

Is Jesus for the Jews Only?

Much of dispensational theology make a significant distinction between between the bible's use of Israel in prophesy and the church. The dispensationalists will often take the teachings of Jesus and apply it to the church and Christianity, and why not ... we are indeed disciples and followers of Jesus? Their folly enters when they make the claim, "This does not apply to us for Jesus was speaking to the Jews in this passage and not to us. Oh really?"

This is the biggest travesty and tragedy of dispensationalism ... the "carving up" of the word of God to suit their own purposes. When the teachings of Jesus compliment their theological construct, it applies to us ... when it does not ... it applies to the Jews, ethnic Israel. This is a cavalier treatment of the Word of God and unfit to ascertain God's truth. God's Word is **God's Word** and worthy of far more *respect* than that rendered to Him by dispensational theology.

One of the tenets of dispensational theology is that there are various dispensations or methods in how God has dealt with "His People" throughout time or more appropriately put, since the creation of man. While there are some quality and truthful "aspects" of dispensationalism ... after all, it's is embraced and taught to and by many believing Christians ... and that would not be possible if the system was completely corrupt.

The corruption of this theological construct does not make this system a cult ... but neither does that make it sound either. It's sort of like playing a game not to lose rather than playing it to win. In theology there is an unfortunate acceptance of those who play the game not to lose ... "Well it *could* be true" seems acceptable to some rather than rather than the more desirable, "is it true." God desires those who seek Him, and seek Him diligently. Jesus tells us,

Luke 11:9

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Many apply this verse to justify asking God for _____, fill in the blank with whatever you want. I believe what Jesus is referring to is the deeper and more important spiritual dynamic of God revealing more and more of Himself to those who seek Him and sincerely desire to know Him more. When our first priority is God, the balance of what we want and need is opened to us.

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

When we seek God with our whole heart and our whole mind he promises to reveal Himself more and more to those who do. God's desire is to have us come into a *personal* relationship with Him. Once again the words of Jesus,

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Revelation 3:20

'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Jesus says God wants to dine with us. He's inviting all His children to a feast. He is the bread of life and the spiritual food that we crave. The more we feast upon God and His Word, the more and more He gives us. Yes, we can get real *fat* on the spiritual food of God. That sort of fatness is a good thing. The source of His food is His word.

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

My primary approach to scripture is from the perspective that God breathed into the minds of those men He inspired, certain *truths* about Himself that God *wants men to know* and understand about Himself. He has not communicated to humanity to confuse us, but to clarify Himself to us. God desires that humanity know Him. He has given all mankind in the capacity to know certain things about Himself ... He IS ... He exists ... He created us with a place and special purpose. But not all are given beyond that except to those who accept Him in faith. To those He gives His Holy Spirit and the ability to seek Him deeper and the capacity to know and understand Him more fully. We need God to know God. Man on his own can only come to know that God exists ... but not who He is. Man on his own is not able to reach up to God ... it is God that reaches down to man and reveals Himself to man.

There are some theological systems that attempt to develop a system that allows man to reach up to God. All these systems or constructs are inadequate on that basis alone.

Dispensational theology has at its roots certain suppositions that are faulty and worthy of all such rejection. They have certain precepts and suppositions that form the foundation that this entire system rests and relies upon. It is these faulty constructs that I will expose here, one at a time starting with the faulty understanding of "My People Israel" and "My People the Church" always being separate and distinct.

Dispensationalists claim that God's promises to "His People Israel" do not apply to "His People the Church"

The implications of this are dangerous:

Many of the teachings of Jesus are to be rejected or ignored because they were for the Jews only and not for His church.

The Apostles' that ministered and spoke to the Jews must be rejected or ignored for it does not apply to the church, it is for the Jews only.

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None of the Old Testament prophecies apply to the church, they are for the Jews only.

They are not only dangerous but unbiblical for the New Testament has many chapters and books designed to refute this notion. Dispensational theology leads people into a false sense of who God is and how He relates to and deals with His People. God does not distinguish between His People ... so neither should we. His people are all His People. The New Testament speaks frequently on this very point from varying perspectives. The Apostle Paul's teaching to the Jewish believers that ethnic Israel is no longer the exclusive inheritors to God and Jesus, a bizarre concept in this day and age no doubt. The descendents of Israel must now "share" the distinction of being God's chosen people with the Gentiles - the non-Jews - that God has brought "into" the fold. We, the Gentiles are now "grafted in" and "co-inheritors" *with Israel* of all the promises of God. ALL the promises, not just the one's pleasant to the ears. What God has promised to Israel, he now promises to us as well.

The warnings God delivers equally apply to us as well. While some dispensationalists say yes to the promises, they say no to the warnings. They reject all such scripture that speak of suffering, persecution, and death to apply to the Jews and not to the church. The creation of the "rapture" that removes the church from the time period of the Great Tribulation is one such teaching. They teach that it is only for Israel and that because it is only for Israel, there is no mention of the church, therefore it cannot include the church. When confronted with "proof text" that even they are compelled to acknowledge concerning the church in prophesy, rather than repent from their doctrine, they prefer to say it is "some other" church, or those being "left behind" and can't apply to us because it contradicts their theological construct.. This type of circular reasoning is so ridiculous and absurd it hardly warrants discussion, but must be because many believers are programmed to see their non-biblical teachings as the *only* way.

Paul leaves us with an "end times" warning and why we must remain vigilant. I'll highlight pertinent scriptures he wrote to Timothy, an elder and pastor of what he must continue to teach:

2 Timothy 3:1-4:6

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

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- 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.
- 10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,
- 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!
- 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,
- 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

- 1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
- 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
- 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

These verses prepare elders to stand firm against apostasy, cults and non-believers who would try to introduce destructive heresies into the body of Christ. It also is also useful to help restore one who turns away from one or more truths.

Dispensationalism is one such teaching that warrants rejection on biblical grounds. The argument that all prophetic warnings of Jesus in Matthew 24 are to the Jews only. Jesus was talking to the Jews. The entire earthly ministry was to Israel only.

Matthew 15:24

But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

That's also true of the disciples that Jesus sent into the other cities, towns and villages.

Matthew 10:5-6

- 5¶ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;
- 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

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Well then, when was Jesus *not* talking to the Jews. Let's take a look at what else would have to be rejected because Jesus was speaking *to the Jews* .

The Lord's Supper ... this was a passover observance and a Jewish holy day

Baptism ... Jesus was speaking to His disciples and they were all Jews

The Sermon on the Mount ... the messages were to the Jewish believers only

The Beatitudes ... The Model Prayer ... Laying up treasures in heaven ... Not serving God and Riches ... Do not judge ... Jesus as the true rest ... All the parables ...

I can go on, but do I really need to? Do you see the folly of rejecting the sayings of Jesus because it's a message for the Jews only? We must read and heed ALL the words of Jesus for they do apply to the believers that are *grafted into Israel*.

Please read the bible study on Romans 11, *Grafted Into One Tree*. That study is Appendice B of *Dispensationalism*, located on the Topical Bible Studies section of The Lord's Children Fellowship website. <http://TheLordsChildren.org>