

Interesting News

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What interesting news stories have you seen that give you a sense that we are near the end of the Age?

Which of the stories have caught your interest and what is their prophetic significance?

This is the story I've chosen to do something of a deep-dive on its prophetic significance:

The False Teaching Breeding Anti-Israel Sentiment In Countless Churches

Churches in denominations that have long embraced the various forms of amillennialism are now rallying in support of the Palestinian cause while seeming to ignore Hamas' barbarism. They overlook the fact that those now attacking Israel don't want peace, but rather the annihilation of God's special chosen people.

<https://harbingersdaily.com/the-false-teaching-breeding-anti-israel-sentiment-in-countless-churches/>

Why do so many churches support the Palestinians in the wake of the Hamas atrocities?

- Professing Christians are not immune to antisemitism
- Bad doctrine results in supersessionism (better known as replacement theology)

What is replacement theology?

This doctrine is the idea that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. Adherents of replacement theology believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel.

There are basically three different views of the relationship between the church and Israel:

- the church has replaced Israel (replacement theology)
- the church is an expansion of Israel (covenant theology that is also replacement theology)
- the church is completely different and distinct from Israel (dispensationalism/premillennialism).

Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel.

How do replacement theologians deal with God's promises of the land to Israel?

The prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are spiritualized or allegorized into promises of God's blessing for the church.

What problems can be seen for thinking God's promises to Israel apply to the church?

The continuing existence of the Jewish people throughout the centuries of the Diaspora...

Malachi 3:6 – *For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

The revival of the modern state of Israel.

Ezekiel 36:24 – *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.*

The view that Israel and the church are different is clearly taught in the New Testament.

Romans 11:25 – *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

What view of the end times leads to replacement theology?

Amillennialists assert that the descendants of Jacob are no longer God's chosen people. They mistakenly claim that the church is now the Lord's kingdom on earth and the recipient of His promises to Israel, albeit in a spiritual sense.

What is amillennialism?

The idea that there will not be a literal 1,000 years of peace with Jesus on earth ruling over mortal people.

Amillennialists believe that we are in the Millennial Kingdom now, during the Church Age.

Why should amillennialism be dismissed as false?

It relies on having to allegorize Scripture, giving it a spiritualized meaning that it does not say.

- The world is hardly at peace during the Church Age

- The Lord Jesus is only known by a minority of people... *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea* (Habakkuk 2:14).
- There has to be a time when most of the curse is removed and the earth is still populated by mortals (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Why do Christians allergize the Bible?

- It appeals to people to make it mean something other than what it says.
- They don't respect the Bible as being God's Word
- They consider the Bible to be the story of mankind's search for God, not the inspired Word of God

Why should people recognize the Bible as being God's Word?

The Bible is the inspired Word of God as it claims:

2 Timothy 3:16 – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*

So, it is essentially inerrant and thus it would behoove us to heed what it teaches.

Why do people consider the Bible to be just mankind's search for God?

If the Bible is just mankind's story, we are free to pick and choose what to believe. Thus, the ultimate arbiter for what is true is our own human reasoning.

- Be honest, do we know that to be perfect or flawed? They agree with deists who reject the idea that God wants us to know Him and intervenes in the affairs of men.

How do we know that the deists are wrong, that God does intervene in the affairs of men?

Scripture reveals that God never stopped being involved in His creation... (see also Hebrews 1:1-3)

John 5:17 – *Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

The Bible also makes it clear that God does want us to know Him...

John 17:3 – *this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Why is it important to understand that God wants us to know Him?

If the Creator-God wants us to know Him, He would have provided a way for us to learn about Him. And He has, His written Word.

How do we know God is Almighty and why does that help us realize the Bible is God's Word?

The existence of the creation makes it obvious that the Creator has to be Almighty...

Romans 1:20 – *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse*

If God is truly Almighty, then He is Almighty enough to have accurately given us His Word and preserved it even using His flawed subjects.

- So, what people believe the Bible really comes down to what they believe about God... Is He really Almighty and wants us to know Him, or not?

How else do we know the Bible has to be God's Word?

- The Bible consists of 66 individual books, written in three languages, over a period of about 1,500 years, by more than 40 different authors. It is without contradiction from beginning to end.
- Studying the Bible's authors reveal them to be honest and sincere. The fact that they were willing to die for what they believed testifies that they truly believed God had spoken through them.
- Archaeology consistently proves the historical accuracy of Scripture.
- The Bible is scientifically accurate despite its detractors who consider evolution to be settled science.
- Almost a third of the Bible consists of detailed prophecies that have been fulfilled in history or soon will be. Only Almighty God can declare the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).
- The transformed lives of those who have come to believe it. There are multitudes of testimonies of people who've overcome addictions, been freed from destructive lifestyles, and have come to a fresh new outlook on life.

What is prophetically significant about the deterioration of mankind's perspective on the Bible?

- It is what you'd expect for the Laodicean Age where people become lukewarm toward Jesus and they think they are spiritually rich but are not (Revelation 3:14-22).
- People will depart from sound doctrine at the end of the Age: *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons* (1 Timothy 4:1; see also 2 Timothy 4:3-4).
- People will not believe what Jesus revealed about His return: *scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"* (2 Peter 3:3)