

# Scripture Vs. Replacement Theology

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Replacement Theology contends that the (Gentile) Church replaced Israel in God's affections because of Jewish rejection of Jesus, that the New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant and that all the promises made to Israel under the Old Covenant, particularly ownership of the holy land, were revoked. In addition, the religious observances developed by the Church replaced the religious calendar commanded in the *Torah*. Church leaders then engaged in revisionist theology to interpret all biblical passages related to the covenant promises as now belonging to the Church. Any Jew that wished to be a Christian has been expected to renounce all *Torah* religious observances and distinctive Jewish customs. For almost two thousand years Replacement Theology has dominated the theological teaching of the Christian Church. Even the teaching of Evangelicals sometimes reflects the influence of Replacement Theology. Yet, the evidence of the New Testament is overwhelmingly against Replacement Theology.

## The Calling, Promises and Gifts

1. The calling, promises and gifts of God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for their blood descendants are irrevocable. (Luke 1:54-55, 68-74; Acts 26:6-7; Rom 9:4-5; 11:1-2)
2. God promised that the Jewish people would return from their dispersion over the earth to the holy land, the Land of Israel, and again be an independent nation. Indeed the Second Coming is contingent on the fulfillment of this prophecy. (Isa 11:11; 43:6; 49:22; 51:11; Jer 16:14ff; 23:3-6; Ezek 28:25f; 31:7f; 36:24f; 37:12; Ezek 38:8, 12; Amos 9:14; Zech 8:7f; Matt 23:37-39; Luke 21:24; Acts 1:6-7)
3. The center of God's redemptive activity in the first and second advents is Israel and when Jesus returns He will establish His millennial headquarters in Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of Joel and Zechariah. (Matt 24:27-28; 25:31-33; Luke 13:35; 18:31; 21:27-28; 24:47; Acts 1:11; 10:39; 13:31; Rev 16:13-16; 19:15-19; 20:9)
4. Jesus promised the apostles that they would judge the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matt 19:28; Luke 22:30)
5. The 144,000 chosen special servants in Revelation come from the twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve Jewish tribes have not ceased to exist. (Rev 7:3-8; 14:1-5; cf. Matt 1:1-17; 19:28; Luke 2:36; 3:23-38; 22:30; Acts 26:7; Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5; James 1:1)
6. The twelve gates of the New Jerusalem are inscribed with the names of the twelve sons of Jacob and the names of the twelve Jewish apostles are engraved on the twelve foundations of the city. No Gentile name is memorialized with such significance. (Rev 21:12)
7. The God of the Bible prefers to be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Matt 22:32; Mark 12:26; Acts 3:13; 7:32)
8. God promised Abraham that those who blessed him and his descendants would be blessed and those that cursed him and his descendants would be cursed. Disciples of Jesus are prohibited from giving an offense to Jews. (Gen 12:3; 1 Cor 10:32)

## The Old Covenant Scriptures

1. The only Bible that Jesus and the apostles knew was the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and they treated the Hebrew Scriptures as inspired of the Holy Spirit, authoritative, vital for worship and of practical use for instruction in how to live a life pleasing to God. (Luke 24:32; John 10:35; Acts 17:11; Rom 15:4; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21; 3:16)

2. The *Tanakh* is the source of all the promises of salvation through Jesus, resurrection of the dead and eternal life. Revoking the Old Covenant destroys the basis for these doctrines. (Matt 21:42; Luke 24:27, 45; John 7:38; 20:9; Acts 8:35; 18:28; 28:23; Rom 10:11; 16:25-27; 1 Cor 15:3; Gal 3:22)

### The Commandments

1. The only commandments Jesus and the apostles knew and emphasized in their teaching and writings came from the *Tanakh*. Jesus declared that He did not come to revoke God's laws previously given to Israel and He had low regard for anyone who did. (Matt 5:17-19; 7:26-27)
2. Jesus upheld the commandments given to Adam (Matt 19:1-9) and Abraham (Matt 5:48; Mark 16:15), and the apostles with the authorization of Jesus insisted on compliance with the commandments given to Noah (Acts 15:20; Rom 13:1-4).
3. Both Jesus and the apostles affirmed the continuing relevance and authority of the commandments given to Moses. (Matt 5:1-48; 15:3; 19:1-9, 17ff; 22:36, 38, 40; John 14:15, 21; 15:10ff; Acts 15; Rom 3:19f; 7:7-13; 13:1-4; 1 Cor 7:19; 14:34; Eph 2:20; 6:2; 1 Thess 4:2-8; 1 Tim 1:8; 6:13f; Heb 10:16; James 1:25; 2:8f; 4:11f; 1 Pet 1:16; 2 Pet 3:2; 1 John 2:3f; 3:22ff; 4:21; 5:2f; 2 John 1:4ff; and Rev 12:17; 14:12)
4. New Testament commands (there are over a thousand) are actually restatement of commandments recorded in the *Torah*. Only one "new" commandment is identified in the New Testament (John 13:34; cf. 2 John 1:5).
5. The apostles and first century disciples were zealous to live by *Torah* commandments. (Acts 21:20, 24; Rom 8:4; 1 John 3:22; 5:3)
6. The *Torah* is holy, because the holy God gave it. The *Torah* is the only thing that defines what is sinful and if the *Torah* has been revoked then there is no more sin needing atonement. (Romans 2:18; 3:20, 31; 5:13; 7:7, 12-14)
6. The Ten Commandments and the two great commandments are reiterated for compliance in the New Testament. (Matt 19:17-19; 22:36-40)
7. When the rich young ruler asked Jesus what he must do to obtain eternal life, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. (Matt 19:17)

### The People of God

1. The Gospel is from the Jews and for the Jews first. Replacement Theology ignores the origin and sets aside the biblical standard and evangelism priority. (Matt 10:5-6; John 4:22; Rom 1:16; 2:9-10)
2. The Church is built not only on the foundation of the apostles, but of the prophets that wrote the Hebrew Scriptures, as well. (Eph 2:19; 2 Pet 3:2)
3. The first epistle of Peter and the epistle of James were written to the twelve tribes of Israel in the dispersion. (James 1:1; 1 Pet 1:1; 2:12)
4. Salvation for Gentiles occurs by being granted citizenship in the commonwealth of Israel and being grafted into the root of Israel. The Jews were not granted citizenship in the Church on condition of abandoning their roots. (Rom 11:17, 24; Gal 3:7-9, 14, 29; Eph 2:11-22)
5. Jesus promised that His disciples would one day recline at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, not Gentile Church leaders. (Matt 8:11)

### The Sabbath and the Festivals

1. During their lifetimes Jesus and the apostles faithfully kept the Sabbath, Passover and all other Jewish festivals. (Matt 26:2, 17; Mark 1:21; Luke 2:41; 23:56; John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4f; 7:2, 10;

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10:22f; 12:1, 20; Acts 2:1; 12:3f; 13:14; 17:2; 18:21; 20:16; 21:20-26; Rom 11:16; 1 Cor 5:6ff; 16:8f; Col 2:16; Jude 1:12)

2. God's appointed times of spiritual celebration and worship detailed in the *Torah* were intended for all mankind and in the millennial kingdom the feasts prescribed in the *Torah* will be observed by the entire population. (Isa 66:23; Ezek 46:1-11; Zech 14:16-19; Matt 26:29; Acts 13:44; 17:26)
3. God intended that the Sabbath and the festivals mandated in the *Torah* were to be observed in perpetuity, that is, forever. (Lev 23:21, 31, 38, 41; Matt 12:8; 24:20;)

### The New Covenant

1. The New Covenant was promised to Israel and the house of Judah. (Heb 8:8)
2. The New Covenant is not a new set of laws or the end of commandments but the power to keep the laws of the Old Covenant. (Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:26-27)
3. In the first century the apostles and their Gentile converts did not accept a Gentile religion, but Gentiles accepted the gospel of the Hebrew prophets. (Acts 3:25; 10:43; Rom 4:1-12; 16:26; Gal 3:29; 1 Pet 1:10; Rev 10:7)
4. The New Covenant did not end the two great signs of the Old Covenant (circumcision and the Sabbath, Gen 17:11; Ex 31:13), but infused them with new theological meaning. Jesus was circumcised and kept the Sabbath. (Matt 12:8; Mark 2:27; 3:4; Luke 2:21; Acts 16:13; Rom 2:26-29; 4:11; 1 Cor 7:19; Gal 6:15; Col 2:11)
5. The New Covenant transformed the Passover into a Messianic Passover; Jesus did not create a sacrament called the Eucharist. (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25)