



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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ISRAEL **(DURING THE CHURCH AGE)**

The Church Age is unique while being related to other eras or dispensation. Dispensation orients the believer to God's plan for history. They unlock the wealth of the Scripture for personal application. Widespread ignorance of God's Word confined believers to fallacious and erroneous religious impression.

Some Church age believers thought that Christianity is a blend of the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, some portion of the Mosaic Laws, and some social ethics with no accurate idea how these diverse standards merge in the doctrine of the dispensation. These religious errors develop into exaggerated emotions in worship of God.

Some religions integrate Scripture in an unsatisfactory manner assuming that God's unconditional covenant with Israel has transferred to the Church and that Israel has become a spiritual entity with no national future. They sincerely but incorrectly believe that Israel and the Church are one people and that the true spiritual Israel is now the Church.

Both the OT and NT clearly declare and identify the true Israel, the chosen and elect people of God in the OT, the recipient of God's promises, is not only spiritually regenerate but also ethnically Jewish. God's magnificent faithfulness to the flesh and blood nation of Israel cannot be reduced to a spiritual or a figurative dimension only.¹

Strong continuity does indeed run through the divine view of history. God perceives all events as one indivisible system; every parts of the whole are still distinct parts. Some theologians look at the whole and see unclear consistencies; others look at the same whole and see the distinctions.

The doctrine of dispensations clearly and thoroughly integrates both change and continuity, both consistencies and distinctions.

Some thought that Israel was merely a shadow of Christ and the Church, and the Church is a fulfillment of divine covenants with Israel; overemphasize continuity in the plan of God.

They underestimate the implications of the changes God has instituted. Striving for an interpretation of the Bible that makes God's plan organic and consistent according to their own views, they make God's character inconsistent. These theologians wish to dissolve the ethnic definition of Israel and release God from His sworn obligation to honor His promises to His chosen nation. God keeps His promises. He is true to Himself, true to His Word, and true to all who trust in Him.

¹ See page 131

Dispensational shifts or changes do not undermine the integrity of God or the stability of His plan. On the contrary, such changes achieve His unchanging purpose for human history. God is ever perfect and no changes or shifts in human history can make Him imperfect.

God will fulfill His promises to Israel not during the Church Age but during the Great Tribulation and Millennial kingdom. Israel is presently under the divine discipline but God will never in anyway forsake Israel. God will fulfill His unconditional covenants to Israel no matter how disobedient they might be. God cannot break His own Words.

The changes in the dispensations are because human beings are unstable and ever changing. God included these changes in the divine decree, with due respect to human free-will (positive or negative) volitions.