

# WAS JESUS A REGULAR BAPTIST?



## Lesson Four – How did Jesus see Israel?

### Key Differences between Dispensational and Covenant Theology

*It's not actually about dispensations and covenants.*

- Most covenant theologians would acknowledge the different “stewardships” God has used with humanity through history.
- Most dispensationalists have no problem with the “covenants” of covenant theology.

*It is about Bible interpretation.*

Issue	Dispensational Theology	Covenant Theology
Historical Grammatical	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Spiritual/Typological	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Progressive Revelation	<u>Passage Priority</u> (new information does not take priority over previous revelation).	<u>New Testament Priority</u> (new information can transform, redefine, or reinterpret previous revelation).
Promises to Israel	For <u>Israel</u>	Fulfilled in <u>Christ</u>

*It is about storyline.*

- The Identity of Israel

Israel	Category	Church
Descendants of Jacob	Origin	Coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
Covenants	Basis of Existence	Baptism of the Holy Spirit
One people group/nation	Makeup	People from all nations
Salvation by faith Fellowship by law keeping	Relationship to God	Salvation by faith Fellowship by faith
End of the Millennium	Culmination	The Rapture

- The role of the nation of Israel in God's purposes.
- The mediatorial Kingdom on earth.

## What does the Bible teach about Israel?

Israel possesses covenants with God (Romans 9:4). These covenants help us understand Israel and God's purpose for them.

*Covenant Theology emphasizes theological covenants rather than Biblical covenants.*

- Covenant of Works
  - Parties: God and Adam
  - Terms: Eternal life for obedience, dead for disobedience
  - Basis: Genesis 2:16-17
- Covenant of Grace
  - Parties: God and Adam? Or Abraham?
  - Terms: Salvation would be based on grace, not works.
  - Basis: ??
- Covenant of Redemption
  - Parties: Triune God?
  - Terms: God chooses to redeem humanity.
  - Basis: Ephesians 1:11?

*Dispensational Theology emphasizes Biblical covenants (those agreements called “covenants” in Scripture).*

- Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9:8-17).
  
- Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3 (promise); 13:14-17 (promise); 15:17-21 (covenant)).
  - Parties: God and Abraham (extended to Isaac (17:19-21) and to Jacob (28:13-15)).
  - Condition: Unconditional (15:17)
  - Terms: Unilateral promise of innumerable descendants (v. 5) and land (v. 7, 18-21).
  - Fulfillment – Continually increasing descendants by blood and by faith. The promise of land has yet to be completely fulfilled, so it must be fulfilled at a future time.
  
- Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19:5)
  - Parties: God and Israel
  - Condition: Conditional, temporary
  - Terms: Obedience results in enjoyment of the blessings of the Promised Land; Disobedience results in curses.
  - Fulfillment – Only needed until the arrival of the Messiah.
  
- Land (Palestinian) Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1).
  - Parties: God and Israel
  - Condition: Unconditional
  - Terms: At a time in which Israel is dispersed, God will regather the Israelites from all over the world and bring them back into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  - Fulfillment: This covenant has not yet been fulfilled –
  - Jesus’ View: Jesus believed in this covenant (Matthew 24:31; Daniel 9:24-27).

- Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-14; Psalm 89:3-4).
  - Parties: God and David
  - Condition: Unconditional
  - Terms: The rightful king of Israel will always be someone from David's line. (2 Samuel 7:12-14; 1 Chronicles 17:9-14).
  - Fulfillment: No king of Israel has yet fulfilled this promise.
  - Jesus' View: Jesus believed this was yet to come (Matthew 23:37-39).
  
- New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-28).
  - Parties: God and Israel
  - Condition: Unconditional
  - Terms: God will write His law on the hearts of His people. They will all know God. They will all have their sins forgiven (Jeremiah 31). They will be cleansed, receive a new heart, receive God's Spirit, become obedient to God's commands while they dwell in the land (Ezekiel 36:22-28).
  - Jesus' View: His shed blood ratified the New Covenant for Israel but did not fulfill it (Luke 22:14-20) and benefitted all people (Luke 24:46-47).
    - The church benefits from the New Covenant, but Israel fulfills the New Covenant.
    - The New Covenant is ratified, but not fulfilled.

## Conclusion

- Jesus saw Israel as a distinct entity from the church and believed that God's promises to Israel would yet be kept, literally.
- Jesus taught that God was keeping His promises *generously*. He would not do *less* than He promised, but He could do *more*.
- Jesus believed in a future, literal, earthly Kingdom for Israel.