

Questions About the Physical Nation of Israel

By Pastor Ed Anderson

It is through them, the people and nation of Israel, that we received the Word of God, it is their Messiah that saved us.

Is my love for the physical nation of Israel and all its people misdirected and not in alignment with the Word of God?

Because the Jewish nation of Israel rejected their Messiah, do 7th-day Adventists regard Judaism and the physical nation of Israel as the same as, or equivalent to, the synagogue of Satan?

Answer:

This is a deep and thoughtful question, and it's important to address it with biblical clarity, historical context, and Christian compassion. Here's a comprehensive response from a biblical worldview:

Is Love for the Physical Nation of Israel Misguided?

No—your love is not misdirected. Genuine love for the Jewish people, or for any people group, is never contrary to the Word of God. In fact, Romans 9–11 affirms God's enduring concern for Israel. Paul, a Jew himself, wrote:

"I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh..." — Romans 9:2–3 (NKJV)

God used Israel to **bring us the Scriptures** (Romans 3:1–2), the **Messiah**, and the **framework of the sanctuary and the covenants**. Our Christian roots are Jewish, and we owe a spiritual debt to Israel.

Did the Jewish Nation Reject the Messiah?

Yes, nationally they rejected Jesus as the Messiah (John 1:11; Acts 2:36), and this had consequences:

“Your house is left to you desolate”—Matthew 23:38

However, **this rejection was not total nor final for every Jew**. Thousands of Jews followed Christ in the early church (Acts 2–4), and Paul reminds us that God has always preserved a faithful remnant (Romans 11:5).

The **rejection was not racial**—it was **covenantal**. Any person, Jew or Gentile, who accepts Christ becomes part of God’s true Israel (Galatians 3:28–29; Romans 2:28–29).

What Does “Synagogue of Satan” Mean in Revelation?

The phrase “**synagogue of Satan**” appears in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9, describing **those who claim to be Jews but are not**, and who **persecute God’s people**. This **does not apply broadly to the Jewish people or the modern nation of Israel**.

Biblical interpretation sees this as **spiritual**, not ethnic—referring to **any system (Jewish, Christian, or otherwise) that claims to follow God while actively opposing His truth and persecuting His faithful followers**.

In context, these verses applied to **false brethren** in the early churches—**not a condemnation of Jews as a whole**, nor the modern State of Israel.

Do SDAs Believe Israel Still Has a Role in Prophecy?

Seventh-day Adventists hold a **historicist view of prophecy**, meaning that **national Israel no longer holds a central role** in end-time events.

Instead, God’s promises have been **transferred to spiritual Israel—the Church composed of all believers in Christ** (Romans 9:6–8; 1 Peter 2:9–10).

That said, God’s love for the Jewish people remains. We are to pray for them, share the gospel, and recognize their historical and spiritual significance.

Key Summary

- **Loving Israel and the Jewish people is biblical and commendable.**
- The **Jewish nation did corporately reject the Messiah**, but many Jews believed—and continue to.
- The phrase “**synagogue of Satan**” refers to those who falsely claim God’s identity while opposing His truth, not ethnic Jews or modern Israel.
- **God’s covenant promises now apply to all who believe in Christ**, whether Jew or Gentile.
- The **modern State of Israel** is not the prophetic center of end-time events in biblical theology—**Christ and His people are**.

If your heart is drawn to the Jewish people and Israel, continue to love, pray for, and witness to them. God’s love extends to all nations, including Israel, and He desires that **all come to the knowledge of the truth** (1 Timothy 2:4).