

Biblical Zionism

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What is meant as Christian Zionist?

Zionism is the belief in the **Jewish** people's right to return to their homeland

An Unshakable Promise

- God assured Abraham that he would give him and his descendants a land of promise.
- He said to lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are – northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land, which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. (Genesis 13:14)

Israel Borders Defined

- In Genesis 15 we find that God defined the borders of the Promised Land and corroborates this promise by making a covenant with Abraham.
- “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates. (Genesis 15:18)

How Biblical Covenants Are Established

- It was customary in biblical times, that the establishment of a covenant was accompanied by the slaughtering of an animal. It was divided in two halves with each half placed opposite each other. Both covenant partners would together pass through the halves, confirming their intention of commitment (see also Jeremiah 34:18).

One Sided Covenant

- However it is important to note that when God made this covenant with Abraham, He alone in the form of a fiery furnace and a burning torch passed through the animals while Abraham was sleeping (Genesis 15:12).
- The covenant God made was thus a one-sided covenant through which God expressed:
- “No matter what you and your descendants will do, today I make a covenant with you Abraham, to give you and your descendants this land as inheritance.”

Basis Of Biblical Zionism

- It is this divine covenant and a multitude of promises on which biblical Zionism is founded.
- It is the faith in a covenant keeping God, which is the bedrock of our support of the Jewish people and the land of Israel.
 - “My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.” (Psalm 89:34)

Unshakable Condition

- The Bible, however, not only teaches about the right to possess but also about the right to inhabit the land.
- The book Deuteronomy, which records the last message of Moses before Israel conquered Canaan, stipulates more than any other book that there are firm conditions to living in the land of Canaan. Like a red thread these conditions are found through the whole book of Deuteronomy.
- Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants. (Deuteronomy 11:8)

Land Is For God's Holy People

- If Israel wants to enter the Land and dwell there for an extended period of time, they need to live there as a holy people. That means: the right of possession is clearly anchored in the word and promise of God. The land is forever hers. But the right of domicile is based on the spiritual condition of the Jewish people.
- Deuteronomy 28, the chapter of “blessings and curses” sums this up in a rather dramatic way: If Israel walks in the ways of their God “He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you” (V.8) but if she consistently refuses to walk according to his word and follows other gods, the ultimate consequence will be: “You shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.” (V.63)

The Book Of Joshua

- “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”
- “Neither, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come. [...] Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.”
- But if you want me to be on your side, take your shoes off, because this is Holy Ground.
- The Land is Holy
- God expects the people living on it to be holy and obedient to his kingship.

Biblical Doctrine of the Land

- Two side, One coin
- Two Principles:-
 1. The land belongs to the Jewish people, confirmed through a covenant
 2. The right of domicile on the land, focus purely on the required righteousness
- Focus only on (1) - embrace a right-wing nationalist agenda and our cause of Zionism is not biblical but political.
- Focus only on (2) - we are in danger of slipping on the path of replacement theology, and possibly anti-Semitism

Stocking Taking

- Israel returns today to their land largely as a secular people, only a small minority in Israel which sees the hand of God in its restoration.
- It is mostly the
 - pioneering spirit of the founding fathers,
 - the supremacy of the IDF or
 - other human achievements
- which are named as the creating source of modern Israel.
- High abortion rates, entanglement in eastern religions and open moral decline characterize the Israel of today.

Will God Uproot Israel Again

- God is not going to uproot his people. God did not restore Israel in order to exile her again, but rather to reconcile her to Himself.
- Paul: “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

ICEJ Position of Israel

- Boundaries of the land of Israel cannot be understood outside the context of Israel's spiritual condition.
1. We wish to affirm that the land of Canaan is the everlasting possession of the Jewish people. No other people have a biblical right to this land. It belongs to the Jewish people by divine covenant. Nevertheless Israel's right of domicile is dependent on her reconciled relationship with her God. According to Ezekiel 36:24-28, only a nation anointed by the spirit of God affords her the right to dwell in the land. This day is coming, albeit through a process of affliction.

2. Given that the Jewish people have returned to Israel a secular people, correction and judgment are to be expected. Remember, domicile is conditional upon Israel's reconciled relationship with her God. It is naïve for Christians to stand on God's Word concerning all the land bequeathed to her when she remains largely unfaithful to God. Land shrinkage is God's doing since He is determined to correct and save her.
3. However, since God in His Word has only promised two exiles and two returns and since these have already taken place, He is now determined to save her through affliction. She will not be exiled again!
4. If Israel is therefore going to lose land, do not be amazed at this. Rather embrace your responsibility to pray for her righteousness and salvation, knowing these alone will secure her domicile upon all of the land bequeathed to her. God has promised to save her.

5. God's process of dealing with Israel does not legitimize those like the PLO, Hamas, etc. who are actively working for Israel's destruction. We speak out against this evil and we must stand against all forms of anti-Semitism. We must warn our nations not to be part of any scheme to divide the land!
6. Judgment and correction are a divine prerogative. We must stand with Zion, help her, defend her and speak out on her behalf.
7. If God should allow that further parts of the land of Israel be relinquished, we fully understand the sorrow it will bring for many settlers who will be uprooted. We pray for them and do our utmost to comfort, support them and give them hope.
8. We must recognize that a great visitation of God is also coming to the Arab world. The Word of God promises a great revival among the neighbouring countries of Israel.