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God's Plans for the Jews According to the New Testament



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #182 ~

The Old Testament is primarily about the Jewish people. From Genesis 12 to Malachi 4, its primary theme is God’s work with this special group of people, a chosen race, a treasured possession. We read about their birth, their growth, their worship, their leaders and kings, their victories, their sins, their defeats, God’s judgment of them, and His plans for their future.

We come to the New Testament and it’s about Jesus Christ, His disciples, the church, and the future that God has both for the church and the Jewish people. Now some may say God has forsaken and forgotten the Jews, that His promises to them have been reneged and rescinded and are no longer valid. But that is not true! An honest study of the New Testament reveals over 100 different verses that not only

corroborate God's Old Testament plans for the Jews, but further explain and expand on them. All Christians, need to understand God's past, present, and future work with the Jews. Today, and again next week, I will be looking at New Testament Jewish verses that speak of their future, and relate to the future of the church.

As we examine these verses that describe God's plans for the Jews, we will learn:
1. Verses in the New Testament about the Jews are not hidden, obscure, or hard to see – they stand out, are obvious, and easy to see.
2. These verses are clearly for the Jews, and in no way can be construed to be for the church.
3. These verses about the Jews are in the context of God's work with the church. They are not isolated, sitting by themselves, but are adjacent and connected to passages about the church.
4. These verses show us God's plans for the Jews in this age and in the age to come.
5. These verses help us see the entire sequence of events, from God's work with the Jews in the past to God's work with the church in the past (church age) to God's work with the Jews and the church in the present (the end-times) to Christ coming back to carry out His plans for the Jews and the church in the future.
6. Knowing the chronology of prophesied end-time events, and then seeing God fulfill His prophecies for the Jews, will help the church know where she is at, timing wise, with regards to Christ's coming.
7. These New Testament verses about the Jews complement God's Old Testament promises to them, and enable us to see the whole picture, God's overall plan for the Jews.
8. Now that we live in the end-times, it's essential that we understand the true meaning of these verses, and how they relate to the church.

Let's look at these New Testament Jewish verses in the context of the church.
1. Acts 1:6-11. This speaks of the apostles' time with Jesus right before His ascension into heaven. They ask Him when He is going to restore the kingdom to Israel, for they want to know when He will begin

His reign on earth and when they will be ruling with Him. Jesus tells them, *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem… to the remotest part of the earth…"* Christ wanted them to know that He must first build the church, and then, at the end of this age, He would return to earth to set up His kingdom. We are now living in the end-times, and it won't be long before Christ comes back to set up His kingdom, a kingdom for believing Jews and Gentiles. Acts 28:20-23, 30-31

2. Acts 2:17-21. These verses, taken from Joel 2:28-32, are for the Jews, but there is a dual fulfillment, for they are also for church. Now the *"last days"* is a reference to the church age. The beginning of this age is depicted by the outpouring of the Spirit, and the end of this age is marked by the signs in the heavens. During this age, *"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (Acts 2:21). Whereas Acts 2:21 speaks of the salvation of the church before these heavenly signs, Joel 3:32 speaks of the salvation of the Jews after these signs – "*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered. For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape… in those days and at that time when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem…"* This refers to the great escape and salvation of a remnant of Jews and the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. (Rev. 11-12). These first century Jews did not understand the church age, but now we have 2020 vision, and looking back we can clearly see the dual fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32, and that a chosen remnant of Jews will soon be saved.

3. Acts 3:18-21. These verses show the chronology of God's work with His people. There's the suffering of Christ, which is followed by His resurrection and ascension, after which there's the church age, during which time people repent of their sins, turn to Jesus Christ, and are saved. At the end of this age, Christ, who is now in heaven, will come back and restore the earth, which is what the Jews wanted to hear, for it meant God's plans for them would be fulfilled.

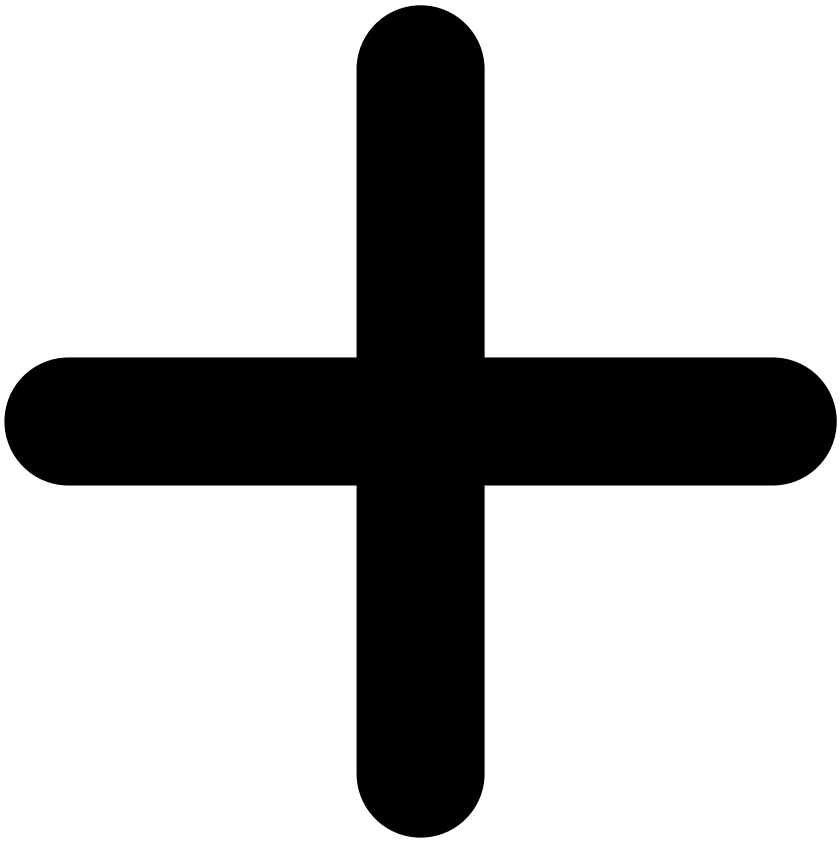
4. Acts 15:14-17. These verses, from Amos 9:11-13, speak of God's

work with both Jewish and Gentile believers. Like the previous verses, we read about the church age, and vs. 14 speaks of this, a time period during which God is focusing on the Gentiles. *"After these things, I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David..."* This is referring to Christ's return to earth after this age is over to rebuild Jerusalem and establish His reign over the earth, a time when both Jews and Gentiles will be greatly blessed. *"God blesses us..."* Psalm 67

5. Romans 11. This New Testament chapter, better than any other, tells us about the salvation of Jews during this church age, and at the end of this age. Most Jews, during this age, harden their hearts and do not believe in the Messiah, but some, a select few, believe and are saved. But God, after this age, after the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled, and in accordance with His promises and mercy, will save a remnant of Jews – *"This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins... To Him be the glory forever."* Romans 11:26-27, 36

All these verses, in addition to ones we will look at next week, prove to us that God has not forsaken the Jewish people during this church age. He has kept the Jews alive, has kept saving a remnant of them, and now in the end times, and in view of the church, is renewing His work with them. Once this age is over, God will fulfill His three main promises to the Jewish people, for He will redeem a remnant of them (salvation), renovate the earth (land), and begin ruling over the earth (King). *"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people."* Romans 15:10, Ezekiel 37:21-28

P.S. I hope you are excited to learn about these New Testament Jewish verses and how they relate to the church. Make sure you read next week's post to find out the other verses that speak of the Jewish people and their future. In the meantime, I would encourage you to read the article, *"A Summary of the Prophetic Work of God, From the Time of Abraham to Christ's Millennial Kingdom."*





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