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Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

ISRAEL'S PURPOSE AND WHAT THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED REGARDING ISRAEL'S FUTURE IN GOD'S ENDTIMES PLAN

by

John M. Stephenson

Biblical Worldview Ministries

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biblicalworldviewministries.com

ISRAEL'S PURPOSE: God had many purposes for national Israel in Old Testament and Gospel periods. They included: (1) being a genealogy to bring their Messiah; (2) bringing the law that no one could keep to show the need of a Savior; (3) bringing a worship system (temples and animal sacrifices) that illustrate the needed sacrifice of a Savior; (4) having a sequence of blessing to judgment as a pattern sequence to illustrate how the endtimes will unfold; (5) being used by Christ to train the disciples to take His Gospel to the world; and (6) rejecting Christ as their Messiah and have Him crucified by the Romans. After the Cross, Israel as a nation has no major purpose shown by what the Cross accomplished in addition to salvation.

WHAT THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED IN ADDITION TO SALVATION REGARDING THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND GOD'S PLAN FOR BELIEVERS: (1) The Cross broke down the barrier of the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles so that both, as believers in the Cross, are one in Christ without any ethnic division. Only Christ now can have pre-eminence, and all believers, both Jews and Gentiles, are together His single body and Church. (2) The Cross set aside animal sacrifices and physical temples forever. Christ was the single needed sacrifice (believers are now the temple or sanctuary of God and are to be living sacrifices). Bringing back animal sacrifices and physical temples after the Cross would deny the efficaciousness of the Cross and be most major sin. Christ **now** rules the Kingdom of God on David's throne, but from heaven.

THE MARRIAGE OF CHRIST: Christ is now marrying the Church in the oriental marriage concept. The Church is now legally the bride of Christ, but does not yet live with Him. This legal arrangement would take a divorce to break. The Church goes to live with Christ at the Rapture occurring at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb at His Second Coming after the endtimes Tribulation. By His own laws, Christ cannot have two wives at the same time. Thus, He must have divorced Israel. He was married to Israel in the Old Testament times. The Bible teaches that Christ divorced the Northern Kingdom of Israel because of her adultery (she would not return to the marriage) in a direct teaching (Jeremiah 3:7-8). He divorced the Southern Kingdom of Judah at the Cross when they denied Him as their Messiah forever as they said let His blood be on us and on our children. They had Him killed by the Romans. His death ended the marriage. (The Jews said we have no king but Caesar.) God's future plans for Israel is that her people become believers and become part of the Church.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE SITUATION: Because all believers, both Jews and Gentiles, are the single body and Church, there is no possibility of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. The Church goes through the Tribulation for divine discipline because her falling away in the endtimes favored nation is responsible for the Tribulation coming. (The Tribulation, according to Revelation, is all nations in characteristic, not exclusively Jewish that would be required by Daniel's exclusive Jewish period to be the endtimes Tribulation. As a result the Tribulation will last more than 20 years, not only 7.)

PURPOSE OF GOD FOR BELIEVERS; God's purpose for believers now on the earth for both Jews and Gentiles is that they become highly mature in Christ-likeness so they can know and relate to God toward His Greatness now, but especially in all eternity. All believers are now in the relationship Kingdom of God ruled from heaven. This Kingdom rules over all believers regardless of where they live on earth. To bring Israel back as a special nation under God such as in the coming 1000 years would deny this purpose. There is no Rapture before the Tribulation.

THE ENDTIMES ISRAEL: God only delivers Israel back into her land in her repentance. The present Israel since 1948 contains people in complete apostasy with no interest in their Messiah - only in the land that they believe God has given them. So it is Satan who established the endtimes Israel to help start wars that will bring the endtimes world government over which he will rule. God did not bring Israel back.

WEBSITE REFERENCES: (1) *Key Summary Report - How the Endtimes Unfold: Pathway to Understand Why The Rapture Comes after the Tribulation At Christ's Second Coming*; (2) *Understanding the Endtimes Biblical Jewish Situation And What We must Do Now as the End Times Unfold*.