

Christian Doctrine

The End Times (Part 3)

The New Testament and Prophecy

Gentiles and Jews in the New Testament

Following the Jew's rejection of their Messiah, we see God's purpose for mankind further unfold:

➤ **The Concept of the Church**

- The mystery and purpose of the church is revealed.
 - In Matthew 16:18 Jesus announced, "I will build my church," referring to a special "called out" people of believing Jews and Gentiles. This program was previously unknown (a mystery). (Eph. 2:11-18; 3:3-5; Col. 1:26-27)
 - God is taking from the Gentiles a "people for his name" (Acts 15:14). In so doing, this also provokes the unbelieving Jews to jealously, with the intent of bringing them back to God (Rom. 11:11).
- God's plan for the Gentiles unfolds.
 - By faith, Gentiles today are "grafted in" to God's program. Being "in Christ" (Who is a descendent of Abraham) we are now "joint heirs" with Israel concerning their promises. (Rom. 11:17; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 3:6)
 - Though many OT promises made to Israel are yet to be fulfilled, the church does enjoy being part of the eternal kingdom of God's people today (Col. 1:13).

➤ **The Future of Israel**

- God has not abandoned the Jews.
 - Despite Israel's rebellion, God has kept His promise to never forsake them (Deut. 31:6; Rom. 11:1).
 - Jews are still encouraged to repent in order to once again enjoy God's blessings (Acts 3:13-20).
- The hope of the nation of Israel is confirmed.
 - God's promises to Israel were unconditional. A New Covenant emphasizes the changed hearts and forgiveness Israel will experience (Jer. 31:31-34). God will fulfill these for His "name's sake" (Is. 48:9-11).
 - Romans 11 states that when the program with the Gentiles is complete, a remnant of believing Jews will return to God, and the nation of Israel as a whole will again experience God's blessing (Rom. 11:25-26).

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