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DOES ISRAEL HAVE A RIGHT TO PALESTINE?

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Israel Today, 10/24/10: Catholic Church: Christ nullified God's promises to the Jews [Excerpts]--A Catholic synod called at the Vatican to address the rising persecution of Christians in the Middle East wrapped up [10/23/10] with a joint statement that focused a lot of attention on demanding [that] Israel end its "occupation" of Arab lands. The gathering was meant to address the various acts of persecution, intimidation, and discrimination that are resulting in a severe dwindling of Christian communities across the region. But the bulk of the two-week meeting was spent discussing how Israel is the root cause of all the Middle East's woes, including those faced by its Christians. Cyril Salim Bustros, the Lebanon-born Greek archbishop of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Boston, Massachusetts, was responsible for delivering the final statement. ...[H]e stated that "the Holy Scriptures cannot be used to justify the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of the Palestinians, to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestinian lands." He then escalated the situation by declaring that the original promises made by God to the children of Israel "were nullified by Christ. There is no longer a chosen people." Bustros rejected the idea of Israel as "the Jewish state," and insisted that eventually all the so-called "Palestinian refugees" must return to the land, a sure recipe for the demographic destruction of the world's only Jewish nation-state. Mordechai Levi, Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, decried Bustros' comments and the damage they had done to strengthening ties between Israel and the Church. The Catholic Church has for years been trying to repair its image as an institution steeped in anti-Semitism. But Bustros' remarks make fairly clear that the Vatican remains as dedicated as ever to replacement theology--that teaching that says God has tossed aside the Jews, despite His irrevocable promises to them, and that "the Church" has instead inherited those promises. In a related article, *Israel Today, 11/4/10: UN declares Rachel's Tomb to be a mosque [Excerpts]*-- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided [the week of October 25] to relabel as an Islamic mosque the tomb of Rachel, one of Israel's matriarchs, and demanded that Israel remove the site from its National Heritage list. UNESCO also said Israel had no right to add the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, where most of the rest of Israel's patriarchs and matriarchs are buried, to the National Heritage list. Israel responded on Wednesday by suspending all cooperation with UNESCO. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon said the suspension will remain in place until UNESCO reverses its decision. Sites such as the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Rachel's Tomb (which sits on the edge of Bethlehem) present an inconvenient truth for the pro-Palestine movement and its supporters, who want to claim that the Jews have no historic ties to this land. Once again, the UN has shown itself to be anything but an impartial broker by ignoring historical evidence and embracing Muslim revisionism. --TBC (12/1/10)

The problem with the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox churches, just about all of Protestantism and the vast majority in this world do not believe God and they have no basic understanding of the Bible, the Word of God. Even among many Evangelicals, there is the idea that God is all done with the Jew. They just happen to be hanging on but God really has nothing to do with them. Nothing could be further from the truth! What saith the Word of God?

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF PALESTINE TO THE JEW FOREVER! About four thousand years ago God called one man out of this unbelieving world, a man called Abram (Abraham). This man believed God and God gave him many promises. One promise was the land of Canaan, which became known as the land of Israel. **“And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land...”** ~Genesis 12:7. It is repeated many times as in Genesis 15:7: **“And He said unto him, I am the Lord which called thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.”** Not only that, it is plainly stated that God gave it to Abram and his seed forever. Though the Jew was out of the land for 2000 years because of unbelief and disobedience to God, He removed them. (Even though back today, it is in unbelief). But He never cancelled His promise! Genesis 48:4 says, **“And He said unto me (Jacob)...I...will give this land unto thy seed after thee, for an everlasting possession.”** God cannot lie!

THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL ARE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES. The Church is not Israel and Israel is not the Church. (When we talk about the Church we are referring to those who are true “born again” believers in Christ and His Word – not apostate christendom). There are three classes of people in this world; The Jew, the Gentile and the Church of God. I Corinthians 10:32. Note, the Church of God; most churches are not of God. Because of their unbelief and rejection of Christ, the Jew has been set aside by God. Not done away with but set aside. In Acts 15:14-16 we read: **“Simeon hath declared that God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this, I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and will build again the ruins thereof, and will set it up.”** What is this but the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel?

GOD PROMISED THEM A KINGDOM EVEN AFTER THEY REJECTED CHRIST! The Scripture immediately above deals with this issue. It was probably twenty years or so after the crucifixion of Christ. Even later the Holy Spirit prompted the Apostle Paul to write: **“...blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion, The Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: This is my covenant with them, when I shall take away their sins.”** ~Romans 11:25-27. Notice when God completes His work with the Gentiles, that is, saving those who believe in Christ, He is going to resume His saving work with Israel. Their unbelief and disobedience did not cancel God’s promise! Romans 11:29 says, **“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”** One important doctrine revealed here is that God is Sovereign; neither man nor devil can thwart Him!

IF THE JEW HAS NO FUTURE WITH GOD HUNDREDS OF PROPHECIES WILL GO UNFULFILLED. I will just deal with one such prophecy here. It is an all important one, the restored Kingdom of David. It is clear that Christ did not sit on the throne of David when He was here the first time. If God is done with Israel, then there will be no such kingdom. He indeed was God’s appointed King of Israel (and the world) but the King was rejected and killed. While men might see that as the end of things, not God. He will keep His promises, He will have His way! A key Scripture is Isaiah 9:6,7: **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom...”** Now, how in the name of common sense can that happen if there is no future for Israel? If God is done with Israel, the Bible is a worthless Book! Look at Psalm 89:3,4: **“I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish forever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.”** Selah means “think about that!” In v.34 it reads: **“My covenant will I not break...”** Yes, it is all settled, no matter what it looks like to man. It is simply a matter of Faith in God’s Word, and that is something worldly people do not have. One last New Testament Scripture concerning God’s promises of a yet future kingdom to Israel. It is in the angel’s words to Mary in Luke 1:31-33. **“And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shall bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”** Yes indeed, Israel has a very great part to play in God’s future program.

A CLOSING WORD OF EXHORTATION: Perhaps someone is reading this who has never been “born again.” Mary was told His name was to be JESUS! In Matthew 1:21 it was said, **“Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.”** Simply put, the message of the Bible is God’s plan for forgiving and saving sinners. You are a sinner! The Bible says, **“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”** ~Romans 3;23. Jesus Christ came into the world to pay the price of our sin. If you will acknowledge to God that you are a sinner and ask Christ to save you, He will. Of those to believe in Him as the Son of God and Savior, He said: **“I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish...”** ~John 10:28. Praise God! **“...His...judgments endureth forever.”**