

Unbroken (Part 1): The Covenant God Never Canceled

SERMON SERIES

01. INTRODUCTION

Welcome everyone, today we are going to pause and spend some time on a topic that really is central for any Christian, Church, or Pastor who takes The Bible and God's promises seriously... that topic is Israel.

Whether you realize it or not, when you pull the Israel thread, it touches every other thread in your worldview: history, theology, eschatology, politics, notions of justice, and more.

As disciples of Jesus and responsible interpreters of scripture, we can't leave our beliefs about Israel up to chance, unexamined and unchallenged. We must actively bring our thinking into collision with the council of God through scripture.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Today we are going to talk about the Bible has to say about Israel.

People often ask, why should we support Israel? What's the big deal? Some people go so far as to say that Israel is a bad country, an occupier, and we shouldn't support them.

Some people think God had a plan for Israel but that plan was completed in Christ and Israel is no longer relevant.

If you've wondered about those things – this message is for you.

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03. MESSAGE

Talking about Israel is a very complex subject, and trying to tackle it in one message on a Sunday is largely impossible. But, you have to begin somewhere. So, we're going to talk about Israel in Two Parts.

Part 1 – Challenging Replacement Theology. First, what is Replacement Theology :

Replacement Theology (Supersessionism) is the belief that the Church has replaced Israel in God's plan for the world, that the promises and covenants made to Israel in the Old Testament now apply exclusively to the Church, and Israel no longer has a unique role in God's redemptive plan.

This view is considered a needs to be challenged because it **denies** the **ongoing significance** of **Israel** in Scripture and **denies God's unchanging covenant** promises to the Jewish people.

Four Reasons We Must Challenge Replacement Theology.

1. God's Covenant with Israel is Everlasting.

Genesis 17:7-8 (NLT)

I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God."

Everlasting, Always, Forever. These words are neither temporary nor ambiguous. God has established a covenant with the nation of Israel, a promise of physical land and spiritual relationship. When God says something is forever... it's forever. God has granted them the land

Pastor – are you sure? Yes I'm sure, and here's why:

Jeremiah 31:35-36 (NLT) "It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the Lord of Heaven's Armies, and this is what he says: I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature!"

Now, some people still say – "that's the old covenant, that's all before Jesus." To which I would say again:

2. God Has Not Rejected His People, Israel.

Romans 11:1-2a (NLT) "I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning..."

Paul goes on to talk about the future redemption of the people of Israel. If they had been replaced, there would be no future for them as a people. But this is clearly not the case.

3. Israel Has a Part to Play in End Times.

There is not enough time today to read it all, but powerful prophecies in Ezekiel 37 and Zechariah 12-14 show us that Israel plays a central role in end-time events, further affirming that Israel remains in God's plan for the future.

Let me read just the first few verses from Zechariah 12 to give you an idea of what I'm talking about.

Zechariah 12:1-3 (NLT) This message concerning the fate of Israel came from the Lord: “This message is from the Lord, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit. I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves.

The world has surrounded them and relentlessly comes against them. The Lord has established Israel as an immovable rock.

4. Gentiles are Grafted into the Family of God.

In Romans 11 Paul walks through an analogy of the people of God as an Olive Tree. He then talks about gentiles, not replacing the tree, but becoming a part of it.

In this section, he is specifically **refuting the idea that just because many Jews rejected Jesus, the “tree” that is the Jewish people is not uprooted.**

Romans 11:17-18,24 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Paul would later write to the gentile church in Ephesus, reminding them that they **have not replaced the Jewish people**, but that we have **become fellow heirs**.

Ephesians 3:6 (ESV) This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

There is a LOT More we could say about replacement theology. As we continue next week you're going to see more reasons why we must challenge it. Today, I want to conclude with a simple idea.

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

God has not abandoned Israel. And as believers, we are called to honor God's covenant promises, join His storyline, and stand with the integrity of His word.

Let's Pray

Quotes from US Presidents may be of interest in this message. Here are a few.

"For I really wish the Jews again in Judea an independent nation. I believe ... once restored to an independent government & no longer persecuted they [the Jews] would soon wear away some of the asperities and peculiarities of their character & possibly in time become Christians for your Jehovah is our Jehovah & your God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is our God."
John Adams, 1819

"I believe in the rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation."
John Quincy Adams, 1825

"It is impossible for one who has studied at all the services of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity."
Warren Harding, 1921

"Israel is a light unto the world. The hearts and history of our people are woven together. The Land of Israel is an ancient home, a sacred place of worship, and a solemn promise to the Jewish people that we will never again repeat history's darkest hour."
Donald Trump, 2018