

Israel Inherits Promises of Old

Amos 9:13-15, Matthew 25:31-43



First Problem with Allegorizing Israel

- Scriptures must be explained away in both the Old and New Testaments.
- When you start allegorizing scripture you face the bigger problem of determining where to stop.
- Allegorizing scripture waters it down to the point where it is just a lot of moral stories.
- Allow the Bible to determine what is figurative and what is literal.
- When someone attempts to override the Biblical writer's intent, they are denying the authority of scripture that was inspired by God.

Second Problem with Allegorizing Israel

- Preachers who discount Israel are claiming that God's promises have failed.
- Some promises given to Israel have never been fulfilled.
- God gave promises to the nation without conditions; they have not and cannot be cast away.
- Israel was called by God for a purpose.
- God's covenants are always based on God's character, not man's.
- God is raising up His people to fulfill their call to be a light to the Gentiles.

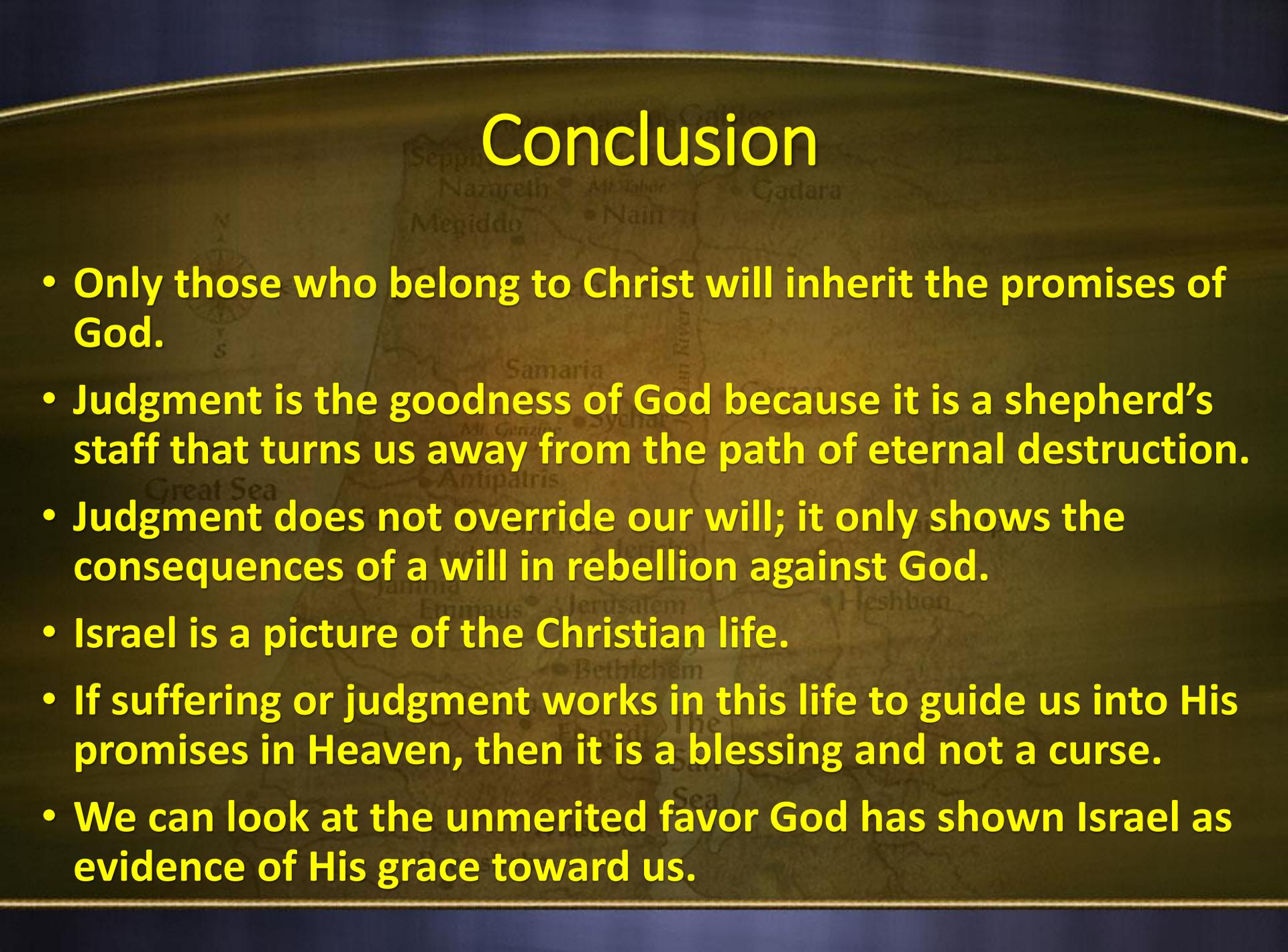
Third Problem with Allegorizing Israel

- It makes the grace of God dependent on merit.
- The Bible says that before we received Christ we were at war with God.
- Even as children of God, many turn from God's ways and pursue the world.
- We are called the children of God, but so is Israel.
- God's grace is not dependent on Israel's worthiness any more than His grace is dependent on our righteousness.
- God will give Israel their inheritance.
- Israel's inheritance will be received after she has been judged and gathered again.
- The inheritance also promises that they will not be removed from the land again.

The Sheep and Goats

- Salvation is not and has never been based on individual merit or works of any kind.
- The sheep will be separated from the goats when Jesus returns to reign on the earth.
- Those who persecute God's people and those who have the power to help but allow God's people to suffer are the goats.
- In Revelation, during the Great Tribulation period, only a fraction of mankind will survive.
- Those who are enemies of God's people will be destroyed, that is why you do not see the persecutors among the nations Jesus is judging.
- During the 1000-year reign of Christ, Israel will inherit the land and blessings that they were promised.

Conclusion



- Only those who belong to Christ will inherit the promises of God.
- Judgment is the goodness of God because it is a shepherd's staff that turns us away from the path of eternal destruction.
- Judgment does not override our will; it only shows the consequences of a will in rebellion against God.
- Israel is a picture of the Christian life.
- If suffering or judgment works in this life to guide us into His promises in Heaven, then it is a blessing and not a curse.
- We can look at the unmerited favor God has shown Israel as evidence of His grace toward us.