

The Reformation, Eschatology, and Israel

Saturday, Oct 21, 2023 08:00 AM CT • 54:00

Host: David Wheaton 00:08

The Reformation, Eschatology, and Israel. That is the topic we'll discuss today on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported radio ministry. You can connect with us by visiting our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, calling toll free 1-888-646-2233, or by writing to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

In your church this past Sunday, did your pastor mention or pray for the situation in Israel in light of the murderous incursion by the radical Islamic group Hamas into Israel on October 7, where they barbarically slaughtered over 1300 civilian Jews, some of which were Americans, and took hostage over 200 more? If they didn't mention a word about Israel. Why not? Let's hope it's not because they have believed the lie that Israel is an "apartheid state", the oppressor of "occupied Palestine."

Audio Sound Bite: Number One 01:22

Remember that what's happening right now is in a greater context of one of the greatest crimes against humanity, which is an apartheid regime. The Israeli government is what has fueled this. It is Israel that is occupying the Palestinians, not the other way around.

Audio Sound Bite: Number Two 01:37

It's basically like living, Alex, in an open air prison. I think Hamas is leading the military establishments, many military installations, Palestinians are leading a freedom movement.

Audio Sound Bite: Number Three 01:47

The apartheid state of Israel, which has no legitimate reason for existing.

Host: David Wheaton 01:53

Now more likely than any of those lies, too many pastors today have been taught that the church made up of Gentiles and some Jews has replaced Israel in God's eyes. So, ho hum, about what is happening in Israel. The war might as well be taking place between Peru and Ecuador. Why would Christians think Israel is just another nation, after reading all of God's promises in Scripture regarding the future blessing and salvation of the Jewish people prior to Christ's return?

Even despite the Jews current rebellion against God, Romans 11:1 says, referring to the Jews, *God has not rejected his people has he? May it never be!* One of the reasons there is indifference amongst Christians toward Israel, is the long standing influence of the Roman Catholic churches amillennial eschatology, which view the Roman church to have replaced Israel as God's favorite entity. While the Protestant Reformation emerged from the Roman Catholic Church in the early 1500s, and clarified long obscured in important doctrines like justification by faith, leading reformers like Martin Luther, held to the view that the Church has replaced Israel. This weekend on The Christian Worldview, Mike Gendron, founder and evangelists with Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry, joins us to first explain historical aspects and important doctrines of the Reformation. But how the eschatology was a poor interpretation of Scripture.

Mike, thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview Radio Program today. I want to start with a quote from one of your recent newsletters on the Reformation. You say this, "On October 31,1517 [so that's 506 years ago] that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. It was a 16th-century version of a provocative blog post that was intended to invite discussion, which it did. Luther became the center of a great controversy when his theses were copied and distributed throughout Europe. Luther's initial protest exposed the Pope's [the Roman Catholic Pope's] abominable practice of selling salvation from Purgatory's fire for the price of indulgences."

Two days later, "Catholics will be observing All Souls Day in the Castle Church, which had over 1900 relics of dead saints on display. Indulgences for the remission of sins were granted if they viewed the relics and confess their sins to a priest." Last paragraph, "The diabolical lies of Purgatory and indulgences are linked to the first lie of Satan in the Garden of Eden, when he promised Eve she would not die if she disobeyed God." That's from Genesis 3:4. I'd like you to explain, Mike, this beginning of the Reformation, and how the idea, this false doctrine of purgatory and indulgences for getting your dead loved ones out of purgatory, a mythical place, were linked to the first lie of Satan telling Eve if you eat the fruit, you will not die.

Guest: Mike Gendron 05:29

It's totally amazing. As I have been studying this, I think the Lord really revealed it to me. I was studying 1 Timothy:4 where Paul says *in latter times, some will depart from the faith and follow doctrines of demons*. As I looked at Genesis 3, I saw the first lie of Satan was to deceive Eve into believing that she would not die if she broke God's command. As I put the two together, I thought venial sins is the Catholic Church telling its people that they surely shall not die if they commit a venial sin.

So this perpetuates the first lie of Satan in the garden. The Catholic Church has made this an official dogma, and when you have a venial sin that doesn't cause death in the eternal lake of fire, then the Catholic Church had to create a place where Catholics would go when they died to suffer for their venial sins, so they created a place called purgatory. In Purgatory, the Catholic Church teaches that the fire will purge away their venial sins. The Catholic church also came up with another way to get them out of purgatory, and they created another lie called indulgences. Indulgences, according to the Catholic Church, is the remission of temporal punishment for sin.

So I call this the trilogy of deception. It started in the garden with a lie of venial sins, you surely shall not die. Then they created a place called purgatory for Catholics to suffer, and then a way to get them out by remitting temporal punishment for sin. This is really what sparked the Reformation, the selling of God's grace through indulgences. We can look back to the first lie in the garden to see where the Roman Catholic Church came up with this trilogy of deception.

Host: David Wheaton 07:31

Are indulgences still something that the Roman Catholic Church practices today?

Guest: Mike Gendron 07:37

Oh most definitely. Whenever a Catholic dies, their family will come together and they will approach the priest and they'll buy Mass cards. A Mass card is something that they put the name of their loved one on, they give the priest a certain amount of money, the priest then takes the Mass card, and he lays it on the altar so that when he offers the sacrifice of the Eucharist, that is said to reduce the time of suffering for the Catholic that is in Purgatory.

No priest will tell you how many Masses must be said before the loved one is removed from Purgatory, nor will they tell you how long you have to suffer for each venial sin. So, we talk a lot about the bondage of religion, David, and in Roman Catholicism, Catholics are in bondage to religion, not only in this life, but also in the next life, because they're utterly dependent upon the priesthood in this life, to hear their confession, to absolve their sin, to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, to present Jesus in the form of the Eucharist, and then after all this is said and done, when they die, they're still dependent upon the priest to get them out of this fictitious place called purgatory.

Host: David Wheaton 08:59

So they don't need to rely at all on what Christ did for us on the cross, He paid for all our sins. No money gets us bought to heaven. Mike Gendron with us today here on The Christian Worldview, the founder and evangelist for a ministry called Proclaiming the Gospel. We have it linked to our website, TheChristianWorldview.org.

Now, in the Reformation, Mike, there were five Solas. That's what they're called. Those are the distinctives of what the reformers believed and taught. As they tried to reform and come out of the Roman Catholic Church, here are the summary of what they believed.

1. Sola scriptura, which is, I'm quoting from your article here, declares Scripture as the highest source of authority and faith and practice.
2. Sola Fide, that affirms that justification is through faith alone in Jesus Christ,
3. Sola Gratia, that affirms that sinners are saved by the gift of God's grace alone.
4. Sola Christo, emphasizes the exclusivity of Christ's role in salvation.
5. Sola Deo Gloria, declares that God alone is to receive all glory and praise and honor.

How was each one of them a response to errant doctrines in the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church? What would you say to the person who says, "Well, the Bible never says faith alone, or grace alone, it never uses that word alone in scripture."

Guest: Mike Gendron 10:40

What happened is the Roman Catholic Church was teaching a plan of salvation, that said, You are saved by grace plus merit, faith plus works, Christ plus other mediators, and it was, according to Scripture, plus tradition, and glory was going not only to God, but to Mary and the saints, so, as the Reformers began reading the scriptures, they recognize that the plan of salvation in the Catholic Church was diametrically opposed to the biblical plan.

When you look at Sola Scriptura, that's the content of our salvation, and Paul describes the gospel in 1Corinthians 15:1-4, he says, *It is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus according to the scripture.* So the content of our salvation is fully found in Scripture alone. Then we look at Sola Gratia, that's the means of salvation. The only way God saved sinners is by His grace, and Paul said in Romans 11:6, *if it is by grace, it is not of works, otherwise, grace is not grace.*

So the Catholic Church, if you look at paragraph 2027 of the Catechism, it tells Catholics that they must merit all the graces necessary for salvation. So how do you merit the unmerited favor of God? Sola Gratia. Then you go to Sola Fide. That's the instrument of salvation. That is the instrument God uses to bring those who are dead in our sin, to life in Christ, by faith alone. Solus Christus, that's Christ alone is the mediator of our salvation.

The Roman Catholic Church had many mediators. They had the priesthood. They also had Mary as a co-mediatrix. The Catholic Church was denying that Christ is the one mediator between God and man. The man, Christ Jesus, He's God's perfect man, and man's perfect God. So when you look at

Christ alone, we see throughout scripture, that there's no other name given among men by which we are to be saved, Acts 4:12. Jesus said, *I am the way. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

So we see clearly from scripture that it must be Christ alone and its Christ's righteousness alone. In fact, that's our only passport into heaven, the righteousness of Christ. It's given freely to those who trust in Him. It is given as a gift as we see in Romans 5:17. Then you look at Sola Deo Gloria, God is the provider of salvation. Rather than the salvation be dispensed through the sacraments of the Catholic Church, this last Soli was showing that God alone is the provider. Salvation comes from God, not through any other mediators.

Host: David Wheaton 13:47

Mike Gendron with us today on The Christian Worldview. Mike, I know probably in your many discussions with Roman Catholics, because you were a former Roman Catholic, I believe for the first 35 years of your life, and I know sometimes when I've talked to them, or maybe even listeners today, maybe you're even Roman Catholic listening today, that Roman Catholics seem to have a whole different vocabulary for what some of the terms you just used actually mean. Whether it's faith, grace, and works. In other words they'd say, No, we believe in grace. Yes, we are saved by faith. We don't believe that we're saved by our works. We don't believe in all that, because they have a completely different definition of those words. How do you have a discussion, when what you mean by faith, grace and works, is not what a Roman Catholic means by the very same words?

Guest: Mike Gendron 14:41

That's a good question. I've already shared with you the definition of grace by the Catholic Church. It's something they must merit. So when we witness to Roman Catholics, we have to make sure that we're giving them the biblical definition of these words. Works often times are confused when you deal with Roman Catholics who believe that they are necessary for justification. In fact, Catholics believe they're justified by faith plus works. They always point to James chapter 2, where James is dealing with two different kinds of faith. He's dealing with a living, enduring faith that comes from God, and that faith will always produce evidence in the form of works.

I think a good way to look at faith is that it's the root, and works would be the fruit. James is saying, if the root is dead, then there will be no evidence, there will be no fruit. He says, Faith without works is dead. That means you don't have saving faith from God, your faith is spurious, it's dead. There's no evidence that you've been converted. We need to explain that to Roman Catholics that James is not sharing how to be justified. He's contrasting living faith that produces works and dead faith that does not produce any works.

When I see someone at church who claims to be a Christian, and there's no evidence of a transformed life, I would ask him to do what the Apostle Paul exhorted us to do in 2 Corinthians 13:5. *Examine yourself to make sure you're in the faith. Test yourselves.* That's why we see these exhortations in Scripture. Anybody can profess to be a Christian, but we have to make sure that there's evidence for that saving faith.

Host: David Wheaton 16:41

That's well explained, Mike. Just like Ephesians 2:8-10 say. *That we're saved by grace through faith, but we're created in Christ Jesus for good works.* So we're not saved by good works. We're saved for good works.

As we take our first break, I want to mention two resources for you that go with our topic today. One is the DVD entitled, Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer. This is done through Media Gratiae. It's an excellent film and is 91 minutes. Also, we have a DVD of two presentations by our guest, Mike Gendron on God's Faithfulness to Israel, and Satan and Bible Prophecy. We're going to be getting more to this on the program today. You can order these resources at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, or give us a call at 1-888-646-2233. You're listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit 17:41

When Jesus is laying out the Holy Spirit's job description in John 16, and He says, *"it's to your advantage that I go,"* think about that for just a second. Jesus, the Christ tells His disciples, it's actually advantageous that I go. They are thinking, What? We don't want you to go. Who could be better for us? What does He then explain?

That was pastor Costi Hinn who was raised in and then saved from the distortions of the Holy Spirit that are so prevalent today. Costi's new book, *Knowing the Spirit: Who He Is, What He Does, and How He Can Transform Your Christian Life*, graciously clarifies truth from error and is available for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order this 261 page, softcover book that retails for \$19.99, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Featured Children's Resources 18:44

Scripture commands that children ought to be brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Offering Biblically sound resources for children is one of our top ministry priorities. At our store at the [ChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), you will find carefully selected children's Bibles and books along with video and audio resources. Check out the Bible infographics for kids books, Little Pilgrims Progress, and the popular Adam raccoon set. Theo is a 15 episode video series addressing key doctrines of

the faith that is a must see for children and adults. Satan and the world are bent on capturing the heart and mind of your child. Instead, get sound resources that will train them up in the way they should go. Browse and order at TheChristianWorldview.org or give us a call for recommendations at 1-888-646-2233. That's 1-888-646-2233 or TheChristianWorldview.org.

Host: David Wheaton 19:49

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry. Our topic today is, The Reformation, Eschatology and Israel. Our guest is Mike Gendron, founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry.

Mike, you write in your article, "The Reformers established the Word of God as the supreme authority for faith. They made the Bible available to people in their own language. Soon people discovered they can be saved by reading the Bible unaided by priests and Sacraments. The truth was setting them free from religious bondage. This caused the Pope to put a stop to this mass exodus by once again putting the Bible, imagine this, on their list of forbidden books."

You also say that the Reformation re-established the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Head of the Church, which He purchased with His own blood. Additionally the Reformers rejected the Pope as the head of the church. One more thing was the recovery of the most important doctrine. That would be justification, which Rome had distorted in so doing, giving its people a false hope. Virtually every doctrinal error, you write, that has surfaced in the Roman Catholic Church has been as a result of undermining the authority, the reliability and sufficiency of Scripture.

Wherever scripture is not the supreme authority, Christ will be dishonored because man's ideas will come in, man's false teachings will come in. His gospel will be distorted. Faith will be misplaced, put on something other than Christ's work, and the church will be ineffective and men will steal the glory from God. The idea of the authority of Scripture, the exclusivity of Jesus Christ, and justification by faith, which is the gospel, why are those, and this is not just for the Roman Catholic Church, but just in broader life in Christianity, why are these always the pivotal and the priority issues?

Guest: Mike Gendron 21:57

Quite frankly, it's because they're the most important issues. Scripture must always be our supreme authority. We must always test the uninspired words of men with the inspired Word of God. We know there's no higher authority than Almighty God, and He's revealed Himself through His inspired Word. So by default, that should be everyone's supreme authority. Christ is our all sufficient Savior. You know, David, the reason people don't have assurance of salvation is because they're trusting

what they must do, rather than what Christ has done. The last words of Christ before He gave up his spirit was, It is finished. In other words, He accomplished everything necessary to save sinners completely and forever. By trusting Christ alone, we can have the assurance of eternal life because He canceled the eternal sin debt. We see that in Colossians 2:13-14. We also see that He gives us His perfect righteousness that He earned by obeying the law perfectly and living a sinless life. So He gives that as a gift, which is why 2 Corinthians 5:21 is so important. He that is Jesus who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. So the gospel is the summation of the all sufficient work of Christ. It must remain pure. It must remain exclusive. Justification is the core of the gospel. It's the hinge that opens and closes the gates of heaven. The Reformers said, if you get justification wrong, you get the gospel wrong. And if you get justification wrong, you cannot be right with God.

It might be good to look at a couple of ways that the Catholic Church opposes the biblical doctrine of justification. When we look at justification, it declares the inflexible righteousness of God as the judge who must punish every sin that's ever been committed. The only way a condemned sinner can be justified is through faith and the sin bearing substitutionary death and resurrection of Christ alone, who satisfied divine justice. So when we look at biblical justification, it is the change of one's legal status before God whereby a condemned sinner has been acquitted and declared righteous.

But Rome says, No, that's not true. Justification changes the inner man, not his legal status. We know from the Bible that justification is instantaneous. But Rome once again says, No, it's a process. The Bible says justification is by faith, but Rome says, No, justification is by the sacrament of baptism. The Bible teaches that your justification is permanent, and it's never lost by sin. The legal status of a justified man is as unchangeable as the righteousness of Christ.

But Rome says, No, justification is temporal. It can be lost by sin, than it has to be regained through the Sacrament of Penance. So we see so many different ways that the Catholic Church has denied biblical justification. The Bible says God justifies the ungodly, Romans 4:5. But Rome teachers final justification is for those who become righteous. Lastly David, the Bible teaches justification is the imputation of Christ's completed righteousness. But Rome says, No, justification is the infusion of righteousness, which renews the interior man. So I think you and your listeners can see that Rome is confusing justification with sanctification.

Host: David Wheaton 26:09

Yes, I've heard one person say that the Roman Catholic religion teaches that you work your life on sanctification and hopefully at the end, you'll be justified. Whereas the biblical route is God justifies the repentant sinner who puts his faith in Christ, and then the rest of your life is spent on sanctification.

You've been talking a lot about a lot of important doctrinal distinctions that were made clear that weren't invented by the Reformers, those who came out of the Roman Catholic Church in the 1500s and 1600s. There was biblical clarity on these these doctrines. They were rediscovered basically by some men. Then it began to explode across the continent of Europe and then it was exported across the ocean to the United States of America. So these doctrines that you've been discussing, Mike, as part of the Protestant Reformation, Protestant protesting against the Catholic Church, which was the dominant church at the time, reformation, they were reforming, trying to reform out of that, that's why it's called the Protestant Reformation.

Talk about the impact of the Reformation that it had on Western Civilization. By that I mean, Western Europe, Britain and the British colonies back in the day. Then even over here in North America and South America, and also the broader world. How significant was what happened when Luther first nailed those Ninety-five Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, how that just wasn't a religious movement, but it was far greater than that?

Guest: Mike Gendron 27:51

Number one, I think the Reformation really gave people freedom. They were no longer under the control of a religious hierarchy. Before the Reformation, if you were excommunicated from the Catholic Church, you had no hope of going to heaven. So they had this overwhelming control over all the people. The Reformation took power away from the priesthood and the papacy. It also created what we call is the Protestant work ethic, which really helped shape Europe and America. But I think more than ever, it really helped people be educated not only with scripture, but also as the schools were being established. More and more times, people were studying the Bible.

You must remember that the Bible was on the list of forbidden books. Before that it was in Latin, it was in a language that the common people could not access. You talked about a while ago how the Reformers rediscovered what had been hidden for up to 900 years. The Protestant Reformation put the Bible back in the hands of the people, and it set them free. We read in 2 Timothy 2:24-26 that we are to *pray for those that have opposition to the gospel. That God would grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, so they can escape the snare of the devil that holds them captive to do his will.* Jesus addressed this in John 8. He said, "*A true disciple of Mine is one who will abide in my word, then they will know the truth, and the truth will set them free.* It will set them free from religious deception and from the power of sin. So keep in mind, David, most of the people have no access to the truth that would set them free until the reformation where the Bible was placed back in the hands of the people.

Host: David Wheaton 29:52

Mike Gendron is our guest today on The Christian Worldview. He is the founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel. Proclaimingthegospel.org is their website. It's also linked at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. Mike, let's transition now to discuss who the Reformers were and what were their views were about eschatology, the end times. They differed quite a bit from what you and I would understand the Bible to teach about what is coming in the future and the significance of the Jewish people.

Guest: Mike Gendron 30:25

The prominent Reformers would be Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and Knox. What's really interesting is the Reformers majored on soteriology. They wanted to get justification right and make it known to the people. Obviously, that may be the most important doctrines to consider, because it determines where a person will spend eternity. But we've got to keep in mind that they came out of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church's eschatology was that of amillennialism, and that simply means that the Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ will not return to the earth until the whole world has become Roman Catholic. So the Reformers never really addressed the issue of eschatology, and many of them, in fact, probably all of them, came away with a non millennial point of view.

That's why you see many of our reformed theologians today, that still carry the eschatology of the Roman Catholic Church, which is amillennialism. I think we have to make people aware that throughout the Old Testament, the prophets were foretelling that Christ would rule and reign from the throne of David for 1,000 years on this earth. We do look forward to the millennial period where Christ will receive all glory, and honor and praise as He rules just as the prophets told that He would.

Host: David Wheaton 32:03

I want to read a couple of paragraphs from the website, Gotquestions.org. It's a very good resource for getting a general idea of common questions about the faith. I looked up dispensationalism versus Covenant Theology. Here's what they said. Dispensationalism is a theological system that emphasizes the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, recognizes a distinction between Israel and the church, and organizes the Bible into different dispensations or administration's.

Covenant Theology looks at the scriptures through the grid of a covenant. Covenant Theology defines two overriding covenants, the covenant of works and the covenant of grace. The important thing to keep in mind is that all of the various covenants described in Scripture, the ones made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and the New Covenant, are out workings of either the covenant of works or the covenant of grace.

Perhaps you could explain the difference between dispensational interpretation of Scripture and covenantal interpretation of Scripture, because that is the dividing line between how those on one

side or the other will view eschatology, the end times, and specifically will view Israel. Whereas covenant theologians, those who ascribe to that, will see that the Church has replaced national ethnic Israel, whereas those who ascribe to dispensational a more dispensational interpretation of Scripture like you and I do, will say, No. God has not canceled his promises for Israel, there is future purpose and plan for the Jewish people, and the church is distinct from Israel.

We'll talk about the conflict going on in Israel in just a moment, but explain the two ways of interpreting scripture. How did the reformers, and these were very, very intelligent, Biblically centered people, and then you fast forward to today, many of the Bible preachers that we appreciate, someone like RC Sproul or Sinclair Ferguson or Vodi Baucham, or Derrick Thomas, and so forth, they're really sound preachers, but they have a completely amillennial more covenantal view of eschatology, and they don't see that future importance for the Jewish people. How does that take place?

Guest: Mike Gendron 34:27

I just don't understand. A lot of people dismiss it as not being important, but I think it's very important, because if you look at even the Book of Zechariah, that book alone, you see that there is a future, a glorious future for Israel. In fact, the covenants are all fulfilled in the millennial period. We have the Abrahamic covenant where Israel's perpetuity is a great nation and possession of land and source of all blessings as seen in Genesis 12, that's fulfilled. The Davidic Covenant is fulfilled in the millennium. As the son of David, Jesus will reign as king in His everlasting kingdom from David's throne. We see that in 2 Samuel 7. Then the New Covenant. All Israel will be saved as they receive God's Spirit, new hearts and a forgiveness of sin.

You know, David, it's important, I think, to realize that the last verse of Matthew 23, Jesus wept over Israel. He said, *"You will not see me speaking to the Jews, you will not see me again, until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."* We see that during the tribulation period, that two thirds of the Jewish population will be killed and only 1/3 will remain. That remnant will look upon the Lord as He appears, and then all Israel will be saved. We cannot deny that. It's scripture. I really wish these amillennial people would look at the promises of a millennial period when Jesus reigns, and He comes to save the remnant after the tribulation period.

So we can talk a little bit more about Daniel and the 70 weeks for the Jews, but it all started in 445 BC, when there was a decree to the restored Jerusalem. We see that in Nehemiah 2:1-8. And then there was actual prediction of when Jesus would come in to Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, because the prophecy was 69 weeks of years, which turns out to be 173,880 days. So the Jews could have known the exact day.

In that 70 weeks, we see the Messiah is presented and then he's cut off. That is the beginning of the Church Age. After Jesus died, he was raised from the dead. In Acts 2, we see the beginning of the Church Age. That's lasting now for 2,000 years. When the rapture of the church takes place, then we turn to the 70th week of Daniel, which happens to be the tribulation period. Initially, there'll be a false peace that initiates the tribulation. The Antichrist will confirm a covenant with Israel for one week. God calls it a covenant of death, because they have made lies their refuge and taken shelter in falsehood. When we see the tribulation period, we have to look at the purpose of the Tribulation is to bring about a worldwide revival. God will seal 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes for their protection and service.

There will be two witnesses proclaiming the glorious gospel of the kingdom. We also see that the Tribulation is used by God to break the stubborn power and will of Israel. After the last three and a half years of the tribulation, God will shatter the power of His people. We see that and Daniel 12:7. This will purge out the rebellious Jews and prepare the remnant for the coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of the covenants. So you can see how all this fits together, David, as pieces to a puzzle. The tribulation and then the millennial reign of Christ. The only people entering into the millennial period will be believers. We see Jesus separating the sheep from the goats at the end of Matthew 25. It's these sheep that enter into the millennial period where Jesus rules and reigns and fulfills the covenant promises.

Host: David Wheaton 38:50

You just gave us a clear lesson there on eschatology according to what Scripture says. To think about what's going on in Israel right now, the war, attacked and brutally massacred civilians by Hamas of Jewish people and now there's a lot of upheaval in the Middle East. There's a really significant chance for escalation here to go beyond just Israel versus Hamas, but then Hezbollah and Iran and America, Russia, to look at this right now and then to know what Scripture says.

We're not going to set any dates here and know exactly what's going to be the next move on the chessboard. You were just on a trip. You were leading a group actually over to Israel, I believe Rome, Ephesus, Corinth and Athens a place where so much of the Scripture took place. What are some of the key observations that you have right now, Mike, on what is taking place in Israel?

Mike will answer that question after this short break for some ministry announcements. Just a reminder, we have two DVDs that go with today's program. The first is titled Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer. This is a 91 minute DVD. Also available are two presentations by Mike Gendron. God's Faithfulness to Israel is one and Satan and Bible Prophecy is the other. You can get in contact with us the usual ways through our website or by giving us a call. There's much more coming up on The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton.

Featured Resource: The Essential Church 40:23

God's truth is enduringly true throughout all the generations. It transcends culture. The church is always going to be an embattled people. If it's swimming with the tide, it's not being the Church of Jesus Christ. Look to the past, learn from the past, because the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

That was from the just released documentary, *The Essential Church*, which chronicles how three churches followed God's command to gather during the pandemic rather than comply with arbitrary government mandates. Normal retail is \$12.99 plus shipping for this two hour film. For a limited time, you can order the DVD for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Order at TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit 41:22

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That was pastor Costi Hinn who was raised in and then saved from the distortions of the Holy Spirit that are so prevalent today. Costi's new book, *Knowing the Spirit: Who He Is, What He Does, and How He Can Transform Your Christian Life*, graciously clarifies truth from error and is available for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order this 261 page, softcover book that retails for \$19.99, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Host: David Wheaton 42:30

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I' David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry. Our topic today is the Reformation, Eschatology and Israel. Our guest is Mike Gendron, founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry. Mike, as we watch what is happening in Israel, what are some of your key observations about what is taking place?

Guest: Mike Gendron 43:01

Ever since then, since that first Saturday bombing, we've seen the great evils that were perpetuated by Hamas are evidence that mankind is hopelessly lost because this is pure Satanic in its orientation.

We know that Satan hates the Jewish people. He has made so many of these Arab people pawns that are trying to drive Israel into the Mediterranean Sea. The Palestinian nation that keeps being referred to by the liberal news media, many people don't know that the Palestinians didn't even exist in history until the last 70 or 80 years. They've never had a language, they've never had a culture, they've never had a homeland.

All these people that are fighting for this piece of land are Arabs, they're misplaced Arabs. So many people around the world are giving them so much sympathy because the Palestinians are saying that the land belongs to them.

Guest: Mike Gendron

Well, David, we know that the title to the land was given by God to the Jewish people for perpetuity. We see that in Genesis 17, that the title deed for the land is given to the Jewish people. What most people don't know is that whenever a land is conquered in the name of Mohammed, then that land remains to the enemies of the Jewish people, the Muslims.

So you have this battle for this tiny strip of land that will never be settled until the Prince of Peace returns. This is an ongoing struggle. We know it's not going to end until the Lord Jesus comes, the Prince of Peace, to settle it all once and for all.

Host: David Wheaton 44:50

Mike, we see blatant anti semitism all over the world. Actually, one of the men we've talked about today, important in the Reformation, was Martin Luther, who later in his life was considered to be anti semitic. He wrote a book called, "On the Jews and Their Lies". It says this in GotQuestions.org.

Luther's many written contributions to the Christian faith and his stand for biblical authority are of monumental importance. As early as 1516, the year before the Reformation started, Luther wrote positively of the Jews where he said, "Many people are proud with marvelous stupidity when they call the Jews dogs, evil doers, and whatever they like, while they too and equally do not realize who or what they are in the sight of God." But then later in his life, skipping ahead here, he wrote in this book in 1543, he makes outlandish, according to GotQuestions.org, statements regarding the Jews, calling them, "A base whoring people that is no people of God and their boast of lineage circumcision in law, must be accounted as filth." So that's what people will look to and say, Oh, this was an anti semitic person. GotQuestions.org goes on to say, About this, that it's impossible to know what was in Luthers heart when he penned these awful things. Was he truly a Jew hater?

Or was his passion for the truth of Scripture, and for Jesus Christ, who was rejected by the Jews, so overwhelming that he felt compelled to condemn the Christ rejecters to whoredom in the same vein

as the prophet Hosea, who compared the Jews of his time, who rejected their God, to whores and prostitutes? Whatever his motivation, it is clear that Luther's writings were used as Nazi propaganda. To this day, there's this notion that Martin Luther, yes, he got doctrines of Scripture right, but he was an anti Semite. What do you know about that, Mike?

Guest: Mike Gendron 46:41

Well, I can tell you that the Roman Catholic Church has been against the Jews for many, many hundreds of years. And that's the influence Martin Luther came out of. The Catholic Church believes that they replaced Israel as God's chosen people. In fact, in 1948, when Israel was gathered together to become a sovereign nation again, it took the Vatican over 60 years to recognize Israel as a sovereign independent nation. The Catholic Church was hoping it would go away because they believe they've replaced Israel as God's chosen people. So the Catholic Church was anti semitic. The influence of Luther coming out of the Catholic Church, I think is what caused him to write the things that he wrote.

Remember, the Reformers only began the Reformation. We've talked about how the Reformers brought a wrong view of eschatology because the Catholic Church had a wrong view. Well, now we say Luther was anti Semite because the Catholic Church was anti semitic.

Host: David Wheaton 47:54

Final question for you, Mike. As we come up to October 31, which the world considers Halloween, it seems like hardly anyone remembers that on October 31, 1517 is the start of the Reformation, when Luther nailed the Ninety five Theses to the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. From Britannica, they say, Halloween is a contraction of All Hallows Eve.

There's an interesting link here. It's a holiday observed on October 31st, the evening before All Saints' Day. The celebration marks the day before the Roman Catholic feast of All Saints' and initiates a season of Allhallowtide, which lasts three days and concludes with All Souls' Day. The evening before All Saints' Day became a holy or hallowed eve, and thus, Halloween.

By the end of the Middle Ages, the secular and the sacred days had merged the Reformation, which we've been talking about, and essentially put an end to the religious holiday among Protestants. Although in Britain, especially Halloween, continued to be celebrated as a secular holiday. As we come near the end of October, and as our country and many Christians celebrate Halloween for some unknown reason, what is your charge for Christians and their families in remembering the Reformation? How can they remember and celebrate that day and what the Reformation started in not only the church but also the world, the impact of the Reformation, instead of reveling in this dark holiday called Halloween?

Guest: Mike Gendron 49:26

The reason Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Thesis on October 31, it was very strategic, because the next day was All Saints' Day, and Catholics would be going in to venerate over 1900 relics of dead saints. So this is necromancy and the following day was All Souls' Day and you can see how it all fits together. He was nailing his Ninety-five Thesis showing that it is wrong to practice indulgences as remission of temporal punishment by viewing the bones and fragments of dead people. That's how Halloween got started.

What I would recommend for Christians to do is to realize that just as the devil uses Santa Claus to obscure the celebration of the birth of Christ and the Easter Bunny to obscure the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, the devil is also using Halloween to obscure the importance of the Reformation. As Christians, we should remember what the Reformation accomplished and what God accomplished, through a man that suffered, even to the point of death, to preserve the gospel.

We must remember the Reformation because the Reformers earnestly contended for the gospel, so that the next generation would be able to have it. We need to have the same courage, the same conviction, and the same boldness to seek the approval of Christ over the approval of men. Paul addressed that in Galatians 1:10. So many people today want to seek the approval of man rather than the approval of Christ. So let's emulate the reformers. Let's put this day aside to celebrate what God did through Martin Luther and the other reformers.

Keep in mind that Martin Luther didn't take any credit for the Reformation. He said he did nothing. The Word of God did everything. Let's be reminded to emulate the Reformers with their boldness and courage as we see the great apostasy predicted, that the end times would be a falling away from the faith. It is because we're not fighting for the purity and the exclusivity of the gospel as the Reformers did.

Host: David Wheaton 51:49

Thank you, Mike, for your commitment to the Word of God, and the Son of God and the gospel. And thank you for your courage to speak clearly about this. We wish all of God's best and grace to you and Jane and Proclaiming the Gospel ministry. Thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview.

Guest: Mike Gendron 52:08

Well, thank you, David. It's always a privilege to glorify our great God and Savior, also to edify the saints and hopefully, if there's any unbelievers listening, that they too would recognize that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe it. So thank you for having me.

Host: David Wheaton 52:27

I really love Mike Gendron. God has built into him a rock solid faith that accurately handles the word of truth. We're out of time today. Just a reminder, you can order the DVDs that go with today's program. Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer, or Mike's presentation on God's Faithfulness to Israel. You can get in contact with us the usual ways. Thank you for joining us today on The Christian Worldview. Until next time, Think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm!

The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end. To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript or find out, "What must I do to be saved?" Go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, become a Christian Worldview Partner, order resources, subscribe to our free newsletter or contact us, visit TheChristianWorldview.org, call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. That's Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to The Christian Worldview.