

Fellowship of Faith February 21, 2015 with Gilbert Bilezikian

Seminar: Israel, the Church and God's Community

The basic model of Salvation History: Creation—Fall—Redemption

Redemption consists of : Preparation in the Old Covenant (Israel)
Fulfillment in the New Covenant

The New Covenant consists of: The ministry of Christ
The formation of the Church community
The final Gathering

The purpose of Creation:

The Trinity as the original community defined as plurality in oneness

The *imago Dei*: projection of the Trinitarian community on earth

The expansion mandate: God's eternal plan is to expand universally
the image of the Trinitarian community on earth

The purpose of Israel's election in Abram:

Individual blessing

National blessing

Universal blessing

The purpose of the Promised Land:

Abram becomes Abraham

The Land belongs to his universal posterity

Israel is a temporary host in the Land

The Land is the earthly symbol of the heavenly destiny of the
eternal community on earth

The purpose for the first advent of Christ:

To redeem the community of eternity (the church universal) from all nations, including believing Israel

The termination of Israel's particularism (chosen-ness)

The presence of a Jewish representative remnant through the "fullness of the Gentiles"

"...and so all Israel will be saved."

The purpose of the second advent of Christ:

The two multitudes in heaven: Revelation 7

Conclusion: Three North American evangelical pro-Zionist fallacies

1. The Jews are eternally God's chosen people
2. to whom God promised the Land as an eternal possession.
3. The contemporary geo-political militarized, expansionist State of Israel is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Such fallacies are based on the abusive use of proof-texts such as:

Genesis 12:3a story of Balaam

Romans 11:25-26 significance of the remnant