

## The Church, Israel, and "Expansion" Theology

Part 1 of 4  
Understanding the Abrahamic Covenant  
(Preventing Gospel Confusion)

### First Things

Gospel  
Confusion  
Hagee

Hermeneutics  
of  
Eschatology

Mistakes that  
can be made

The Big Picture

## The Big Picture

God has 1 purpose and plan (Ps. 72:17)  
God has not withdrawn His promises .

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:14)

There is one common faith.

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

## The Big Picture

One New Covenant faith is true Biblical Judaism.

Christianity is New Covenant Judaism, the true religion of the Jewish people


The concept of "Spiritual Israel" is a biblical doctrine. It doesn't mean "replacement" it means "Expansion"

### The Question

**Can Israel appeal to the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as grounds for their presence in and possession of the land of Palestine?**

### Words Of Introduction

- Christian Zionism.
- Mahmoud Ah-madinejad and Israel
- Israel's political right
- Israel's covenantal right
- The Promised Land



### How to Read Old Testament Promises

- **Gen. 12 - Seed of Abraham inherits the land**
- The Old Testament must always be read in light of the New.

### Texts that help us understand the Abrahamic Covenant

- Romans 9:6-7
- Ephesians 2:11-19ff
- Galatians 3
- Romans 11

### Romans 9:4-7

<sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. <sup>6</sup>But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,** <sup>7</sup>and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

John Murray Summs Up:

"The purpose of this distinction is to show that the covenantal promise of God did not have respect to Israel after the flesh but to this true Israel and that, therefore, the unbelief and rejection of ethnic Israel as a whole in no way interfered with the fulfillment of God's covenant purpose and promise. The word of God, therefore, has not been violated."

Not every person who is a physically ethnic Israelite is a spiritually elect Israelite

Doug Moo

■ "If the OT teaches that belonging to physical Israel in itself makes a person a member of God's true spiritual people, then Paul's gospel is in jeopardy. For were this the case, the gospel, proclaiming that only those who believe in Jesus Christ can be saved (cf. 3:20-26), would contradict the OT and be cut off from its indispensable historical roots.

Doug Moo

■ Paul therefore argues in [Romans 9] vv. 6b-29 that belonging to God's true spiritual people has always been based on God's gracious and sovereign call and not on ethnic identity. Therefore, God is free to 'narrow' the apparent boundaries of election by choosing only some Jews to be saved (vv. 6-13; 27-29). He is also free to 'expand' the dimensions of his people by choosing Gentiles (vv. 24-26)" (569).

Texts that help us understand the Abrahamic Covenant

- Romans 9:6-7
- Ephesians 2:11-19ff
- Galatians 3
- Romans 11

Ephesians 2:11-19

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:11-19

<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

Ephesians 2:11-19

<sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Ephesians 2:11-19

■ <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:9

➤ This is why Peter can take those special privileges an titles reserved for OT Israel (Ex. 19:5-6) and apply them freely to the NT Church

<sup>9</sup>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. (1 Peter 2:9)

Romans 2:28-29 & Philippians 3:3

- <sup>28</sup>For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup>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)**
- <sup>3</sup>For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— **(Philippians 3:3)**

Objection

When I read Genesis 12:7 and 13:15-16, and 17:7-8 it says so clearly that god established his covenant and bequeathed the land to Abraham and his seed or offspring. Doesn't that settle it once and for all?

In view of the coming of Jesus Christ, what does the NT tell us about the identity of the "seed to whom this promise was given?"

Texts that help us understand the Abrahamic Covenant

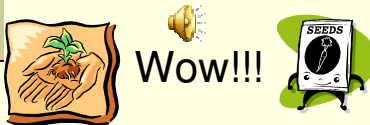
- Romans 9:6-7
- Ephesians 2:11-19ff
- Galatians 3
- Romans 11

Galatians 3:16

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but **referring to one**, "And to your offspring [seed]," who is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

The covenant is made to one of Abraham's Physical progeny, - Jesus the Messiah!



Galatians 3:28-29

Does this mean that only Jesus will inherit the promises?

- <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring (seed), heirs according to promise. **(Galatians 3:28-29)**

What is Paul's stunning point?

This is why Paul can say "that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham" (Gal. 3:7) and that "those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith" (Gal. 3:9; cf. 3:14).

What is Paul's stunning point?

- In the final analysis one's ethnicity has nothing to do with who will or will not inherit the promises...
  - nor gender
  - economic status

Are you in Christ?

Objection

"But wait a minute. That's not what the OT texts say. They say that the promises were only given to and will be fulfilled in believing Jews?"

That is right!

### Ephesians 3:4-6

- <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the **mystery of Christ**, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations (i.e., in the OT times) as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### Ephesians 3:4-6

Believing Gentiles are "Jewish," in the only way that matters to God, i.e., spiritually, as any of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



### Romans 2:28-29

<sup>28</sup>For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup>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.

### Conclusion from Galatians 3

God has declared that the church is the "one new man," the true Israel of God in and for whom all the promises will be fulfilled.

### Texts that help us understand the Abrahamic Covenant

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### Romans 11

- <sup>16</sup>If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. <sup>17</sup>But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

### Romans 11

- <sup>18</sup>do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup>Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup>That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe.

### Romans 11

- <sup>21</sup>For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup>Note then the **kindness** and the **severity** of God: **severity** toward those who have fallen, but God's **kindness** to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

### Romans 11

- <sup>23</sup>And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Romans 11:16-24

### Romans 11

Replacement theology would assert that god has uprooted and eternally cast the olive tree which is Israel and has planted, in its place, an entirely, new one, the church

**But that is not what Paul says!**

### Romans 11

Paul clearly states that there is 1 olive tree, rooted in the promises given to the patriarchs.

In this one tree (the one people of God) there are both believing Jews (natural branches) and believing Gentiles (unnatural branches).

### Texts that help us understand the Abrahamic Covenant

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### Examples of OT prophecies and promises applied and fulfilled by the Church in the NT

- Acts 15:14-18
- Romans 9:25-26
- Revelation 2:17
- Revelation 3:9
- Revelation 7:15
- Revelation 21:14