

MODERN ISRAEL

Request: Could you explain the place in biblical history of the present nation of Israel?

There appears to be much confusion about the exact role of modern Israel as a nation in the church age.

Divine dispensations help us understanding the role of modern Israel as a nation (Gentile, Jewish, Church, and Millennium).

“A period of time during which man is tested in respect to some specific revelation of the will of God.”
(Scofield Reference Bible, pg.5)

“A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose.” (Dispensationalism Today, Ryrie, pg.29)

“A dispensation is an era of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience to some definite revelation of God’s will.” (Unger Bible Dict., pg.269)

DEFINITION: A divine dispensation is a definite period or age in biblical history in which a special divine agency functions with a set of divine revelation as God’s representative in the world.

This lesson will study SIX aspects of Modern Israel as a nation during the church age.

1. During the Jewish Age (JA), the priest-nation of Israel was the divine agency of God to the nations of the world (Ex.19:6; Deut.26:19).

As such, it was responsible for custodianship of gospel of Christ and the word of God (Deut.7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Book of Jonah).

“And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you.’” (Gal.3:8; Gen.12:3)

“In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Gal.3:14)

2. During the JA, Gentile nations served as instruments of divine discipline as well as preserver of the pivot of believers (Jer.5:15-17; 7:26-30; Ps.68:6).

Most of these client nations tolerated Israel’s religious practices even to the point of allowing Israel to abuse religious freedom of others. An example would be Pharisees attitude towards Jesus and His followers while under Roman rule (Matt.26:1-5; John 11:47-57; Luke 11:47-51).

“Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him – you have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.” (Acts 7:52-53)

2. The priest-nation of Israel was set aside because of rejection of Jesus as messianic Savior.

(5th cycle of divine discipline, Deut.28 and Lev.26) – “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” (Luke 17:25).

Isaiah warned Israel of the 5th cycle in the famous Parable of vineyard (5:1-7) – “So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard; I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its walls and it will become trampled ground.” (5:5)

Jesus gave a similar parable called, Tenants, in Matt.21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18 – “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.” (Matt.21:43).

Paul explained the temporary setting aside of Israel had become the “riches for the Gentiles” (Rom.11:11-25) – “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved.” (Rom.11:25-26a)

4. Israel will remain under the 5th cycle of divine discipline until the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess.4:13-18).

The Rapture of the church will result in Daniel’s 70th week also known as the Tribulation or the last seven years of the Jewish Age to come to past (Dan.9:24-27).

The prophecy of Dan.9:24-27 is built around the math of Daniel’s 70 weeks (70x7=490 years).

- 7 weeks – rebuilt Jerusalem until Messiah (7x7 = 49 years / Persian period).
- 62 weeks – Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and 5th cycle to Israel (62x7 = 434 years)
- 1 week – Tribulation (middle of week/ Abomination of Desolation) (1x7 = 7years)

5. During the church age, believers are not identified as Jews or Gentiles but Christians (Rom.15:9-12).

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” (Gal.3:26-29)

MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH: “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” (Eph.3:6)

6. Gentile client nations gave modern Israel their national status because they are still under 5th cycle.

Actually modern Israel is more Zion nationalism and not priest-nation Israel. They do not have divine agency status in the plan of God during the church age.

However, the priest-nation of Israel was guaranteed a permanent place in biblical history. This was because of their prophetic identity with the Holy Seed of Christ (Gen.12-17; Matt.1; Luke 3; Rom.9-11/ 11:25-28; Heb.12:22-24).