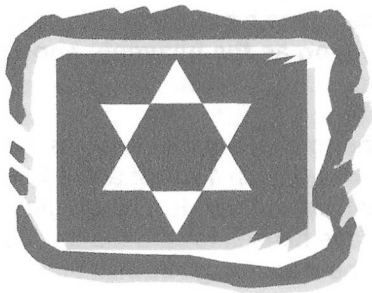


CHRISTIAN ZIONISM



A Strawberry Mountain View
"Unique - Challenging - Controversial!"



"Berry Good News!"

by:

Frederick L. Pattison

CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Zionism is the term used by Jews to express their desire and aim to return to "**the land**" promised to them by God. **The goal** of political Zionism is to restore the Jewish people to their ancient homeland and develop a nation. There are **two** aspects of Zionism: **political and religious**. You may be surprised to know that there are **also Christian Zionists**.

The term for the land is: "**ERETZ ISRAEL**" with **ZION** being the biblical term. Christians also refer to **Zion as the heavenly abode of God's throne**.

The father of modern Zionism was **Theodore Herzl** who died in 1904 at age 44. He had a dramatic impact on Jews throughout the world. He gave himself toward the day when there would be a sovereign Jewish state. He wrote:

"The Maccabeans will rise again. The Jews who wish for a State will have it. We shall live at last as free men on our own soil."

When the above words were spoken there were few people who really knew just how prophetic they were. A Zionist conference was held in *Basel, Switzerland* in 1897. People from around the world attended. It was at this conference that **Mr. Herzl** declared that **in 50 years** there would be a Jewish State. Most people thought that he was a dreamer. However, in **November 1947** the UN partitioned the land of Palestine and **the State of Israel was officially birthed in May 1948**.

In 1917 the British gained control over what was called Palestine from the Turks. The first official declaration favoring a Jewish homeland came from the British after their takeover. This

was referred to as **the Balfour Declaration**. This declaration stated: "**His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.**" With this declaration **Jews began returning** to the land.

Early Zionism had a difficult time getting its message across to Jews and Gentiles alike. The majority of Jews lived in Europe and were well settled in. The thought of Zionism to many Jews at that time was unpatriotic to their native lands, i.e., *Germany, France, Poland, USSR*. However, **this** all changed with the rise of **Adolf Hitler**. Many Jews supported Hitler when he first came to power. The majority of German Jews denied their Jewishness and had become secular in their world view. Many had converted to the state churches; **Lutheran or Roman Catholic**. This was **not** a spiritual conversion but a **conversion of convenience**. The state churches were largely Christian in name only **having departed** from biblical roots and moorings centuries before.

Religious Zionism bases its belief on the promises in the Hebrew Scriptures. Contrary to what some Christians believe and teach many of us **do not believe** that the promises given to the children of Abraham, **the Jews**, have been aborted. The Jews **still** figure prominently into the scheme and plan of God. **See** - Gen. 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:4-8; 22:15-24; 26:1-5; 28:10-15; Ezek. 37:21; Amos 9:14-15.

Christian Zionism can mean:

1. Support of Israel based on biblical prophecy as Jews return to **the land** and as prophecy unfolds for the return of Christ to take His place on the throne of David as its rightful heir, as the Son of David.

2. Unqualified support for national Israel supporting its government regardless of what it

does and/or how it acts.

Let me comment on #2 first. Because the present government of Israel *is not* godly, nor is it biblical but secular, an increasing number of Christians are **finding it difficult** to support Israel. Unfortunately because of the secularism of the Israeli government it merely pays **lip service** to the faith of Abraham. **Christian Zionists cannot unequivocally support** the Israeli government when it acts contrary to Scripture. As Christians we are obligated to pray for the Israeli leaders.

It is the first point that we as **Christian Zionists** take our stand. We support Israel because of biblical prophecy. **We reject the replacement theology held by many Christians** who believe and teach that God is finished with the Jew and that the Church is **the New Israel**. This is the position held by Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy and many Protestants. Many Christians believe that this position is unscriptural, hence it is a false teaching. **Israel is still Israel**. The Abrahamic Covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants, **is still in effect**. The land belongs to the Jews whether or not the nations of the world concur.

Christians Zionists are not anti-Arab nor anti-Muslim! In fact, there are biblical promises to the children of Abraham through **Ishmael**. These will be fulfilled one day. Christians are to **love both Jews and Arabs**. However, **the Jews are special** in the sense that God has called them to be His Chosen People. **Christian Zionists** believe that God's promises to Abraham are **unconditional**. God promised Abraham and his descendents,

"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be

“blessed.” (Gen. 12:3) NRSV

Ed McAteer, a leader in **Christian Zionism**, says: “One of the reasons America has been blessed over the years is because we have stood with Israel.” We are convinced that this is true. Our greatness as a nation **is not due** to race or the founding fathers but how we have related treated the Jews and Israel.

The roots of **Christian Zionism** reaches back to the early nineteenth century largely to **John Nelson Darby**, leader of the **Plymouth Brethren**. As a student of Scripture Mr. Darby came to the conclusion that God works through **two different people; the Jews and the Church of God**. The churches during Darby's day believed that the promises of God given to the Jew were transferred to the Church in entirety. Darby believed the promises given to the Jews remained in force. This is the position of **Christian Zionists**.

Many Christians are **returning** to our spiritual roots today. We praise God for this exciting move. At this point in history there is Israel [national or biological Jews] and there is the Body of Christ [made up of both believing Jews and Gentiles]. When the Body of Christ is **called-up** to be with the Lord, many biological/national Jews will then come into full belief becoming God's witnesses throughout the earth. **See** - Rom. 11:25-27; Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5.

As Christian Zionists we need to:

* **Pray for the salvation of the Jews.** They have religion, but not knowledge of the Gospel of Y'SHUA [Jesus]. **See - Romans 10 & 11.**

* **Be faithful in sharing the Gospel with Jews (Rom. 1:16,17).** We need not be afraid to tell them about Y'shua who is our Messiah as well. Remember, He was a Jew!

* **Actively combat anti-Semitism remembering that God blesses those who bless the Jew and withholds His blessings from those who curse the Jew.** Among authentic Christians there must be no hint of anti-Semitism no matter how subtle it may appear to be **(Gen. 12:1-3).**

* **Pray regularly for the peace of Jerusalem and all Israel.** Pray that the Israeli government will take biblical stands and forsake its ungodly secularism **(Psalm 122:6)**

* **Become acquainted with our Jewish roots as Christians.** Study and observe, in part, the Feasts of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is exciting to learn what these festivals symbolize for we who are followers of Christ. Our New Testament faith is built upon the foundation laid in the days of old under God's Covenant with Israel. Reforming Christianity is built upon the apostles and prophets with Y'SHUA Christ the Chief Cornerstone.

As Christian Zionists we are premillennial, reject replacement theology and are seeking to share the Gospel of Christ with Jews and Gentiles alike. See- Rom. 1:16.

We invite your inquiry for a free listing of literature on many varied subjects.

OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES

"Ambassadors of Reconciliation!"



HC 1, Box 1529
STRAWBERRY, AZ 85544-9740

Copyright © MM by Olive Tree Ministries
All Rights Reserved

Visit our Web Site – www.olivetreeministry.com
Email – olivetree@cybertrails.com