

## Cultural Conversations: Jesus and Israel

### Week 3: Who Is Israel?

#### Who Is Israel?

- Not all Israel is Israel, and not all Churches are the Church (Rom 9:2-8)
  - Ethnic Israel is a type of Israel
  - National Israel is a type of Israel
  - Jewish Israel is a type of Israel
- Abraham Points to Jesus (Gen 12:1-3)
  - Jesus left His country and His Father's house to come to a strange place where He died homeless and had to be buried in a borrowed tomb.
  - God made Him into a great nation and made His name great.
  - Those who bless Jesus are saved and blessed eternally. Those who dishonor Jesus are cursed eternally.
  - In Jesus, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- Gal 3:28 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. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
- "Jesus is very literally the true Israel, the seed [of Abraham] (Gal. 3:16-17). He is the only one who is faithful to the covenant. He is a remnant of one. He fulfills all the obligations of the covenant and earns the blessings of the covenant for all who believe." (Tim Keller, *Preaching*)
- If Jesus is the true Israel, then everyone united to Him is considered Israel as well. And this is what we find when we examine the NT Church (1Pt 2:4-10; Hos 1:6-2:1)
  - Jesus is the true Temple, and we are His living stones
  - Jesus is the true High Priest, and we are His priesthood
  - Jesus is the true King, and we are His nation
  - Jesus is the true Son, and we are adopted through Him
  - Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep
  - Jesus is the Heavenly Groom, and we are His Bride

#### Is This Replacement Theology?

- Israel and the Church are One in Christ (Rev 21:10-14; Eph 2:11-22)
- John Chrysostom (Bishop of Constantinople, 4<sup>th</sup> C.) "The Greek does not have to become a Jew. Rather both enter into a new condition. His aim is not to bring Greek believers into being as different kinds of Jews but rather to create both anew."
- Ed Clowney: "In the apostolic church, the controversy over circumcision took place only because both sides thought of the church as the true Israel.
- Maybe the term "replacement theology" applies to some views of Israel within other Christian traditions, but not ours. We do not believe Israel has been replaced. We believe Israel is fulfilled by Jesus. Believing Jews are included in Christ as well as believing Gentiles.

#### I Stand with Israel

- What Israel are you standing with?
- Being critical of Israel is not being anti-Semitic. God is not anti-Semitic, and He had lots to say about Israel's bad behavior. Being pro-Israel doesn't mean you have to think Israel is sinless.