

# What Does the New Testament Say about Israel?

Dr. Michael Rydelnik  
Professor of Jewish Studies  
Moody Bible Institute

IN THE LAND OF A THOUSAND STORIES, THERE'S ONE NOT BEING TOLD.

# WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE



# The Main Problem facing Christian Anti-Israel Activism

- Many American Christians maintain a literal interpretation of the Bible.
  - The God of Israel gave the land of Israel to the people of Israel, forever!
  - The God of Israel has restored His people to the promised land in fulfillment of prophecy
- Christian anti-Israel activists must undermine this literal approach to undo Christian support for Israel.

# The Main Arguments advanced by Christian Anti-Israel Activists

The Land promise is . . .

. . . not for Israel but for the Church.

. . . not about the land of Israel but the  
whole earth.

. . . not ever mentioned in the New  
Testament or by Jesus.

# I. The New Testament reaffirms that the promises presently belong to Israel.

- Acts 3:25

It is you who are the *sons of the prophets and the covenants* which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

# I. The New Testament reaffirms that the promises presently belong to Israel.

- Romans 9:4-5

. . . Israelites, to whom *belongs* (present tense) the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

# I. The New Testament reaffirms that the promises presently belong to Israel.

- Romans 11:28-29

From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your benefit, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; *for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

## II. The New Testament reaffirms that God gave the land as an inheritance for Israel.

- Acts 7:5

He didn't give him an inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, but He promised *to give it to him as a possession, and to his descendants after him*, even though he was childless.



## II. The New Testament reaffirms that God gave the land as an inheritance for Israel.

- Acts 10:37, 39

. . . you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee . . . We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the *land of the Jews and in Jerusalem.*

## II. The New Testament reaffirms that God gave the land as an inheritance for Israel.

- Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an *inheritance* . . . . By faith he stayed as a foreigner in *the land of promise*, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, co-heirs of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future in the Land – Matthew 24:15-20

<sup>15</sup>So when you see the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand ), <sup>16</sup> "then *those in Judea* must flee to the mountains! . . . . <sup>20</sup> Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future in the Land –Revelation 7:4-9  
<sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel . . . <sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future in the Land – Revelation 16:14-16  
<sup>14</sup> . . . the kings of the whole world to assemble them for the battle of the great day of God, the Almighty. <sup>15</sup> “Look, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who is alert and remains clothed so that he may not go naked, and they see his shame.” <sup>16</sup> So they assembled them at the place called in Hebrew *Armagedon*.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Temple – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

<sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For [that day] will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. <sup>4</sup> He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that *he sits in God's sanctuary*, publicizing that he himself is God.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Temple – Matthew 24:15

<sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, *standing in the holy place*"

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Restoration –Matthew 23:37-39  
<sup>37</sup> “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem!* The city who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, yet you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will never see Me again *until you say, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*”



# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Restoration – Matthew 24:30

<sup>30</sup> "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth (literally, *the tribes of the land*) will mourn; and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Restoration – Luke 21:24  
. . . Jerusalem will be trampled by the  
Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are  
fulfilled.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Restoration – Romans 11:25-27  
<sup>25</sup> . . . a partial hardening has come to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn away godlessness from Jacob. <sup>27</sup> And this will be My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Kingdom – Matthew 19:28

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "I assure you: In the Messianic Age, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

# III. The New Testament promises a future for the people and land of Israel.

- A Future Kingdom – Acts 1:6-7

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, *at this time* are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "*It is not for you to know times or periods* that the Father has set by His own authority.

# Now What?

- Accept the authority of God's Word.
- Be encouraged by God's faithfulness to Israel.
- Express God's love to Jewish people and all people.