

Russ-02

by Art Katz

The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the theocratic kingdom and Israel's millennial destiny, and the church's role in facilitating God's plan for Israel's restoration in the last days.

Duration: 52:20

Scripture: Ezekiel 20:33

Topics: "Israel"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the theme of morning, sadness, sorrow, and everlasting joy. He references Ezekiel chapter 20, verse 33, to emphasize that in the midst of crisis, people can meet God face to face. The speaker explains that God can be in many places at the same time through the church in the nations, which should show forth His face and not just religious responsibility. He highlights the importance of the church in fulfilling the restoration of all things spoken by the prophets, particularly the restoration of the nation back to God. The speaker concludes by urging the audience to embrace their mandate as the church and participate in the prophetic event of God's ruling from the holy hill of Zion.

Transcript

I think that we can understand more and more why Paul asked that pray for me that utterance might be given. It was not the issue of his competence or his ability. It was beyond him, able though he was.

That's why Paul's most frequent cry was, who is sufficient for these things? Have you cried that? Until we have cried that, we are outside the faith. When the faith is something that we can perform, we are already apostate. When the faith is something that we can perform, we are already apostate.

What I want to introduce this morning is the theocratic setting for the subject of Israel. Is this a word with which you are familiar? The theocratic kingdom. It's totally absent from the consciousness of the church.

And needs to be restored. And needs to be restored. We speak about the coming of the Lord, but in terms of our personal escape, but in terms of our personal escape, and not in terms of his coming as king.

Let's be ruthlessly honest this morning. Are you actually expecting a kingdom to come? Are you actually expecting a kingdom to come? Because, at least in my country, the word kingdom has become an abstraction. The kingdom of God is within you.

We think of it as a mode of being, rather than an actual rule. So I want to speak about the subject of Israel in terms of an actual theocratic rule. The church has lost all expectancy for this, to the exact degree that it has no expectancy for Israel's millennial destiny.

These two things are inextricably bound together. When the church entered its triumphalist mentality with Constantine, When the church entered its triumphalist mentality with Constantine, they saw the kingdom as already come. Rome was its center, not Jerusalem.

So therefore, every reference to Jerusalem and Zion in the prophetic scriptures, was spiritualized away. It was made a metaphor for the church. After all, Israel was finished.

God has rejected the nation. It has rejected its Messiah. And the church is now the Israel of God.

And this kingdom has come, in a holy Roman Empire. The Reformation did not correct this error. And we are still living with the consequence of an incomplete Reformation.

That's why my ministry is the ministry of restoration. It is the prophetic task of restoring what has been lost. It is the prophetic task of restoring what has been lost.

And this is the most central issue for all of your consciousness. It is the central issue of the scriptures themselves. To restore this lost principle.

The literal word of God as literal. For example, Isaiah chapter 2. That the mountain of the Lord shall be above all the hills and the mountains. Mountain is always a symbolic term for government.

For it says that the law shall go forth out of Zion, and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem. That this would be the seat or the location of God's theocratic rule. How do you like that? Would you have preferred Moscow? Or Geneva? Or New York City? Any one of these is a far more prestigious location for world rule than Zion.

But we're back to yesterday's subject. The conflict of wisdoms. Two moral systems in opposition.

The wisdom of this world from the prince of this world and the gods of this world that celebrate power. The authority of man. Prestige.

Wealth. Lust. Ambition.

And visible power that will in the last alternative use violence and force to achieve its ends. This is the world system and the world's wisdom by whatever name it employs. Fascism.

Communism. Even democracy. Is a more veiled deception of this naked truth and power.

What we should be looking for is the rule of God. His kingdom come in a very literal way over the nations from His world capital the holy hill of Zion in the city of Jerusalem. This is the heart of scandal and offense.

It is the scandal of particularity that God would be that specific after all as some hotshots say God's not interested in real estate. His kingdom is universal. He's not concerned for the land of Israel.

He's not interested in geography. That's the conceit about which Paul warns in Romans 11. What does Psalm 2 tell us? That the heathen rage and imagine a vain thing They devise a vain thing in verse 1. The heathen or the nation's rage are in an uproar and they devise a vain thing.

The kings of the earth and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed. Notice kings and rulers. This is not a synonym of one for the other.

The kings are the earthly authorities but the rulers are the invisible principalities and powers of the air who express their influence through earthly rulers. Both are opposed to the rule of God and of His anointed. What does Christ mean? The anointed one anointed to rule.

When the first angelic pronouncement was made in the Gospel of Luke and it's always important to look at the first pronouncement the first expression and this is an angelic pronouncement you can't find anything more pure than that nor more authoritative What does the angel say to Mary?

In chapter 1 verse 31 you shall call His name Jesus verse 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High Luke 1.32 and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom will have no end When have you considered that last? that Jesus came to rule and over His cross in three languages to mock Him Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews but if He is King of the Jews He is King of all nations for His kingdom shall have no end The prophet Isaiah says the same thing in chapter 9 about unto us a child will be born and unto us a son is given in verse 6 What's the next statement? and the government shall be upon His shoulders Oh dear children you must understand this or you will be absolutely bewildered by the

anti-Semitic fury that comes upon Jews for the devil has always sought their annihilation because this kingdom must first come to them and must be established in their city upon the throne of David to order it and to establish it that's how specific God is that's what it says here the government will rest upon His shoulders and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor of the Mighty God Eternal Father Prince of Peace and just as the angel said to Mary there will be no end to the increase of His government or of His peace on the throne of David that's why the heathen rage and imagine a vain thing that's why all the pagans are so opposed to this very moment they would rather have it in Rome or in Geneva or in New York but not with this despised nation or in their capital city or in the

hill of Zion but what does God say in Psalm 2 He holds the nations in contempt for He has set His King upon the holy hill of Zion now if you were the prince of this world and did not want to give up your influence over the nations and know that God has His own theocratic intentions that must be in keeping with the scriptures that the law can only go forth out from Zion and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem that requires therefore a restored nation to that place who are already submitted to the government of their king because He has the credentials He is the son of David and therefore qualified to sit on David's throne what would you do to avoid this loss of power what would you then do on the place of the prince of the whole world to avoid this loss of power you would do everything

to destroy this nation whose restoration is required before their king can establish his dwelling place and sanctuary in this city and this explains the demonic fury against the Jews moving through unregenerate men quick to grab any simplistic explanation for the breakdown of economy and government in the last days and blame it on the Jews for which there is a sufficient evidence or sufficient truth to support their lie but however much we can explain this sociologically the root of it is demonic it's a fury unto death to annihilate a people and by so doing frustrate God's plan for the establishment of His rule upon their throne in their Zion in their Jerusalem as a restored nation are you following me so far?

Acts chapter 3 verse 21 where is the king today? contained in the heavens I'll tell you what it says in English that the Lord Himself is contained or held up in the heavens He has imposed this restriction upon

Himself waiting for the fulfillment of a certain condition the restoration of all things spoken by the prophets since the world began and when you will examine the prophets what is their one great thing the restoration of the nation back to God in the last days despite thousands of years of apostasy and alienation this is the great drama of the end this is what concludes history and the king is contained until it happens He said you will not see Me until you will say again blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord whether we like it or not we have to bow before the divine plan of God and His wisdom which is different than the wisdom of the world because He chooses the least thing the weakest thing the despised thing Israel and the hill of Zion to be the location of the center of His kingdom and His authority over the nations Can you say Amen to that?

Can you say Hallelujah to that? Can you rejoice to that? Why should Israel be so centered, so chosen by God?

They don't deserve it They have blasphemed His name in every nation to which they have been driven They are not qualified the way we are but He will choose whom He will choose and He will elect whom He will elect because He is I am who I am and will be who I will be so as we say in America to the world eat your heart out be frustrated in your rage this is our God this is our God the God of Jacob and this is what He has chosen He has made promise to this people that He is set upon your throne from the lineage of David will come your King and He will rule forever this isn't a little temporary innovation once it's established it is fixed and eternal it is His millennial reign it doesn't end after a thousand years the devil is allowed up out of his captivity for a momentary release in which

he stirs up the nations one last time against God and against Israel when he will be given the last chance to stir up the nations again against the rule of Israel this is chapter 35 of Ezekiel where it says about Gog and Magog chapter 38 there you will read that God will judge the nations and then the devil will fall into the lake of fire and it will continue forever over all nations for the law will go forth out of Zion and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem now brother, how do you know whether that's literal or poetic and spiritual because it says that the nations will study war, no war and beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks the nations will be affected radically because God is ruling from the holy hill of Zion how does all this happen when Israel

is today presently in her apostate condition and knows nothing about this and doesn't care to know only wants to succeed politically all of this happens because of the church the church is God's exclusive instrument and agent for the fulfillment of what was spoken by the prophets or it will not be fulfilled this is your mandate this is the wisdom of God this is what Paul saw in Romans 9-11 how else do you explain Paul's conclusion in Romans 11 have you read it lately Romans 11, 33-36 for of him the last verse, 36 for of him and through him and to him are all things and now you can read the last statement together with me to whom be glory forever to him be glory forever Amen forever glory forever the church that does not see this mystery and makes this mystery central to its own being and

existence is not the church the issue of Israel is the issue of the church not because we have a romantic affinity for the Jew though we certainly should respect them they are still the chosen people and it's not the question of qualification we need to bless what God has blessed and to choose what he has chosen because it's the issue of his glory forever this is of him I didn't make it up because I'm Jewish and I want to see my people have a place of preference this is of him the God who chooses stables and is crucified outside the city nakedly the God who is despised and rejected of men chooses the hill of Zion and the despised people because his way is not our way nor are our thoughts his thoughts he has another wisdom

or we ourselves would not be saved he chooses the foolish and the

weak thing to confound the wise and the mighty that's why he has chosen Israel and that's why he has chosen us it's another wisdom now here is what we are going to see in the last days Israel brought to a national death both within its present political boundaries and wherever the nation is dispersed in the world the prophets speak of a time of Jacob's trouble it's already happening and getting worse every day in every nation including my own skinheads the neo-Nazis threatening phone calls burned synagogues you watch this it's going to increase daily and your own country will not be exempt you already have a juicy history in this regard Ukrainian anti-Semitism is famous and how much would it take to stir it up again there will not be a Jew that survives this except for the church that has

mercy on them that they might receive mercy when such an act of mercy will threaten your own security and life is your heart going out for me you see the unhappy task that we prophets have we have to speak in advance of the time when there is not much evidence to support such a view with the absolute assurance that it will come and when it comes will it find you prepared to extend mercy that they might obtain mercy even if it threatens your own life who are the overcomers of the last days those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb the word of their testimony and love not their life unto the death ok, so to be identified with Jews means I may lose my life praise the Lord that loss is eternal gain it obtains from me a crown that shall not fade away that is eternal that's what I'm going to

be speaking later in the other room the restoration of eternity and eternal mindedness which is the heart of the whole apostolic view God is sinking deep shafts into the foundation of your church or it will not be the church it will be something less something other it will conduct services people will enjoy them you'll have programs but you will not be an actor in the apostolic drama and you will forfeit your eternal reward for it and might even be found opposing it because it's going to be only two classes of men at the end one smaller, one larger that which is apostolic and that which is apostate and the one will persecute the other it's not the world that we need to fear so much but those who will kill us and claim they are doing God a service the issue of the Jew will identify who

the true church is one remnant will find the other and because the remnant of Israel will find you in the midst of their last days trial and extremity they will return to Zion as the redeemed of the Lord though they did not leave it in that condition it says in Isaiah 35 mourning and sighing shall flee away mourning, sadness, sorrow and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads for they return to Zion as the redeemed of the Lord they were uprooted out of their cities and compelled to flee for their lives but a place of refuge was prepared for them where God met with them face to face and brought them into the bond of His covenant and the rod of His authority Ezekiel chapter 20 verse 33 to the end something happens to them in the midst of their crisis they meet God face to face how can He

be in so many places at the same time through the church in the nations who show forth His face and not the grim face of religious responsibility obligation I guess I have to it's the people who want to and count it a privilege to participate in this final drama and have a face that shows forth the Lord that's why I'm here today that's why I'm alive today that's why I didn't die 30 years ago in my own crisis because I met the face of a young gentile girl half my age with whom I should have had nothing to do a protestant in whose face I saw the light that lightens the gentiles and it is the glory of Israel there is no witness more powerful than His glory through the light that has come to the gentiles who are walking in the light as He is in the light the church that is the ground and

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