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Has The Church Replaced Israel?: A Theological Evaluation



Synopsis

The relationship between Israel and the church continues to be a controversial topic led by this question: Does the church replace, supersede, or fulfill the nation of Israel in God's plan, or will Israel be saved and restored with a unique identity and role? In *Has the Church Replaced Israel?*, author Michael J. Vlach evaluates the doctrine of replacement theology (also known as supersessionism) down through history but ultimately argues in favor of the nonsupersessionist position. Thoroughly vetting the most important hermeneutical and theological issues related to the Israel/church relationship, Vlach explains why, "there are compelling scriptural reasons in both testaments to believe in a future salvation and restoration of the nation Israel."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael J. Vlach is professor of Theology at The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, California. He holds degrees from the University of Nebraska (B.S.), The Master's Seminary (M.Div.), and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Ph.D.).

As you can tell from one reviewer writing a book about a book, this is a volatile subject about which Christians disagree at a visceral level. My point is not to attack or defend the author's conclusions but to appreciate the integrity with which he approaches his subject. I attend a church which has the opposing view. In a world where mudslinging, even in the church, is accepted and normal, Dr. Michael Vlach has risen above that to write a responsible defense for the idea that the church is

distinct from Israel. My pastor disagrees. If you are weary of reading polemic theologians, Dr. Vlach's writing style will be welcome relief, whether you agree with him or not. Able gentlemen like him help those of us who are caught in the middle work through these issues and I am grateful for this kind of help.

Although I hold to a form of the view opposed in this volume (New Covenant Theology/Fulfillment) Vlach does a fantastic job in the first portion of the book fairly representing my view and honestly presenting the case that the view he opposes was the view of the church for the past 2k years, admitting that it was the establishment of the current nation of Israel in the last century that has caused this new innovation in theology, Dispensationalism, to come about (current events are a poor reason to establish theology). The author also does a great job presenting our argument but it is when he begins to attempt to refute them that he shows his lack of grasping a difference of "replacement" and "fulfillment" and begins to construct straw men. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to learn more about the view he opposes but also for the great presentation of his own view which he lays out wonderfully and thoughtful (though I still disagree with his conclusions).

I really enjoyed this book. Vlach is generous with the opposing position, but thoroughly and convincingly makes his case. Very strong.

Much information about the truth of replacement theology and its dangers. Scholarly and full of sources. Highly recommended read for all.

Good delivery. Good purchase.

This is a good start for those wanting to learn about the errors of replacement theology.

Excellent treatment of the subject!

Accurate theology of what God has said in the scripture about Israel and the Church.

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