

“But Now” is Not About Israel

Nathan Apffel was interviewed by Tucker Carlson. The topic was Israel and if Israel, as a nation, had a right to take back the land promised to them by God. God had promised the land to Abraham and his descendants. Joshua led them into the land.

Joshua 21:43-45

And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. **There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.**

What Mr. Apffel got from this passage in Joshua was that God had fulfilled the covenant He made with Abraham. It was done, and over. Israel no longer had a reason to believe that they would live in the land promised to Abraham! It had already happened.

Of course, that is not true. God gave the land to Abraham and his seed as an everlasting covenant. Genesis is very clear.

Genesis 17:8

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, **the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**

Mr. Apfell then explained that the dispensationalists were responsible for the idea that the destiny of Israel was different than the destiny for the Church, the Body of Christ. He dismissed it as false teaching.

What he fails to understand is that “Time Past,” (Israel) “But Now,” (all are one in the Church, the Body of Christ) and then “Ages to Come” (Israel) is a very important concept, not just for dispensationalists! God has an earthly people, waiting for the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth, and a heavenly people, the Church, the Body of Christ, waiting for Jesus to meet them in the clouds and take them to His Heavenly Kingdom to forever be with Him.

Mr. Apfell fails to understand that dispensational teaching relies on the element of time.

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,**

according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

Mr. Apfell believes that Paul teaches that the physical nation of Israel became a spiritual nation and is now included in the Church, the Body of Christ. That is a misinterpretation of the following passage.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles,** whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink

into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

Both Mr. Apfell and Tucker acknowledge that the Jews in Israel today do not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer. That is what upsets them about churches that teach support of Israel because they are God's people. They, like most people and churches, do not understand that God has blinded Israel as a nation and set them aside. Ironically, people who understand dispensational teaching are the ones who have it right!

Certainly, individuals today who believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ become part of the Church, the Body of Christ, but Israel, as a nation, has been blinded.

But God is not done with the nation Israel.

Romans 11:1-3, 7

I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged

down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁷What then? **Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded**

In the “But Now” period, God is not working with Israel as a nation, He is working with individual Jews and Gentiles together as a new creature, the Church, the Body of Christ.

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

What is next for the nation Israel? Today, all believers, Jews and Gentiles are part of the Church the Body of Christ, but after the fullness of the Gentiles, a.k.a. the Rapture, God will once again turn His attention to Israel as a nation. Jesus will return to set up His Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth and reign from Jerusalem.

But Israel will have to endure 7 years of Tribulation before Jesus Christ returns.

Romans 11:25-27

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in

your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

Jeremiah explained all of this. Israel broke the covenant that God made with them through their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.) God will make a new covenant with them where He will write His Law in their hearts so they will obey Him and be His people and He will forgive their sins.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake,** although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall teach no more every

man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

Jeremiah did not know about the dispensational time period that we are in now. It had been a mystery, and was revealed first to our apostle Paul. This is why it is so hard for people to understand how God could have an earthly and a heavenly people. The Body of Christ did not appear in Old Testament prophecy. It was a mystery

Colossians:25-29

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.