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Christ is Coming for Both the Church and the Jews



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #85 ~

I have talked about the Jews in detail in many previous posts, and that's because they are a central and important subject in prophecy. But many Christians say there's no future, no God-promised plans for the ethnic Jews. They tell you that hundreds of Old Testament prophesies for the Jews have been cancelled, are null and void. But that's not true, for God does not change His mind. Yes, His plans for the Jews were suspended, but they sure weren't cancelled. You read the New Testament, which is about the church, and you can't miss the many verses about the Jews, ones that prove there's a future for Israel, but are also relevant to the church. Let's look at some of these verses, and see why:

Matthew 24:15-27 takes us from the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week to the return of Christ and the rapture of the church. During this short time

period, the Antichrist desecrates the temple in Jerusalem *("when you see the abomination of desolation… standing in the holy place")*, chases after the Jews, and attempts to persecute them.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-6 further describes this end-times' Jewish scene, when the Antichrist, *"the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."* This is a most abominable and blasphemous act of the Antichrist, for he is stopping Jews from sacrificing, and setting himself up as God. It's written in this letter to the church, for when it occurs, it will be a signal to the Christians that Christ's return and the rapture will soon be taking place.

Revelation 7:1-8 gives us more information about God's end-time work with Israel, and that is the sealing of 144,000 Jews. *"I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel"* (Revelation 7:4). Those sealed are not Gentiles, and are not saved during the church age, but are specially chosen Jews, ones who will be saved to worship and follow Jesus Christ. Revelation 14:1-5

Then there's **Luke 21:20-24**, five verses that summarize the history of the Jews from the first century until the end of the still-future 70th week of Daniel. They describe the desolation of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and the death of many Jews. Those who don't die are *"led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."* Since the Jews are now back in their land, we know it won't be long before the coming of Christ, the rapture of the church, and the *"times of the Gentiles are fulfilled,"* and a remnant of Jews will be saved.

These are just some New Testament verses about the future of the Jews, and here are some more: **Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 1:31-33,**

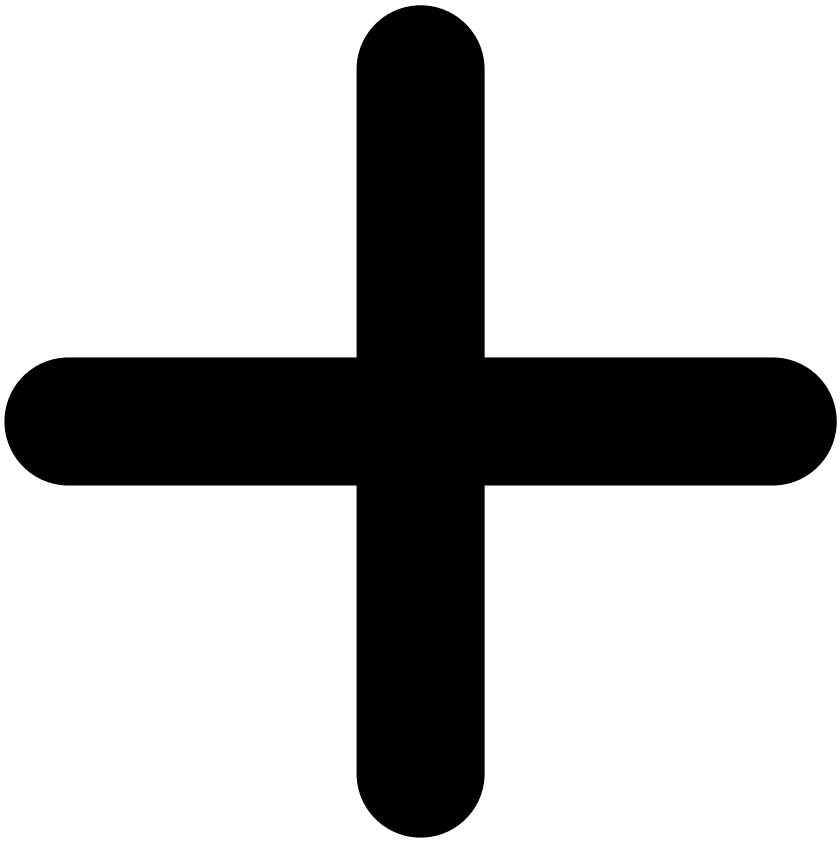
54-55; Acts 3:20-21; Romans 11:25-27; Hebrews 8:7-13, 11:10-16, 11:39-40; Revelation 11:1-16, 12:1-16. All the verses I have referenced in this post are about the Jews, for they talk about *"Judea"*, *"temple"*, *"Jerusalem"*, *"Sabbath", "Judah", "holy city"* and *"Israel"*. You can't say these verses are no longer relevant, and you can't spiritualize them, saying they are now for the church. There's no doubt God wants to instruct and remind the church about His future plans for the Jews, as it also relates to her future, the plans He has for her.

Why is that? Why are these verses important for the church? Matthew 24:15, tucked in a key prophecy passage, says, *"Let the reader understand."* What does the church need to understand?
1. That God is faithful, and is still working with the Jews and is, at this time, fulfilling His plans for them.
2. That Christ is not just coming back to carry out His plans for the church, but to also carry out His plans for the Jews.
3. That God's work with the Jews in the end-times is in conjunction with His work with the church, and will be taking place in the same time frame. I say this because many New Testament passages about the future of the Jews are sitting right next to passages about the future of the church. Look at this: Matthew 24:9-14 *(church)* – Matthew 24:15-24 *(Jews)*; Luke 21:12-19 *(church)* – Luke 21:20-24 *(Jews)*; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2a, 5-9 *(church)* – 2 Thessalonians 2:2b-4 *(Jews)*; Revelation 7:1-8 *(Jews)* – Revelation 7:9-17 *(church)*. These side-by-side passages about Jews and Christians make it clear that God's end-times' work with the church coincides with His end-times' work with the Jews.
4. That the fulfillment of end-time prophesied events for the Jews are signals to the church, alerting her to the fact that Christ is coming soon to rapture her, and take her home to heaven.

Once we get to Daniel's 70th week, God's work with the Jews and the church really gets Revved up. Jewish events taking place, the peace treaty with Israel, the temple built in Jerusalem, and the Antichrist desolating the temple, will be siren-sounding signs to the church that

Christ is returning soon, and that she will be raptured and heading to heaven. Soon after this, a remnant of Jews will be saved and the glorious kingdom age will begin. Then all believers, both Jews and Gentiles, will reign with Jesus Christ over this world. *"Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great... Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns."* Revelation 19:5-6

P.S. Hurricane Florence: The Perfect Storm – I say that because our God is sovereign over this major storm that has been hitting the east coast of the United States, and He knows exactly what He is doing. Might we continue to pray for all the people affected, for their physical safety, but also for their spiritual safety in Christ, the salvation of their souls. I wrote a number of posts concerning hurricanes last year at this time, particularly relating them to the end-times and the coming of Christ. I encourage you to read them – "A Hurricane is Coming – Be Ready, Watching and Working", "The Alarm is Ringing – Wake Up America! The Storm is Coming", "A Big Storm is Coming and I Don't Mean Hurricane Irma", and one more to calm your soul, to give you peace, "When the Storms Come, Don't Be Afraid."



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