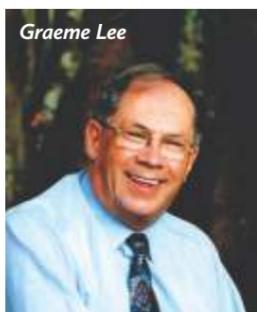




News From Our National Leader



Graeme Lee

The time has come to say farewell.

'Israel and Christians Today' has been a joy to publish over the last four years, and I am proud to say our readership has grown to 7000.



I have had the pleasure of meeting many interesting people in my role as publisher. The chief editor Andrew Tucker, Executive Officer of Christians for Israel International has been a wonderful helper and close friend.



I want to give Cathy Coldicutt full honour for her graphic design skills and being such an important part of the paper. Cathy will now be taking over the role of publisher which she will do admirably.



I want to thank Cathy Eksteen, who has worked tirelessly with me as my secretary in the office, as well as managing all the administration and distribution of the I&CT.



May I formally introduce Bryce Turner, who takes over as role of National Director for New Zealand. Bryce and his wife Eleanor are great friends and are very capable people. Bryce will introduce himself more fully in the next issue.



Thank you to Denis Smith, our faithful Treasurer, who handles all of our finances and donations. Denis also contributes very interesting articles about Israel to our paper.



I am grateful for the hard work of Christians for Israel Development Officer of the South Pacific, Dr Robert Siakimotu.



Ian Worby, Christians for Israel National Leader Australia and Regional Director Oceania, will oversee our Pacific Island representatives and affiliates.



I must mention my very first assistant, Carolyne Gummer. In the early days, we were under a lot of pressure but Carolyne was

extremely capable. As you would have read in previous papers, Carolyne's husband John retired as Production Manager for the I&CT last year. Cathy Eksteen has taken over his role. John is a wonderful friend and has always been extremely committed from the beginning.



Most important Graham Simpson will soon become the next Christians for Israel NZ National Leader. Graham has been with me since the beginning. With

Graham being a lawyer, he advises us on any legal matters and is very knowledgeable regarding Israeli matters. I pray God's blessing on Graham and his wife Sandy, and the entire Christian for Israel team in New Zealand.

To all of our readers, we do greatly appreciate your support and encouragement.

Journey to Israel 2017

This issue of the I&CT has been compiled while some of our team are escorting a group of Christians through Israel. Andrew Tucker, Graham Simpson and Bryce Turner will report whilst they are in the 'Land of God!' Their entertaining reports are in the International Paper.

Then and Now - Christians for Israel New Zealand Board

The original Christians for Israel board comprised of Graeme Lee (Chair), Brian Hughes (Deputy Chair), Graham Simpson (Legal Advisor), Denis Smith (Board member and Treasurer) and John Gummer (Board member and Secretary).

The future Christians for Israel board will comprise of Graham Simpson (Chair), Denis Smith (Treasurer), Bryce Turner (Member) and Cathy Eksteen (Secretary).

From our Development Officer - Dr Robert Siakimotu

Dr Robert Siakimotu has just visited Israel for the first time, hence we are now looking forward to hearing about Robert's experiences. He has also just completed appointing representatives in Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Tonga.

Johannes Gerloff Appreciated

Johannes Gerloff and his wife Krista, recently held a well attended meeting in Auckland, where his comments were well received. Amongst his comments he gave a short message on *Psalm 126*. It reads (*verse 1*) "When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion." (*verse 3*) The Lord has done great things and he has restored our salvation." Johannes said Israel has a unique relationship to God as is being restored in spite of the tension with Palestinians. His work as a journalist has taken him to many places including

Palestine. He has written a book called 'The Palestinians - Myths and Martyrs'.

Bring Back Ambassador Gerberg to New Zealand

Israel has acted correctly in withdrawing its ambassador to New Zealand, Dr Itzak Gerberg. The comments from Murray McCully as Foreign Affairs Minister have been entirely inappropriate and has cast New Zealand as Anti-Zionist.

We realise that the damage done by this Government can hopefully be overlooked in terms of a full relationship, and pray that Dr Gerberg will be able to return to New Zealand as Ambassador soon.

Israel Christians Allies Caucus Members in New Zealand

A special meeting was organised by Rev Brian Hughes to meet with Israeli Christian Allies Caucus members in Auckland. Johs Reinstein and Eliezer ('Moodi') Sandberg visited from Israel.

Most of the Pro-Israel Ministry leaders throughout New Zealand and their wives were present. Josh Reinstein said that the UN resolution 2334 had no value but was a 'yellow carnation', a statement that everyone agreed with.

Moodi Sandberg who is an ex member of Knesset (Parliament of Israel) is now the World Chairman of Keren Hayesod, presented a full and interesting address on current happenings in Israel.



Back Row: Bryce & Eleanor Turner, Denis Smith, Eliezer (Moodi) Sandberg, Graham Simpson, Josh Reinstein, Tony Campbell, Kathy Hughes, Sharee Trotter, Perry Trotter, Brian Hughes, Brian Ashford, Derek McDowell
Front Row: Graeme & Lauris Lee, Pam Smith, Sandy Simpson, Anne Higgins

Peace & Safety for Israel

By David Howard Sudlow. Abridged by Publisher

God is faithful to all His covenant promises to Israel, the Church and His Creation. We look and pray for those promises and are quickened with faith, hope, and love.

Great days are ahead in the fulfilling of the Gospel of the Kingdom. We can see God's great covenant promises coming to pass for His firstborn Israel; therefore we are assured that our redemption is certain - the Lord's coming is very near. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." *1 Thess. 5: 2-3*

As history reminds us, the Jewish people are again in the epicentre of controversy and are increasingly becoming the scapegoat for the world's woes. Also within the epicentre are Christians, with over 900,000 killed in the last ten years and Christian persecution pointing to the Great Tribulation. We rejoice that the great mystery of Godliness and the corresponding mystery of iniquity -

lawlessness and rebellion against God, are coming to a climax. Yet in the midst of God's righteous judgements we are sorrowful over the lost and pray for mercy.

Almost seventy years ago, on 29 November 1947 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that called for the creation of a Jewish state. Since then, there has been a converging of events bringing new relevance to many Old and New Testament prophecies. Is God the Father about to send Jesus to start His Second Coming? We hope and pray so every day. What greater event could be the catalyst for all the great things prophesied for the end of the Christian era?

As with all prophecy, fulfillment waits for God's timing in His step by step master plan of creation and redemption. It is truly a progressive vision. This was true of my heritage as a 5th generation Christian Zionist. In the 19th century, my forefathers prayed for and then recognised the beginning of the regathering of the Jewish people to their historic land of Israel. Today, we see God bringing His prophetic word to a new maturity and we are called afresh to stand for God's promises for Israel.



It is evident from the Scriptures and recent history that the restoration of the Jews to their own land is in successive stages. We have witnessed the first stage taking place before the second coming of Christ with a partial restoration. They have returned in great numbers not knowing Jesus and facing the evil hatred of their enemies. The next stage will be total, by the mighty hand of God and will take place in the final act of Christ's

second coming. Then Israel will be converted unto Him and "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced," and they shall believe that Jesus is the Lord. *Zechariah 12:10.*

Many trials for Israel and the Church are still ahead, but God is in control and He beckons His believing Church to stand with Israel against the world's final solution.

Is God Finished with Israel?

By Pastor Brian Hughes

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; after the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." *Zechariah 2:8*

"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away." *Isaiah 41:8-9*

In any pastor's study we will find a set of books called Systematic Theology, and in those books we will find doctrinal views on a large number of subjects. Although their focus will differ depending on their denominational emphasis, the table of contents of these books is almost the same. Yet, they are almost all missing one very important subject. Which one? Most sets have a section on Bibliology (the study of the Bible), Theology (the attributes of God), Pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit), Angelology (studies of angels, both holy and fallen), Anthropology (the study of man in Scripture); Soteriology (the study of salvation), Ecclesiology (the study of the Church) and Eschatology (the study of end times). All of these subjects are important things for a pastor to understand.

Yet, the piece that is missing from almost every one involves nearly five-sixths of the entire Bible. Books on Systematic Theology consistently leave out the subject of Israel. They fail to cover what we'd call "Israelology."

This is a travesty! Israel was given the central role of bringing knowledge of the true God to the world. Through Israel came the Messiah, the Saviour of humankind. Israel is called the apple of God's eye, yet Christian theologians have systematically overlooked Israel's purpose and destiny as a major category of study. I'm not facetious at all. Israel as an instrument in God's plan of redemption is not only a valid topic, but it's at the centre of God's plan. Yet, we won't find it taught in most seminaries.

In his letters, Paul gives us a trichotomy; he divides people into three categories. Of course, the early Church understood the difference between the Jews and the Gentiles. Those were the only two categories that Jews knew in the Old Testament, and they'll apply again after the Rapture. Right now, however, there are three categories that Paul hammers at: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church. These are distinct and separate groups.

Many Christians believe the role of Israel has been taken over by the Church. After all, the Jews as a group rejected Jesus Christ, and the Church was given the great commission to take the Gospel to the world. The Jews have turned their backs on their own Messiah, but the Church has embraced Him. This may be generally true, but we find that the Bible offers continued hope for the Jews, the people of Israel. As we move forward, we will find that Israel and the Church are two separate groups with unique privileges and benefits, purposes and destinies.

Paul gives us a key passage that hammers home the Bible's position on Israel:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happening to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." *Romans 11:25-29*

Unfortunately Israel rejected her own King in His first coming. The very Messiah their prophets foretold has been embraced by Gentiles, while the Jews have cast Him aside. The pattern throughout Scripture, though, is that God's people who mess up the first time succeed in the

end. Christ was rejected the first time, but He will be honoured in the end.

In a painful moment found in *Matthew 23*, Jesus describes the tragedy of all history in just one sentence:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" *Matthew 23:37* Even in this translation his anxiety, grief, and concern are tangible. "O Jerusalem!" The tragedy of all history is the final phrase, "And ye would not."

Forever? No, fortunately. Paul in *Romans 11:25* says, "...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

We, the Gentiles, make up the Church. When the Church is complete, that blindness is going to be lifted.

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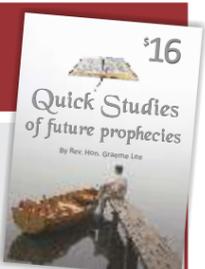
Why the Quick Studies of Future Prophecies?

My reason to use the term **QUICK STUDIES** on future prophetic matters was to reduce the usual size of explanations and make the studies quick and easy to read. This has not been easy! Abbreviations can run the risk of potentially changing meanings or leaving out critical points.

To Order: See coupon on back page. All proceeds from this book go directly to Christians for Israel New Zealand ministry.

What's included?

- Why study prophecy at all?
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- Judgment of Believers and Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- Plus many more...



UN Holocaust Remembrance Day

By Rev Arthur and Sue Comery



Remember! Remember! Remember!

Earlier this year, I was privileged to attend the Auckland UN Holocaust Remembrance Day; on behalf of the Christian Church I offered this prayer:

Our loving Heavenly Father, Mere words cannot describe the depths of our sorrow and shame as we recall the six million who perished in the Holocaust; the pain and anguish in which the Church is so utterly complicit. We reaffirm our sorrow and ask for forgiveness, acknowledging that the Church failed catastrophically to stand against a great evil.

But our thoughts must turn to the present: a present in which we glimpse a new evil arising, a present in which the legitimacy of the Jewish State is being threatened from so many quarters. Dear Father, we fear when we see the seeds of the old Jew-hatred, now posing as anti-Israel rhetoric, infesting so many parts of the church. So on this solemn occasion, we do more than just remember the six million.

Today in this country and right around the world, thousands and thousands of Christians reaffirm our bonds with the survivors of the Holocaust, with the Jewish people and with the Jewish State; and we give our solemn pledge that we will do everything in our power to make certain that you will never face such evil alone again.

Our Pledge Is This: We Will Stand With You

My prayer stood in stark contrast to the inspiring speeches presented by eminent

New Zealanders; I was disquieted by the way these wonderful humanitarians, distressed by ongoing wars and genocides, so readily reduced the Holocaust to a generalised object lesson on the need for 'tolerance'.

Just Two Points

Firstly: The Holocaust is an event which stands stark and alone in human history not only because of the industrial-scale of its barbarity but because it was perpetrated in the enlightened, scientifically advanced, Christian West and because its particular savageries were imagined and executed by sophisticated, educated and cultured people. The response of Western humanitarians, politicians and religious leaders should not primarily be to generalise the Holocaust in order to draw moral lessons from it but to sit, as it were, in the dust of shame, silent, and remember, remember, remember.

Let me elaborate. The extermination of six million Jews and the brutal treatment of millions more did not begin on Kristallnacht or with Hitler. Tragically, the seeds of Jew-hatred had been planted, nurtured, transplanted and propagated throughout the history of the Christian Church, in all parts of Europe, and within every social and political milieu. Without the compliance and willing participation of the institutional Church and individual church members, academics, political and business leaders, the aristocracies and growing middle classes, Hitler's insanity could never have reached beyond the tormented borders of his own mind.

The extermination of six million Jews and the brutal treatment of millions more did not occur in a primitive backwater, nor were the perpetrators illiterate or poverty stricken. Rather, the Holocaust raged right across Christian Europe; its architects were highly educated; those who carried out the atrocities had, in the most part, real choices; the bystanders were all well-versed in the basic tenets of



Young student helping to collect buttons. Each button represents a child that perished during the Holocaust

Scripture and were living in an era which valued, like none before, the dignity of humanity.

Secondly: The Holocaust was, in its essence, the Final Solution to the 'Jewish Question'. While it is quite appropriate to recall and grieve for all the victims, we must never forget that this continent-wide slaughter was planned and executed not to rid Europe of Poles or homosexuals but to cleanse Europe of the Jewish Untermenschen, once and for all.

In Early 2017

It is deeply disturbing to witness the erosion of Holocaust remembrance by people of all political persuasions, by not only the detractors of the State of Israel but also by her putative supporters... the Trump Administration's statement on the Holocaust was deeply problematic and its response to expressions of concern even more worrying. In the past, even Israel's fiercest detractors seemed able to show empathy for Jewish suffering in the Holocaust and to acknowledge its unique and tragic nature. Today however, following decades of vicious anti-Israel rhetoric, Israel's detractors and even some of her supporters have begun a corrosive assault on Holocaust remembrance; it is

no longer the Jewish Holocaust. On the day set aside by the UN to remember the Holocaust, our focus is being directed away from the sober recollection of the years in which enlightened Christian Europe planned the extermination of every single European Jew; we are asked to refocus on a far less confronting anguish, to simply remember all victims of all genocides and all civil wars.

Why This Recalibration? Perhaps...

- The Western world cannot weep over the Jewish Holocaust while simultaneously forging multi-billion dollar ties with Iran, which publically declares its commitment to implementing its own Final Solution.
- The Western world cannot weep over the Jewish Holocaust while simultaneously boycotting, divesting and sanctioning the Jewish State until it agrees to return to the 'Auschwitz Borders'.
- If Holocaust remembrance is redefined, if Western guilt is buried and Jewish suffering generalised, increasingly vicious assaults on the Jewish State will rapidly be deemed a cause de rigueur.

Christians for Israel's Book Club

Welcome to Christians for Israel New Zealand's Book Club. To place an order, you can now go to our website www.c4israel.org.nz and purchase online, or complete the coupon on page 4 and post or email it. Include payment or pay by internet banking (put your name as reference). Happy reading!

WHY ISRAEL?

By Rev. Willem J J Glashouwer



\$15
PLUS \$4 P&P

This book explores the Biblical significance of Israel and the Jewish people for Christians today. It looks at concepts of replacement theology, election and covenants, and shows that the Bible supports the return of the Jewish people to the land. It challenges the church to embrace and bless the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Easily usable for personal and group Bible Study.

WHY JERUSALEM?

By Rev. Willem J J Glashouwer



\$15
PLUS \$4 P&P

This book explores the significance of the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a unique city - a holy place for many religions and the focus of world history. Ezekiel 38:12 even describes Jerusalem as 'the center of the earth'. This book is part two of the trilogy Why Israel?, Why Jerusalem?, Why End Times? The author deals with a number of theological, historical and prophetic aspects.

WHY END TIMES?

By Rev. Willem J J Glashouwer



\$15
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The Last Days, God's promise for Israel, False Prophets, The Mark of the Beast, The Anti-christ, 666, The Great Tribulation, The Apocalypse, The End of the Age, The Millennium, The Day of the Lord... What do these terms have in common? They are all related to the study of Biblical prophecy. 'Why End Times?' explores God's prophetic plans for Israel and the nations.

ISRAEL: COVENANTS & KINGDOM

By Rev. Willem J J Glashouwer



\$15
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"Over the years I have struggled to come to a new understanding from a Biblical and prophetic perspective about the Jewish people, Israel, Jerusalem, the Covenants, the Biblical concept of the Kingdom. In the past, the present and in the future. The everlasting Covenants with Israel fit hand-in-glove with the Biblical concept of the everlasting Kingdom."

Biblical Covenants

By John Dunning, Managing Trustee, Inspirational Media

The way we understand the covenants of the Bible determines how we interpret it. By not understanding covenants we have had many different interpretations of other texts given to us in churches. One verse or another has been used to 'prove' some point or other, without getting to grips with the context of a covenant.

We need to get to grips with the context of the five main covenants, to understand what was completed at the cross, and what remains. The Noahic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant, The Mosaic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant have all led to churches teaching the cancellation of things that actually remain, and teaching the keeping of things that were 'finished' with at the cross.

By knowing what covenants are permanent and which aren't, we can understand better how to interpret the 'Old' Covenants in the light of the 'New' Covenant.

For example, why do some churches teach old covenant 'tithing', whilst others teach freewill giving?

In *2 Corinthians 9:7*, Paul tells us that the previous legal requirement to give, is no longer to be 'out of necessity'. Paul says that from now on it is to be what we have 'purposed in our heart'. Previously, there had been both a curse and a blessing attached to paying the tax, yet Paul says right here, that from now on God wants it to be what we have 'purposed in our heart'.

Another example is the observance of days and ceremonies. Why do some churches meet on Sunday while others meet on Saturday or even on Friday night?

Or do why some churches marry divorcees whilst others don't.

Why do some churches 'christen' babies whilst others only 'baptise' believers?

Understanding the five covenants of scripture helps us to see how and why so many differences have occurred in our understanding of the 'Old' Testament or Covenant, in the light of the 'New'.

So, just which Covenant law was 'finished' with at the cross, and which ones remain? How can we get things the

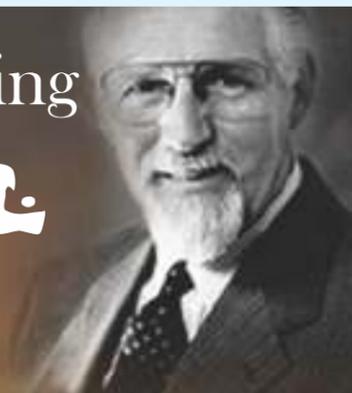
right way round, by keeping what God said was 'forever', but cancelling what was 'finished' with at the cross.

For example, why do some churches support Israel while others don't? This is especially important as God had made an unconditional and permanent covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in what He had said was 'forever', (in what we now call the Abrahamic Covenant).

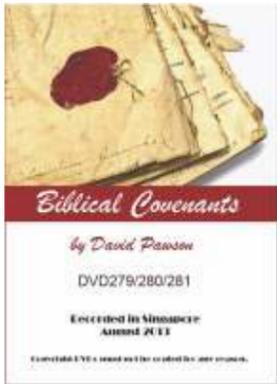
If we can understand how God's covenants work, quite a lot of other things will fall into place.

Well, we can easily understand these Covenants, as the answer is in David Pawson's set "Biblical Covenants", which is detailed below.

David Pawson's Teaching on ISRAEL



Biblical Covenants



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16 Surprises in Romans Chapter 11

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Israel: Covenants & Kingdom by Willem Glashouwer _____ \$15.00

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