

to Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul argued vociferously that Gentile Christians did not have to submit to the Mosaic Covenant in order to be considered the people of God (a.k.a. Israel).

Now, it is true that in Romans Paul writes extensively about his hopes for the salvation of his people, i.e. the Jews. Based on his conviction that God's promises never fail, Paul is convinced that the Jewish rejection of Jesus is not the final word.

Many see in Paul's words in Romans further evidence that the modern state of Israel is a step in the direction of the Jews affirming Jesus as the Messiah. One significant problem with that is that Paul does not deal with a return to the land as an indicator or precursor to the return of Israel to God. Their return, just like the Gentiles being accepted, is based solely on faith in Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God's promises and intents.

Those who tend to see modern day Israel as a fulfillment of prophecy will often point to passages like Ezekiel 36: 24, "I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land;" or Isaiah 35:10, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; . . . " However, in both of those cases, the primary emphasis is not on the land, per se, but on the cleansing and the restoration of the people of God to faithfulness in relationship to God.

Even if, we want to hold that many of the passages in the Old Testament speak literally to the return of all the Israelite to the land of

Palestine, those who want to build a biblical case fail to take seriously the New Testament writers' basic relativizing of the importance of the land and the Temple.

Most of the Gospels tend to identify Jesus as the new Temple—'Tear this Temple down, and I will rebuild it in three days.' Paul not only sees Jesus, not the Temple as the locus of God's presence, but he occasionally describes the church (made up of both Jews and Gentiles) as the Temple of God's Spirit. The writer of Hebrews points out that there is no more need for the system of sacrifice that the Temple supported, because Jesus is not only our "great High Priest," but he is the "once-for-all" offering on the altar for our sin.

Beyond that, in the book of Revelation, which many of the end-time prophets seem to love, we see a vision, not of a restored nation-state or system of worship in a re-built temple. No, we see a vision of a "new heavens," a "new earth," and the "new Jerusalem," not built on the ruins of the old, but coming down from heaven, with God making God's home on God's throne in the midst of humanity.

And none of this is dependent on human machinations. It happens in God's time. As Jesus told his disciples, "no one knows, not even the Son," when God will complete God's work. Our job is to go and bear witness to the Kingdom of God that is here now, in the presence of Jesus by the power of the Spirit, and is coming like a thief in the night.

At this point, I feel a bit like the Apostle John; i.e. there is more to say than I can write here. But I hope that what is written here will give us pause before we fall into the tar pits of "biblical prophecy."



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Jiyoung Kim
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Secretary

Chris E. Palmer
Plant Manager

The Carillon

Week of October 15, 2023



Jim's Jottings

The question was asked of me the other day, "Are you going to do a Bible study on what is happening in the Middle East?" When I inquired further into what the questioner was looking for, it became clear that much of the discussion in some Christian circles about current events and the need to support Israel is taking place within the context of a certain notion of biblical prophecy.

Many Christians believe that we owe the modern state of Israel unqualified support, not only as Christians, but as the United States, based on God's word to Abraham in Genesis 12, "Go from your country to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Fearful of running afoul of what they perceive to be God's curse, many Christians are loathe to criticize the state of Israel or even question its policies and practices in administering the land on which the state is founded.

Beyond this, a whole system of interpreting the Bible has grown up, primarily in the 20th Century that purports to prove that, in order for Jesus to return, the Jews must be gathered in the biblical land of Israel and the Temple must be rebuilt on its original location in Jerusalem

When I was asked the question at the start of this column, I did not quite know how to answer it. That is because, the system of interpretation that undergirds the notion that modern-day Israel is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, and is





Oct 15

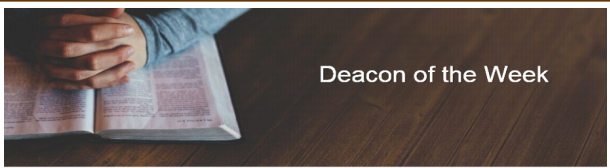
Camera– Errol Morgan

Sound– Ray Powell

Oct 22

Camera– Ruth Holladay

Sound– Lindsey Harris



Deacon of the Week

Dora Vanderhoof

241-9517(h) 693-2286 (c)



SUNDAY

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship on Facebook®

YouTube®,

& lyndonbaptist.org



SCRIPTURE READERS

Oct 22

Patricia Edwards-Palmer

Oct 29

Julienne Apedanou



Anniversaries

VANDERHOOF, Tim & Dora 10/26

Birthdays

WASHINGTON, Eureka 10/25

GARWOOD, Madge 10/27

AMPOFO, Maxine 10/29



Wednesday

November 1

6:30 p.m.

Every year on All Saints' Day, we gather for a special service to remember and honor those we have lost to death. We seek God's help and strength to cope with the loss and move toward healing.

Jim's Jottings continued from Front Page

based on what I consider to be a complicated patchwork of proof-texting, misinterpretations and misrepresentations, and a willingness to set aside most of what Jesus and the other writers of the New Testament teach about the importance (or lack thereof) of the Temple and the land as part of God's ongoing purpose to redeem the world and reconcile all things to God's self. Thus, it is hard to know where to begin and how to proceed.

That being said, I would like to address some major issues and points that I think are problematic about the biblical interpretation undergirding the attempts to prove that the modern-state of Israel is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

One of the first problems has to do with how we understand prophecy. Many of those who seek Israel as a fulfillment of prophecy would see prophecy as a type of foretelling. That is, through the prophets, God gives a kind of detailed roadmap for the future. One problem with this view of the prophetic literature is that it really does not provide a clear-cut road map. Most of these schemes of biblical prophecy have to pick and choose from various places and cobble together passages in order to create the path they want to create. Often these passages are connected together on the rather thin basis that each passage may contain a similar word. That is why most of these prophetic interpretations rely on complicated arguments illustrated with similarly complicated charts.

However, the basic function of prophecy in Scripture is not predicting the future. Rather it proclaiming a word from God to a people who have wandered far from God's intention for them, and whose lives do not reflect the covenant God made with either Moses or Abraham. The prophets speak to warn God's people what will happen if they continue in their rebellion against the covenant. At the same time, the prophets also bear witness to the continued faithfulness of God in the face of the people's faithlessness. Thus, in many of the prophetic writings, there is a word of hope; that God will restore the people of God to their place in God's covenant and plan. Though, at this point it may be useful to remember that for Isaiah, it would not be the whole of God's people who would be restored, but a remnant.

While we are on the subject of the fulfillment of prophecy, let's turn a New Testament view of prophecy and its fulfillment. One of the central tenets of the Gospel's is that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises God made through Abraham to Israel. In the Gospels, and indeed in the rest of the New Testament, it is Jesus through whom the prophetic hope for the restoration and renewal of Israel is fulfilled.

In the Old Testament, Israel is often referred to as God's son. In the New Testament that mantle of sonship falls squarely on Jesus' shoulders. This New Testament emphasis, I think, also point to a fallacy in many so-called prophetic interpretations or insights. Fundamentally, the covenant God made with Abraham was not about land. It was about the forming of a people who would be the vehicle for God's blessing, not just to Abraham's children, but to the whole of the world. The Apostle Paul makes it abundantly clear in Romans and Galatians that the Gentiles become heirs of the promise made to

Fellowship Dinner Menu

October 25

Meat Loaf
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Salad

November 1

Fried Chicken
Green Beans
Mac & Cheese
Slaw

November 8

Spaghetti w/Meatballs
Salad

November 15

Thanksgiving Dinner
Turkey & Dressing
Green Beans
Sweet Potato Casserole
Cranberry Sauce & Rolls

Please make or change your reservation by
NOON on MONDAY
so we can give the caterer an accurate count

OCTOBER

Monday, October 23

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, October 24

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group
1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Wednesday, October 25

5:30 p.m.—Fellowship Dinner
6:00 p.m.—Prayer and Worship

Thursday, October 26

9:30 a.m. - Joyous Singers

Saturday, October 28

9:00 a.m. - Koran School

Sunday, October 29

Noon—Deacons' Meeting

Monday, October 30

9:00 a.m.—Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, October 31

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group
1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

Deacon Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP
ROOM 213

PRAYER GUIDE **October 22, 2023**

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory, redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen

DAILY BIBLE READING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday – Psalm 98; Daniel 3:1 – 18;
Revelation 18:1 – 10, 19 – 20

Tuesday – Psalm 98; Daniel 3:19 – 30;
Matthew 17:22 – 27

Wednesday – Psalm 98; Daniel 6:1 – 28;
Matthew 17:22 – 27

Thursday – Psalm 46; Deuteronomy 9:25 –
10:5; Titus 2:7 – 8, 11 – 15

Friday – Psalm 46 Deuteronomy 9:25 –
10:5; Titus 2:7 – 8, 11 – 15

Saturday – Psalm 46; Proverbs 24:23 – 34;
John 5:39 – 47

Sunday – **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Psalm 46; Jeremiah 31:31 – 34;
Romans 3:19 – 28; John 8:31 – 36

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

*God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and
trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the
Holy Land.*

*Be with those who need you in these days of
suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews,
Muslims and Christians and for all people of the
land.*

*While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence
and the establishment of peace, we also call to
you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are
treated with dignity and honor as your children -
for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.*

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Fannie Agee

2003 Red Leaf Drive, 40242

Myshael Brownell

4228 Bayberry Drive, 40216

Marvin Conn

1713 Millgate Road, 40223

Helen Contis

512 Cricket Court, Orange Park FL 32073

Dickie Cox

Forest Springs Care Center, Room 401
4120 Wooded Acre Lane, 40245

Ken Dorton

136 Dorton Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224

Donna Douglas

4003 Pacelli Place, 40245

Virginia Ford

Glen Ridge Health Campus, Room 513
6415 Calm River Way, 40299

Jane Hasty

1605 Mame Court, 40242

Sandy Hoover

1031 Willow Springs Drive, 40242

Pam Wright

3907 Yardley Court, 40299

Raeburn Horne

4611 Haeringdon Drive, 40299

Liz Hornback

8484 Grand Trevi Drive, 40228

Gloria Landgrave

3112 Graystone Manor Parkway, 40241

Gene Morris

3000 Curran Road, 40205

Doris Omerod

1706 Roosevelt Avenue, 40242

Noemi Parroco

Vitality, Room 112
4501 Springdale Road, 40241

Libby Reynolds

9808 Neuquay Circle, 40241

Ann Sturdevant

3604 Breeland Avenue, 40241

Maria Sturdevant

7623 Celebration Way, Crestwood, KY 40014

Barbara Whitley

11710 Robin Lynn Lane, 40243

Prayer for Family and Friends

Evelyn Adiputra

Friend of Ruth Holladay

Rylan Applegate

Grandson of Steve and Ann
Sturdevant

Liz Aulino

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Kyp Bellinger

Family of Jim and Ruth
Holladay

John Biesel

Father of Lindsay Harris

David Brinkley

Nephew of Jane Hasty

Paul Christiansen

Family of Madge Garwood and
Merri McDonald

Billy Compton

Son in Law of Dickie Cox

Alex Delano

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Erin Ford

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Randall Ford

Family of Marty Hamilton

Ronald Furguson

Father of Addie Brownell

Lisa Gilmore

Friend of Derek Harris

Nelson Gruppe

Cousin of Diana Flemister

Jim Harmon

Friend of Marty Hamilton

Ray Hicks

Son of Gary and Victoria Hicks

Emily Janowik and Family

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Deb Jennings and Jordan
Hahn**

Family of Sandy Hahn

Mr. Kim

Father of Jiyoung Kim

Sara Beth Lowe

Friend of Derek and Lindsey
Harris

Forrest Morehead

Brother-in-Law of Sharon Wood

Jay and Mary North

Friends of Marty Hamilton

Donna Prim

Friend of Gary and Victoria
Hicks

Sean Ruwe

Son of Vera Ruwe

Jenny Siebert

Friend of Connie Black

Gladys Smith

Family of Addie Brownell

Mark and Amy Snyder

Family of Sandy Hoover

Sean Stearman

Grandson of Jan Raper

Gloria Waltemyer

Aunt of Shaunna Hoover Gragg

John Taylor Webb

Family of Becki Sikes

Jessica Weisenfels

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Maggie Westwood

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Joseph Williams

Family of Tim and Dora
Vanderhoof

Bobby and Rene Zimmer

Friends of Jack & Laurice Rogers