

## The Big Picture: God's Overarching Plan

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- 1) The whole Bible is one story of grace → Mankind fell in Genesis 3 == Alienated from God
  - a) God's design To Reverse the Fall thru a 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam → To create a People for His own Glory t
  - b) God's eternal purpose is to renew humanity in His Image → Image lost in the fall → thru Chris
  - c) Eph 4:24—*"put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness & holiness"*
  - d) Begins with Adam → promise to put enmity between seed of woman and seed of serpent
- 2) Humanity ever since Adam been divided between Seed of Woman (Elect) → Seed of Serpent
- 3) Seed of Woman → Seeds of a New Humanity → Begins with Adam & Proceeds Thru Israel
  - a) Personified in Cain & Abel → Jacob & Esau (Rom 9) = Believing Israel/Gentiles VS Everyone Else
  - b) It begins with Israel as a Seed → But God's Ultimate Intention == Multi-Ethnic & Global
  - c) This New Humanity Supersedes Any One Nation → Worldwide Kingdom Defined By Faith
- 4) Bec/ Faith & Not Ethnicity Defines God's People → Jesus Calls Pharisees == Seed of Serpent
  - a) John 8:44—*"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires."*
  - b) Rev 2:8—*"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."*
- 5) Promise to Abraham → Make Him a Great Nation == So That Through Him All Nations Blessed
  - a) Gen. 12:3—*"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* → Forms Israel From His Seed
- 6) Call of Abraham → Creation of Israel Means to an End → First Fruits of a New Humanity in XP
  - a) Not Separate Thing God is Doing → But 1<sup>st</sup> Step in Renewal of Humanity & Nations
  - b) God Plants Seed of New Humanity In Israel → Believing Israel == First Fruits
- 7) Abe is Father of Israel, but also recipient the Gospel Promise → The Gospel Is For All Nations
  - a) Gal 3:8—*"Foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."* → Gen 3 == Gospel for Nations
- 8) Abraham's Great Nation == Not End In Itself == Means to the Greater End of Saving "World"
  - a) 1 John 2:2—*"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*
  - b) Is 2:2—*"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it"* == This Is the Church → Not the Millennium
  - c) Zech 2:11—*"Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people."*
  - d) Zec 9:7—*"I will take away its blood [Ashdod-Philistine) from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth; it too shall be a remnant for our God; it shall be like a clan in Judah, and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites."* → In Other Words == Part of Israel → People of God
  - e) Mal 1:11—*"For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts."*
- 9) The Entire NT chronicles the fulfillment of these promises → Revelation Summarizes It...
  - a) Rev. 5:9—*"By your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"* == Church Built on Foundation of Apostles & Prophets

- b) Woudstra—“Should not Christ fulfill (i.e., fill up) all that the OT had spoken about Israel’s true nature and its dismal failure to be what it was called to be by gathering about himself a new Israel, representative of all that the earlier Israel was ever intended to be, establishing it upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, with himself as its chief cornerstone?”
- 10) So what God is doing in the OT → Not Different Than What He is doing in the NT
  - a) In OT Starts W/ One Nation → Saves By Grace thru Faith → **Sacrificial System**
  - b) WCF 11.6—“The justification of believers under the Old Testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the New Testament.”
  - c) WCF 8.6—“Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein He was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent’s head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world; being yesterday and today the same, and forever
  - d) In NT God’s Plan Comes To Fruition W/ Coming of Messiah King
  - e) NT Not a 2<sup>nd</sup> Parenthetical → Separate Program == **Actual Fulfillment of Everything OT**
- 11) Gospel Mission Begins In Jerusalem & Judea → Jews First, then Gentiles → Ripples of a Stone
  - a) Mission Starts with Jews → First Dibs on the Messiah → But Does Not Stop at Border of Judea
  - b) Includes Jews—Begins with Jews → Gathers the Believing Remnant of Jews
  - c) But In the Process → Breaks Off the Unbelieving Dead Wood to Make Room for Gentiles
  - d) Dr. Arturo Azurdia III—“Now friends, people often ask me, “Do you believe that the church replaces Israel. The answer is “no of course not!!!” The church does not replace Israel. The fact is, Jewish people who reject Jesus Christ are apostate from Israel. Following Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of true Judaism.
- 12) Gentiles Join the Remnant of Israel & By Faith Become Children of Abraham & Share in the Promise
  - a) Gentiles Do Not Replace Israel → Join It—Become Part of It → By Joining Selves To Christ
  - b) God Raises Up Children of Abraham from the Stones → Removes Heart of Stone...
- 13) With Coming of Messiah → Belonging To God’s People == Became Focused In Person of Jesus
  - a) The Kingdom of God Switches Focus From Place To Person → To True King
  - b) The Law of God Switches From Rules To The Law-Giver → Who Also Grace- Giver
  - c) John 1:17—“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
  - d) Temple of God Switches From Place To Spiritual People → No Longer Worship At Temple
- 14) Unbelieving Israel Became Like Gentiles in the Eyes of God → Outside the Covenant
  - a) Only Way to Participate in New Covenant == Thru Faith in the Covenant Lord & Messiah
  - b) Israelites as well as Gentiles had to submit to Baptism → Like Gentile proselytes of the OT
  - c) Where Israel was God’s flock → Those Jesus gathered to Himself became God’s flock
  - d) Gal 3:7 & 24—“Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham... So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.”
  - e) Gal 3:28-29—“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

f) Phil 3:3—“For we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”

15) Reign of Christ → Future Millennial Kingdom of Present Reality?

16) The Kingdom Has Come → The Millennium and the present age are the same

a) Revelation 20 never says that He will reign in Jerusalem → Must Read that in from OT

b) Satan Bound Matt. 12:29 Rev. 20:2

c) Deceives Nations No Longer Matt. 28:19 Rev. 20:3

d) Jesus Ascended Throne as Son & Heir of David Acts. 2:30-31

i) All Authority was Given To Christ Matt. 28:18, Eph. 1:20-22 Rev. 20:4-6

ii) Began To Reign Over Earth As King

17) If Christ Reigns Now and the Millennium Ends with the Second Coming → What Role for Israel?

a) State of Israel has no more place in the plan of God or the center of prophecy

b) Future Revival Among the Jews? → Possibly → Revivals Among Many Peoples...

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