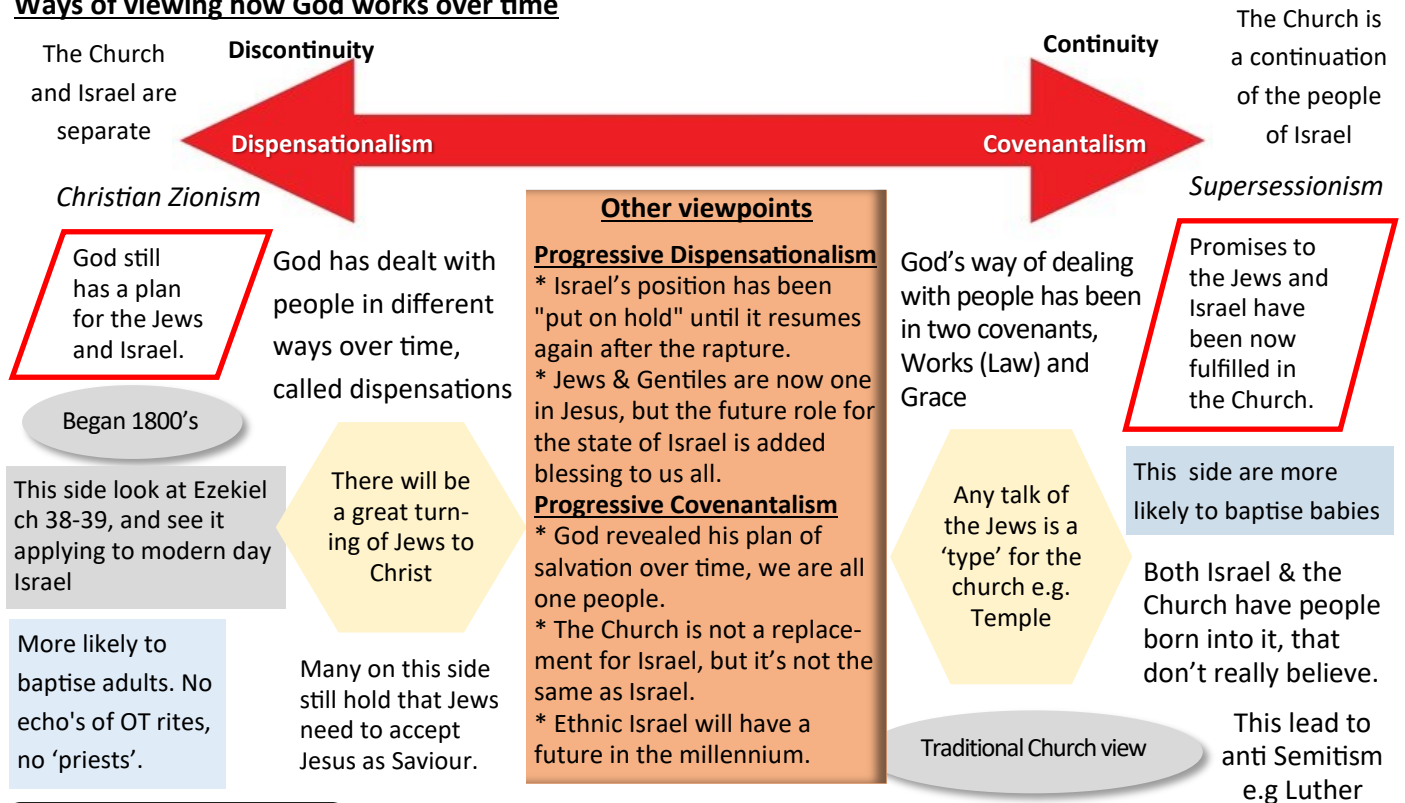


Introduction With recent events in the Middle East, it brings into focus how do we see the land of Israel and the Jewish people. There are different views that exist, often stemming from the way we view the Bible.

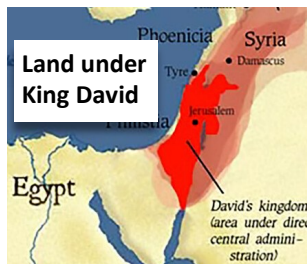
Ways of viewing how God works over time



Questions

Who does Genesis 12 :2-3 apply to today?

Israel The name Israel first appears in Genesis 32:28 this applies to a person, later it applied to the people, and finally to the land on which his decedent's live. When we look at the Hebrew of this verse in Genesis, the word "Israel" is divided into the words "struggle" (or "strive") and "God." Historically the first recorded use of the name outside of the Bible, was found in Egypt. On a carved pillar, dated around 1207 B.C., the monarch mentions the nation of Israel. The word Israel is mentioned in the Bible 2362 times.



Is Israel today significant in God's plans? People can hold that Israel has a future apart from the dispensationalists. All the different views cannot be put on a chart!

Yes?

- a) Jesus will return to Jerusalem, suggesting Israel is still significant. Zechariah 14:4
- b) God's promises to the Jews were everlasting. Jeremiah 31:35-37, Leviticus 26:44-45. Isaiah 49:16, Acts 1:6 The promise to Abraham Genesis 12, 15 was clearly to his decedents
- c) God has preserved the Jews through many trials, and has restored their homeland.
- d) The specific promise made about the land can not be fulfilled by the Church, only through the ethnic Jews. Those on this side of the argument point to Ezekiel 37:21+

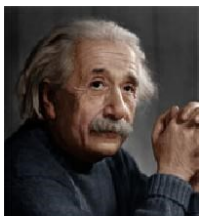
No?

- a) All the prophecies concerning Israel are now fulfilled in Christ. Promises on the land are now 'spiritual'.
- b) The promises made to the Jews were clearly conditional. Exodus 19:5-6 Deuteronomy 28:45-46, now lost.
- c) Modern Israel is a secular nation, although some political parties hope it would become a religious state.
- d) Galatians 3:28-29 says in Christ there is neither Jew or Greek. So why would God have special plans for them?

The Origin and significance of the Jews The word Jew does not appear in the Bible until 2 Kings 16:6 and isn't commonly used until the exile period in Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther. Before that time the word Hebrew was more commonly used. However Abraham is often considered the first Jew, as a result he is called 'Father Abraham'. God began the Jewish race, with one purpose to reach the World Genesis 12:3. Generally speaking, people today use the term Jew to refer to "a person who is of the chosen people of Israel." Beyond any doubt, God chose Israel to be His people in a special way. God stated His choice openly in Deuteronomy 7:6-8. Christians disagree of the significance of Romans 1:16, why is the gospel for the Jew first? Some argue that Matthew 10:5-6 also supports a particular mission to the Jews, others say that was just meant for the period before Pentecost. The Dispensationalists argue that the blood line is important. Genesis 15:2-4. The promises could have gone to a gentile, Eliezer, but God made promises to his bloodline. The Covenant side would argue that the promise just got widened out, to later include the Church. Some point out that, the 'bloodline' could include Arabs.



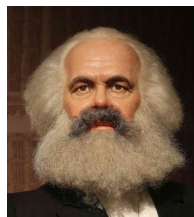
For such a small race the Jews appear to have had a influence on the world way out of proportion to their size.



Albert Einstein



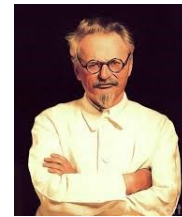
Sigmund Freud



Karl Marx



Benjamin Disraeli



Leon Trotsky



Groucho Marx

A Key passage - Romans ch 9-11 There are different ways of understanding this passage. Much of how people understand this, depends on their own eschatology. Also where you are on the Calvinist v Arminian scale! A key sticking point is what is meant by 'All Israel will be saved' Romans 11:25-26.

View 1 This looks to Romans 11:29, and says that Jews do not need to convert to Christianity to be in a right relationship with God. They are under a separate covenant, so both Jews & believing Gentiles have covenants.

View 2 The church will be raptured, life will carry on Earth and at this time the Jews will turn to Christ .

View 3 The Church consists of both Gentiles and Jews, but before the 2nd Coming many Jews will turn to Christ as a sign that the end is near.

View 4 The Church includes Christians and all the ethnic Jews who are and ever have been believers, are now-described by this term. As Israel is the Church, so all of Israel will be saved, they would look at Romans 9:6. They see the Church as being "grafted" into the original Jewish olive tree.

Questions

Which interpretation makes the most sense to you?

Hebrew Roots Movement Since the 1980's there has been a rise in some Christian circles to embrace the Jewish roots of our faith. Some have felt the need to engage in the Jewish festivals. Some follow the 613 laws laid down in the O.T., however don't follow the Talmud which orthodox Jews do. One example of their influence on mainstream Christianity is the rise of the name Yeshua, rather than the Greek version Jesus.

Why we should learn about Israel and the Jews The Bible is Jewish and understanding the background helps us understand the full meaning of it. Understanding the Jewish context isn't however the same as being part of the Hebrew Roots movement. Understanding the context, and how things would be understood at the time, adds a deeper grasp of the meaning of a passage. For example, the parables, or even the term 'Christ'.



Questions

Questions & Comments

Next time - The Evangelical Revival