

# **Replacement Theology: It's History, Doctrine, & Danger**

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# **What is Replacement Theology?**

## **Definition**

**Replacement Theology is the unbiblical doctrine that God has rejected Israel because of unbelief and now the church receives the promises and blessings in the Old Testament given to Israel.**

# Renald Showers

**"Friends of Israel"**  
**Author - Bible Teacher**

***"Replacement theology, is a theological view of the world that claims God is forever finished with Israel as a nation.***

***Therefore, God's promises in the Abrahamic Covenant to give the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the land of Canaan as an eternal inheritance are no longer in effect with national Israel."***

# John Piper

Calvinistic Pastor, author

**“The promises made to Abraham, including the promise of the Land, will be inherited as an everlasting gift only by true, spiritual Israel, not disobedient, unbelieving Israel. In other words, the promises cannot be demanded by anyone just because he is Jewish... Being born Jewish does not make one an heir of the promise – neither the promise of the Land nor any other promise.”**

# David Chilton

**“Christian Reconstruction”  
Leader and Author**

**“Because Israel committed the supreme act of covenant-breaking when she rejected Christ, *Israel herself was rejected by God*. The awesome curses pronounced by Jesus, Moses, and the prophets were fulfilled in the terrible destruction of Jerusalem, with the desolation of the Temple and the obliteration of the covenant nation in A.D. 70.”**

# Replacement Theology

R. C. Sproul, Jr.  
"Table Talk Magazine"

▶ **"God is finished with Israel, and has replaced Israel as a people with the church."**

▶ **"We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, "What about the Jews?" is, "Here we are." There, we are again one people. In His holy and heavenly temple there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female,... There, we are all together, the Israel of God, princes with God."**

—From Table Talk magazine, Spring of 1999, p. 2, by R. C. Sproul Jr., editor



# Land of Israel & the Bible

1. **75%** of the Bible speaks of Israel.
2. **Israel** is mentioned nearly 2,000 times in the Bible.
3. “**Jerusalem**” is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible. **Israel** is described as “**My Land**”<sup>144</sup> times.
4. The Land of Israel is called “**My Land**”, “**Glory of all Lands**”, “**Land which I Care For**”, “**Beautiful land.**”

# Genesis 13:15

▶ **“For all the land that thou seest to thee will I give it forever...”**

# **Genesis 17:7-8**

**“I will establish my covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a sojourner, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”**

# **Genesis 15:18 & Joshua 1:3-4**

**“Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”(15:18)**

**“From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border.” (Joshua 1:3-4)**

# Prophetic Promises

- ▶ 1. The land promises to Israel are everlasting.
- ▶ 2. The land promises to Israel are future
- ▶ 3. The land promises to Israel are stated throughout the Old Testament.
- ▶ Amos 9:14-15 - “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel; and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them...’I will also plant them on their land, and they will not be rooted out from their land which I have given them’, says the Lord your God.”



# What Israel has given away – for peace

Israeli-controlled land,  
1967



Israeli-controlled land,  
1993



Israeli-controlled land,  
2001





# ***Replacement Theology History***

# **4 Important Historical Events**

- 1. Early Church Gentile Composition**
- 2. Jewish Revolt of A.D. 66-70**
- 3. Jewish Revolt of A.D. 132-135**
- 4. Martin Luther and Reformation**

# **Jewish War - A.D. 66-70**

## **Roman Empire**

- 1. General Vespasian, and son General Titus invaded Israel in A.D. 67.**
- 2. Herod's Temple - After a 7 month battle, Herod's Temple destroyed in A.D. 70. Nearly the entire city of Jerusalem burned to the ground, 1,100,000 killed during the Roman siege.**
- 3. 97,000 Jewish young men (under 17) taken as slaves.**
- 4. Masada taken in A. D. 73-74, 980 Siicari and Zealots took their lives in a mass suicide.**

# **Jewish Revolt (AD 132-135)**

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**Second major Jewish revolt from hundreds of Jewish villages joined in the bitter fight.**

- 1. The Romans called Julius Servetus from Britain to come and crush the rebellion. More than half a million Jews perished and nearly all of Judea lay in ruins.**
- 2. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem completely; every wall was leveled and the city plowed.**
- 3. The Romans built a new city which was called “Aelia Capitolia” in honor of the Roman emperor Aelius Hadrianus.**
- 5. All Jews were forbidden to enter Aelia upon the pain of death, and then the new city was re-populated with Greek-speaking gentiles.**
- 6. The land of Israel was named “Palistina” in an attempt to rid Israel of all Jewish character.**

# **Justin Martyr (A.D. 80-160)**

***“Dialogue with Typho, the Jew”***

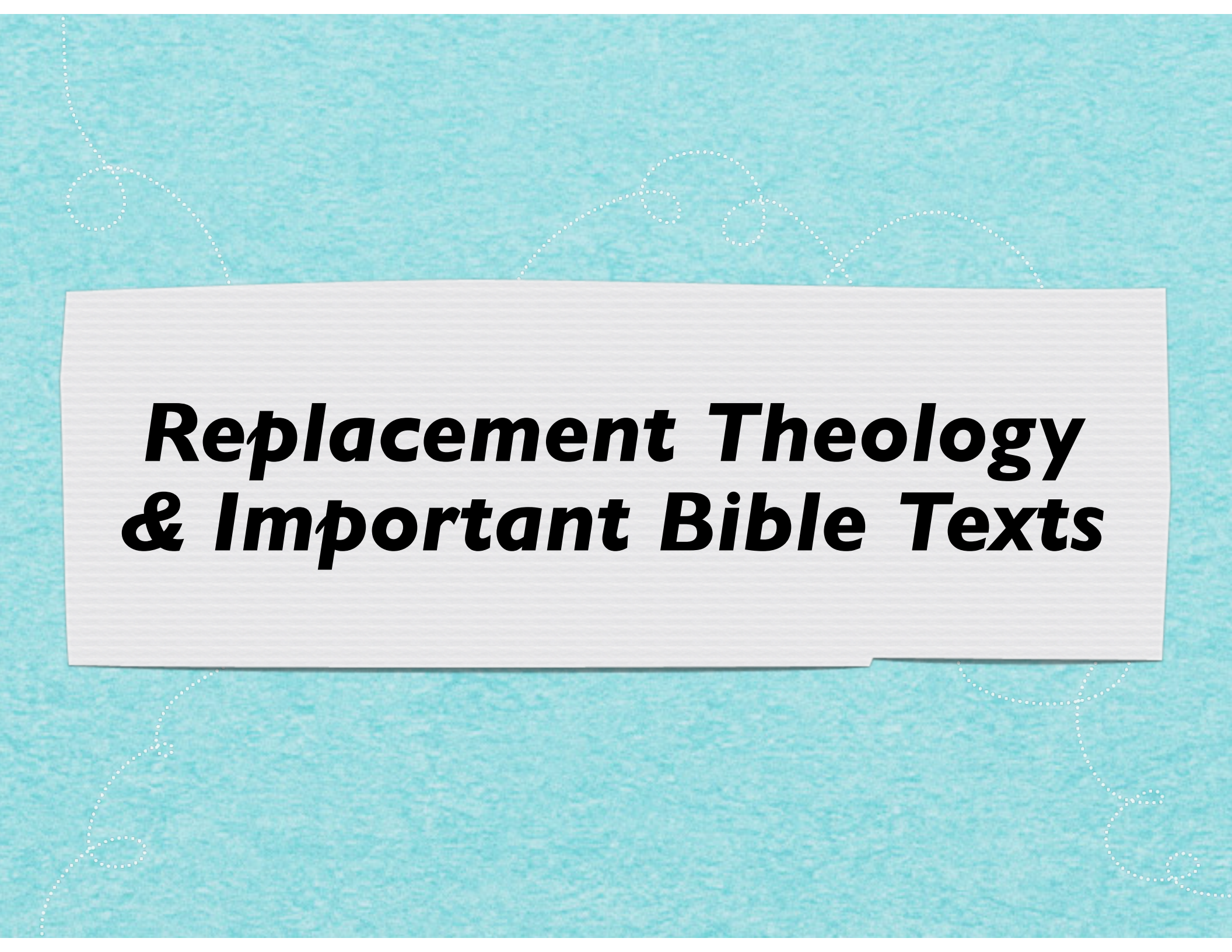
**“The destruction of Jerusalem was God’s judgment on the Christ-rejecting Jews.”**

**He stated that Jews “justly suffer” and that the Jewish cities were rightly “burned with fire.”**

# **Martin Luther (1483-1543)**

**Reformation Leader**

***“Listen, Jew, are you aware that Jerusalem and your sovereignty, together with your temple and priesthood, have been destroyed 1,460 years ago...This work of wrath is proof that the Jews, surely rejected by God, are no long his people and neither is he any longer their God.”***



# ***Replacement Theology & Important Bible Texts***

# Louis Berkhof

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**former professor of  
Systematic Theology**

**“The church existed in the  
old dispensation as well as  
in the new, and was  
essentially the same in  
both.”**

**Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans,  
1941), p. 571**

# Keith Mathison

## Replacement Leader

**“We must note that if “Israel” is defined as natural, national, or unbelieving Israel, then obviously, “Israel” is not the church. If, however, we define “Israel” as true Israel or Old Testament believers, we discover a different relationship. There is a organic, living relationship between Old Testament believers and New Testament believers. They are one body joined together under one head, the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

—Keith Mathison, “Dispensationalism:Wrongly Dividing the People of God,  
(Phillipsburg, NJ, P & R Publishing, 1995), p.38

# **C. H. Spurgeon**

**Renown Baptist Preacher**

**“I think we do not attach sufficient importance to the restoration of the Jews. We do not think enough of it. But certainly, if there is anything promised in the Bible it is this. I imagine that you cannot read the Bible without seeing clearly that there is to be an actual restoration of the children of Israel...May that happy day soon come!”**

# **Is Unbelieving Israel— Israel?**

**Believing or National?**

**“As concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching election, they are beloved for the father’s sake. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” (Romans 11:28-29)**

# **Is National Israel Still Israel—Today?**

**Book of Romans  
written AD 60**

**“Who are the Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises, whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5).**

# **Hath God Cast Away His People?**

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***“I say, then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid... God hath not cast away His people whom He foreknew.” —Romans 11:1, 2***

# **To Whom Is Paul Referring in Romans 1 1:1-2?**

**CHURCH?** Undoubtedly, he is not speaking concerning the church.

**BELIEVING ISRAEL?** Why would Paul say “Hath God cast away His people?” if these Jews within Israel were believers?

**UNBELIEVING ISRAEL?** The only reasonable viewpoint is that Paul is speaking about unbelieving Israel.

This becomes all the more clear when we look Romans 10:21: “...A disobedient and gainsaying people.” God is speaking of national Israel.

# Romans 1 1:1-2

1. Paul, using himself as an example, asserts there are presently many Jews that are saved, which proves God has not cast them off.
2. There will be a future salvation of thousands of Jewish people: **“What shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead”**(11:15)? Paul may be thinking of Ezekiel 37 and the **Valley of Dry Bones**.
3. There will be a final salvation and “All Israel shall be saved” (vv. 26-27). Has God cast off His people?

# **Alva McClain**

**There is a school of thought in Christendom that says that in the church God has fulfilled everything in the Old Testament and there is no future for the Jew as a nation. The right view is, that God has set Israel aside for an age, and at some future time (the next age) God will fulfill to the letter every promise He has made to Israel as a nation.”**

# “All Israel Shall Be Saved...”

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Romans 11:26-27

“And so all *Israel shall be saved*; as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them, when I shall take away their sins.”

# Warren Wiersbe

**"All Israel will be saved..."**

▶ **"There are those who interpret this as meaning salvation to individuals through the gospel, but it is my conviction that the prophet has national conversion in mind. "All Israel shall be saved" does not mean every Jew that has ever lived will be converted, but the Jews living when the Redeemer returns will see Him, receive Him, and be saved...there are too many details in these Old Testament prophecies of a national restoration for us to spiritualize and apply them to the Church."**

# National & Spiritual Israel United

**Erich Sauer (1898-1952)**  
**Former President Wideniest Bible School**

**Through the conversion of the Jews at the appearing of Messiah, the faith of the little remnant extends to the whole body. The literal Israel has thus become spiritual Israel. Abraham descendants according to the flesh have by conversion and regeneration become true sons of the patriarch, and thus, at the same time, Israel according to the Spirit (Gal. 3:9). Henceforth, the national is identical with the spiritual. The remnant has become the whole people, the saved national people are at the same time both literal descendants of Abraham and also his spiritual seeds”**

# **Conclusion: Israel**

**“God will not cast away his people” (Romans 11).**

**The regathering to the land in 1948 is a small beginning of the fulfillment of his promise.**

**God’s movement concerning Israel is a barometer for His hand in end-times prophecy.**