

August 5, 2009

Pastor Jaime Rasmussen
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Subject: Dispensationalism On Steroids

Pastor Jaime, my wife Linda and I are members of Scottsdale Bible Church and have been attending for almost 18 years. We have enjoyed your teaching and appreciate your adherence to the word of God. However, there is a disturbing phenomenon that is present in our church and evangelical churches throughout the U.S. I have observed it in our church over the past several years and have been the recipient of some of its venom from people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. I'm talking about what I call "dispensationalism on steroids" (aka Christian Zionism), a festering cancer on the body of Christ. We haven't heard this dogma preached from the pulpit but have experienced it in enrichment classes and from people in the church.

As I understand, you and Fred Beasley were present at the talk by Archbishop Elias Chacour. If you stayed for the question and answer period, you got to experience some of the "fruits" of Christian Zionism as demonstrated by several of the questioners who, in my opinion, did not show the love of Christ toward Archbishop Chacour. If you missed the Q&A period I have attached an article¹ about it. As you know, this talk was arranged by Rick Malouf. It was not an official SBC program and did not appear on the church calendar; however, the SBC receptionist was able to provide the room location when asked. As a side note, it is interesting to me that at Paradise Valley Presbyterian Church, the site for the other presentation by Archbishop Chacour in Phoenix, the event was sponsored by the church, held in their main worship center and introduced by one of their pastors. Could it be that the Presbyterians don't suffer from dogmatic dispensationalism to the extent we do at SBC?

Pat Sullivan told me yesterday on the phone that the program with Walid Shoebat was arranged by Cathy Wilson of **Chosen People Ministries** at the Archbishop Chacour speech with you and was not to be a Scottsdale Bible Church sponsored event. I have no objections to Mr. Shoebat speaking under the same type of arrangement given to Rick Malouf. I would ask that you check out Mr. Shoebat's website (<http://www.shoebat.com/>) and view the CNN USA interview with Mr. Shoebat as I did. In my opinion, it was very much an "in your face against Muslims" approach. I didn't see the love of Christ for Muslims exhibited by Mr. Shoebat, who appears to be a hard core Christian Zionist. Rick Malouf, on the other hand, gave a talk on Islam back in March for Pastor Bob Cain's Second Half program. I was very impressed by how Rick showed the love of Christ towards Muslims in his presentation. It was a talk that even my Muslim acquaintances would not have taken offense. In my opinion, it's a message that should be preached from the pulpit to the whole congregation.

Many people including groups like **Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding** and even the **National Council of Churches** are recognizing the dangers of Christian Zionism. Enclosed is a video I edited about Christian Zionism and the influence of the Scofield Reference Bible for your reference. Christian Zionism is a form of prejudice and racism not unlike the referenced cultural indicators you shared in your excellent, Nov. 2, 2008 message, "Doing Good When Nobody Cares"². In that, you referenced surveys of evangelical Christians on prejudice, tithing, divorce, and premarital sex that showed that we are no better, or, worse in some instances, than the general population. The effects of Christian Zionism, I contend are just as devastating to the body of Christ. Which way do we go: Ignore It or Address It?

Yours in Christ.



Tom Compton
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Attachments:

¹"Christian Zionists Snap at the Heels of A Man From Galilee" - Charles E. Carlson: <http://whtt.org/index.php?news=2&id=3053>

"Is It Jesus or Israel?" - <http://whtt.org/index.php?news=2&id=3206> ,

"Would Jesus Concur or Weep?" - <http://whtt.org/index.php?news=2&id=2832>

"The Internet Never Lies...But People Do!" - <http://www.whtt.org/images/PW-20090206-Internet-Never-Lies.pdf>

"Why We Should Be Concerned About Christian Zionism" - **National Council of Churches of Christ USA**: <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/christianzionismbrochure.pdf>

"Toward a Lutheran Response to Christian Zionism" - Rev. Robert O. Smith: <http://www.elcjh1.org/palestine/zionism/08maysmith.pdf>

The Roots of Christian Zionism: How Scofield Sowed Seeds of Apostasy - DVD: <http://eshop.whtt.org/popupdetails.php?popup=1&prodId=231>

²"Doing Good When Nobody Cares" - <http://scottsdalebible.com/sermons/doing-good-when-nobody-cares>