

# Israel and the Church: Parallel Restoration - Part 2

Derek Prince

Scripture reveals that Jesus will not return until there's a season, a period, which is called "times of restoration of all things." (Acts 3:19-21)

My theme is that a double process of restoration has been taking place with Israel and the Church since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Some "replacement" theologians say that God has reneged on His covenant with Israel and that, now, where we read Israel we should substitute the Church. I believe the truth the Bible teaches is that Israel is Israel and the Church is the Church. I believe that this "replacement theory" is a source of endless confusion and has been used of Satan to spawn pride, anti-Semitism, and hatred for the Jewish people—to this day.

There is almost equal confusion about the Church. For many people today, the word Church still signifies a physical building. Others hold to a totally false concept that the Church is a mass of different denominations and movements, all bearing specific labels, all claiming to be Christian. I believe the real truth is summed up in one sentence in Ephesians where the apostle Paul says God gave Jesus to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body. The true authentic Church, the scriptural New Testament Church, is the body of Christ. (Eph 1:22-23)

That means to say that all believers are related to Jesus as a body with a head. They are joined to Him with an organic union. All individual believers are members of that body, have a part in that body and are members of one another. By that biblical definition, I would estimate that most of the contemporary Church is not the Church by scriptural standards.

The apostle Peter proclaims in Acts that there is a period in God's redemptive plan called "the times of restoration of all things." I define restoration as putting things back in their place, and in their right condition. If something has been out of place, restoration puts it back in its place. If something has been in a wrong condition, restoration puts it back in the right condition. I believe that at the top of God's list for restoration, as we have seen, are His two peoples, Israel and the

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**"God's program to bring this age to a close is: repentance, refreshing, restoration, return."**

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Church. So, this period of restoration is primarily the time when God puts those two peoples back in their appointed right place and condition.

For Israel, restoration is primarily geographical and political, but ultimately spiritual. Putting Israel back, restoring Israel, requires putting the Jews back in their land. God gave that land to Abraham and to his descendants by an



"Day of Pentecost," wood engraving by I. G. Flegel

**"That He may send Jesus Christ... whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things...." —Acts 3:20-21**

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everlasting covenant four thousand years ago. (Gen 17:18-21, 17:8) God has never changed nor reneged on that covenant. He is fulfilling His covenant commitment to Abraham.

So, restoration for Israel is primarily or initially putting Jews back where they belong. This has essentially been taking place since 1900. If you want a specific date, you could choose August 29, 1897. Meeting in Basel, Switzerland, the first Zionist Congress embraced the concept presented by Theodor Herzl that the Jews had to be returned to their biblical land.

The restoration of Israel is ultimately spiritual and redemptive. In Ezekiel chapter 36, God details the stages of restoration. He speaks about *aliyah*, the return and re-gathering of the Jews. He speaks of their cleansing, the taking away of the heart of stone, and His giving them a heart of flesh. He speaks about putting His Holy Spirit in them. He declares that they will dwell in the land, will be His people, and that He will be their God. That is the consummation of restoration. It's not just geopolitical, but ultimately it's the redemptive restoration of personal relationship with God through the Messiah. Everything else that takes place prior to that is merely a step in that ultimate direction. Romans chapter 11 encapsulates this process.

Now I want to apply the same principles to the Church, the true Church. And I want to suggest

something that may shock you. I believe that the Church was out of its spiritual inheritance in Christ for just about the same length of time as Israel was out of their geographical inheritance. Israel, you might say, is in the natural, and the Church is in the spiritual. It's easier to see things in the natural. To see them in the spiritual you need discernment.

Basically, I want to suggest to you that the restoration of the Church to its spiritual inheritance in

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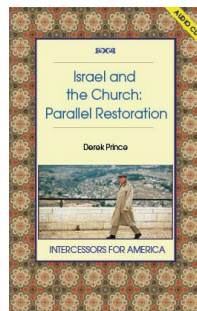
**"Restoration is putting things back in their place, and in their right condition."**

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Christ has proceeded since 1900 in a parallel fashion, step by step, with the restoration of Israel to their geographic inheritance. Viewed this way, history has God-centered meaning and the developments that are taking place all fit into God's eternal plan.

I believe the restoration of the Church can only take place through the supernatural presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the agent of restoration. If you were to choose a date for the initiation of the restoration of the New Testament Church, you could take January 1, 1900. A young woman in a Bible school in Topeka, Kansas, went to the headmasters of the school and asked them to pray for her. She said that she wanted to receive the Holy Spirit the same way they experienced Him in the book of Acts. The heads of the Bible school didn't believe in that but, to accommodate her, they prayed for her. She received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And, she began to speak in tongues.

That, in a sense, was an historic initiation point and breakthrough. Then, in 1904, there was what has been called the Azusa Street outpouring in Los Angeles which eventually gave rise to the Pentecostal denominations. In the early 1960s Pentecostal and other "second blessing" and "latter day fullness" teachings and experiences flowed into Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations and non-denominational circles. These brought forth the "charismatic renewal." The restorative works of the Holy Spirit are continuing—to this day.



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Derek Prince

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The above was excerpted and adapted from an IFA transcription of a Derek Prince audio series, "Israel: Past, Present and Future." Derek's books on this important theme are presently out of print. It is important that we intercede with biblical understanding. Order IFA

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