

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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Christian Zionism

July 30, 2010

The previous two issues have addressed two of three schools of thought regarding God's plan for the eons or ages. I am sure there are many more schools of thought on this matter, but I have chosen what seem to be the most prevalent, which are called **dualism, reversionism, and graftage**.

Dualism is probably the most well-known one. Reversionism and graftage, as terms, are probably not as well known. Frankly, they are labels that I have attached to these schools of thought; others have probably labeled them differently. In case you are wondering, *reversion* and *graftage* are real words; look them up in a dictionary.

Now, before looking at graftage, there are some additional points to consider regarding the modern Jew and Israel, the first of which is **Christian Zionism**, which is closely related to dualism.

I realize that there are some who will counter what I have written so far with the argument that the Jews according to the flesh will come into the kingdom of God the same way that Christians do. Their eyes will be opened to Jesus as Messiah, and they will repent for their unbelief and believe on Him. Up to this point, I am in full agreement, for this is the only way for anyone, Jew or Gentile, to come into the kingdom of God. The only way to God the Father is through His Son, the Lord Jesus, who is the Savior of the world and the King of the nations.

Where I differ, and I also believe scripture differs, is where those who state the above go on to argue that the believing Jews, whose eyes are opened at the end of the age, generally through and during what is called the great tribulation, are a special race of people destined to rule over the nations in the age to come, based not only on their belief in Jesus but also on their bloodline traced back through Jacob, to Isaac, to Abraham. In other words, in the age to come, the believing Jews will be separated out from the ecclesia of believers [Church] and given special status as the nation of Israel that will rule over the nations on earth.

The problem with such a doctrine is that it is contrary to scripture, especially according to the glorious gospel presented by Paul in his Ephesians epistle.

(13) But now, in Christ Jesus you who then were afar off, came to be near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He is our peace, He making us both one, and breaking down the middle wall of partition, (15) in His flesh causing to cease the enmity, the Law of the commandments in decrees, that He might in Himself create the two into one new man, making peace, (16) and might reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, slaying the enmity in Himself. (17) And coming, He proclaimed "peace to you, the ones afar off, and to the ones near." Isa. 57:19 (18) For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:13-18 LITV)

There are no longer two distinct lines but one line that God is working along that Paul calls the **One New Man in Christ**. The wall that separated the nation of Israel from the rest of the nations has been broken down by the Second Man, Christ, and all who believe on God's Son are one and equal in the sight of God. All have the same access by one Spirit to one Father. Paul makes it very clear in his letters that, in respect to God and His Son, there is only one distinct line, not two.

(4) There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling; (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, the One above all and through all and in you all. (Ephesians 4:4-6 LITV)

But to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we by Him. (1 Corinthians 8:6 LITV)

Unfortunately, it seems that many evangelical Christians have chosen to ignore the truth of these verses, and more, as they support the current Jewish state of Israel solely on the basis, as they see it, of them being God's chosen nation to rule the world in the age to come. It would be one thing, and a good thing at that, if they sought to simply convert the Jews and the modern nation of Israel to Christ so that they would come out of Judaism into Christianity, but this is not at the heart of Christian Zionism.

Like Esau who sold his birthright to Jacob for a pot of red stew, so are many Christians selling their birthright to a people and a nation that have rejected Christ for the last 2,000 years and that Jesus Himself said would not inherit the kingdom of God (Matthew 21:43). Believers are the true Jew and the Church of the conquerors is the true Israel of God because they have come under the rule of God through His Son and are obedient to His will. I can imagine some refuting this because it is what they call **replacement theology**. I beg to differ with this and will show why when I address **graftage**, which is not a matter of replacement but of grafting into the good fig tree and the cultured olive tree. The natural Jew has an advantage, for the gospel was presented to the Jew first; however, salvation is based on faith (Romans 1:16-17), not a gene pool.

Now, what is modern Zionism? There are many definitions of it, some even sinister, but, at its core, it holds that the Jews have the right to self-determination and to develop their national culture in their own natural homeland, implemented through the creation and defense of the Jewish state of Israel. Initially, Zionism was a national movement to return the Jewish people to Palestine and to reestablish their sovereignty in "the land of Israel" through their own nation. Of course, this took place in 1948.

One Jewish website included this in the definition of Zionism: **"It is applied to Evangelical Christians who want people of the Jewish religion to return to Israel in order to hasten the second coming. 'Christian Zionism' is also used to describe any Christian support for Israel."**

It is safe to say that Christian Zionists believe that modern Israel, along with its "eternal" capital, Jerusalem, is the apple of God's eye and will never cease to exist, and any nation that opposes Israel or attempts to give away its land will ultimately fail. Again, some believe that the ones calling themselves Jews, who presently reject Christ Jesus and remain enemies of His cross, must and will believe on Jesus as Messiah at the end of the age in order to have this most-favored status in the world. However, others believe they will come into this favor with God based simply on their ancestry. In addition, as the flawed doctrine goes, the ecclesia of Christ will be "raptured" off the earth and, "poof," the Jewish state will take over.

Christian Zionists fail to see that, prophetically, the earthly Jerusalem must fall just as Shiloh fell, never to be repaired again (Jeremiah 7:12-15; 19:11). Like a cat with nine lives, Jerusalem has been rebuilt many times. Obviously, the destruction of the temple and the city in 70 AD was only a precursor to a latter-day downfall of the great city, which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified (Revelation 11:8). A day must come when the prophecies of Jeremiah are fulfilled, and the city is never rebuilt again. There is only one Jerusalem, just as there is only one God and one Lord.

People of God, we must make a clear distinction between the unbelieving Jew, who is one according to the flesh, and the spiritual Jew, who is one inwardly with a circumcision of the heart by the Spirit (Romans 2:29). We must see that modern Zionism is antichrist and not of God but of man striving for power, control, and domination. The true Zion of God is not of this earth or of man but of heaven. The Zion of God is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22). We must not confuse the revived, present Israel with the spiritual Israel of God, which is New Jerusalem.

If we love the modern Jews in Israel who are still in unbelief and enemies of the cross, we should be encouraging them to believe on Jesus, repent, and get out while they have time rather than buying Jews airfare to return to the Middle East and supporting them with foreign aid.