



Israel – Part 3 – Replacement Theology

Why do / did people believe in “replacement theology” (aka “supercessionism, fulfilment theology)? And why are they wrong?

Reason #1 – Antisemitism

A brief history of antisemitism in the church

(edited from source: khouse.org)

- **Ignatius of Antioch** (ca 50-117 AD) — Taught that those who partake of the Passover are partakers with those who killed Jesus.
- **Justin Martyr** (100-106 AD) — Claimed God’s covenant with Israel was no longer valid and that the Gentiles had replaced the Jews.
- **Irenaeus** (ca 130-202 AD) — Declared the Jews were disinherited from the grace of God.
- **The Council of Nicea** (325 AD in Anatolia) — Prohibited Christians from sharing a meal with a Jew, marrying a Jew, blessing a Jew, or observing the Sabbath.
- **Eusebius** (ca 275-339 AD) — Taught that the promises of Scripture were meant for the Gentiles and the curses were meant for the Jews. He asserted that the Church was the “true Israel.”

- **Hilary of Poitiers** (AD 291-371) wrote: "Jews are a perverse people accursed by God forever."
- **Gregory of Nyssa** (died AD 394), Bishop of Cappadocia wrote: "the Jews are a brood of vipers, haters of goodness..."
- **Jerome** (AD 347-407) describes the Jews as "serpents, wearing the image of Judas, their psalms and prayers are the braying of donkeys."
- **Augustine** (354-430 AD) — Asserted that the Jews deserved death but were destined to wander the earth to witness the victory of the Church over the synagogue.
- **Pope Sixtus IV** (1478 AD) - granted the monarchs of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella, the right to establish a special inquisition in Spain to deal with baptized Jews who were suspected of remaining faithful to Judaism. Thousands were burned at the stake by order of the Spanish Inquisition.
- **King Ferdinand** (1492 AD) - decided that all Spanish Jews should be banned from Spain. It was feared that Jews were a danger to Christianity. Approximately 150,000 Jews were forced to leave Spain.
- **Martin Luther** (1543 AD) - wrote a pamphlet entitled "On the Jews and Their Lies." They are: "A miserable and accursed people," "Stupid fools," "Miserable, blind and senseless," "Thieves and robbers," "The great vermin of humanity," and "Lazy rogues." Luther went on to write: "For such ruthless wrath of God is sufficient evidence that they [the Jewish people] assuredly have erred and gone astray. Even a child can comprehend this. For one dare not regard God as so cruel that he would punish his own people so long, so terrible, so unmercifully. Therefore, this work of wrath is proof that the Jews, surely rejected by God, are no longer his people, and neither is he any longer their God"
- **Adolf Hitler** (1924 AD) - at a Christian gathering in Berlin, Hitler spoke to thousands and received a standing ovation when he made the following proclamation: "I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of Almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake — and that is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all."

[Psalm 106:43-45 ESV]

Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. 44 Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry. 45 For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

[Isaiah 54:7-8 ESV]

For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 8 In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

[Isaiah 49:14-16 ESV]

But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

[Psalm 83:3-4 ESV]

They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones. 4 They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"

[Genesis 12:3 ESV]

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Reason # 2 – Historical disbelief of the Old Testament promises / prophecies of God regarding Israel

[Genesis 15:7-21 ESV]

"I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ... 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

[Genesis 17:7-8 ESV]

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

[1 Chronicles 16:15-18 ESV]

Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, 16 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, 17 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, 18 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan, as your portion for an inheritance."

[Psalm 105:8-10 ESV]

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, 9 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, 10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

[Ezekiel 37:21-22 ESV]

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.

[Isaiah 66:8 ESV]

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.

[Ezekiel 38:1-23 ESV]

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him 3 and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 4 And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. 5 Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes-- many peoples are with you.

Strong's Concordance

acharith: the after-part, end

Original Word: אַחֲרֵי

Part of Speech: Noun Feminine

Transliteration: acharith

Phonetic Spelling: (akh-ar-eeth')

Definition: the after-part, end

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from [achar](#)

Definition

the after-part, end

NASB Translation

come (2), descendants (1), end (20), final end (1), final period (1), future (7), last (8), latter (7), latter ending (1), latter period (1), least (1), outcome (3), posterity (3), remotest part (1), rest (2), survivors (2).

9 You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you. 10 "Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme 11 and say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,' 12 to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.

13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, 'Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hosts to carry off plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?' 14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it? 15 You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army. 16 You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 17 "Thus says the Lord GOD: Are you he of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who in those days prophesied for years that I would bring you against them? 18 But on that day, the day that Gog shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger. 19 For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people who are on the face of the earth, shall quake at my presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the cliffs shall fall, and every wall shall tumble to the ground. 21 I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord GOD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur. 23 So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

Reason #3 (NEXT WEEK) – Misinterpretation of New Testament scriptures regarding Israel