

Work in progress...

Jesus is the True Israel

1. John MacArthur says if you "Get Israel right, you'll get eschatology right".
Amil/post-mil says if you get Christ right, you get eschatology right.
Either God has promises to still fulfill to Israel (premil),
or Christ is the new Israel through the Church and has fulfilled the old testament prophecies that way, making future premil events as past and present in the amil/postmil view.
A/postmil is an expansion of Israel (adding Gentiles in), not a replacement of.
2. John MacArthur goes on to say this at the 2007 Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church:
"The Bible calls God the God of Israel over 200 times. The God of Israel. There are over 2,000 references to Israel in Scripture, not one of them means anything but Israel. Not one of them, including Romans 9:6 and Galatians 6:16 which is the only two passages that amillennialists go to trying to convince us that that cancels out the other 2,000. There is no difficulty in interpreting those as simply meaning Jews who were believers; the Israel of God. Israel always means Israel, never means anything but Israel. Seventy three New Testament uses of Israel always mean Israel.'"
 - i. MacArthur's process of interpretation seems to suggest that Christ and His apostles must frequent an idea more than the old testament in order to be authoritative.
By that standard, we should all be apostate Jews who reject Christ.
We can be sure that is not what MacArthur intended to say, yet is the logical conclusion of what he did say.
 - ii. As we will see below, we don't use either of those scripture references to refute MacArthur's position; he made a strawman argument and easily demolished it as would be expected of any strawman.
3. MacArthur and other premil Dispensationists such as Walvoord, Pentecost, and Ryrie insist that God has 2 distinct redemptive programs – one for ethnic Israel, and the other for the Gentiles.
 - i. Mind you, this redemptive plan for two ethnicities plays into the materialistic worldview, which believes man is determined with no free agency, simply dancing to the music of their DNA. We then come to absurdities such as pondering what percentage of ethnic Jewish DNA markers He will require someone to have in order to consider them for His ethnic Jew, Dispensational millennial rescue plan with. In other words, what percentage DNA do you need to be an ethnic Jew?
4. MacArthur says that since God elects Israel, "Israel means Israel" and that any other approach to eschatology destroys the perspicuity of the Old Testament.
 - i. He is right that Israel always means Israel, but that's not the point.

- ii. The New Testament writers see Israel from a Christ-centered perspective.
They saw the nation of Israel with regards to the covenant at Mt. Sinai which pointed to the coming of Jesus.
Gal 3:19-25 is where Paul says the law was intended by God to prepare the way for Christ since it exposes our sin and like a school-master/tutor drives us to Christ.
 - iii. The Old Testament had that truth largely hidden in types and shadows of what was to come.
Jesus stepped out of those types and shadows (Gal 4:4-5).
When speaking to Old Testament-minded Jews said:
"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39).
 - a) This would be considered "spiritualizing" according to standard Dispensational hermeneutics(interpretation processes).
Instead, we see such 'spiritualization' frequently done by Christ and His apostles.
5. The Old Testament understands "the servant" of Yahweh to be Israel, but there were always nebulous, ambiguous passages that puzzled old testament Jews, on which light was shed later on when Jesus came on the scene as the true "servant" of Yahweh that Israel was never able to be.
 6. The apologetic that the apostles used against Judaism in the New Testament was that Jesus was the true Israel and all the old testament promises to Israel were fulfilled in Jesus through the Church.
 - i. The Old Testament prophets were looking for a **restoration of Israel**, which the New Testament says are presently **fulfilled in Christ**.
 - ii. Isaiah 41:8-9
 - 8."But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Seed of AbrahamMy friend,"
 - 9."You whom I have [fn]strongly taken hold of from the ends of the earth,
And called from its remotest parts
And said to you, 'You are My servant,
I have chosen you and not rejected you."
 - iii. Isaiah 42:1
 - 1. "'Behold,My Servant, whom I [fn]uphold;
My chosen one in whom My soul is well-pleased.
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justiceto the [fn]nations."
 - iv. Jesus, not Israel was the Servantwhom God the Father was well-pleased.
 - v. Justice to the nations is brought through Jesus and His Church, not ethnic Israel.
 7. Isaiah 52 + 53

8. **Adam failed** and was cast out of the land(garden)
9. Old Testament **Israel failed** and was cast out of the land
10. **Christ** came and did **not fail**.

Because of that, the promise goes **from Canaan** to the **whole earth**.

Today, Israel is a secular nation via a UN charter; it could be a divine vehicle to bring ethnic Jews to salvation before the end, but other than that, there is no prophecy stating that nation had to happen.

Christ rules the **whole earth**, not just one nation.

i. Matt 12:15-21

15. "But Jesus, [fn]aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,"

16. "and warned them not to make Him known,"

17. "in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, "

18. "'BEHOLD,MY [fn]SERVANTWHOM I [fn]HAVE CHOSEN;

MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL [fn]ISWELL-PLEASED;

I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM,

AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM [fn]JUSTICE**TO THE [fn:or nations]GENTILES.**"

a) **GENTILES**

- i. is the greek word "ethnos", which is nations.

19. "'HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT;
NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS."

20. "'A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF,
AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT,
UNTIL HE [fn]LEADS [fn]JUSTICE TO VICTORY."

21. "'AND IN HIS NAME THE [fn:or nations]GENTILES WILL HOPE."

ii. **Jesus** was the **true "servant"** that

God the Father chose, is **well-pleased** in(look at John baptism too),
has the Holy Spirit, and who the gentiles will hope.

Premillennialists say this promise to proclaim justice to the world is still in the future during a dispensational millennial reign of Christ.

iii. Matt 8:17

"in order to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "HE HIMSELF
TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND [fn]CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."

iv. This was written after Jesus did some healings a few verses earlier.

v. Isaiah 53:4 was where that was quoted from:

"Surely our [fn]griefs He Himself [fn]bore,

And our [fn]sorrows He [fn]carried;

Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,

[fn]Smitten of God, and afflicted."

vi. Jesus is the true suffering Servant, not Israel.

11. Paul affirms Jesus as the suffering servant in

Acts 3:13

"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him."

i. Hosea 11:1

"When Israel was a youth I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son."

ii. Hosea was looking at the Exodus

iii. Matthew 2:15 tells us this prophecy was fulfilled when Joseph brought Herod to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod.

This tells us that Israel's Exodus is fulfilled in Christ.

Jesus is the 2nd Exodus.

12. Gal 3:16

16. "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And TO YOUR SEED," that is, Christ."

i. Paul identifies **Christ, not physical Israel** as Abraham's seed

13. Gal 3:29

Paul says Christians are heirs according to the promise.

Heirs in the Old Testament were Israel.

Gentiles can be heirs of the promise through Christ.

i. If Jesus is the true Israel of God,

then there is no case for the premil, future millenium being necessary to fulfill promises that have already been fulfilled.

ii. Paul says Christ fulfilled the promise made to Israel in Hosea

7. "nor are they all children because they are Abraham's seed, but: "[fn]THROUGH ISAAC YOUR SEED WILL BE NAMED.""

8. "That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as seed."

24. "even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles?"

25. "As He says also in Hosea,

"I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,'|
AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'""

14. Paul quotes Hosea 2:23 in Romans 9:25-27

Hosea 2:23. "And I will sow her for Myself in the land.

I will also have compassion on [fn]her who had not obtained compassion,

And I will say to [fn]those who were not My people,

‘You are My people!’

And [fn]they will say, ‘You are my God!’””

- i. A few verses up in Hosea 2:18 says that Yahweh
"will cut a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,"
-Remember that wild beasts represent the Gentiles
- ii. Hosea 2:16 says
"you will call Me Ishi(husband)"
- iii. Yes, Paul does what Dispensationalists say should not be done, which is to "spiritualize" the old testament.

15. Hosea does not literally say "Church", but we know the Church is the bride of Christ.
We know wild beasts and creeping things are unclean(Gentiles).
Hosea was talking about Israel, but Paul says in Christ, this applies to the Church.

- i. 25. "As He says also in Hosea,
“I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, ‘MY PEOPLE,’
AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, ‘BELOVED.’””
26. ““AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM,
‘YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,’
THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.””
 - a) YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE+SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.
 - b) Paul is elaborating on how God is telling ethnic Jews who rejected Christ are being told they are not His people.
 - c) In contrast, those who are God's people, whether ethnic Jew or Gentile are called sons of the living God.
- ii. 27. "And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;”
 - a) IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED
 - b) Dispensationalists are saying the salvation of Israel is future in the Dispensational millenium.
Paul says it is fulfilled because it is the remnant that is being saved, not the entire population of ethnic Israelites.

16. Ephesians 2:11-11

The apostle Paul says that Christ pulled down the barriers between ethnic Jews and Gentiles, who He made one body and temple, removing the distinctions.

- i. Dispensationalists will agree with Paul's Ephesians message for the present age, yet say that God has a separate purpose for Israel after the Rapture of Gentile Christians.
Do Christians who have Jewish ethnicity get taken in the the Rapture too?

- ii. If this secret Rapture in Dispensationalism is true, Christ's purpose to make the two people one is temporary in that it is only for this age.
 - iii. Did Christ come to remove the distinction between Jew and Gentile, only to do a complete U-turn during the Dispensational millenium? Why would Christ go back to the way the old covenant was?
 - iv. It was the "peace" of Christ that brought the two peoples together, per Ephesians 2.
17. Hebrews 8:8-12