

CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "Christians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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Errors, False Accusations, and Affronts to Messiah's Finished Redemption?

I have been uncertain as to what to write for this edition's lead article. Finally, inspiration came through a Facebook post from an organization that I must admit does some great work producing testimony videos to evangelize Israelis and other Jewish people. Sadly, their good work was sullied by a recent article making false accusations against those of us who hold to the unity of God's purpose in the Scriptures rather than a divided and confused approach to Biblical truth. I hope the reader will carefully consider the scriptures presented here and the meaning of these scriptures. I think the false Dispensational doctrines of those accusing us of "Replacement Theology" are actually by their implications an affront to Messiah himself and his finished work on the cross. (That is certainly not the intent of these brothers who are friends and co-workers. They are victims of Dispensational theological error.)

Reformed thinkers understand that the overarching purpose of God throughout scripture is redemption from the Fall through Messiah coming as the New Adam. We see a unity in God's plan. We affirm the whole of God's revelation centers on Messiah himself, even as a Talmudic rabbi said, the world was created "For the sake of the Messiah." (Rab. Jonathan, Sanhedrin 98b).

We understand that, as Paul wrote, "all the promises of God find their Yes in him." (2 Cor. 1:20) Messiah himself is the ultimate heir to all the promises of God. "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but **referring to one**, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ." (Gal 3:16) We are told that if we are in Messiah through faith, **we are "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ."** (Romans 8:17) Finally, Matthew 2:15, "out of Egypt I called my son," tells us Jesus himself is the true and ultimate Israel. How? Because it

applies Hosea 11:1 to Jesus, though it explicitly referred to Israel in its original context. The national calling of Israel was fulfilled in Jesus' obedience. The Scriptures teach that Messiah is the New Adam, the ultimate son of Abraham, and the deliverer who leads us out of sin and death and into the eternal promised land. Jesus is the paramount Davidic King whose kingdom is forever. His bloody sacrifice for sin eliminated the need for any further blood sacrifice of bulls, lambs, and goats. This is clear in scripture.

The false accusation is that we are "Replacement Theologians" because we see the unity of God's purpose in Messiah and that all believers become fellow citizens in the Commonwealth of Israel. (See Ephesians 2:11-22) They slander us and say that we propagate an "antisemitic falsehood" through Covenant Theology. Never mind that great Jewish Christian theologians like Alfred Edersheim –not to mention Peter and Paul– agree with us! (See the Warburton Lectures by Edersheim, chapter 6 on Prophecy and History, where he delineated the spiritual nature of prophecy, available in our downloads section www.chaim.org/downloads)

Antisemitism? Dispensational teaching commonly predicts that, based on Zechariah 13:8-9, two-thirds of the Jews in Israel will be slaughtered, yet they still encourage Jews to return to Israel to fulfill prophecy! Could they be accused of antisemitism?

We do not speak of "Replacement Theology," which is a made-up term used by Dispensationalists as a cudgel against Covenant theology. We simply believe everything is inherited in Messiah and there is nothing extra to be had outside of or in addition to Messiah. We believe the promises of God and the covenant obligations are the same for both Jews and gentiles who together receive the blessings of the New Covenant. Why is that so wrong?

Their theology that says the cross and the church are “Plan B,” while an earthly Israelite kingdom was “Plan A,” arguably amounts to an affront to Christ and what he accomplished. They say blood sacrifices will be re-instituted by God in the future. Granted they claim these future sacrifices will be a remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus, but isn’t that what the Lord’s Supper is? Others say they demonstrate the Lord’s holiness, but doesn’t the cross demonstrate that? Don’t their doctrines diminish Messiah’s wondrous redemption?

No, Covenantal thinkers don’t believe in “Replacement Theology.” We do not believe God has replaced the Jewish people with the “gentile church.” We believe in **expansion**. Gentile converts could always become part of Old Covenant Israel. Messiah expanded this. Yes, the **institutions** of the Old Covenant are now obsolete (Hebrews 8:13) and have been replaced, but this takes nothing away from the Jewish people. Antisemitism is a false charge. That accusation is very offensive, especially to someone who has dedicated most of his life to Jewish ministry, but how I feel is of little importance compared to its offense against the finished work of Messiah. They see national Israel as the center of all God is doing on earth rather than Messiah as the center. **They essentially replace Jesus with national Israel.** (I do affirm Israel has every right to exist as a nation. I also believe, based on Romans chapters 9-11, God will revive the Jewish people to faith in Jesus for his own glory and vindication and to bless the church.)

We who see the unity of God’s plan of redemption want to take nothing away from the Jewish people. We only want to bring to them the Good News of forgiveness of sin and eternal life through Messiah. We stand with Paul in saying we are all one in Christ and that the gospel is still “to the Jew first and also to the gentile.” (Romans 1:16) The Good News of salvation through faith in Messiah Jesus must still be offered to Jewish people, who God has preserved and saves through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe the most antisemitic things a Christian can do are to deny the Jewish people need Jesus and to fail to proclaim Messiah to them.

Perhaps this article will offend some readers and some will decide to stop supporting us. Some beloved fellow workers in Jewish ministry will also be offended. But truth is truth. The centrality of Christ is the clear teaching of the Scripture. If this article offends you, please consider how offensive is the false charge that we foster antisemitism through “Replacement Theology.” It just isn’t true or fair. —FK

CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES

From Director Fred Klett

We mourn the passing of a friend of our ministry, Harry Reeder, who pastored Briarwood PCA in Birmingham Alabama, one of our key supporting churches. Please pray for his family and Briarwood church at this time. Also, one of the borrowed elders on the session of our Rock of Israel PCA church plant, Steven Smallman, went home to the Lord. He had been a great encouragement for many years. Pray for his family. Finally, my younger sister Kathy passed away at only 53 after several months of great suffering. We trust she is with Jesus. It is our hope and prayer that those at the memorial services will be touched by the Good News of Messiah.

Please pray for evangelism this summer. We will be doing street evangelism, including during the Philadelphia Independence Week festivities and also doing some outreach at the NJ Boardwalk. Feel free to donate toward printing materials and t-shirts. I plan to attend the International Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism in Poland this August. I already have a voucher for airfare, but will need to pay for the conference and other travel.

JULY 4 WEEK CAMPAIGN! COME JOIN US!

We are planning to do street evangelism during Independence Week festivities. If you would like to take part, please contact the CHAIM office.



Many volunteers have joined us in evangelism over the years. Here is a team from a while back. Maybe you will be a part of this year’s team?

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT!
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS!**

CHAIM Staff Members:

Rev. Fred Klett, Executive Director

Rev. Rick Anderson, Senior Missionary

Rev. Vitaly Kalinovsky, Russian Ministry