

## **ESCHATOLOGY, THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND THE CHURCH** (by Dr. Walter D. Zorn)

**Introduction:** Paradigm text: Acts 3:17-26

V. 18 – foretold through all the prophets Messiah would suffer (Isa 53; Zech 9, 11,13; Hos 11). See Acts 8:34-35.

V. 21 – “remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.” Fulfilled Deut 18:15, 18.

V. 24 – all the prophets from Samuel onward have foretold these days.

V. 25, 26 – Jesus is the fulfillment of Gen 12:3 for both Jews and Gentiles (see Rom 4). His resurrection vindicated and assured the blessings upon the world.

### **Texts that confirm the above:**

1. Christ is the “true Israel.” (Hos 11:1)
2. Christ is the “the stone the builders have rejected.” (Ps 118:22; see 1 Pet 2:4-10 – see Isa 28:16; 8:14; Ex 19:5, 6; Isa 43:21 LXX; Hos 1-2) The Church is God’s “rebuilt” temple, the new Israel delivered by a “new exodus.”
3. Christ was the “true seed of Abraham.” (Gal 3:7,8, 14, 19-29). Particularly read Gal 3:22 differently: “. . . so that what was promised, being given through Jesus Christ’s faithfulness, might be given to those who believe.”
4. Christ’s mission is world-wide, not just for Canaan. (Heb 11:10; 2 Pet 3:13; Rom 4:13; Mic 4:1-5; Isa 2:2-4; Heb 12:18-24).
5. Christ is David’s son and thus rightful heir to his throne. (Lk 1:32; cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16; Isa 9:7; Matt 1:1-17; Acts 2:29-36; cp. Ps 110:1, 4)
6. Christ is the “true temple.” (Matt 12:6; Jn 4:10-14; see Isa 2:2-4; Mic 4:1-5; Isa 56; 66:20-21; Zech 14:16-19; also Zech 6:12l, 13; cp. Matt 24:2; Jn 2:19, 22; Ezek 40-48; see 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19, 20; 12:12ff.; 2 Cor 6:16; Heb 8-10)
7. Christ’s ministry fulfilled the ultimate jubilee. (Lk 4:16-30; Isa 61:1-2; Lk 7:18-23)
8. Christ is the *telos* (goal or climax of the covenant!) of the Torah (Rom 10:4). Therefore, God’s People are now made up of Jews and Gentiles (Rom 9-11). “Salvation history” in terms of “people” can now be summarized: All people—Israel—Remnant—Jesus—Remnant—Church (all people who believe in Messiah!). (see Eph 2:11-14; Gal 3:28; 1 Pet 2:10; Gal 6:16)
9. Christ has purified for himself a *segullah people* (see Eph 1:14; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Pet 2:9; Heb 10:38; 1 Thess 5:9; 2 Thess 2:14; cp. Ex 19:5, 6; Deut 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ps 135:4; Mal 3:17; 1 Chr 29:3; Eccles 2:8). Under the old covenant this people was Israel; under the new covenant this people are Jews and Gentiles (i.e., the Church!).
10. Christ has fulfilled all previous covenants. (Gen 12:3; see Gal 3:8, 14; Ex 19:5, 6; see 1 Pet 2:9 and Rom 10:4; 2 Sam 7:16; see Lk 1:32 and Acts 2-3).

**Conclusion:** The Old Testament clearly sees all prophecy fulfilled in Christ and thus in the Church. There are no statements at all in the Hebrew Scriptures about a literal 1,000 years reign of the Lord on earth previous to the fulfillment of all things. While the Old Testament is ambiguous about Messiah’s second coming (in fact, knows nothing about it!), all things have been fulfilled in Messiah. We live in a now/but not yet period; this age/the age to come. Now we have tasted of the good things to come and we await Messiah’s *parousia* soon and then all the hopes and dreams of a “new heavens and new earth” will be completely fulfilled and revealed. We shall experience “the resurrection” not only of our own bodies but the “resurrection” of the whole world! Amen!