

MODERN ISRAEL

Request: what is our responsibility biblically as American Christians to the modern nation of Israel?

Last week we studied a brief biblical naming of Israel and the brief history up today: “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.” (Gen.32:28)

Divine Dispensations (DD) help us understand the role of modern Israel in biblical history (Gentile (GA), Jewish (JA), Church (CA), and Millennium (MA)).

Scofield defines a divine dispensation (DD) as “a period of time which man is tested in respect to some specific revelation of the will of God.” (Scofield Reference Bible, pg.5).

Unger defines a divine dispensation (DD) as “an era of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience to some definite revelation of God’s will.” (Unger Bible Dictionary, pg.269)

Adema defines a divine dispensation (DD) as “a definite period or age in biblical history in which a special divine agency functions with a set of divine revelation as God’s priesthood in the world.”

This lesson will study SIX aspects of Modern Israel as a nation during the church age.

1. During the Jewish Age (JA), the priest-nation of Israel was the divine agency to the nations of the world (Ex.19:5-6; Deut.26:19).

The JA extended from period of Abraham to first century Pentecost (Acts 1-2). As the divine agency of the JA, the priest-nation of Israel was the custodian of God’s word and evangelism in the world (Deut.7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Jonah).

“And the Scriptures (OT), foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you.’ (Gal.3:8; Gen.12:3; Rom.1:1-4)

“In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Gal.3:14) Abraham was the transition between the dispensation of Gentile Age (GA) to the Jewish Age (JA).

2. During the JA, God used Gentile nations as instruments of divine discipline as well as a preserver of the pivot of believers (Jer. 5:15-17; 7:26-30; Ps. 68:6).

Most of those Gentile nations tolerated Israel’s religious practices even allowing Israel to abuse the religious freedom of others (Matt.26:1-5) [religious plot]; (Luke 10:25-37) [good Samaritan]; (Luke 11:37-54) [woes]; (John 11:45-57) [political scapegoat].

“Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him – you have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.” (Acts 7:52-53)

3. The priest-nation of Israel was placed under the fifth cycle of divine discipline because of their rejection of the Jesus as the messianic Savior of world (Deut.28; Lev.26; Matt.16:21-23; John 1:10-13).

Isaiah warned the priest-nation of the 5th cycle in his famous Parable of the Vineyard (Isa.5:1-7). “So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard; I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its walls and it will become trampled ground.” (Isa.5:5; Job 1:9-11; 3:23)

Jesus gave a similar parable entitled, Tenants (Matt.21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18). “Therefore I say to you, ‘the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.’” (Matt.21:43)

Paul explained that temporary setting aside of the priest-nation of Israel was the “riches of the Gentiles.” (Rom.11:11-25).

4. Israel will remain under the 5th cycle until the Rapture of the church from the world (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58).

Daniel’s 70th week also known, as the seven years of Tribulation will follow the Rapture (Dan.9:24-27). The CA interrupted the JA seven years short of completion.

Dan.9:24-27 is built upon the math of the 70th week ($70 \times 7 = 490$ yrs).

- 7 weeks Rebuild Jerusalem during the Persian period ($7 \times 7 = 49$ yrs).
- 62 weeks Crucifixion of Christ and 5th to Israel by Rome ($62 \times 7 = 434$ yrs).
- 1 week Tribulation ($1 \times 7 = 7$ yrs) During the middle of this period is the Abomination of Desolation.

5. During the CA, believers are not identified as Jews or Gentiles but Christians (Rom.15:9-12).

Jew (JA) and Gentile (GA) are ethnic identifications of those outside Christ (John 1:11-13). They are spiritually disoriented to their dispensation history. In the CA, all believers are identified as Christians (1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:26-29).

This is another of the mysteries of Church: “This mystery is through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” (Eph.3:9)

6. During the CA, Gentile nations gave modern Israel their political national status because they are still under the 5th cycle.

God didn’t give it to them like He did in the JA (Gen.12:1-3,7; 13:14-17; 15:13-21; Deut.34:1-4).

During the CA, Jews are chosen in regard to their prophetic role in biblical history but not as the divine agency of God. Because of their prophetic identity with Christ, they have a guaranteed place in biblical history (Matt.1:1, 17; Luke 3; Rom.9-11; 11:25-28; Heb.12:22-24).

- Christians are warned against anti-Semitism (Gen.12:3).
- Jews are warned against being anti-Christ (Acts 2:23, 36; 1 John 2:18-22; 4:3).