

Day 2

Keep Israel & The Church Separate

There is a popular idea in Christian circles today that the Church is “Spiritual Israel” (Sometimes called Replacement Theology – but this idea is also a key feature of Covenant Theology and Reformed theology). According to this teaching, the Church is simply a continuation of God’s one plan for working with humanity and there is only one group of “people of God.”

In contrast to this, at Spokane Baptist we believe that nation of Israel (the genetic descendants of Abraham) are a unique and special people to God with a separate and unique program that is distinct from God’s program with the Church. This is a vast subject, but we’ll cover two of the key points here.

#1) The greatest potential problem is trying to combine Law and Grace

The Bible is filled with warnings about the mistake of trying to combine law and grace. This mistake will keep you out of heaven (by trying to earn salvation instead of receiving it by faith) – but even after getting genuinely saved there’s a danger that Christians can be tricked into trying to go back to living under the law... trying to earn God’s approval with their works, rather than walking in the Spirit by grace with Christ.

Jesus Christ and the whole New Testament teach extensively on this subject – including the whole book of Galatians which almost exclusively focuses on this topic.

Galatians 3:1-3 – “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

Not everyone who makes the mistake of combining the Church and Israel into one program will then also make the mistake of combining the Law and Grace. (For example, Covenant/Reformed Theology combines the Church and Israel, but does not make the mistake of combining Law and Grace.)

However, confusing the Church and Israel is dangerous because it makes confusion on Law and Grace much more likely... as well as making it much more likely that you’ll read the Bible allegorically instead of literally.

See Bonus Handout: Understanding the difference between Law and Grace

#2) To combine the Church & Israel you must allegorize many of God’s promises

- A) The promised land (**Genesis 15:18**) – much more land than historic Israel ever possessed.
- B) The promised king (**2 Samuel 7:12-17**) – a descendant of David to rule forever
- C) The promised destruction and re-establishment of the Temple (**Micah 3:12-4:2**)
(Why would the 1st half of this be literal, but the second half be allegorical?)
- D) The promised national salvation and turning of Israel to Christ (**Zechariah 12:9-14**)

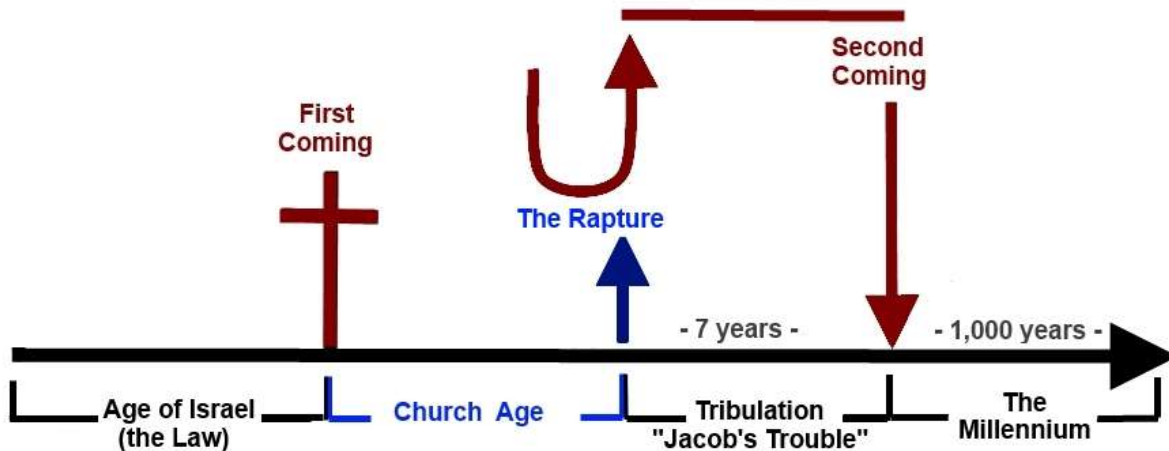
God’s unconditional promises are not invalidated by the unfaithfulness of man. Nothing we do is ever a surprise to God, and He does not need to adjust His plans according to the way we behave.

Jeremiah 31:35-36 – “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.”

Romans 11:1 – “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.”

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PART 2

Application to Prophecy: The Tribulation is a Return to the Old Testament System
(why the Church won't be here for the Tribulation)



#1) The Anti-Christ will not arise until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way

2 Thessalonians 2:2-9 – “That ye be not soon shaken in mind... as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth** (restrains/holds back) **will let, until he be taken out of the way**. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”

(Can the church be here without the Holy Spirit? *No!* See: **Romans 8:9, Ephesians 1:3-14**, etc.)

#2) Part of our salvation is being delivered from God's wrath!

Romans 5:9 - "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

The Tribulation period is clearly a time of God's Wrath on the earth.

Revelation 16:1 - "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." (See also: **Revelation 6:16-17, Zephaniah 1:15**, etc)

#3) Tribulation primarily about Israel - a return to the OT system

Daniel 9:24 – “Seventy weeks are determined upon **thy people and upon thy holy city**, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness...”

Jeremiah 30:7 - "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of **Jacob's trouble**..."

#4) Christ Promised the Church victory over Satan - but Satan gets victory over the "saints" in the Tribulation!

Revelation 13:7 - "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them..."

1 John 4:4 - "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (see also: **Matthew 16:18-19, Colossians 1:3, James 4:7, 1 John 5:18**, etc)

(Therefore, these tribulation saints cannot be members of Christ's Church!)