

An Incorrect Identity of Israel and Mischaracterization of Pauline Doctrine

See: <http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/qna/isdispenbiblical.html>, accessed 9 May 2014. An excerpt of the teaching is entered as [A] below.

[**Added Bold emphasis and [] bracketed commentary is by M. J. Greene.** The cited website is not the sole arbiter of this question nor are all pertinent points of the discussion covered in this selection. It merely represents some of the teachings that are refuted by the theological forum, **SummerSalon14.** **Greene lists this teaching on Israel in parts A - C.**]

[**A**] **“Is Dispensationalism biblical?”**

“According to influential author Charles Ryrie, whose views are perhaps the most representative of popular **Dispensationalism**, there are three “sine qua non,” (i.e. non-negotiables) of what constitutes Dispensationalism: a doxological view of history (i.e., with the ultimate purpose of glorifying God), a literal hermeneutic (i.e. method of interpreting the bible), and an ongoing **distinction between the two peoples of God, Israel and the Church.** A doxological purpose for all of history is certainly not unique to Dispensationalism, however, and is affirmed by many non-Dispensational theologians; so the question of whether or not Dispensationalism is biblical **must hinge on what the bible says about the latter two points: its “literal” way of understanding the bible, particularly as it relates to Old Testament prophecies; and its insistence on two peoples of God.**”

“Fortunately, the biblical evidence is not lacking for either of these questions: Dispensationalism teaches that all the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament **must be fulfilled to ethnic Israel, in a literal way**, that is, in a way that mandates the continuation of all the Old Testament types, regardless of whether or not the anti-types, or ultimate fulfillment of those types have come: for example, the **physical land of Palestine must belong by divine right to the ethnic Jews, who will one day possess all its geographical borders in fulfillment of the prophecy of Israel's restoration.** [**Error**]: **However, the bible explicitly declares that all those prophecies have [already been fulfilled] in the coming of Christ, and are for all who believe in Christ; the land promise made to Abraham is now too great to be fulfilled in the Middle East alone**, and so Romans 4:13 says that he was promised to inherit the whole world; and his offspring who inherit it with him are not just believing ethnic Jews, but also his Gentile children by faith (**Romans 4:11-17**); in fact, all the promises made to Abraham (and to every Old Testament saint) were ultimately fulfilled in Christ, the true Seed of Abraham (**2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 3:16**), and so they belong to all who are in Christ, and therefore a part of Abraham's seed (**Gal.3:26-29**). Further examples of how the New Testament interprets prophecies made to Israel, showing beyond doubt that they are now being fulfilled in the Church, include Acts **15:14-17; Hebrews 8; 10:14-18.**” [**This is an excellent statement demonstrating what is popularly named Replacement Theology for the scholastic name of supersessionism. Both represent biblical error, and largely so based on their spiritual, allegorical hermeneutic.**]

“The second “sine qua non” of Dispensationalism, that there is an ongoing distinction between Israel and the Church, **[Error]**:is likewise argued against throughout the New Testament, even as was anticipated in the Old Testament. To cite one of many possible examples, in Isaiah 66:18-24, the prophet looks ahead to a time when God would choose people from every nation, and make them his true priests and Levites; and in the New Testament, we find proof that this time has come. The New Testament passages that indicate that Christians are true Jews (some of them very explicitly) include these: Romans 2:28-29; 4:11-17; 9:6-8; Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29; 4:21-31; 6:16; Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6; Phil. 3:3; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 2:9. So then, these “sine qua non” of Dispensationalism prove to be utterly unbiblical and are explicitly argued against in the scriptures.”

[The above is a false argument. It is pertinent to know this perspective as it affects the teaching of Israelology —the study of God’s chosen people. God’s chosen people are the ethnic Jews whose identity is recognized in modern times as the nation of Israel. One of many accurate rebuttals to this false argument is satisfied by the teaching at the link, <http://www.endtimes.org/dispens.html> (summary and lists).

[B] The only thing that could be offered to more fully support the endtimes.org teaching are these scriptures which speak directly of dispensation (central to Pauline doctrine) and which Christ parabolically hints at in Luke 16:2-4:

"And He called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is **taking the management away from me?**'" **[indicating the change in dispensations from law to the grace gospel and foreshadowing the eschatological kingdom.]**

1Cor 9:17 “For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.” **[stewardship is the operative for this rebuttal to monergism.]**

Eph 1:10 “...with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. **[This text is central to dispensational understanding.]**

Eph 3:2 “...if indeed you have heard of the **stewardship of God's grace** which was given to me for you;”

Col 1:25-26 “Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the **stewardship** from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God, *that is*, the **mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints...**”

1 Tim 1:4 “nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation **rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.**

[C] A major effect of false supersessionism is Holocaust denial

See: <http://www.talk2action.org/>

Tue Jul 29, 2014 at 12:47:03 AM EST Frederick Clarkson, "Short Takes"

"Journalist Mark Ames has published a must-read story about how *Reason*, the flagship magazine of libertarianism, published a special issue in 1976 promoting Holocaust denial -- including a horrific essay by **Gary North, best known as one of the godfathers of Christian Reconstructionism**. Many of those involved with the publication of the Holocaust revisionism issue are still involved in the magazine, including the Koch family, which has been a major funder. As for *Reason*, the current editors are in denial..."

[Section C is included neither to endorse nor reject the talk2action.org. It is not a website dedicated to teaching biblical truth but rather the stated agenda is to expose the excesses and wrongs of radical right politics. Because all error is connected to all other error (and conversely all truth is connected to all other truth) it is significant that reference in the "Short Takes" article includes Reconstructionism. Reconstructionism is solidly based in Reform, aka, Covenant Theology that is the foundation of [A] above.

It is the position of Paraclete Press Research Service, Inc. that "come out of her my people" (Rev 18:4) means, among additional applications, that Bible believers are called to come out of/separate from all harlotry (error), in this case, elements of Reform theology that are complicit in the replacement of Jews in God's eternal plan. It is undeniable that central to that replacement is the perpetration of Holocaust denial. Therefore, separation, a coming out from theological error is incumbent on the 2 Tim 2:15 Berean believers (Acts 17:11) if they are to receive eternal reward for correctly handling Scripture and not be suffer according to Gen 12:3b.]