

Covenantal Zionism, Moral Courage, and the Gospel

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Covenantal Zionism and World Redemption Promised Side-by-Side In Holy Scripture

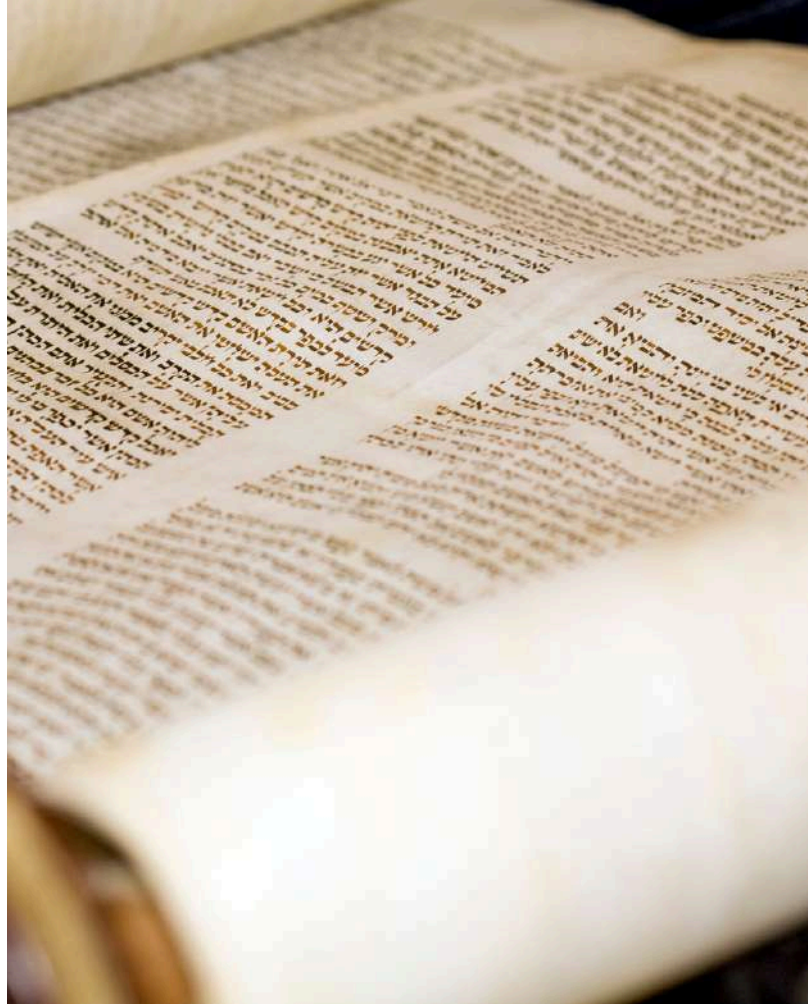
While it may seem completely obvious to many of us, it is not to most today that Zionism is consistent with the Good News of God's love for all peoples. Therefore, for this reason, and many others, we need to give ourselves to a renewed and sustained effort in our teaching, preaching, education, conferences, writing projects, Jewish-Christian relations, podcasts, art, relationships, actions and more — that demonstrates that Messianic Jewish or Christian Covenantal Zionism does not lead to succumbing to a narrow focus on one land and one people at the expense of other peoples and the rest of the good lands on planet earth.

While Biblical or Covenantal Zionism does give attention to a particular focus on one land and one people group, it does so in the context of God's love for

the whole world and His sovereign purposes of redemption for all people groups and all the earth in Messiah Yeshua.

While this theme can be easily demonstrated through the whole of the canon of Scripture, a careful reading of the irrevocable covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning the people and the land of Israel (Zionism) is side-by-side with the irrevocable covenant promises, and pertaining to the salvation and blessing of all nations. The particular and the universal, the spiritual and the territorial, are not in competition or contradiction with one another. *This is in plain sight when God makes His promises to Abraham (see Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 17:4-8), to Isaac (see Genesis 26:3-5), and to Jacob (see Genesis 28:3-4; 35:9-12).*

It is not hermeneutically sound to take all these promises pertaining to the people and land of Israel and see them as *canceled* or *radically re-interpreted* in Messiah Yeshua, while at the same time *affirming* the promises are now relating to the nations as being *confirmed* and *fulfilled* in Jesus. It is far better, more ethical, and truly loving towards the Jewish people and all the Nations to recognize that the covenant promises of redemption for the people and land of Israel *provide a pattern* for His covenant promises for all nations and their lands on the earth. As New Covenant Jewish and Gentile disciples, we would currently differ with the majority of the Jewish community,



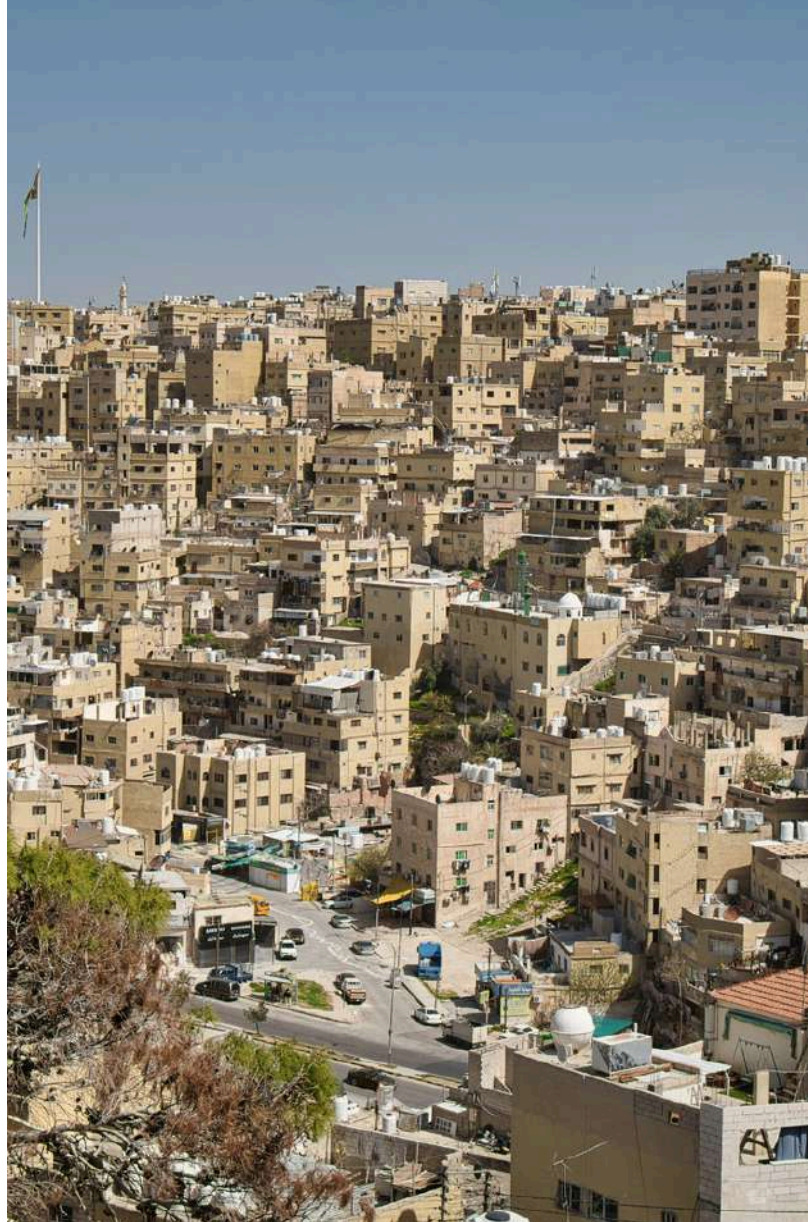
seeing all these promises as confirmed, mediated, and fulfilled in Messiah Yeshua, the eternal King of the Jews and Lord of the world. Likewise, this confirmation and realization of all God's promises come to pass based on Messiah's first coming and outpoured Spirit, which anticipate their consummation through His second coming and the World to Come. Keeping this both/and framework, which values Israel and the Nations, the promised land and the whole earth, Messiah's first coming and second coming are all important as we encounter the sophistry of many arguments associated with Zionism today. For these arguments that are often devoid of sound logic, accurate theology, or ethical love tend towards caricatures of the face and a twisting of the true intent of Covenantal Zionism. So we need discernment, big time.

Right-wing Anti-Semitism in America?

Have you noticed that Zionism is a hot topic in the culture right now, not just with the people of God? The topic is an urgent matter. Since October 7th, the rise of Anti-Semitism in the form of Anti-Zionism has grievously skyrocketed. Even this year, it has spread much, even through right-wing media influences from the likes of Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, and Nick Fuentes. And many young people are being influenced. So this is not a time to just sit back and watch what is happening, nor is it a time to assume everyone in our congregations, churches, and families already has a strong foundation of biblical truth to sustain their stand with Israel and the Jewish people. According to Dr. Tom Blake, an important word often missing in this conversation is 'Covenant'. This is one reason among many that Covenantal or Biblical Zionism is helpful terminology as we engage.

A Time for Biblical Training and Moral Courage

Let me put our moment in a different light. If you are a Messianic Jewish Zionist or a Gentile Christian Zionist, you believe a message that makes many people hate you today. And not to spook us, but some people would want to kill us just for believing that God promised irrevocably the everlasting gift of the land of Israel to the people of Israel — the genealogical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To understate it just for a moment, it is probably really important that we have good, strong biblical roots and foundations for our Zionism, right? Yes.



But we can be much stronger than this. We must be. We have to know that we know that Zionism, rightly defined, is what the word of God teaches, not just accept it because our parents taught it, or our Messianic rabbi or pastor taught it. We need to be clear that this is biblical and worth believing in, regardless of the cost!

Calling Gentile Covenant-Partners to Solidarity with Israel

In our membership courses at Kingdom Living Messianic Congregation, we have told potential membership candidates something like this: "If you are not willing to die for Jewish people, to stand with Jewish people in their

suffering and persecution, you're probably not ready to be a member of Kingdom Living." This is especially a message to those who are among the Nations who seek to join us. Jewish people already know that being Jewish can be dangerous.

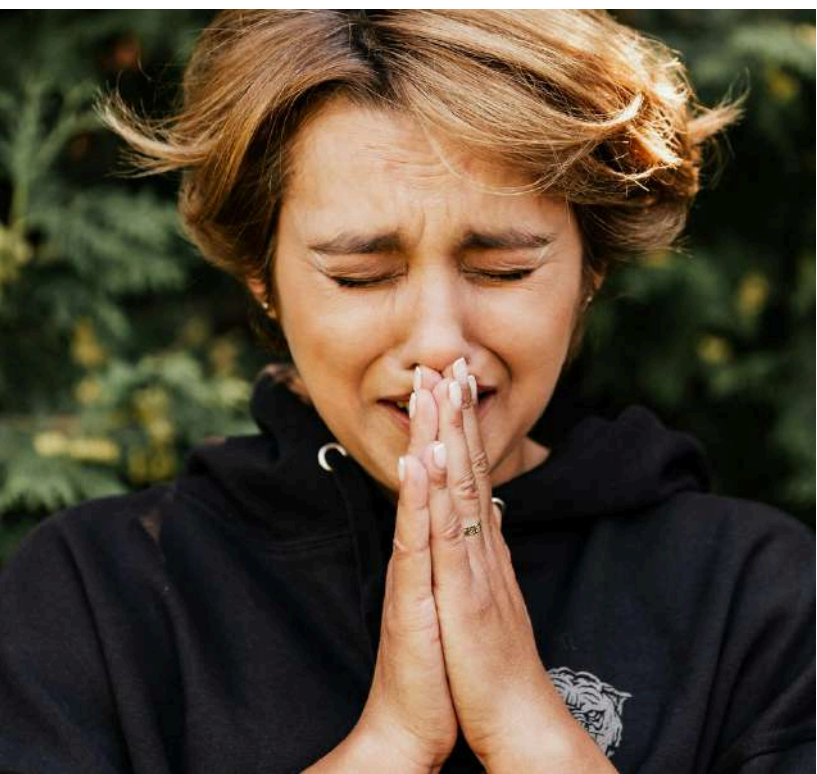
We want Gentile disciples who are possible membership candidates to think seriously about the cost and implications of joining communally and covenantally with the Jewish people through their union with the Jewish Messiah and Jewish disciples.

We want membership candidates to know that our community is standing with the Jewish people, and if they are not in a place where they are taking that notion seriously, this is probably not the community they should be a member of right now. We are not interested in adding Gentile members who love Jewish things but do not love Jewish people.

We owe this to our Jewish members. We owe this to the Jewish people as a whole. Again, if a person is not there yet on their journey, they can be learning and growing among us for a season until they get to that place. Am I being too strong? I don't think so. To be clear, we don't say things like this to a potential membership candidate because we have a doom-and-gloom understanding of the end times, or a fatalistic understanding of what has to happen here in America concerning Jews; that all we can expect is bad, bad, bad for the Jewish people. We don't think that way.

So don't read into things I am not saying. On the other hand, we do believe there will be real and great difficulties ahead for the Jewish people in America. They are already upon us. And we believe that we can't be passive bystanders about this. We must pray, act, and speak in covenant solidarity with Yeshua's Jewish family. The Jewish community, including the Messianic Jews who are within the household of Israel, needs real allies. Like Ruth before us,

New Covenant Gentiles need to count the cost of what it means to be grafted into and made co-covenant members with Israel in the one people of God — for better or worse. I hope we will have many more conversations on this subject. And to encourage that, I want to suggest some questions that we need to answer with clarity, boldness, courage, and love.

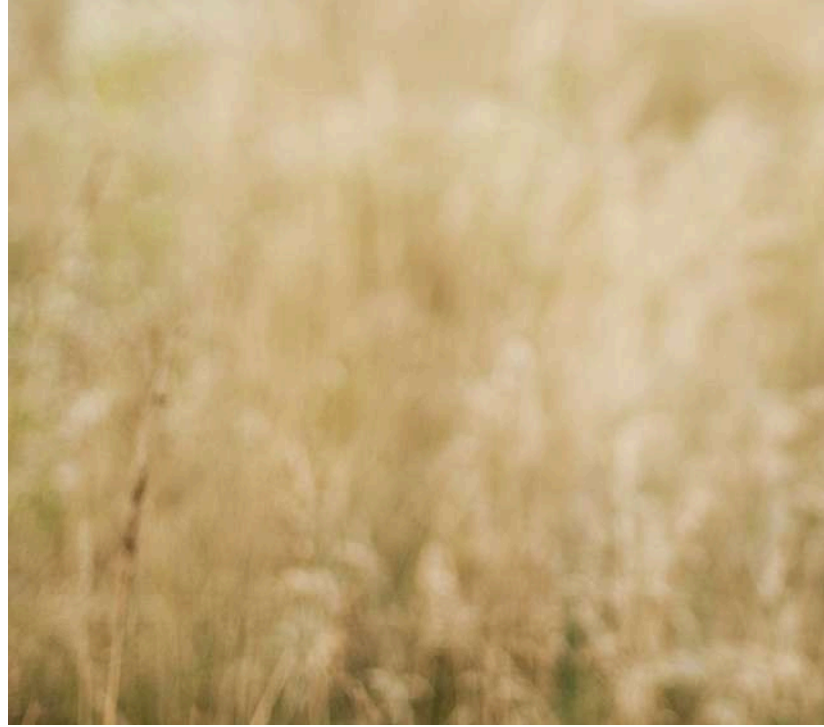


Important Teaching and Conversation Points on Covenantal Zionism

- Are there good exegetical and theological reasons to have confidence in Covenantal Zionism as being fully biblical — that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has made irrevocable covenant promises to the patriarchs and their genealogical descendants, the Jewish people, to give them the land of Israel as an everlasting possession? Also, can this be shown to be completely consistent with God's heart for all the Nations, the reconciling of Jew and Gentile in one Body in this Age, Israel and the Gentile Nations in the Age to come, and God's plans for the renewal of all the earth, not just the land of Israel? Yes.
- And from a New Covenant perspective, are all these covenant promises concerning land and people, for Israel and the Nations, confirmed and mediated through, and will be fulfilled in their entirety in Messiah Yeshua, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham — through His two comings? Yes.

While there is room for disagreement on what stage we are at, is it reasonable to believe the Jewish people's return to their ancient homeland is an eschatological sign of God's faithfulness to His promises to ancient Israel and His enduring commitment to them for the sake of the fathers? Yes.

- Is it essential that we renew and strengthen our commitment to transmit Covenantal Zionism from generation to generation as an integral part of Messianic Jewish and post-supersessionist Christian Theology? Yes.
- Does this need to include a loyal and courageous support of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation that can defend itself from enemies without and protect the rights of its citizens within? And speaking out against Anti-Semitism in all its forms in America? Yes.
- Is Covenantal Zionism a form of racism, inherently filled with Jewish ethnic-superiority? Does it contribute to and foster hatred for other peoples? No.
- Is it anti-Arab Christian and other people's living peacefully in the land alongside Jews who respect Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation-state? No.
- Does one need to believe the current form of government in Israel is the best or ideal form of government to practice justice? No.

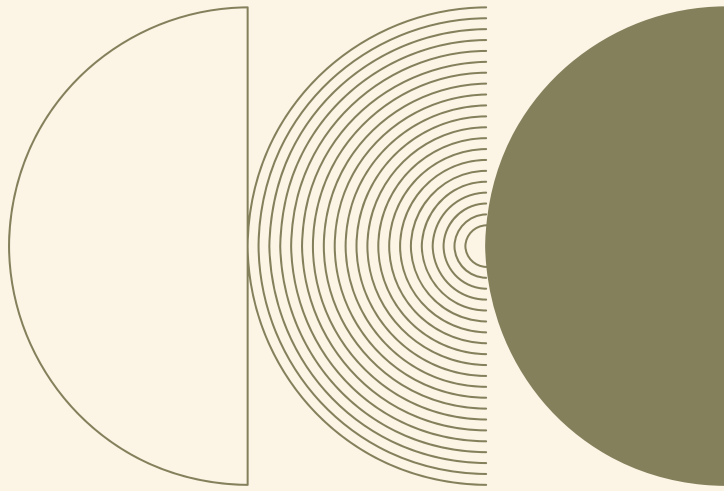




- Does it mean uncritical support for all the decisions of the Israeli government without any room for conversation and debate within the Jewish community, in Jewish-Christian relations, and international politics? But does it also mean swallowing the mockery, sophistry, and rhetoric that so often attack and accuse Israel, often without facts, logic, or sound theological grounding? No.

As we face these difficult times, I hope this article stirs you to prayerfully participate with moral courage in renewed efforts toward embodying and doing your part in transmitting to the next generation the hopeful Covenantal Zionism that aligns with God's heart of love for Israel and all peoples, knowing that, all His promises will be fulfilled, not cancelled, in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.





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