

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 32

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at Replacement Theology and when it got its roots. I want to step back into that study for an extended thought. There was something that I do not believe I clarified last week which when it is clarified it will help you to better understand why there was so much animosity toward the Jews many years ago. Last week we looked at a passage in Daniel.

Daniel 7:3-7, 13-14

³ *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.*

⁴ *The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

⁵ *And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

⁶ *After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

⁷ *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.*

¹³ *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

¹⁴ *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

The Kingdom in this passage was taught by Augustine to be the church and the Roman church grabbed tightly onto this teaching. Now there is something else that we need to understand. Let us notice how Jesus will rule the Kingdom.

Psalm 2:9-11

⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

¹⁰ Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Revelation 12:1-5

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

² And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

⁵ And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

From these two passages we see that Jesus Christ will rule the Kingdom with a rod of iron. Then in Zechariah we see what will come upon those who refuse to travel to Jerusalem to worship the King and who will not partake in the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:16-19

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

¹⁷ And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Now let me get you back to the Roman church. The Roman church and some of the reformers who adopted the teaching and theology of Augustine and believed the church was the Kingdom, Martin Luther being one reformer, also believed that because the church was the Kingdom the church had the right to conduct God's authority over those who rebelled against Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Jews who would not accept Jesus were seen as "Christ killers" and this then led to the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of them. The church conducted the slaughter because they believed that as the Kingdom, they had the authority to do so. This is how Luther justified what he commanded- to be conducted upon the Jews such as:

"Set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians."

"Is the Church the New Israel?"

We are going to look at a few differences in the church and Israel to help us to see that the church is not Israel.

1. Israel's relationship to God and the church's relationship to Jesus Christ.

- Israel is the wife of God the Father.

Isaiah 54:5-8

*⁵ **For thy Maker is thine husband;** the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*

⁶ For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

⁷ For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

⁸ In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

- The church is the bride of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:23-27, 32

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

2 Corinthians 11:2

² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Today we are the bride of Jesus Christ. After the rapture there will be a wedding in heaven and we will return to earth as the wife of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

If God the Father cast away the nation of Israel as His wife and the church took her place then God would be guilty of adultery for taking the bride of His own Son Jesus Christ.

2. The return of Jesus Christ for the church and His return for Israel.

- Jesus will return for the church and take us to be with Him before the tribulation.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also.*

We might also add that when Jesus returns for the church He will return in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

This will take place before the tribulation.

Revelation 3:10, 13

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

¹³ *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

1 Thessalonians 5:2-5, 9

² *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

³ *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

⁴ *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

⁵ *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

⁹ For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

- When Jesus returns for Israel, He will return to the earth at the end of the tribulation.

Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

3. The leadership of Jesus Christ over the church and His leadership over Israel.

- His leadership role over Israel is their King.

Isaiah 33:22

²² For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

- His leadership role over the church is pictured in two ways.
 - a. He is the Head and we are the body.
 - b. He is the Groom and we are the bride.
- 4. The promised blessing to Israel and to the church.**
 - The church is promised spiritual blessings.

Ephesians 1:3

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

- Israel is promised physical blessings.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

² *And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

³ *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

⁴ *Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

⁵ *Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

⁶ *Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

Conclusion:

These are only four distinct differences between the church and Israel. It has been said that there are twenty-four in total. I have given you just a few to help you to see that there is a difference between Israel and the church. We are not the new Israel. We have not replaced Israel.