



A CUFI PRIMER: The Biblical Foundation of Christian Zionism



“Christian support for Israel starts with the Bible, is strengthened by an understanding of history and endures because of our commitment to Judeo-Christian values.”

–Pastor John Hagee, CUFI Founder and Chairman

The first part of Pastor Hagee’s remark, that Christian Zionism “starts with the Bible,” reflects the Christian Zionist’s understanding that the Jewish people have a place in the heart of God. And this is not just a commentary about God’s attitude toward the modern state of Israel. Rather, it is an understanding of God’s character.

Is He a God who keeps His promises to His people? Or is He a God who changes His plan at will regardless of His word? Christians who support Israel believe that the God of the Bible is a promise-keeping, covenant-keeping God, who never fails nor forsakes His people, be they Jew or Gentile. They believe that God is faithful, even when people flounder in their faithfulness to Him (2 Timothy 2:13).



Saint Paul Writing His Epistles by Valentin de Boulogne

Debt of Gratitude

Christians who support Israel do so because they acknowledge this truth: Judaism did not come to an end with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—nor was it displaced by the birth of Christianity. Without Jesus who was a Jewish Rabbi, nor the apostles who were Jewish disciples of Jesus, nor the writings which God’s Spirit inspired and wrote through Jewish men that became the Bible, Christians would have no foundation for their faith at all.

Christians who support Israel recognize that they owe a debt of gratitude to the Jewish people for their contributions which gave birth to the Christian faith. Regardless of nationality or people group, every Christian owes their thanks to the Jews for their spiritual inheritance. The Apostle Paul told Christians thousands of years ago that they were like wild branches that were grafted into the tree of faith which was the Jewish people, God’s people, Israel. Paul warned Christians, even then:

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, **do not be arrogant** toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

Romans 11:17-18

God's Biblical Mandate

Just as Christians are called to sing based on many Psalms, so too are they commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Christians are called to love and bless all people, but there are specific blessings promised to believers that are tied to blessing the Jewish people. The Apostle Paul recorded in Romans:



For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their [the Jews] spiritual things, their [Gentiles] duty is also to minister to them in material things.”

Romans 15:27



Time and time again Scripture chronicles the principle that God blesses those who bless the Jewish people. Christians who support Israel take God at His word when He says that blessings will follow those who are kind to His people, the Jewish people. They also shudder at the flip side of the coin: God opposes those who oppose the nation and people of Israel.

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus describes the Judgment of the Nations:

“...‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Matthew 25:37-40

The term, “My brethren” refers to the Jewish people. Every man and nation will be judged in part on how they have treated the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

God sums it up best in Genesis 12:3 when He calls Abraham to follow Him and promises, “I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all of the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Promise-Based, Not Prophecy- Based

Christian support of Israel is based on the promises of God in Scripture that affirm a future for the Jewish people and God’s continued faithfulness to that nation, *not* on prophecies regarding the end times or speeding the return of Christ.

Jesus Himself said “Of that day or hour no one knows” (Mark 13:32). Even after teaching His disciples for 40 days about the kingdom of God after His resurrection, Jesus does not answer about when future things will take place (Acts 1:6). Notably, He also does not deny that God still has a plan that includes the Jewish people - blessed and a blessing to all nations.

Christians do not believe they can speed up the end of days by even one second. On the contrary, Christians acknowledge that only God is in control of the timetable of future events. He alone is responsible for the future of the nation, land, and people of Israel, as well as that of the Church.





Light Unto the Nations

God promised in the Bible that Israel would be a light unto the nations (Isaiah 49:6). Today, modern Israel's medical and technological breakthroughs are blessing all of humanity.

As a leading innovation destination for an increasing number of multinational corporations utilizing Israel's over 6,000 startups for new ideas, Israel is a hub of innovation. The creativity flowing out of Israel has led to breakthroughs such as the USB, iPhone technology, the technology to create water out of the humidity in the air (Watergen), and the world's first ever 3D printed heart with human tissue and vessels.

In addition, Israel is a frontrunner in humanitarian aid, consistently being one of the first responders to disasters all over the world such as deadly storms in Mozambique, record flooding in Kerala, and earthquakes and tsunamis in Sulawesi. Creating "streams in the desert" and contributing major medical breakthroughs, Israel truly is a light unto the nations and continues to make new discoveries that are brightening the world as we know it for the better every single day.

Faith to Action

Christians who support Israel acknowledge the sins of the past including the complicity of churches and Christians during centuries of persecution of Jews in the name of Christ. Instead of merely mourning the past, Christians who support Israel demonstrate true repentance by making a 180-degree turn to defending the State of Israel and protecting the Jewish people.



They take Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who lost his life resisting Nazi Germany, and his words to heart: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."