

ESCHATOLOGY

TALK 2

The Role of Israel

ISRAEL - BEARER OF THE PROMISES

In the books of the Old Testament prophets:

In that Day Is. 4:2, 10:20; 11:10,11; 12:1;
25:9; 26:1; 27:2; Jer. 4:9; Amos 8:9; 9:11;
Obadiah 8; Micah 5: 10; Zeph. 3:11,16; Hag.
2:23; Zech. 9:16; 13: 1,2; 14: 6,8,20; Mal. 4:1

In the latter Days Is. 2:2; Jer. 23:20; Micah
4:1

The Days are coming Jer. 16:14; 23:5,7;
31:27; 33:14; Amos 8:11; 9:13

2 NOT 1

Big surprise for Israel

2 Comings of the Messiah not
1

NEW COVENANT ERA BETWEEN 2 COMINGS

The whole teaching of Jesus, the
formation of the 12, the whole
life of the Church, its worship

LIVED in TENSION BETWEEN
2 COMINGS

- “The gift of the Spirit ushers in a new era in the ‘dispensation of the mystery’ - the age of the Church, during which Christ manifests, makes present, and communicates his work of salvation through the liturgy of the Church, ‘until he comes.’” (Catechism, para. 1076)

JESUS TEACHING MINISTRY

1st Phase: Until Peter's confession of faith:
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living
God." (Matt. 16:16)

2nd Phase: Then Jesus can teach them:

- About his death and resurrection (Matt. 16:21)
- About his coming in glory (Matt. 16:27-28)

NEWNESS: RESURRECTION

The unexpected, the radically new, is the Resurrection of the crucified Jesus

New is resurrection of one man before Day of Lord.

More than Pharisees' belief in resurrection of all the righteous on the last day

Ascension: Glorification of entire humanity of Jesus

ISL CHRISTIAN REINTERPRETATION

Revelation of Death & Resurrection
of the Messiah and of 2 Comings not
1

required a reinterpretation of the
Messianic hope of Israel

We find this first in Acts 3: 18 - 26

Peter addresses “Men of Israel“ (v. 12)

“The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus” (v. 13)

Peter speaks about

1. The promises already fulfilled (v. 18)
2. The promises still to be fulfilled (vv. 20 - 21)
3. What they have to do to move from 1 to 2 (v. 19)

1. Already fulfilled: that the
Messiah should suffer

2. To be fulfilled: the restoration
of
all things

Hope of Israel: for a fulfilment of the promises, a realization of deliverance-salvation, of the Messianic kingdom of righteousness

In this world, in a new epoch (age, eon)

New with the Church:

Already hidden with Jesus in the heavenlies:

Eph. 2: 6; Phil. 3: 20; Col. 3: 3

THE AGE TO COME

The sin against the Holy Spirit “will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” (Matt. 12: 32)

“far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1: 21)

“... and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come” (Heb. 6:5)

RESULTS OF CHURCH - ISRAEL SPLIT

Our eschatologies become very different

ISRAEL:

THE JEWS: Messiah will come to this world, to Jerusalem, where he will sit on his throne (Is. 9:7; 52:9-10).

From Jerusalem, He will establish righteousness on the earth (Is. 42:4; 62:1-2)

THE CHURCH:

Heaven, eternal life, beatific vision

While this included (in the creeds) the resurrection of the body, the usual presentation of heaven makes it difficult to see what difference the resurrection of the body will make.

The second coming becomes a kind of appendix.

CENTRAL WITNESS

Of ISRAEL:

- Coming Fulfilment on Earth with Messianic Reign from Jerusalem

Of CHURCH:

- Fulfilment in heaven
- Transformation into glory through death and resurrection

BIBLICAL COMPLETION?

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,

“Behold the tabernacle of God is with me, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.

God Himself will be with them and be their God.” (Rev. 21:3)

Questions

1. What is relationship between Messianic reign from Jerusalem and the handing over of the Kingdom to the Father (1 Cor. 15: 24, 28)?
2. What is relationship between Messianic rule from Jerusalem and the new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3: 13)?

Answer?

We cannot yet say!

WATCH THIS SPACE!