

PROPERLY INTERPRETING ISRAEL

A. Introduction to Israel:

1. What makes Israel so special? A. God uniquely chose Israel (cf. Deut. 7:8, Jer. 31:3).

B. Rightly Dividing the Word of God

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1. Distinctions in Scripture

- a. Pre-fall v. After the fall
- b. Pre-flood v. After the flood
- c. Law v. Grace
- d. Jew, Gentile, and the Church (cf. 1 Cor. 10:32)

C. Dispensationalism: Emphasizing a literal (normal) interpretation of Scripture that results in seeing Israel and the Church as distinct programs of God.

1. A Little History Lesson:

- Origen (AD 185-254) First to promote allegorical interpretation
- Augustine (AD 354-430) First to systematize allegorical interpretation

a. Two Great Errors!

- The Church is “spiritual” Israel.
- The Church is “the kingdom”.

b. Two Key Terms:

- Covenant Theology: Emphasizes “replacement theology”, in which the Church replaces Israel as the people of God. (Error)
- Dispensationalism: Emphasizes literal/normal interpretation and a distinction between Israel and the Church. (Truth)

2. Principles of Interpretation:

- a) Apply literal/normal interpretation.
- b) Interpret IN CONTEXT.
- c) Revelation was progressive.

- d) Don't confuse interpretation with application.
- e) Makes proper distinction between Israel and the Church.

D. Conclusion: The "Great Divide" is hermeneutics. How you interpret the Scriptures results in where you end up with your conclusions. We must take God for what He plainly says regarding Israel. It's a matter of taking God at His Word.

Proverbs 30:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.