



## Pondering Prophecy... Week 3

Week 2 - Literal or Allegorical?

Week 2/3 - Israel & the Church Distinct or the Same?

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Our Book: "The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy"

By Ron Rhodes



## Week 2 Take Aways ... *Points to Ponder*

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- Literal is normal, everyday, plain understanding
- Does not preclude:
  - Figures of speech > “vine and branches...”
  - Symbols > “stars” are angels to the “lampstands” churches
  - Parables > Sower and the tares, the soils, the rocks, etc.
- We will move forward using Literal Interpretation...
- Characteristics of Dispensationalism:
  - Literal Method of Interpretation
  - Maintains a clear distinction between Israel and the Church
  - Expects a literal fulfillment of Israel’s covenants

## The Ways of the Wise...

- Acts 17:11, "Now the Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see if these things were so."
- In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity...Rupertus Meldenius 1627
- Lets keep building!





# The Seven Dispensations

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Innocence ... Gen 1:28-3:6

Conscience ... Gen 3:7-8:14

Government ... Gen 8:15-11:9

Promise ... Gen 11:10 – Exodus 18:27

Law ... Exodus 19 – John 14:30

Grace ... Acts 2:1 – Rev 19:21

Parenthesis of the Church

Kingdom ... Rev 20:1-16

Pages 22-23 of our text



## Major Covenants with Israel

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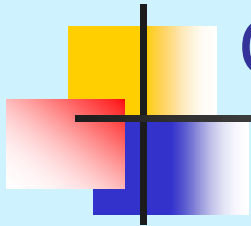
### Unconditional - Eternal – “I will...”

- **Abrahamic Covenant** (land, seed, blessing)  
Gen12:1-3,6-7 13:14-17 15 17:1-7-14 22:15-18 16
- **Palestinian Covenant** (regathering, land, prosperity)  
Deuteronomy 30:1-10 Refines Abrahamic Covenant
- **Davidic Covenant** (seed, throne)  
2 Samuel 7:8-16 Refines Abrahamic Covenant
- Acts 15:14-17
- **New Covenant** (spiritual blessing...after those days)  
Jeremiah 31:31-34 33 Refines Abrahamic Covenant

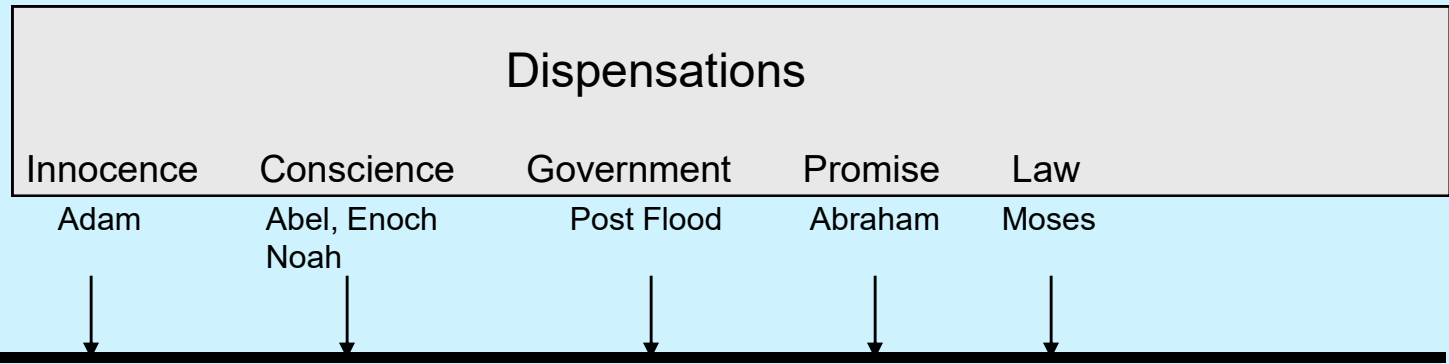
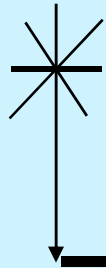
### Conditional – Temporal – “if you will...”

- **Mosaic Covenant** (blessing ... following law)  
Deuteronomy 11 note V13 22

# Our Historic Timeline



Creation  
of Universe



**Unconditional - Eternal Covenants with:**

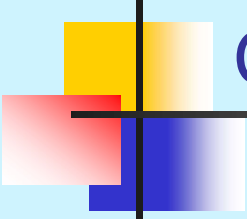
- Abrahamic land, seed blessing
- Palestine land, prosperity
- Davidic land, seed, throne
- New blessing

Israel

Israel

**Conditional**

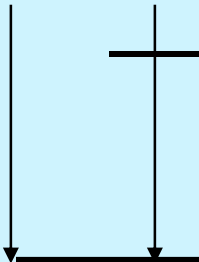
- (Temporal till the coming of the promised seed)
- Mosaic Covenant



# God's Prophetic Timeline



Christ's First Advent



Pentecost

The Church in action on earth  
(The Great Commission)

Snatching of Church



Daniel's 70th Week

Christ's Return's with Bride

Sheep & Goats Jdmt

Israel's restoration  
Millennium 1000 yrs

Great White Throne Jdmt

Christ's death resurrection

Daniel's 1st 69 wks ends

Antichrist confirms covenant with Israel

3.5 yr

Satan cast out of heaven  
Antichrist declares self in Holy of Holies of New Temple

3.5 yr

Satan bound  
Satan loosed

The King rules with rod of Iron

This is it! Praise Him!  
We are in Sinless Eternity!!



## Observations of the Grace Dispensation

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- A silent heaven is a leading characteristic of this dispensation. The heavens were not silent for Israel ...Long day of Joshua...The plagues upon Egypt...The parting of the Red sea...
- From the Apostolic age to the present hour not a single public large scale event can be identified to offer indisputable proof of an immediate divine intervention upon the earth.
- Contrast this with the Great Commission of Matt 28:16-19 ... go forth and make disciples of all... A focus on the heart VS land, seed, blessing

The heavens have been silent for ~ 2000 years





## Why so much time on Dispensations & Covenants?

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- Why so much time into OT principles of dispensations covenants and interpretation methods?
  - Because we are interlopers on the Hebrew prophetic path
  - 11 chapters of the bible cover 2000 years before the call of Abram, and the church is never mentioned in the OT >> the OT is all about Israel
  - “For a time” the Gentiles have gained a place of blessing upon the earth.. but only for a time.
  - Read Rom 11:25.. Blindness in part happened to Israel until the full of the Gentiles come in. ***God is not done dealing with Israel as a nation.***
  - Read Luke 21:24 Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. So can you tell when Jerusalem will be fully restored to the Jew? ....After this dispensation ends.



## We are Interlopers on the Jewish Timeline

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- Acts 15:12-17:

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up:

*"Brothers, listen to me. Simon (Peter) has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:*

*" 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things that have been known for ages. ' "*



## Debate 2: Are Israel and the Church Distinct?

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### ■ Replacement enthusiasts case on pages 33-36

- Key verse is Gal 3:29 "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
  - How do you interpret this passage?
  - Our genetics do not change, we are *spiritually* Abraham's sons and daughters...
  - Paul in Rom 11:25-26 sees Israel being united with Christ and their hardening removed
  - Unfulfilled promises on pages 39 to 41
- Every OT prophet talks of a permanent return to the land of Israel by the Jews (except Jonah)



## The Truth about Jerusalem from Prophecy

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- The truth about Jerusalem: Zech 12: 1-3
  - Intoxicating obsession of the **entire** world
  - The Lord declares:
  - I will make Jerusalem a cup that makes the surrounding people reeling
  - Judah and Jerusalem reeling
  - ALL the nations gather against her
  - Jerusalem an IMMOVABLE ROCK... boundary immovable for **ALL the nations... including the USA**
  - **All who try... will injure themselves... to their own peril**



## Jerusalem and Peace in the World...

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### Why two state solution is evil

- Could be repackaging of Hitler's final solution ... its intent is to destroy Israel
- Arafat: in the west "peace" but in arabic back at home said "peace for us means destruction of Israel"
- MO of Islam: Mohammad & Saladin made peace then destroyed their enemies
- Dan 8:25 ...Antichrist... through his policy will cause craft to prosper in his hand... **by peace shall destroy many...**
- **We need to be very careful about US led peace processes ...USA supports 2 state solution ... if the 2 sides agree...**
- Signs of the times... Points to Ponder...
  - will Israel ever be removed from her land again?
  - Is it "prudent" to support dividing Israel?

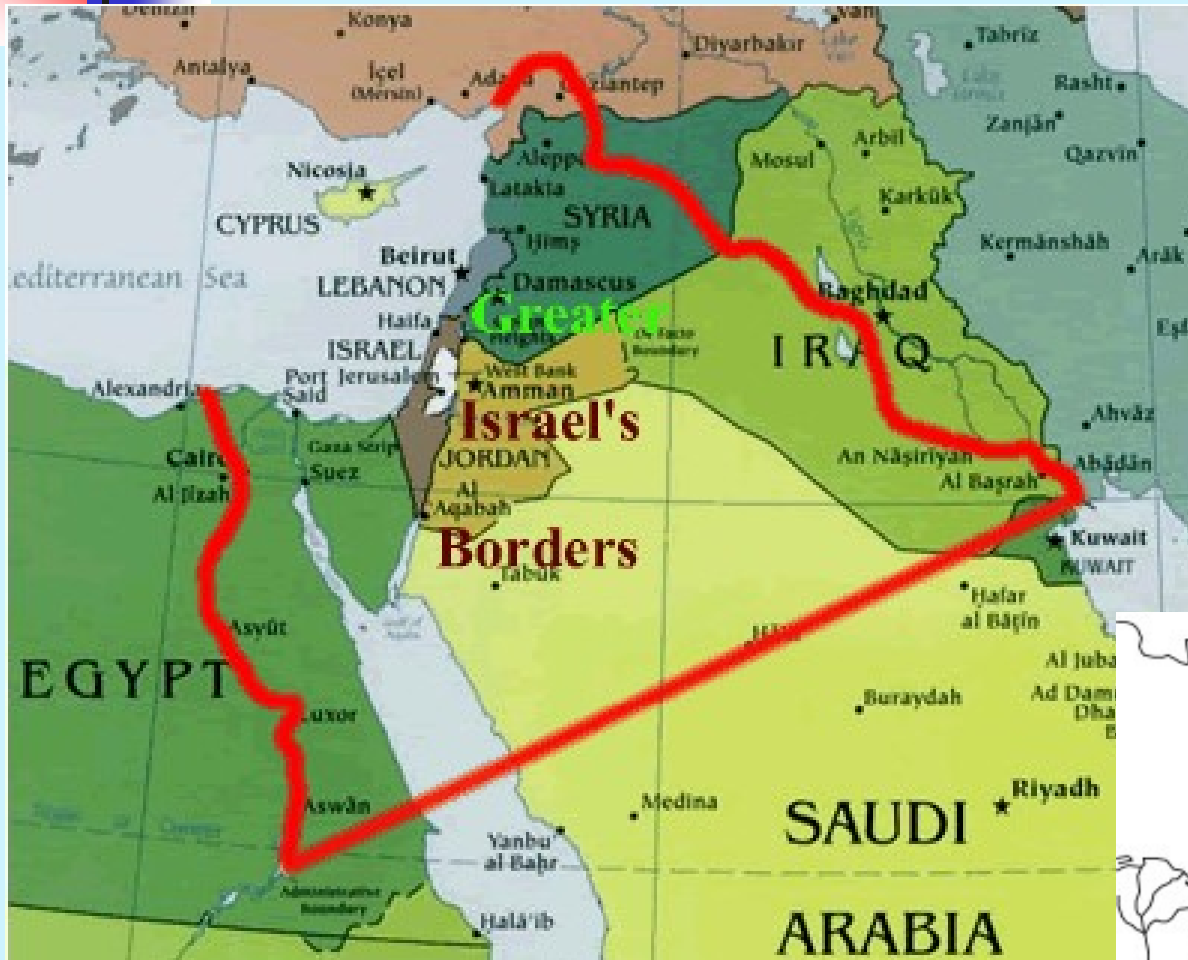


## The Regathering of Israel...

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- God said He would re-gather Israel back to the Land...
  - Isaiah 66:8 ...nation born in a day...
  - Isaiah 11:12 ...assemble outcasts of Israel...gather dispersed of Judah
  - Ezekiel 37:21 ...take Israel from among the nations...
    - This is part of the "dry bones being brought back to life prophecy in Ezekiel 37, it is fascinating! ...
    - Lets read together V14 ... and declare it's implications based on our framework to date.
    - Lets read together V24 through 28 ... and discern its implications
  
- Leviticus 25:23 ... the land is Mine
- Genesis 12:7 ... to your (Abraham) descendants I will give this land
- Genesis 26:3-4 To Isaac: ...to you and your descendants (not Ishmael) I will give all these lands
- Gen 15:18-21 ... the extent...Israel, Judea, Samaria (West Bank), Gaza, Golan Heights, ALL of Jerusalem. (NE portion of Egypt, Modern Israel, Lebanon, Syria, piece of Turkey, half of Iraq, northern half of Jordan a slice of Saudi Arabia)

# The Promised Land



The Full Promised Land





## Debate 2: Are Israel and the Church Distinct?

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- Page 42: The terminology through book of Acts keeps the Church and Israel distinct. ... top read.
- Israel re-gathered on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of **Israel**. U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new nation on the same day however, **Israel is yet in unbelief**.  
(secular state) bottom p 42
- Suggest we move forward with a framework that keeps Israel and the Church separate and distinct.



## The prophecy on Damascus: Isaiah 17:1-3



- **1**The **burden** of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from *being* a city, and **it shall be a ruinous heap.**
- **2**The cities of Aroer *are* forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.
- **3**The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts.



## Closing Thoughts for Week 3

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- I now understand why Jesus calls believers to "watch" repeatedly in the scriptures.
- It is harder to stray from God when you are paying attention to, and understand the times we live in.
- What an amazing blessing it is to witness the puzzle pieces falling into place for the apparent fulfillment of many prophecies described in Scripture.
- Could this be the blessing God talked about for reading Rev 1:3?