

The Rise of Philo-Semitism and Premillennialism during the 17th & 18th Centuries

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Let me beg thee not to trust to the opinion of any man... but search the scriptures yourself...understanding the sacred prophecies and the danger of neglecting them is very great and the obligation to study them is as great may appear by considering the case of the Jews at the coming of Christ. For the rules whereby they were to know their Messiah were the prophecies of the old Testament... It was the ignorance of the Jews in these Prophecies which caused them to reject their Messiah...

If it was their duty to search diligently into those Prophecies, why should we not think that the Prophecies which concern the latter times were in like manner intended for our use that...we might be able to discern the truth and be established in the faith...it is also our duty to search with all diligence into these Prophecies.

God was so angry with the Jews for not searching more diligently into the prophecies which he had given them to know Christ by: why should we think we will excuse us for not searching into the Prophecies... They will call you a bigot, a Fanatic, a Heretic, and tell thee of the uncertainty of these interpretations [but] greater judgments hang over the Christians for their remises than ever the Jews felt. But the world loves to be deceived, they will not understand...

be not ashamed to profess the truth. –Isaac Newton

My thesis:

“Ideas have consequences.” One’s eschatology affects what one thinks of the Jews and the modern state of Israel. The abandonment of Premillennialism for Amillennialism (4th c.) and Preterism (18th c.) denies Jews the hopes given to them in the Bible, and contributes to attitudes of Antisemitism.

Philo-Semitism and Premillennialism made a comeback after the Reformation, especially with the Puritans, culminating in modern Dispensationalism.

Early Church Premillennialism

*"The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment." -Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, 2:614*

Although Christianity began as a Jewish sect, by the 2nd century it was overwhelmingly composed of Gentiles, with less attachment to Judaism.
Increasingly early Christianity began to depart from its Jewish roots.

4th & 5th Century Catholic anti-Semitism

“After the 320. Yeare of our Lord...many a truth and error did change titles with each other, as popish ignorance, superstition, and idolatry grew.” –Robert Maton *A Treatise of the Fifth Monarchy or, Christ’s Personal Reign on Earth* (1655)

- Constantine condemned Judaism as “dangerous” and “abominable.”
- Chrysostom condemned Christians who attended synagogue and participated in Jewish holidays.
- Ambrose of Milan condemned Theodosius for protecting Jewish rights.
- Augustine promoted amillennialism, making it the prevalent position.

A new anti-Semitic theology dominated Medieval Christianity, even though the apostle Paul warned Christians “do not be arrogant...it is not you who supports the root, but the root who supports you.” (Romans 11:18)

Gentile Christianity began to disparage Jews and drifted from their roots

Luther's Medieval Roman Catholic Replacement Anti-Semitism

“Of the great mass of the Jews...I have no hope for them
...these children of the devil ...the notion that all Jews are
destined to be converted at the end of the world means
nothing.”

-Martin Luther

“all the prophecies which say Israel and Judah shall return
to their lands...have been fulfilled long ago. The hopes of
the Jews are utterly vain and lost...When the prophets say
of Israel that it is all to come back or be gathered... they
are speaking of the new covenant and of the new Israel.”

-Martin Luther

the mid-16th century return to Judeo-Centric Eschatology

John Bale: Marian exile, wrote commentary on *Revelation* (1545)

“When the Gospell appeared in Christes tyme, the lewes were the first that received it...And laste of all it shall returne agayne to the lewes... For He that hath dispersed Israell, shall bringe him againe to his folde.”

Geneva Bible: (1560) **“the major influence of the Geneva Bible,** like the Schofield Reference Bible 300 years later, **was in its glosses and notes...The Geneva Bible helped create a space for the Jews...within...apocalyptic hope.”** –Robt Smith

“The Iewes now remaine in death...but when both they & the Gentils shall embrace Christ, the worlde shal be restored to a newe life.” -note Romans 11:15

“The time shall come that the whole nation of ye Iewes...shalbe joyned to the Church of Christ.” –note Romans 11:26 (notice not the church, but “ye Iewes”)

John Foxe: author of the *Book of Martyrs* (1563)

“The promises remayning still in their force. Even so the lewes...a promised place in Sion...blessed and joyfull returne of the lewes.” –Sermon(1578)

Late 16th century Elizabethan Zionists

Edmund Bunny, sub-dean of York cathedral, wrote *The Scepter of Iudah* (1584) calling Christians to love God's people the Jews, and *The Coronation of David* (1588) hoping for their soon restoration to their land.

Frances Kett, Cambridge fellow, in 1585 called for the Jews to return to their land, but was later declared a heretic and burned at the stake.

Giles Fletcher, Queen Elizabeth's ambassador to Russia in 1588, speculated that Tartars near the Caspian Sea were the lost tribes of Israel, because "all Israel", not just Judah, must return in the last days:

“these Israelitisch ten tribes are somewhere extant, and by God's providence, as a People kept interely...because all Israel shall be called.”

Thomas Draxe; *The Worlde's Resurrection, The generall calling of the Iewes* (160

“God...selected the Iewes to be his onely peculiar and beloued people, with whom he made such a singular couenant of mercy and saluation. ...it is a maruelous worke of God...that the Iewes (howsoeuer wandering and dispersed in all countries, almost) should stil continue such a distinct and vnconfounded nation.

God “is vnchangeable in his decree & couenant. [He would never] “cast away... his people [with whom he made] so sollemne a couenant...Gods couenant is an euerlasting couenant, his mercy extendeth vnto a thousand generations.”

We should “acknowledge our selues debtors vnto the Iewes...we must pray for their recouery, and do our vttermost dilligence...to allure and win them to the Gospell. ... we must not rashly condemne the Iewes, nor expel them out of our Coastes and countires, but hope well of them, pray for them, and labour to win them by our holy zeale and Christian example. ...we must not vex and reuile them, lest God when he receiueth them againe into fauor, hee deseruedly exclude and cast out vs, for our contempt & vnthankfulnes. ... Let us not dispise the Iewes... If God loue the Iewes for their Fathers sake and for his couenant made with them...we must herein follow and imitate the Lords example.”

The Jews will return to their own land, “and continue gloriously on the earth for one generation, that...all the world may take full notice of their general calling [then] the final destruction of the Turke...in a place called Armageddon.”

Prophets of Israel in the reign of King James I (KJV)

Thomas Brightman, Bedfordshire rector, wrote expository commentaries on Daniel and on Revelation, both published after his death in 1607. He **called the Jews “our Brethren”**, who **“would rebuild Jerusalem [and] hasten a series of Prophetic events that would culminate in the return of Jesus.”**

Hugh Broughton **shifted the blame of “Christ killers” away from the Jews and back to the Romans.** In *A Revelation of the Holy Apocalypse* (1610) he titled a woodcut of the Whore of Babylon as **“The empire of Rome, that crucified our Lorde and serveth Satan in might and hypocrisy.”**

Joseph Mede, Cambridge don and father of Puritan Historicism (1630s), admitted that he was **“of the same mind with the Jews”** and believed there were **many commonalities between Jews and biblical Christians**

Henry Finch, barrister and Member of Parliament, wrote *The World's Great Restauration and Calling of the Jews* in 1621

“where Israel, Iudah, Tsion, Jerusalem, &c. are named [it] **meaneth not the spiritual Israel...but Israel properly descended out of Jacob's** **boynes... really and literally of the Iewes...that one day they will come to Ierusalem again...**”

“The bringing of them **to their owne country from all places where they were scattered... The inhabiting in their country for euer... The perpetuity of God's Couenant...**the grand enemy is Gog...that is to say, **the Turke...** The destruction of this enemy... God's fighting against them from heauen [and] **the Saracens** pointed at under the name of the King of the South...declining upon the Iewes...”

Ephraim Huit (Hewitt), *The whole Prophecie of Daniel Explained* (1643)

founder the first church in Connecticut in 1639

Believed at the Rapture Jews would recognize their Messiah & be saved, so during the Tribulation Jews would again be center stage in God's plan:

“upon this comming of the Son of Man in the cloudes, the kingdom is given to the Iewes...but upon the Incarnation of our Lord, the kingdom was taken from the Iewes, and given to the Romanes...the summoning of the Elect by the sound of a trumpet...this trumpet is heard only by the Elect, so that to me it seems to intend some voice, and call of the Lord, whereof the reprobates are incapable: our Lord Mat 24.30. & his beloved disciple Iohn Rev 1.7. do couple this coming of the Son of man in the Cloudes with that holy wailing of the Iewes in their conuersion...Zac 12.10.”

Huit then described the **invasion of a reestablished Judah by the King of the North and the King of the South, identified as **Turks and Saracens.****

Jews “in those times of their restore are said to be very troublous,” but would be finally saved when Christ and “gods Church as a Bride royally attired descends from Heaven.”

John Archer, minister to an English congregation in Holland, also taught the return of the Jews to Israel in his work ***The Personal Reign of Christ on Earth*** (1642):
Israel and Iudah...shall be one people for ever...the Cities and the Tribes shall be rebuilt againe, and inhabited by natural Israelites, especially Ierusalem, which shall be the most eminent city then in the world, or that ever was in the world”

Robert Maton, Oxford grad & vicar, wrote ***Israel's Redemption*** (1642):
Rejected metaphorical interpretation: the Bible contains too many promises of a coming Messiah and restoration of Israel to be written off as metaphorical; “we must not forsake the literal and proper sense of the Scripture, unless an evident necessity does require it.”

Rejected preterism: different from restoration in the 5th c. BC; “not from Babylon, but from the foure corners of the earth, and that together with Ephraim with the 10 tribes”

Rejected replacement theology: “how that can belong to the Gentiles which was promised only of the Je

Peter Bulkeley, Puritan preacher and founder of Concord
New Hampshire, in *The Gospel Covenant* (1646)

...seeke the peace of Jerusalem, the prosperitie of Sion... By virtue of the
covenant made with their fathers, they shall be delivered out of the bondage in
which they are now holden... The promise is made here [Ezekiel 37] to Judah
and Israel...it is not to be shewed...that the ten Tribes of Israel...were ever
restored since their captivie, or united to Judah againe...both Judah and Israel
shall be called againe. ...In Rom. 11 the whole Chapter, the Apostle purposely
speaketh of the rejection of the Jews, but withal shewes that it was neither total
nor final... then he comes to speak of their calling again.”

...Speake unto God in their behalf, and say, Lord restore they ancient people...
...is from them that the means of salvation is come to us, the Law is called their
law... Wee own them this...they are our brethren, and our flesh... Oh pray for
them, that the blessings of Abraham their father may come upon them.”

Premil./Philo-Semitic Westminster Assembly Divines

William Gouge: republished Finch's *Restauration and Calling of the Jew* (1621)

John Durie: preached before Long Parliament "Israel's Call to march out of Babylon unto Jerusalem" (1646); led the effort to allow Jews to once again live in England by inviting

+Wm Bridge, Jerem Burroughs, Jos Caryl, Tho Goodwin, Herb Palmer, Peter Sterry, Wm Twisse, James Ussher, George
ker

Efforts to Allow Jews to once again trade & live in England

Cartwrights: met many Jews in Holland, petitioned Parliament to allow the Jews to return to England (1649)

Moses Wall translated Mennasseh bin Israel's *Hope of Israel* (1652)

Mennasseh ben Israel: visited England to meet with Cromwell & Parliament (1655)

Continentials influenced by Mannessah ben Israel

Isaac La Peyrere French Huguenot

–

Paul Felgenhauer Bohemian Chiliast

Published *Du Rappel des Juifs* (1643) **calling all Christians to focus on the conversion of the Jews and aiding them in recovering their land from the Turk.** He was a Huguenot who shortly thereafter befriended Manasseh ben Israel, informing him that **many Protestants studied the Hebrew scriptures, believed the Jews were still God's people,** and that **they looked forward to the Jews returning to their own land.**

Graduated from Univ. of Wittenberg (1608)

Wrote *Mystery of the Lord's Temple* (1631) **[on how Jews would return to their own land to rebuild their temple before Christ returns]**

Wrote *Now Good Israel* (1655)

[saw 30 Years War as Apocalyptic, considered himself the new Elijah announcing restoration of the Jews & the coming of Messiah]

Denounced & expelled from Bremen (by Lutherans) & from Amsterdam (by Calvinists)

Ben Israel thanked him for his love of Israel but politely reminded him that the coming Elijah must be Jewish, and that the end cannot come until Jerusalem is the capital of the world and Jews rule the nations.

Anon; *Doomes-day: The Great Day of the Lord* (1647)

DOOMES-DAY:

23

OR,

The great Day of the Lords Judgement, proved by Scripture; and two other Prophecies, the one pointing at the year 1640. the other at this present year 1647. to be even now near at hand.

WITH

The gathering together of the Jews in great Bodies under *Josias Catzius* (in *Ilyria, Bithinia, and Cappadocia*) for the conquering of the Holy Land.

2 Peter 3. 10, 11.

The day of the Lord will come as thiefs in the night, in which the heavens shall passe away with a great noise, and the element shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burnt up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godlinesse.

(The Prophecie of Enoch the seventh from Adam.)

Behold the Lord cometh with thousands of his Saints.

April 8th

LONDON,

Printed for *W. Ley.* 1647.

“the day of doom is even now at hand, according to the prophecies of the prophets; that before that day there shall be a restauration of Israel, even those people the Jews, according to certain and credible information, are at this time assembling themselves together into one body from out of all countreys, whereinto they have been driven with a resolution to regaine the holy land once more out of the hand of the Ottoman”.

He claimed Jews were gathering in what is now central Turkey, preparing “for the conquering of the Holy Land.” Rumors like this stoked the imaginations of those looking for the return of Christ. The restoration of the Jews to their own land was seen as an essential sign of the end, as was “the downfall of the Whore of Babylon” (i.e. Rome) and the appearance of Antichrist “that man of Sin, the Pope, who sitteth in the Temple of God and is worshipped as God.” [Sabbatai Zevi]

Robert Hooke (1669) preface to Increase Mather's *Mystery of Israel's Salvation*

“Some have preach'd that there shall be no other calling of them than what was their return out of Babylonish Captivity.. but Isaiah speaks of a Remnant left, which should be recover'd a second time. Chap.11.11.”

He considered the 144,000 in Revelation not as Christians but as “the tribes of the children of Israel.”

Expected that “the power of the Turk shall be lessened...to make way for the Jews to repossess their own Land.”

Then Christ would come as “a thief in the night.”

Then “the kings of the earth, and the whole world shall be gathered together” for the battle of Armageddon.

Expectations of a Collapse of the Ottoman Empire

Turks defeated at Vienna 1683, evacuate Hungary 1686, ceded 1699, lost nSerbia 1718

“the **utter ruin of the Turk**...holding the Land in his possession where the material Temple of God formerly stood, keeping out the Jews, which shall be converted and possess it... **They shall be brought back again to Jerusalem and to inhabit Judea** ... He will pour upon them the Spirit of Grace, and **they shall look upon him whom they have pierced**... He will make them strong to overcome their enemies, and they **shall inhabit Jerusalem again**, and build their own wastes.” -William Sherwin (1665)

“I do believe **you will be in your own Land 7 years before this highest number of Daniels will be accomplished and expired**, which will be between this and 1691, or 1693 at farthest; for you will be employed 7 years, if not more, in **cleansing the Sanctuary from all the Fifth and Pollution** that the enemies of God, Antichrist and the Turks, will leave behind...**prepare to go home to your own land**...for there you will be invested with that great Glory that is so often prophesied of by your Prophets ...then **a Nation shall be born at once.**” -Praisegod Barebones to group of London Jews (1688)

“It will be **a sudden, unexpected thing, a Nation to be born in one day.**” The decline of Papacy & Turks, Gog & Magog, **Turks** being “King of the North”, **Arabs** “King of the South”, who would invade **“after the restoration and return of Israel.”** -Sam Petto (1693)

Expectation of a turning again from Gentile to Jew

“Israel, the seed of Abraham; a nation born in a day, will have preeminence, being Gods nation: and the gentile saved nations will walk in their light, the light of **the new Jerusalem. Rev.21.24.**” [the **144,000**] made up of all the tribes of Israel : twelve thousand from every tribe...**preeminence will be to Israel Gods nation...and have preeminence (above gentile believers, then living and changed)** in the world to come.” -Praisegod Barebones (1675)

“**The Messiah belongs to the Jews, he was promised to the Jews,** this Nation...hath been fed with the hopes of the Messiah’s coming... At last he comes, and this people sees their Temple burnt, their capital city razed, their Service abolisht, their posterity disperst throughout the world, and made the contempt of mankind, Thus the Messiah, the glory of their Nation, brings them nothing but shame, desolation, and infinite miseries, which have no parallel in any other people... **There must come a time, that shall be the reign of the Messiah and the Iews, in which this Nation shall be exalted above all Nations...the Gentiles are evidently distinguisht from the people of Israel: Israel rules over the Gentiles;** the Nations rejoice in her light: All Nations must come day and night unto mount Sion, and to the City of Jerusalem...Gentiles must serve her. ...**the people of Israel must be the ruling, the chosen, the Holy people.**”-Pierre Jurieu (1689)

“the final ruin of the Beast...**the call and conversion of the Jews, and their return from their dispersion...**There are some Prophecies which seem to intimate as if the time of the Jews dispersion will come to a period, much about the same time in which the times of the Churches enemies bearing rule and sway in the world, will be run out. Our blessed Saviour foretelling ... *that Jerusalem should be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, Luk.21.24.* By this our Saviour seems to intimate that **the time of the Gentiles, and the times of the Jews dispersion in all nations, will come to an end together,** or much about the same time.” -William Alleine (1671)

In an anonymous pamphlet of 1688 the author met with a group of London Jews to discuss the meaning of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 and the prophetic days in Daniel 8:

“You shall be in your own land 7 years before this highest number will be accomplished...prepare to go home to your own land...the a nation shall be born at once.”

Pierre Jurieu, in *Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies* (1687)

“Tis a position in true Christianity, that the Jews shall be called again. A thousand oracles promise this. The miracle by which God doth preserve this Nation proveth it... For it cannot be imagined th
God should for two thousand years preserve this people, scattered among the Nations... God preserves them for some great work.”

Jurieu rejected Preterism (from Catholics & Grotius)

“when these oracles have been fulfilled? Was it when this people was brought back out of the Babylonian captivity? But how can a man speak at this rate? [They] formed a petty state in Syria...could anyone say that their Empire should be as large as the whole world, that all the Kings of the Earth should pay them homage? ...all these blessings have relation unto the blessings of the Messiah. Let anyone tell us what blessings the Nation of the Jews hath received by the Messiah? For almost two thousand years, this miserable Nation is scatter'd throughout the Earth, it is the excrement, the curse & off-scouring of all; it sighs under a long cruel captivity.” –Pierre Jurieu on Antiochus as Antichrist (1689)

Growth of Amillennial Preterism

in the late Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Centuries

It began with 16th century Jesuits (upset that Protestants saw Rome as Antichrist), then Hugo Grotius & Henry Hammond (who wished rapprochement with Rome), then spread to Deists, 'enlightened' clergymen, & others seeking their approval

- Hugh Grotius's *Annotationes in Vetus et Novum Testamentum* (1642) Dutch/Arminian Remonstrant, close to Catholics, later converted
- Henry Hammond's *A Paraphrase and Annotations...of the New Testament* (1653) English Royalist, Arminian, Grotian
- Richard Baxter's *Glorious Kingdom of Christ* (1691) in the last year of his life, embarrassed by those who set dates wrongly
- Daniel Whitby, *Paraphrase and Commentary on the New Testament* (1703) Arminian, Unitarian, Postmillennial



Richard Baxter, one of the first to deny any future role for the Jews so prevalent in the 17th century, in *The Glorious Kingdom of Christ, described and Vindicated, Against the bold assertion of a future calling and reign of the Jews* (1691) **admitted that “the chief writers for the Millennium are Conformists, (and men of general Learning and Piety...)”**:

Baxter admitted that **Millenarianism and an expectation of a Jewish return to Israel was quite popular** in his day, but insisted that

“the ten tribes will never be found and called...Whether there will be any Jerusalem monarchy of Jews, or any further Conversion of them...I know of no such promise in Gods Word, but I find it in many books of men, and hear it in the Prayers and Sermons of many men, so good, and of so good repute, that divers of my Friends disswade me from contradicting them...”

Baxter insisted that **all prophecies of a return of the Jews or a war of Gog and Magog already took place** “under Zorubbabel and the Maccabees”, and that **the Turks would never allow it to happen now.**

Daniel Whitby, Paraphrase & Commentary on New Testament (1703)

Preterist (called it his 'New Hypothesis') 'first systematizer of postmillennial theology', Unitarian/Arian



Claimed Jews were no longer God's people, even those who sought God: "The unbelieving Jews, wanting the faith of Abraham shall be deprived of the blessings to his seed; for they who seek to enter, and shall not be able, because the Master has shut the door...from whom the kingdom of God was taken away."

Believed Christ's Second Coming was when Romans destroyed Jerusalem: "till the Son of Man be come with his Roman army to destroy that nation, and to burn up their cities...he by the Roman army will destroy them, and their capital city...the abomination of desolation the Roman army compassing Jerusalem ...relates not to the final judgment, but to the time of the destruction of the Jews by the Roman army...where the carcase (the Jews) are, there will the eagles (the Roman army, whose ensign was the eagle) be gathered together."

Called Jews "Christ killers", claimed Gentiles not Jews were God's people: "Christ's prediction of the dreadful judgments which should befall that nation, for murdering their Messiah ...to punish the unbelieving and obdurate Jews...to erect a kingdom among the Gentiles, and then coming back to punish the Jews...the Jewish nation...are styled his enemies, and devoted to destruction by him."

Referred to Jews as 'Antichrist' & 'Great Whore': "The son of perdition perfectly agrees to the Jews, not only because Christ was to smite them with the breath of his mouth...and to smite the land with a curse...but because they are set forth as vessels of wrath, fitted for destruction, Rom.9.22, as men appointed to wrath, 1Thess.5.9...this agrees exactly with the great whore, who is to go into destruction, Rev.17.8,11."

*Daniel Whitby S. T. P. Ecclesiae B. M. V.
Saxum. Praeceptor. Aet. Aet. 71.*

Joseph Sewall, *The Certainty & Suddenness of Christ's Coming* (1716)
Preterist, pastor of Old South church Boston



“Christ’s coming [was] to Destroy Jerusalem...the Abolishing of the Dispensation of Moses.”

[but the Hebrew scriptures said the Messiah would come to rescue Jerusalem, Jesus said he “did not come to abolish the Law”, and most 17th century Puritans expected a restoration of the Jews to their own land.]

Isaac Newton, *Of the Day of Judgment and the World to Come*



“The mystery of this restitution of all things is to be found in all the Prophets [but] few Christians in our age can find it there. For they understand not that the final return of the Jews captivity and their... righteous and flourishing kingdom at the day of judgment is this mystery. Did they understand this they would find it in all the old Prophets who write of the last times as in the last chapters of Isaiah... ‘I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen whether they be gone and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land. ...

This was God’s covenant with Abraham when he promised that his seed should inherit the land of Canaan forever, and on this covenant was founded the Jewish religion... it ought to be considered and understood by all men who pretend to the name of Christians.”

Nathaniel Markwick Somerset vicar (1733)

Believed Jews were still God's special people & promises to them were still valid,

“I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my Covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God. But I will for their sakes remember the Covenant of their Ancestors. Leviticus 26:44-45...this prophecy is not yet fulfilled... All Israel shall be redeemed and restored to their Land in the Right of him who cannot be disseized, under the Promise of him that cannot lie.”

Believed “the present Gentile church” was only a stopgap measure, a temporary parenthesis to God's real plan where Gentiles would be merely

“Servants and Handmaids to the Jews, in a right religious Harmony and Compliance... a substituted or surrogate Church, to keep up God's Name and Worship in the World, and to continue till the Jew, called by the Lord...be called again, to the bringing in of the Fulness both of Jew and Gentile.”

When Antichrist does come, Markwick believed

“they who struggle with, and shall infallibly overcome him, are the main Body of Israel, in Conjunction possibly with some few Thousands of the Gentile Church, being faithful adherents of God's Word... that small Remnant of true Christians, which an universal Corruption...shall have left remaining.

“The Calling of the Jews, and the Building of a City and Temple, which shall vastly exceed all that was ever seen in Solomon's Days, this with the Wars of the Lord in... restoring of his People, which...will all be transacted before the Expiration of the Period, which determines upon the actual Descent of the Messiah, and his Reception into such a House, as shall much surpass the Glory of any former one whatsoever.”

Thomas Newton, *Dissertation on the Prophecies* (1754)

Bishop of Bristol believed God's care continued for the Jewish people:



“The Preservation of the Jews is really one of the most signal and illustrious acts of divine Providence. ...what but a supernatural power could have preserved them in such a manner ...God’s promises to them are not yet made good in the full extent ... we have all reason to believe, since so many of those prophecies are fulfilled, that the remaining prophecies will be fulfilled also; that...the Jews will in God’s good time be...restored to their native city and country...the great Empires, which in their turn subdued and oppressed the people of God, are all come to ruin...let it serve as a warning to all those, who...are for raising a clamour and persecution against them. ... *I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them.* (Lev.xxvi.44)

Thomas Reader, *Israel's Salvation: ...Grand Events which await The Jews (1788)*

The Jews would “return to their own Land”, prosper and live peacefully until the invasion of Gog & Magog. The Messiah would rescue them at the battle of Armageddon and bring in the Millennium.

a glory, as never belonged to any other nation under heaven...those gifts and callings of God in your favor...your dispersion upon the face of the earth has been long, and very tedious, especially in some countries; yet, **while the Lord has made a fast end of the nations which destroyed your ancestors, his eye and his hand have been visibly upon you... Those promises still stand...the undeceiving pledge which God has given you of the certain happiness of your unborn posterity... your future glory...the certain expectation of what God yet designs to do for you... This covenant being absolute, must be irrevocable; ...more firm and stable than the most durable things in nature. ...the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed; ...the Jews must indisputably be restored, both to their ancient temporal and spiritual glory. Canaan was promised forever, to the seed of Abraham”**

The world at Israel's return will be “a time of great moral darkness in the world”, Antichrist as the Turks “will tread down Jerusalem, till their time come to be visited of God in a way of vengeance”, but “they cannot prevent the Jews repossessing their own land.” He warned nations not “to wage unequal war with omnipotence...the land of Canaan is at present under the Turkish yoke; but the victorious Russians will probably dispossess them about A.D. 1866.” He said that Gog would include Russia, Persia, and other Middle Eastern nations who want to “root out the Jews from the earth; who now eminently stand in the way of their universal dominion over the souls, bodies, and substance of men...but in fact they are gathered to the battle of that great day of God almighty, Rev.xvi.13,14.”

James Bicheno, *Signs of the Times: The Dark Prophecies of Scripture (1797)*

Baptist pastor of Newbury, Berkshire -belief in restoration of the Jews to Canaan was widespread

“the resurrection of the Jews from the dead, is allowed, on all hands, to be their rising to civil and political existence, when they shall be restored from their dispersions and bondage to their own land and to liberty; and the spirit which is promised, Ezek xxxvii

“The next signs of the times which I shall notice respects the Ottoman empire. In Dan.xi. 40-45 we have a prophecy of the calamities which the people of the fourth monarchy, or rather the Papal church, should suffer from the king of the South, or the Saracens; and from the king of the north, the Turks, ...for the children of thy people, (the Jews) there shall be a time of trouble, such as there never was since there was a nation, even at that same time; and at that time, thy people (the Jews) shall be delivered...preparatory to the return of the Jews to their won country, which the Turks now possess, and at which time such troubles will afflict the nations as have never been known.”

Bicheno went on to identify two threats to the Ottoman Empire, the Wahabis of the Arabian peninsula and the Russians to the north, whom he identified as Gog & Magog, Meshech & Tubal of Ezekiel 37.

James Bicheno, *The Restoration of the Jews* (1800)

He expected their return to Israel at any time to prepare for the Last Days:

“The proximate signs of the coming of Jesus Christ being nigh at hand, marked out in the scripture prophecies... The Power of the Turks will be overturned- And, in the midst of these conclusions, troubles and revolutions, the Jews will be put in motion, and return to take possession of their ancient country. Of all these singular and astonishing events which [are] **signs of our Lord’s near approach, there is none which will be more calculated to strike the attention of mankind...as the Restoration of the Jewish people...it will, with irresistible force, command the serious attention of all true Christians.**”

He believed the promises made to Abraham were permanent & eternal, the survival of the Jews miraculous:

“it was to be an *everlasting covenant*; and he promised that although for their sins he might hide his face from them for a moment, yet, still, with everlasting kindness should not depart from them, nor the covenant removed. The Apostle Paul believed...they were not cast off for ever, is plain to every one who reads with attention the eleventh chapter to the Romans...**God hath, as by a continued miracle, preserved the Jews a distinct people**, so that...though scattered, hated and persecuted, more than any other people on earth, they have yet tenaciously adhered to their religion and rites. ... They are preserved for very important ends...that they may be restored soon. That whatever happens...it will be **an illustrious fulfillment of prophecy striking attention and deeply affecting the minds of all serious Christians.**”

Bicheno believed this restoration would take place at any time, even before their conversion:

“The Jews, after their present long captivity, will be gathered from all nations, and again be restored to their own country, and be made a holy and happy people. That their restoration shall be effected at a time of great and general calamities and revolutions; and **at the time of the fall of the fourth monarchy, and of the Turkish empire in particular.** That **the commencement of their deliverance will be before their conversion.** That it is most likely they will be **first put in motion by some foreign power, and this power is some maritime one in these western parts of the world.** ...**they themselves, also, will endure great sufferings, so that great numbers of them, it is probable, will perish.** When these things come to pass...**mankind will witness incontrovertible proofs of the truth of revelation, as were never before so generally seen.** How long it is to the time when “the dry bones of the house of Israel” will begin to move...no one can say how near, or how distant, the time may be, **when God will fulfill his promises to the Jewish nation.**”

Conclusion

- **Anti-Semitism** grew as the Church became **Gentile**
- The Medieval Church was **overwhelmingly Anti-Semitic**
- **Reformers Luther & Calvin** (corrected many false doctrines, but) **maintained a Medieval Catholic eschatology**
- **Theodore Beza's notes in the Geneva Bible** (1560/1575) **recognized Israel as the Jewish people** (not the church)
- The Puritan's use of the **Geneva Bible** allowed a rebirth in the hope of **Israel's Return to their Land**
- **Continental Influences** (30 Years War, Zevi & binIsrael, Huguenots, >Turk) **reinvigorate Messianic hopes of the Jews' Return**
- **Christian Zionism** continued in spite of the rise of **Anti-Semitic Preterism** (17th-18th c) influencing J.N.Darby, T.Herzl, Rothschild & Balfour
- There were **predictions based upon biblical prophecies** made in the late **18th century** that are close to those being made today.

Identity of Antichrist, Kings of North/South, Gog/Magog (1593-1654)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>	<u>King of North/South</u>	<u>Gog/Magog</u>
John Napier	1593	Pope		Pope/'Mahometans'
Robert Pont	1599	'papal kingdom'		Pope/'Mahomet'
Thomas Brightman	1607	Pope		Rome & 'the Turke'
Thomas Draxe	1608	Pope	'The Turke'/?	Turks/'Mohometans'
Jerre Du Moulin	1613	Pope		
Henry Finch	1621		'Turkes'/'Saracens'[Arabs]	
Peter Heylyn	ca.1625	Turks or Rome?		
Joseph Mede	1627	Pope		'the Turk'
Robert Maton	1642	Rome		'Kings of the world'
John Cotton	1642	Pope		
John Archer	1642	papacy		Pope/'Mahumitans'
Johannes Alsted	1643	Pope		
Jeremiah Burroughs	1643	Pope		
Phraim Huit	1643	'the Turkish state'		Turks/'Saracens'
John Owen	1649	Pope (Mohammed=the False Prophet)		
Samuel Hartlib	1651	Pope		Turks/'Saracens'
John Dury	1651	Pope (+Thomas Parker 1646)		
Mathaniel Homes	1653			Turks
William Aspinwall	1653	King Charles 1		
John Browne	1654		Antichrist/'Ægyptian prince'	Antichrist
Thomas Goodwin	1654	Pope/Rome (+ John Tillinghast 1654, James Durham 1658)		

Identity of Antichrist, Kings of North/South, Gog/Magog (1658-1800)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>	<u>King of North/South</u>	<u>Gog/Magog</u>
John Birchensha	1660	Pope/Rome (+ William Lloyd 1668)		
John Fifth Williams	1660	Westminster Assembly (or Baptists 1661)		
Cotton Mather	1669	Papal Rome (+Henry More 1680, Pierre Jurieu 1687, Cotton Mather 1689, Benjamin Keach 1689)		
William Sherwin	1674			'Turk and Pope'
Richard Franklin	1675	Mohammed (Rome=Whore)		Turks/'Saracens'
Richard Hayter	1676	Turk (Pope='Whore of Babylone')		Turks & 'Saracens'
William Hooke	1681	Rome		'Kings of the Earth'
John Cressener	1690	Papacy (+Digby Bull 1695, Walter Garrett 1699, Robert Fleming 1702, Thomas Newton 1758)		
John Petto	1693		Turks/'Saracens'[Arabs]	Turks & their allies
John Edwards	1699	Papists & 'Mahometans'		Rome/'Mahometans'
Samuel Whitby	1703	'the Jews'		
Robert Prudom	1704	'Mahometanism'		
John Hildrop	1713	future individual (+John Grabe 1702), Theophilus Garencieres 1728, Thomas Hartley 1764, Samuel Hardy 1770)		
John Floyer	1721	'Mahometans'		'Mahometan' religion
Samuel Markwick	1733	future Turkish/Papal individual		
John Rudd	1734	Romanists & Mahometans (+Richard Clarke 1759)		Romanists & Mahometans
Samuel Johnson 1742 & Samuel Collet 1747				Turks
John Killingworth	1772	future individual		Antichrist's armies
John Bachmair	1778	papal system (Mohammad=false prophet, Louis XIV=little horn)		Turks & Arabs
Thomas Reader	1788	Turks (this Whore conquered by Russia before Armageddon)		Russia, Persia, Arabs
John Wincester	1789			Turks
John Bicheno	1797		Turks/'Saracens'[Arabs]	Russia