant & the Mosaic Covenant, having them both fulfilled in JC. Galatians 3:17-18 makes it clear, the fulfillment of Mosaic Covenant in JC does not nullify the covenant that was established with Abraham previously instituted.

This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Galatians 3:17-18 ESV

Our historical faith is one of incorporation not abrogation. Our faith is building toward a climax that has a beginning & end that hang together with a series of steps in between. There are **workings** of G's redemptive plan over the ages. Since G's plan was for Ethnic ISR to reject JC SO THAT the Gentiles could be grafted in (G shifted His attention to the Gentiles), He is going to return His attention to Israel so as to graft them back in again.

4. Church Fathers and Reformers

When the CH quickly moved from being entirely Jewish to almost entirely Gentile, & proportional gap continued to widen – understandable, in some measure, to see how the CH assumed G had replaced ISR w the CH. Went from “this is what happened – Israel rejected God” - to “this is the way it will be.” Hard to imagine ever be a X when ISR was reconstituted & when Jews

were actually believing. But then it went from “this is the way it will be” to “Jews are bad and are to be despised.” The foundations of the “there is no future for the Jews” team became increasingly hostile & antisemitic. “Hated” not too strong.

CH went from Qone needs JC the same way: by faith, to the Jews rejected JC, to Jews are to be hated because Killed JC.

- **Justin Martyr – 100-165 AD**

Justin was essentially the first prominent leader to say that the church was the new and true Israel. Purely looking at the complexion of the Church, this would be understandable from one perspective. The Jews by ratio are dropping like a rock.

- **Irenaeus – 145-202 AD**

“The Hx of Israel is an unnecessary distraction from the Hx of salvation & G has ended his covenant with disobedient Israel.”

- **Constantine – 306-337 AD**

- Council of Nicaea

- Widely held as a profitable council that affirmed the deity and humanity of Christ, it was also the place in which the severing of the church from its Jewish roots accelerated.

- To the Bishops not present regarding worship on Sundays and Easter in particular

- “It was, in the first place, declared improper to follow the custom of Jews in the celebration of this holy festival, because their hands having been stained with crime, the minds of these wretched men are necessarily blinded.... Let us,

then, having nothing in common with the Jews who are our adversary.”

- **John Chrysostom – 347-407 AD**

Archbishop of Constantinople loathed the Jews. “Eight Homilies against the Jew.” Accusing the “morally degenerate Jews” of killing Jesus, declaring and I quote “I hate the Jews.”

- **Augustine – 354-430 AD**

Augustine applied an allegorical method to his interpretation of the prophets & the book of Revelation & developed the amillennial eschatological view, denying any future earthly kingdom & then deciding that the church is the kingdom of God.

- **Martin Luther – 1483-1546 AD**

On the Jews and their Lies ~ Luther called for violence against Jewish communities as well as forced manual labor.

- He said “Jews are a base, whoring people, that is no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and Law must be accounted as filth.”
- “Set fire to their synagogues and schools.”
- “I advise that Jewish houses be razed and destroyed.”
- In his book *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler commended Luther as a great reformer. Would you want a compliment from Hitler?

Not saying that Repl Theo & antisemitism in essence go hand in hand. However, throughout CH Hx clear that believing there is

no future for ISR in the unfolding plan of G finds a short step to hatred of the Jews, and then a small step to true antisemitism.

5. Modern state of Israel – why it needs to be a state

For many the reconstitution of the Nation State of Israel is a fulfillment of Prophecy – the OT scriptures we talked @ earlier. Even though it is not godly in leadership and the government is secular, it is seen as a step forward in the unfolding plan of God in calling His covenant people back to Himself.

ISR becoming a nation defied all human odds. Never in the HX of the world has a nation been reconstituted in its ancestral homeland after thousands of years such as this.

In order for the scriptures that we covered to be fully realized a regathering of the nation must take place. G never says how will take place, interim steps in process until G has their attention.

Is Modern Israel, Biblical Israel? In many ways no – understood. However, the Bible says nothing about how this will play out, how long it will take and what it will look like along the way.

Geo-political truths apart from biblical faith.

- **Israel has a right to exist** – the league of Nations and the United Nations agreed.
 - In the Growing Antisemitism around the world and after WWII they were given back their ancestral land. And once it happened Jews were ejected from the large measure of countries in the region.

- **Creation of Nations** –
 - **Pakistan** created in 1947 out of thin air. The largest migration of people in history.
 - **Then East Pakistan in 1971 = Bangladesh**
 - **Entire Region we call the Middle East**
 - **Africa** – Liberia 1847, South Sudan 2011
 - **Europe** – Yugoslavia 1918 – but wait its now Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo.
- **Tragedies** – Nakba. Yes, many tragedies occurred. As soon as they were established they were attacked. And have been under threat ever since. The average Israeli home is built with a bomb shelter. Why?
- **Palestinian Christians** most difficult of all – living under the rule of Hostile Muslims. They have suffered. They are the loneliest Christians on the planet.
- **Two-State Solution** A short research study will reveal that from the very beginning – even before Israel became a nation – there were options for two-state solutions to share the land with 20% of the current land going to Israel and 80% going to the Palestinians.
- **1967 War** – prior to the war Gaza belonged to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan. It could have stayed that way.
- **Palestinians and Jordanians** are Ethnically connected. July 20, 1951 with Jordan in control of the West Bank, King Abdullah I was assassinated on the Temple Mount going into the Al-Aqsa Mosque for prayers.

Summary Statements:

- If you disagree 100% with me – God bless you – but then why is Israel ALWAYS in the global crosshairs. They are 7 million people on a tract of land the size of NJ.
- Social-Media is not your friend. From conspiracy theories to the distortion of facts.
 - Israel wishes to live in peace. All Israel has done is self-protective in Nature.
 - I have friends in the IDF. Israel does drop leaflets to let people know to find safety when they must act.
 - Israeli doctors do treat Palestinians.
 - Hamas has taken their aid and built hundreds of miles of underground Tunnels
 - October 7th was an unprovoked attack on Israel. You may not feel that the Israeli response was warranted. 251 hostages were taken.
- Paul said in Romans that God reached the Gentiles in order to make Israel Jealous. How will that be?

Hope this teaching has been helpful to you.