

Interpretation Study Handout

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel

Writings of LR Shelton on Israel of God

September 26th, 2021

“Based upon the clear teachings of God's holy, inerrant, unbroken, verbally inspired Word, our purpose in this study on THE TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD is to show that the Scriptures teach in clear, bold, unmistakable truths, that all believers, God's children by the new birth, are the true Israel of God; and that they, and they alone, are God's chosen people upon the earth today and are the present heirs of the promises made to Abraham and his seed in Christ.”

“We will also be setting forth that the physical nation of Israel in the land of Palestine in the Near East today is not God's chosen people or nation after the flesh, and neither will they ever again be dealt with as a nation in a so-called 1000 years of earthly prosperity with Christ sitting upon an earthly throne in Jerusalem. No, the Scriptures plainly teach that the nation of Israel was set aside at Calvary.”

“This precious truth of true believers being the true Israel of God has been lost among the rubble and trash of the false teaching of the past 150 years which says that God will yet deal with Israel as a nation, His chosen nation, and that most all of the promises of the Old Testament given to Israel are physical promises and not spiritual and that the Jew will again arise as the chosen people of God in a so-called 1000 year reign of Christ upon this earth....We will seek to show from God's Word that our Lord Jesus Christ is now King of kings and Lord of lords and that He *already sits upon David's throne in the heavenlies.*”

“Also my prayer is that when we have seen this gracious truth, we will no longer hold out any false hope to the Jews that they are the chosen nation of God, but that through repentance and faith they must have a present hope in Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God—a hope... These Scriptures teach that only a work of grace wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit will prepare a man for heaven, Jew or Gentile; and that the true Jew is one who has been born again.”

“God had progressively revealed His purpose through, first, His dealings with the natural Israel; second and finally, His dealings with spiritual Israel. There is no Scriptural basis for the regressive idea that God's dealings will again be centered exclusively on natural Israel at some future date, this would be going from natural to spiritual and back to natural again. If you will check your Bible you will find that the writers of the New Testament did not violate this principle of God, for in relating over 100 Scriptures from the Old Testament they always gave them a spiritual meaning and applied them to spiritual Israel, the Church, the born-again believers of all ages.”

“The apostle said that in time past the Gentiles were “without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph 2:12). But now God was freely offering His unsearchable riches (Eph 3:8) to people of all nations without requiring a change in their natural citizenship. Gentiles who had been aliens from the commonwealth of Israel were now, in Christ, ‘no more foreigners, but fellow citizens’ with the new and spiritual Israel. Those who had been strangers were now, in Christ, ‘no more strangers ... but members of the household of God’” (Eph 2:19).”

“So the commonwealth of Israel, the family and household of God, now contains both Jew and Gentile. Paul argued that this family and household was made up of only those who believed in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Those who were citizens of the Israel of Old, but who had not received Christ, were simply unsaved members of one of the many nations of the world. Thus, he said: ‘They are not all Israel, which are of Israel’ (Rom 9:6) and those who were not, he termed ‘Israel after the flesh’” (1Cor 10:18).”

"They are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham are they all children: but in Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed!" (Rom 9:6-8)...These verses tell us that the natural descendants of Abraham after the flesh are not the children of God. Therefore 20th century Israel is not the chosen nation of God; they cannot be, for they have rejected Christ as their Messiah just like the 1st century did. They abide under the curse of God as unbelievers. The only chosen nation today are both Jews and Gentiles who have been born again by the Spirit of God and have availed themselves of the blessings of the gospel of the grace of God in Christ. These only 'are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people'"

"He continues to show that the middle wall of partition had been broken down between Jew and Gentile, the enmity between them abolished and that they had, by the grace of God through the atoning work of Christ, been made one in Him, and thereby make up the true Israel of God (2:14-15). He adds that God's purpose 'that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel' (3:5,6,10) the same as the Jews, thus making the true Israel of God those who had been made new creatures in Christ Jesus by the new birth and who were now spiritual Israel."

"In 2 Corinthians, the old covenant made with the Jews, which they did not keep, is called: 'The ministration of death, written and engraven in stones ... the ministration of condemnation' (3:7,9); but the new covenant is: 'The ministration of the spirit' (3:6). The glory of the old covenant, as once reflected in the face of Moses 'was to be done away' (3:7) and was to be replaced by the new covenant that will 'exceed in glory' (3:9). We draw this conclusion: the New Covenant had forever replaced the old covenant in these words: 'For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious'" (3:11).

"We know from the words of our Lord himself as he stood before Pilate that the kingdom over which He would rule was not an earthly kingdom, but a spiritual: 'Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence' (John 18:36). And as the Amplified puts it: 'My kingdom (kingly, royal power) belongs not to this world, has no such origin or source here.' This to me is very emphatic that our Lord never came to set up an earthly kingdom, and it has never been in His eternal purpose to do so."

"Every promise in the Old Testament where the future throne of David is mentioned (2 Sam 7:16; Pss 89:3-4; Isa 9:6-7, 55:3; Jer 33:1-2), and every Scripture in the New Testament confirms Peter's statement of Christ ruling and reigning upon David's spiritual throne in heaven."

"Now there are those who would limit the kingdom to a period of 1000 years, place it in the future altogether, and give it a prescribed location on the earth with the Jews being the principle actors and Christ with His disciples sitting on an earthly throne ruling with a rod of iron... This is false; it is utter folly, for this is foreign to the teachings of those Scriptures which plainly teach that God's kingdom is eternal. Ps 145:13, 'Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.' Not only is it eternal, but it is not involved with geography at all. Our Lord said to the Pharisees: 'The kingdom of God cometh not with observation... behold the kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:20-21). It is a thing in us and not outside of us in pomp and splendor: 'For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit' (Rom 14:17).

"Paul preached of this kingdom of God which is the rule and reign of Christ in the heart and operative in the life. Acts 19:8, 'And Paul went into the synagogue and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God,' which is the rule and the reign of Christ the King in the hearts and lives of His people who make up His kingdom. Listen again to Acts 20:25 as Paul sums up to the Ephesian elders his preaching among them: 'And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.'"
