

Dear Susan,

I would like to first mention that your editorials are spot on where it concerns dissecting the liberal world view and exposing it for what it is, devoid of truth and morality. You seem to handle 'progressives' with such poetry. That said, I do have something I would like to caution you on when it comes to America's support for Israel and how many believe the modern day Israelis to be "the apple of [God's] eye" (*Zec 2:8*). There needs to be an understanding as to which Israel, Old Testament or New, truly is His "chosen race" (*1 Pet 2:9*). And please don't get me wrong, I firmly believe in supporting Israel as our number one ally in the Middle East.

The "Old Testament" law of Moses wasn't given to the then populace in general. It was only given to Israel. For instance, man wasn't permitted to eat the flesh of animals until Noah left the ark (*Gen.9:3*). Nothing was said to Noah about not consuming "unclean" flesh. That was for Israel to consider (*Lev 11*) later when the Israelites were chosen by God, separating them for the purpose of bringing His Son into the world (*Rom 9:3-9*). And their separation wasn't because of being more righteous than the rest of the world either (*Deu 9:4*). Part of their distinctive identification consisted of what foods they were to eat, garments they were to wear, circumcision and a host of other Levitical laws that were to differentiate them from all others. Once Jesus came, died, resurrected and returned to the Father, the Old Covenant became null and void except "for our learning" (*Rom 15:4*).

It has to be understood that the law of Moses, including the ten commandments and Levitical laws, were only meant for Israel, then. Those outside the nation of Israel, the Gentiles, were not given such laws but when they did "by nature the things contained in the law" they were "a law unto themselves" (*Rom 2:14*) and were, in that way, blessed by God. There has always existed a moral law and Adam and Eve were the first to break it concerning their disobedience to God. Under the "New Covenant" Jesus gave a "new" law (*Jn 13:34*). His commandment to "love one another; as I have loved you" would cover the ten commandments and then some. If I love my neighbor I'm not going to steal from him, take his wife, lie about him, murder him or do anything that would harm him, thus a moral code of conduct.

The Old Covenant Law was nailed to Jesus' cross (*Col 2:14*) and the chosen of God are (*as they have always been*) "spiritual" Israel (*Rom 2:28-29; 9:6; 11:26*) which now consists of both Jew and Gentile Christians (*Gal 3:28, Act 11:26; 15:7-11*), God's chosen (*1 Pet 2:9*). Any who would defer to the Old Covenant concerning subjects such as tattooing, forbidden foods etc. are not seeking truthful answers. Concerning foods for instance, Paul answered this question in 1 Tim 4:3-4 concluding that "every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused".

But then there's the land question and the promise made to Abraham. I would refer you to an article in the Christian Courier by Wayne Jackson on this subject. In it he states that the land promise to Abraham was fulfilled but because of Israel's rebelliousness, the final straw being the crucifixion of the Christ, that covenant was broken by the Jews and not God (*Deu 7:9-11*).

Jackson, Wayne. "Genesis 15:18 - Will Israel Once Again Possess the Promised Land?" *ChristianCourier.com*. Access date: December 30, 2016. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/402-genesis-15-18-will-israel-once-again-possess-the-promised-land>

I believe in a State of Israel and their existence is crucial in stemming the tide of terrorism. I also believe in "spiritual" Israel, which is what the church of Christ consists of (*Jn 14:15*). This nation has become weakened by a failed foreign policy and, for the most part, immorality and

the wimpy leadership that neither party can deny as being guilty of. But that said, I also believe in Scriptural context where it concerns any given Biblical subject. As O.T. Israel was the bride of the Father (*Isa 54:5*), so Christ is the Husband of spiritual Israel, the church (*Eph 5:23, Rev 19:7*) which is the kingdom that Jesus proclaimed as being “at hand” (*Mat 3:2, Heb 12:28*).

I hope I’ve not bored you with such a lengthy response to your editorial.

Sincerely, in Him,

Charli Yana

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