

## The rise of Zionism is worthy of shouting

August 25, 2024

Director of Erasmus Institute of Peace Studies

Yoshio Iwamura

Theme Scripture: Isaiah Chapter 5 Verse 7

“The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.” (New International Version)

### <Introduction>

It has been about 150 years since Protestant Christianity was introduced to Japan. The Roman Catholic Church has been there for just under 400 years. When we talk about “Christianity (Greek word: Χριστιανισμός [*christianismos*], a word not appear in the Bible), don’t we categorize Christianity introduced via the West is the only absolute truth? I am a third generation Catholic. In Japan, Catholicism generally indicates the Roman Catholic Church, and is used synonymously by both Christians and non-Christians. Many people consider Catholicism to be an abbreviation of the Roman Catholic Church. Also, the Roman Catholic Church itself advertises themselves as “Catholic”.

However, this is probably wrong. Even the world’s largest religious population, said to be 2.3 billion, does not understand it correctly. Israel and Palestine are holy places for Christians around the world. Currently, the Israel-Gaza war has been continuing uninterrupted since October 7, 2023. It is sometimes called the Palestinian-Israeli war. This is because the fighting began with an attack by Hamas. However, before the battle that year, Israel had killed around 250 Palestinians under its occupation. There is no exit for the tunnel. As of August 7, 2024, the death toll in Gaza is 38,153, and the number of injuries is 87,828. What is the reason for Palestinians killing each other despite being compatriots?



Palestinian children and the author

## Table of contents

(1) Dispensation	
a. Eschatology	
b. The Millenium	
c. The dogmatism of the “rapture”	
(2) Encounter with Middle Eastern Christianity	
a. Arab Orthodox traditions unbroken since the 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD	
b. Misinterpretation of the Promised Land	
c. Discrimination against sojourners (refugees)	
(3) Christian Zionism	
a. Zionism in Japan, the U.S. and Korea	
b. Uchimura Kanzo and colonialism	
c. Seeking conflict resolution through love and prayer, not power	

### <Three wrong misunderstandings><sup>1</sup>

Q1. “Palestine” does not express people, but “the land”. The promised land given to Abraham<sup>2</sup> was Canaan. The “Land of Palestine” was not uninhabited. The “Palestinian” there refer to the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish people who live in Palestine.

Q2. “Israel” is completely different from the Israel of Saul, David, and Solomon in the Old Testament, and the Israel that was established in 1948.

Q3. “Jews” are not “Jews”. They are people who believe in “Judaism<sup>3</sup>”. There is no relationship between “Judaism” and “Zionism<sup>4</sup>”.

<sup>1</sup> 2018. I, Pappé. *Ten Myth about Israel*. Translated by Yoshiaki Wakihama. Hosei University Press, pp.87-103.  
2024. K, Kimura. *Creating Peace through Non-violence: Two wars on the Earth of Human*. Hanshin Religious Association, pp.4-5. <https://www.christiantoday.co.jp/articles/33680/20240601/what-is-zionism.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was neither a Jew nor an Israelite. He was a Hebrew from Mesopotamia.

<sup>3</sup> A religion that the law stays in the central principle.

It was born during the Second Temple period (516 BC to the destruction of the temple in 70 AD) after being released from the Babylonian Captivity. 1997. S, Arai. *The Birth of Judaism*. Kodansha.

I believe that Judaism has a history that goes with the Aramaic language. “The Jewish people and race were ‘invented’ during the nationalism of 19th century Europe.” (Review by Koujin Karatani)

2017. S, Sand. *The Invention of the Jewish People*. Translated by Taketomo Takahashi, Yasuyuki Sasaki, Takako Kimura. Chikuma Shobo. “According to physical anthropological research, there is no such things as a Jewish race”. 1994. A, Koestler. *The Thirteenth Tribe*. Translated by Masami Uno. Sankousha, p.275.

<sup>4</sup> “Zionism” comes from the name of the hill in Jerusalem where King David’s tomb is located. I discuss this in order to let people know about the differences (distanciation) between Christian Zionism and Messianic Judaism. Refer “*the Palestine Problem and Christianity*” (Pneumasha, 2012) and “*the History of Middle Eastern Christianity*” (Co-editor Moritada Murayama. Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). 1993) that Moritada Murayama wrote about his experience working with missionaries in the Coptic Church in Egypt from 1964 to 1968.

## (1) Dispensation

### a. Eschatology

In Christian doctrine, the end of the world called “eschatology (German: Eschatologie). In the Bible, there are many instances of faith life longing for the “end (Τὸ ἔσχατος [to *eschatos*]).” The German Lutheran theologian Theodor Friedrich Dethlof Kliefoth [1810-1895]<sup>5</sup> was the first to use the term eschatology. Theologically, there was a pendulum-like aspect between the apocalyptic eschatology of Albert Schweitzer [1875-1965]<sup>6</sup> and the existential interpretation eschatology of Rudolf Karl Bultmann. The basis of eschatology was the apocalyptic idea of breaking away from the tyranny, servitude, and authority of the Roman Catholic Church, the millennialism, and the desire for utopia. It can be said that this was the cause of the intractable feud among the world’s three major religions, as exemplified by The American Revolutionary War, the conflict during the Cold War in the 20th century, and book of Samuel Phillips Huntington<sup>7</sup> “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order” in latter half of the 20th century. I think it is right about a proponent of the separation of church and state<sup>8</sup>. However, the idea of “the unity of religion and politics<sup>9</sup>” throbs at the root of the tense situation in the world. In my presentation “Eschatology” at the Evangelical Theological Society in 2000, I did not mention the feuds, conflicts, or wars that are occurring at the end of the century. I regret that it was just empty talk. It is because that I ignored it and sticking only to the theological aspects. At the society, only discussing personal eschatology (eschatologia individualis) is not good enough. What I should have considered was the “consistent eschatology (konsequente eschatologie)”, which is a global event that awaits us in the near future and is intended to thoroughly explain the coming of the Kingdom of God<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup> 1886. Theodor Kliefoth “Christliche Eschatologie / von Th. Kliefoth

<sup>6</sup> 1957. A. Schweitzer. *Messianitäts- und Leidensgeheimnis : eine Skizze des Lebens Jesu*. Translated by Seiji Hakii. Iwanami Bunko, p.179.

“The glorious end state will be brought by God on the basis of Israel’s ethical conversion”. Please refer to the exegesis of other representative of 20<sup>th</sup> century eschatologists that appears in “Reformed Dogmatics, Vol.7” (Yoshikazu Makita. Ichibaku Shuppansha Publishers, pp.51-59)

<sup>7</sup> A dualistic idea that preserves “the Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order” published by Samuel Phillips Huntington, an American political scientist in 1993. As long as we accept this worldview, the time when Judaism, Christianity, and Islam could coexist will be far away. It interferes Christ’s “ἀνακεφαλαίω ” *anakephalaioo* (meaning “to gather together in one” Ephesians 1:10).

<sup>8</sup> What common thing among superpowers is not separation of religion and state. Rather, it is integration of religion and state. Religion and politics have also been strongly linked in the United States, the leading Western power. There was Billy Graham [1918-2018] was in charge of the prayers at the inaugurations of Presidents Nixon [1913-1994] and Reagan [1911-2004]. Graham can be said to be like a pope for evangelicals in the United States, Korea, and other Asian countries. His idea matched with President Eisenhower’s hardline policy against the Communist bloc. He supported the Vietnam War by saying the US war is a just war according to God’s will. He offered prayers at the inaugurations of successive American presidents and provided spiritual support as a chaplain at the White House.

2022. A. Oomiya. *Introduction of American Christianity*. The Kirisuto Shimbun, p.220, 238.

<sup>9</sup> He was influential in intervention in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq wars. He was on a consistent anti-communist stance. On the other hand, Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow is also merciless toward LGBTQ people in the West in the battle between good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> 2000. Y. Iwamura. *Heretical Eschatology and Self-Justification; Evangelical Theology, No.31*. Evangelical Theological Society, p.12.

Johannes Weiss [1868-1914] wrote “The Sermon of Jesus on the Kingdom of God (1892)”, so I included this book in my eschatology theory (implying the Jewish apocalyptic literature, *Eschatologie*) in the notes. However, strictly speaking, I should have been careful in including him in the category of eschatologists. This is because that my lack of German language ability. I should have introduced him separately as “The Kingdom Theory”

From the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there was no insight or analysis into the extent to which eschatology was influencing the new coalition of politics and religion, and no biblical evidence was presented. This was because politics and “eschatology (religion)” were differentiated. It was not surprising that this did not resonate with the Ochos (the people), to whom Jesus was most interested in.

Theology is God (theos) and language (logos), and God is the one who “keep me as the apple of your eye” (Psalm 17:8). Just like it is terrible when lake flies got into our eyes, the Creator guards us like the pupil of his eyes. But God has been confined to the realm of academia. As it is written, “I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob<sup>11</sup>. I will put my trust in him (Isaiah 8:17)”, we concealed God as a hidden God. There exists a paradigm of a dualistic composition that does not intersect between the so-called spiritual realm and the ecclesia (authority / power) of the world. Until the Second Coming, humans who should be in step with God saying “God has forgiven me”, “the grace period”, and “patience until the Second Coming”, but we have become lazy and say, “I will leave it to you, God”. The multiple signs (marks) spoken of in the Bible regarding the end have also fallen into the trap of being a manual for recruiting believers. The “evil” acts shown in Auschwitz concentration camp, the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Operation Ranch Hand in the Vietnam War [1964-1973] were the worst challenges humanity has ever done. Despite this, eschatology in theological schools might be lost its urgency and has become a means of gaining qualifications, authorities, and labels in society. The diplomacy, military, and policies of the world are all the same and no big differences such as “left behind<sup>12</sup>”, “more important on Israel”, and “Millennial Kingdom”, and the United Nations, The G7<sup>13</sup>, and NATO countries hail around the world. I think that true eschaton (eschatology) is one that distinguishes itself from the confusion, lies, and sadaejuui<sup>14</sup> of these fictions and uses the Bible to justify itself. I have awakened in 2006 when

---

rather than as an eschatologist.

<sup>11</sup> “The hidden God”. Latin words, “Deus absconditus”

<sup>12</sup> Jerry Falwell [1933-2007] American evangelical fundamentalist. President of Liberty University. Televangelist. Even presidential candidates found it difficult to ignore him. He supported Ronald Reagan in the presidential election. A passionate supporter of President Trump. He promoted “Left Behind” by Timothy Francis LaHaye, a national bestseller, saying it is “the second greatest book of our time after the Bible”. Author Timothy LaHaye [1926-2016] earned his PhD in Liberty University Graduate School. Pastor of the Scott Memorial Baptist Church. One of the leading figures in American evangelicalism, with works such as “Life in the Afterlife (Translated by KOutarou Matsuyo. Word of Life. 1984). Henry Madison Morris [1918-2006], known as the father of creation science”, founded “the Institute for Creation Research.” based on the theory of special creation, that “a day was created in 24 hours”. In the 1980s, LaHaye and his wife supported the Unification Church even when Moon was imprisoned on tax evasion charges.

\*Ronald Reagan [1911-2004] US President (age 69). Actor. During his close relationship with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone [19148-2019], they called by their first name and strengthened the Japan-US security system. 2022. Y. Iwamura. *Why is Article 9 of the Constitution important? Osu-kai 推す会*: literary meaning ‘a group to recommend Article 9’ in Kobe. Prefectural Hall 7F Youth Exchange Plaza Seminar, p.9.

<sup>13</sup> The Group of Seven (G7) is a framework in which the seven major IMF advanced economies and the European Union (EU) participate.

Because of the 1973 oil crisis and world depression, five nations of France, The US, the UK, Germany and Japan, discussed the world economy. It is held once a year. It later became the G8. In 2014, Russia was excluded. Currently, it is a forum for exchanging opinions on security and environmental issues.

<sup>14</sup> We have no choice but “follow to benefit in front of us” because it is the policy of the United States, those in power, and the United Nations. Our opinions would be pushed away anyway, so we better to play our cards right.

I met Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim<sup>15</sup> (Archbishop of Aleppo, Syrian Orthodox Church). I traveled to Aleppo, Syria to build a home for orphans.

Considering that the root causes of the tensions that pose a risk to the survival of the Earth in the midst of extreme chaos after the Cold War are “Zionism”, “Promised Land”, and “Palestine”, the problem is serious. Because the ground is on fire. In an emergency time such as a fire, should we prioritize to recruit baptized people<sup>16</sup> like, “Is there a fire?”, “Jesus is the Messiah”, and “let’s pray together”? Shouldn’t we break down the door and warn people to “run away”? “Eschatology” is a tense issue. Is it okay to just sit in your room, church, or seminary and just kept in silent contemplation about it?<sup>17</sup>

After the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred, I have been volunteering in Oku-Noto since this January. For example, there are no Christian churches in the northernmost city of Suzu City (estimated population 10,923 as of July 1, 2024). There are several halls for Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons who emphasize the end of the world, and their evangelism have been going for over 100 years.

This paper’s theme scripture is “The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice (*mishpat*), but saw bloodshed (*mispach*); for righteousness (*tsidqah*), but heard cries of distress (*tsa`aqah*)<sup>18</sup>.” (Isaiah 5:7).

Currently, more than 40,000 people have been killed in Israeli air strikes in Gaza. The number of children casualties<sup>19</sup> are enormous. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [1974-]<sup>20</sup>, who is supported by the West, is massacring children in Gaza with his frightening, hardline policies. The conscience of the world may condemn the evil acts that are contributing to genocide, but actually it supports the State of Israel financially<sup>21</sup> and provides it with a large number of armaments.

The context of Isaiah states, “Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. (Isaiah 1:16-17)”, clearly states the theological proposition of practicing “the right of the orphans<sup>22</sup>”.

---

<sup>15</sup> 2021. Y. Iwamura. *Christianity and Refugee*. Kobe International Christ Church, p.5.

<sup>16</sup> Provide baptism (immersion) and increase the number of believers. Jesus and Paul did not take importance on baptism. John 4:2, 1 Corinthians 1:17, 14.

<sup>17</sup> A reformed follower, Dr. Burk Parsons said, “We are believers who fight not just by mouth, but without lives and all our might”. <https://ja.ligonier.org/blog/articles/courage-to-be-reformed/>

<sup>18</sup> Those born here are subjected to intense sufferings such as “*tousen* (刀山: the mountain of swords)”, “*kenjyu* (劍樹: the tree of swords)” and “*kakutou* (鑊湯: the hot iron baths)”, and are constantly screaming, so it is also called “*abi-shou-netsu-jigoku* (阿鼻焦熱地獄: the burning hell of screaming)”. Because its boundaries are so wide that it is impossible to escape with ordinary strength. Therefore, it is also called “*abi-taijyo* (阿鼻大城: the great castle city of screaming)”.

<sup>19</sup> Secretary-General Lazzarini said that the number of children who died in the Gaza Strip in the four months up to February this year exceeded the number of children who died in conflict zones around the world in the four years up to 2022. 2024. NHK. March 13. 6:24pm.

<sup>20</sup> “Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. (Deuteronomy 10:16)” “Nape” (עֲרֵף [*oreph*] means “having a stiff neck”).

<sup>21</sup> The US House of Representatives passed an emergency budget bill totaling approximately 26.3 billion USD, and it is more than 4 trillion in yen, in aid to Israel with a bipartisan majority.

2024. NHK. April 21. 6:51pm. I cannot ignore the factors of Anti-Islamic thoughts. (Iwamura comment)

<sup>22</sup> The original meaning of “protecting rights” (Hebrew *liiv*) contains “to defend (rights)”, and “to deal with,

In Palestine, the “State of Israel” exists. Zionists of “political Zionism” are devouring the vineyards. As the rulers of Jerusalem, they are trampling on Palestine, Is Jerusalem really the “center” of Palestine? Is it the fulfillment of the “Promised Land” given to Abraham, or is the return of the Jews to Palestine a prophecy spoken to Abraham? I have been thinking about these issues through my visit to the Middle East and building homes for orphans.

I have come to a conclusion. I have become convinced that the oracle given to Abraham is eschatological, proving that it was a promise that went beyond the Jews to all mankind. It is because that the keyword of “last day” also appears in the context of Isaiah Chapter 2.

It can be said that Christian eschatology has been at the mercy of the convergence of futurology and Marxist ideology. Theologians who had a great influence on 20<sup>th</sup> century Christian theology, such as, Karl Barth [1886-1968]<sup>23</sup>, Paul Althaus [1888-1966], Charles Harold Dodd [1884-1973], Oscar Cullmann [1902-1999], and Jürgen Moltmann [1926-2024], also discussed eschatology. However, rather than dialectical thinking, we probably focused on fundamentalists who testify from the Bible itself with a simple dualism<sup>24</sup> like black or white, God or Satan, and light or darkens. Just like to fill a gap in the mainstream apologetic system, in Christian countries in the West, as well as Japan, “On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.” (2 Timothy 2:17) Christian Zionists in Japan, America, and Korea have swept the nations with their simple understanding of the need of the word, as if mocking the traditional apocalyptic eschatology and vertical “death” view of the historical Christian church. The eyes of this storm are “premillennialism”, dispensationalism<sup>25</sup>, and Christian Zionism. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has permeated the media, the movie industry and even home television like a subliminal<sup>26</sup> commercial. The conservative group in White House in the United States has not distance itself from Zionism, but has instead used natural disasters, the destruction of the earth and the final judgement as a blueprint. We have constructed a strategy for policy making. It is no exaggeration to say that fundamentalist<sup>27</sup> and Zionists are equal (same). TV evangelists, megachurches and election campaigns people act like the masses as God’s spokespeople, “a mouth that spoke boastfully”<sup>28</sup>. (Daniel 7:8) A unique eschatology has begun to seriously

---

tackle, or fight (difficulties and misfortunes)”. It also suggests fighting against the socially vulnerable, the oppressed, and disclination.

<sup>23</sup> Even Barth talked dialectically, “Any Christianity that is not completely and thoroughly eschatological has no totally and completely has no relation to Christ”, the people were not willing to listen to him.

2001. K. Barth. *The Epistle to the Romans, Vol.2*. Translated by Keiji Ogawa, Tetsuo Iwanami. Heibonsha, pp.100-101.

<sup>24</sup> 2001. Y. Iwamura. *Eye Drop, No.23*, p3, p.5.

<sup>25</sup> “Dispensation” comes from the Greek **οἰκονομία**. It support from the history of God's dispensation and stewardship of mankind (Ephesians 1:10, 3:2; Colossians 1:25).

“A period during which human’s obedience to certain manifestations of God’s will is tested.” “The Original Scofield Illustrated and Annotated Bible.” (Genesis 1:27)

<sup>26</sup> Subliminal is a term in psychology that gives stimulation to the layer of “the subconscious below the threshold of consciousness”. It can be said to be a kind of mind control.

2021. Y. Iwamura. *Christianity and Restoration*. Kansei Gakuin University, p.12.

<sup>27</sup> 1982. J. Barr. *Fundamentalism*. Translated by Shin Kitagawa, Nozomu Yagyū. Jordansha, p.65.

A completely different form of religion.

<sup>28</sup> “The United States is a rational democratic nation, so it is okay for it to possess nuclear weapons. However, Iran, a theocratic state based on Islamic law, and North Korea, a dictatorship state, should not possess them”.

2022. Y. Iwamura. *Why is Article 9 of the Constitution important? Osu-kai ‘推す会’*: literary meaning ‘a group to recommend Article 9’ in Kobe. Prefectural Hall 7F Youth Exchange Plaza Seminar, p.9.

influence policy decisions, diplomatic strategies, and business tactics. After about 100 years, the idea of a countdown to the end of the world is no longer so radical. Propaganda<sup>29</sup> predicting the final fate of the Earth is no longer extrema. It has become an ordinal conversation of our everyday.

The traditional eschatology of seminaries, theological universities, and Christian churches has been ignored as a relic of the past. The book<sup>30</sup> about the eschatology I published by myself in 1989 was the height of my ignorance and lack of knowledge.

## b. The Millenium

The term “Kingdom of God” does not appear in the Old Testament. In the contrast, there is a word “kingdom”. The Hebrew word or “kingdom” is מְלֻכּוּת (*malkwuth*). The original meaning of the word comes from מֶלֶךְ (*melekh* <o rule>), which expresses the concept of “royal rule”. It appears first in Exodus chapter 15 verse 18. *Melekh* original from “to rule, to be king”. “I will exalt you, my God the King [*melekh*] (Psalm 145:1)” expresses God’s present rule. The original meaning of *melekh* is political power, kingship, and authority<sup>31</sup>.

Therefore, it sometimes translates “*malkwuth*” as “kingship” (1 Samuel 20:31). Among the 57 Aramaic kingdom, the concept of a spatial domain is only a few. The apocalyptic texts state that after the prologue judgement, the Messiah will rule a new *aeon* (age) for a thousand years. The word “thousand years” is only found in Revelation chapter 20 verse 2 to 7. In the Jewish, the oldest record<sup>32</sup> is dated on about 90 AD. In some apocalyptic texts, there are cases that a period of four hundred years and an indefinite period of time may continue<sup>33</sup>.

Millennialism is one of the forms of eschatology. There are three theories; “premillennialism”, “postmillenarism” and “anmillenarianism”. Radical<sup>34</sup> expectations of

---

<sup>29</sup> Propaganda (Latin *congregātiōdē*, meaning “to sow seeds”, or “to spread”) was founded by Pope Gregory XV [1554-1623] in 1622.

The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples of the Catholic Church “*Congregatio dē Propaganda Fide*” was the congregation (L con-+ together + regis flock) established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the overseas Catholic missionary work.

1993. English Japanese Dictionary. Obunsha, p.426.

1993. *Webster’s 3rd New International Dictionary*. Merriam Webster; Indexed, Unabridged, p.1817.

<sup>30</sup> 1989. Y. Iwamura. *Debate on the Basis of the Bible with Them*. Shinrinomikotoba Dendo Kyokai, pp.157-166.

I uncritically accepted the eschatology of Dallas Theological Seminary Professor Riley and created a 166-page image diagram. When I left the Watchtower Society in 1988, President Charles Riley and Professor Walvoord of Dallas Theological Seminary, the mecca for the theoretical arming of Billy Graham’s eschatology, sent me a signed copy of the book to Japan. Both of them thought that they were able to be on time because it was a countdown to the Second Coming of Christ. They said that it was a joyful triumph.

2021. Y. Iwamura. *What is the “Second Coming” that Christians say?* The Words of Bible Series, No.90. Kobe Shimbun Kaika, p.3

<sup>31</sup> 1978. *The Coming of the Kingdom* Herman Ridderbos. Paideia Press, p.16.

*Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*, p.15.

<sup>32</sup> 1965. *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch III H.L.* Strack-P.Billerbeck, p.824

Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus calculated that the period of time in Egypt was 400 years, 111 years of Gentile rule during the period of the judges, and 490 years from the Babylonian captivity to the fall of Jerusalem, and total of period is about a thousand years.

<sup>33</sup> 4 Ezra 7:28. *Old Testament Apocrypha, Vol.2*, p.153

Syriac Baruch revelation 40:3. *The Biblical Apocrypha, Vol.5*, p.110.

<sup>34</sup> 1990. H. Tamura. *The Wars of the Three Kingdoms and the Millennium*.

Dobunkan, p.281. It gave a great influence on American Protestantism in the 1920s.

the second coming are likely to arise among the followers of premillennialism. Whether premillennialism can be classified as heresy depends on the definition<sup>35</sup> of “heresy”.

Is it possible to discuss “heresy” and premillennialism on the same level?

Jim Jones was the leader of the mass suicide of 93 people in Guyana, South America (late November 1978). He called it “the best heaven that can be built on earth” and established a bridgehead for premillennialism. His starting point was the Pentecostal Church in Indiana, USA, which was founded in 1956. Therefore, it was a sect that originated from an existing religion Jones was devoted to apocalyptic texts and fantasized. He warned of the threat of nuclear war and even moved his church to a safe area. His interpretation of Armageddon as paranoid and megalomaniacal way was probably the same as that of Shoko Asahara of Aum Shinrikyo<sup>36</sup>. Asahara choreographed the “end of the world”. On March 21, 1995, the Tokyo subway sarin attack killed 11 people and injured nearly 5,000 others. The sense of urgency that the end of the world was approaching promoted a separation from reality. The followers were enthralled by the radical premillennial dreams presented by their guru. In both cases, they tended more toward mysticism than toward dogmatic biblicism. The banner of premillennialism proved that it worked effectively to grow spiritual enthusiasm.

Shall we compare the early church father Justin Martyr [c. 100-c. 165] and Irenaeus [c. 130-c. 200], who supported the idea of the millennium, with the Montanists [?-before 179]<sup>37</sup>. The Montanist movement was declared a heretic by the orthodox. On the other hand, the bishop of Lyon, Irenaeus, Justinus, and Lactantius [c. 240-c. 320/330], were criticized for their advocacy of the millennium. What was the reason the Montanists received the name of heretics? Was it because they preached a “false theology”? Let us define theology was an attempt to rationally interpret faith. In that case, if an interpretation of the Bible deviates from the norm of faith and Christology, it is considered to be a “false theology”<sup>38</sup>.

### c. The dogmatism of the “rapture”

I had a trusted friend who was Jewish. He was knowledgeable and had an encyclopedia-like knowledge of arts, movies, books, and the world. However, even if he was excellent, he was subjected to a wave of peer pressure in America. Probably because of that, he found it difficult to open up to others. So, it took several years to gain trust people like him. In order to open up his mind and work together, I considered the Jewish national character from a historical perspective and even I felt a sense of respect.

In Japan, there are people of *ochlos* who have been the target of oppression, prejudice and discrimination before and during the war. On April 2, 2018, right-wing street vehicles were shouting chant slogans outside the building, and it was a noisy time. Kim Seok-hyo [1968-]

---

<sup>35</sup> 1999. Y, Iwamura. *Returning form the Watchtower's Ultra-Fundamentalism*. Evangelical Theological Society, Western Chapter, Department of Systematic Theology, pp.4-5. 1998. Y, Ichikawa. *Seasonal magazine Eye Drop, No.11. What is Heresy?* p.9.

<sup>36</sup> 2000. Robert J, Lifton. *Destroying the World to Save It: Aum Shinrikyo, Apocalyptic Violence, and the New Global Terrorism*. Iwanami Shoten, pp.288-295.

<sup>37</sup> 1997. David C, Murray. *A History of Heresy*. Kyobunkwan, pp.51-56.

Since about 156 years ago, it hoped for a charismatic inspiration filled with the Holy Spirit and practiced strict moralism. They believed that the New Jerusalem would be realized in Pepuza, Phrygia. They were a group that denied the existing church hierarchy. They were completely disappeared around the 5<sup>th</sup> century due to oppression.

<sup>38</sup> 1967. J.W.C.Wand. *The Four Great Heresies*, p.13.



(Chairman of the Board of Hyogo Korean School Educational Cooperation), Hiroshi Ashitomi [1946-] (Peace Activist in Okinawa), and Kenichi Kawamura [1951-2021] (Director of the Asahikawa Ainu Museum) and others continued to testify about how human rights have been neglected<sup>39</sup>. Pastor Koichi Kimura, who visited aloe to rescue Kouda Shyosei, who was taken hostage by Iraqi terrorists as a human shield, spoke about Christian education,<sup>40</sup> and Mr. Rin Hakuyou spoke about the Nanjing Massacre. There were also presentations from Canadian educators.

Testimonies of oppressed minorities were given with simultaneous interpretation.

I regret that I didn't address the Palestine issue, although I as the chairman of the forum. My church belongs to the Brethren denomination. I was baptized in the theology of John Nelson Darby [1800-1882]<sup>41</sup>, a 19<sup>th</sup> century British Brethren theologian. That means, I have followed the path of dispensationalism, understanding the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 as the fulfillment of the dispensation of the Old Testament. In other words, I have not only believed that the return of the Jews to Palestine is a sign of the second coming of Christ, but have also spoken of it from the pulpit.

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates’” (Genesis 15:18, 12:7). Between the Nile River in Egypt (the Sinai Peninsula's El-Arish River<sup>42</sup> and the Euphrates River is a vast area that includes the current Syrian region<sup>43</sup> (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan), parts of Iraq, and parts of Saudi Arabia, where King Solomon ruled. How many times have I quoted and said, “It hasn't been fulfilled yet. Even in Solomon's time... it will be fulfilled before the Second Coming”. That was the turning point for me to encounter Christianity in the Middle East.

## (2) Encounter with Middle Eastern Christianity

### a. Arab Orthodox traditions unbroken since the 1st century AD

On 2008, I began to have personal relationship with Syriac Orthodox Archbishop of Aleppo Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim<sup>44</sup>, who was attending the World Conference of World Religions

---

<sup>39</sup> 2018. Collection of reports of “Human Rights that we think together”. Human Rights that we think together. Executive Committee, Hyogo Prefectural Civic Center. April 24.

<sup>40</sup> The organization reports that its activities aim to develop individuals who will realize peace based on Article 9 of the Constitution from the perspective of the three Christian educational principles on sin, repentance, and restoration, and nurture innate qualities and talents in a harmonious manner.

<sup>41</sup> For more information on John Nelson Darby, please refer to the website introducing the Interdenominational Church of the Brethren.

When he was 25 years old, he was ordained a priest in the Church of Ireland. He soon founded the Anti-Anglican Plymouth Brethren Church. As a dispensationalist, Darby prophesied that the establishment of the Republic of Israel on May 14, 1948 and it will be the fulfillment of the dispensation in the Old Testament. <https://kicc.sub.jp/about/%e3%83%96%e3%83%ac%e3%82%b6%e3%83%ac%e3%83%b3%e6%b4%be-church-of-the-brethren/>

<sup>42</sup> 1983. K, Takagi. T, Ashida. *The Biblical Situation and Bible Prophecy from now*. Word of Life, p.42.

<sup>43</sup> 2018. Y, Iwamura. *The Greatest Humanitarian Tragedy in the History of Mankind; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Syrian Volunteer Report*. Erasmus Institute of Peace Studies. February 17, p.2.

<sup>44</sup> Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop of Aleppo in 2006. Since the 8<sup>th</sup> WCRP in 2006, I have been in contact with Bishop Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Orthodox Church of Aleppo, Syria. On August 3, 2012, I spoke privately with him and prayed to avert the Syrian crisis. After returning to Japan, I was working tirelessly to call for a ceasefire and negotiate reconciliation between the Syrian government and anti-government groups, but after meeting him again in August 2012 in Kyoto, I cannot

for Peace (WCRP). There is the truth that I only could see for the first time when I learned about “Arab Orthodox”, which is not the Western Christianity, the Eastern Church, or the Orthodox Church. At that time, Archbishop Ibrahim never criticized Islam, but rather was concerned about Israel’s invasion. It is important not to misunderstand the Palestinian issue. As I deepened my friendship with Arab Orthodox believers, I came to realize that there is no “virtue” in the Western interpretation of the Bible. Western Christians interpret that Israel could have been restored after 1,900 years in the “Promised Land”<sup>45</sup>. In 1918, when the Spanish Flu swept through Japan, Uchimura Kanzo and others touted the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. This was so-called Zionism. The biggest misjudgment of the Christian church regarding the Middle East issue lies in there. Theologians, Bible scholars, and dogmatic scholars are equally guilty of this. Because of this, Israel has been paralyzed their “virtue”, and unleashed unprecedented massacres, occupations, and oppressions on Arab Orthodox, Muslim, and Arab countries. What is the core of this problem? It is the keyword of “Promised Land”. Isn’t the typical interpretation of the Western Christianity becoming the ground for ignorance, indifference, and irresponsibility in the world?

Why did Nazism kill nearly 1.1 million Jews at Auschwitz? It might be related to Adolf Hitler's [1889-1945] eugenics ideology. He pushed ahead with ethnic cleansing, deeming the Jews unworthy of life. Even if you don’t admit the existence of Satan, if you visit the traces of the gruesome concentration camps, you will surely find it hard to believe that how could human do such acts<sup>46</sup>. Why did God permit such evil acts in the history of mankind? Some may recall the time when God used the Assyrian and Babylonian nations to warn the disobedient Israelites, as it is written, “The Lord works out everything to its proper end; even the wicked for a day of disaster.” (Proverbs 16:4)

#### b. Misinterpretation of the Promised Land

When I was asked to write a discussion on eschatology<sup>47</sup> in 1999, I did not mention the “Promised Land”. It was a fatal mistake. It was only after I learned of the existence of Arab Orthodoxy that I realized that if we discuss on eschatology, there are three themes that we must not overlook. In addition to the “Promised Land”, the perspectives of “fulfillment of prophecy” and “all Israel” were also 180 degrees different from Western theology. My life has been a series of failures. I am a gold medalist in biased assumptions.

I re-examined it from the basics, such as the “Abrahamic Covenant”. There is a basic understanding that the interpretation of “forever (Hebrew עולם [owlam]) in “The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God (Genesis 17:8), does not necessarily

---

confirm Bishop Ibrahim’s life anymore. According from the local information, I only get an information that he had been kidnapped and held captive by anti-government guerrillas. I went to Aleppo, Syria’s second largest city, to build a home for orphans. On December 29, 2017, I met with Jack and Nelly, a couple who run a furniture business, and their family at Beirut Airport. They said they still have no clue about Bishop Ibrahim’s safety. We are still in close contact each other.

<sup>45</sup> “The Euphrates River was also the eastern border of the land that God promised to Abraham’s descendants”. 1980. John F. Walvoord. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Translated by Noboru Yamaguchi. Word of Life, p.429.

<sup>46</sup> 2003. Y. Iwamura. *Eye Drop, No.29*, p.1. The cover image of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp could not be a humanly deeds.

<sup>47</sup> 2000. Y. Iwamura. *Evangelical Theology, No.31*. Evangelical Theological Society.

mean “eternal” in terms of time.

For example, Christians do not consider about the fat and blood of the priestly sacrifices, the sacraments, the Sabbath, and the Ten Commandments are absolutely and strictly should be adhered eternally<sup>48</sup>. Though, dispensationalist is different story. The Middle East issue is divided on whether to take literally the fact that Abraham was blessed by “with you and your descendants after you”, and that he was given land as a memorial.

We should not make our judgements hasty about not to interpret the fact that the Promised Land was given to Abraham and his descendants. It is sad to say that the English Puritans seems to have a spiritual myocardial infarction so they take the words of the Bible literally and claiming them as to be the truth. They use biblical evidence to suit their own doctrines without confirming the context.

People who do not know the Bible have preconceived notions<sup>49</sup> by wondering if such things are written in the Bible. And, it will be their fixed ideas. Like people of Beroia, they do not confirm, pierce, or verify. We are asked to examine ourselves to see if we have preconceived notions. We need to be humble and constantly be reformed<sup>50</sup> to return to the Bible. We should emulate the believers of Beroia who belongs to the way of Christ. The mental attitude of those who are on the way of Christ that examine even what Paul, the archbishop or *exousia* (authoritative clergymen) said about. “Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)<sup>51</sup>” Neocon<sup>52</sup> Christians are suffering from a spiritual myocardial infarction. They are convinced that they are just fine. (Romans 10:2)

I was once like that too. In a way, this is the dangerousness of religion, ideology, and creed.

The “Promised Land” does not guarantee the right to own land from the “place (*topos*)”. Next, I do like to think about the “sign of the covenant (אוֹת בְּרִית [*owth beriyth*])<sup>53</sup> from the perspective of time. In Genesis chapter 17 verse 8 says “The whole land of Canaan, where

---

<sup>48</sup> Even in the case of the sacrament of the Eucharist, each church has the discretion of observe it regularly every week or to observe it only to the extent of times so that it will not be forgotten just as a memory, based on the fact that “The anamnesis <reminiscence> of sins comes back year by year.” (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25; Luke 22:19; Hebrews 10:3) As I mentioned before, in order to avoid being fixed worship service that falls into the trap of being to adhere to the Bible context, and even though there may have been discrepancy between doctrine (professional religious people) and the real field (ordinary believers), but neither has criticized the other. Friedrich Schleiermacher [1768-1834], a liberal theologian, wrote in his book “On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers (1799. *Über die Religion: Reden an die Gebildeten unter ihren Verächtern*. S201)” that “theologians who are obsessed with the literal (*buchstabierte*)”.

<sup>49</sup> A “preconception” is a fixed idea that is already in place and leads to prejudice. On the other hand, a “preconceived notion” is “an idea that is already in the mind and prevents free thought”, and a fixed idea prevents free thinking and imagination.

<sup>50</sup> Latin words, “Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda”, which can be translated as “continuing to be reformed”, “continuing to reform”.

<sup>51</sup> **avnakri,nw**<1. To question, interrogate, investigate; 2. To scrutinize, examine, examine; 3. (toward the subject of criticism) to make an evaluation.

<sup>52</sup> It is an alarming level of phenomenon that there are many Christians in Japan, Southern Asia, and Hong Kong that have been victimized by neoconservatism (an abbreviation for neoconservatism in the United States in 1981).

2021. Y, Iwamura. *When did you give up to be with the oppressed?* Kobe Shinbun Kaikan, p.1-2,11.

<sup>53</sup> The sign of the covenant, the custom of circumcision which did not exist in Mesopotamia, helped Israel to maintain its uniqueness even after its national independence was lost and even their *exousia* was gone, they could remain their uniqueness even under foreign domination.

you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God” and it is described as “everlasting possession”. Abraham was 99 years old (verse 1)<sup>54</sup>. The context is, “You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you (Genesis 17:11)”, and “circumcision” was encouraged to Abraham and his people. This is the day when the oracle about circumcision was given. The Western Christianity cannot deny its lack of awareness. The reason is that at this point, Issac had not yet been born. The “Land of Israel” (1 Samuel 13:19) had long been called Palestine (the land of the Philistines)<sup>55</sup>.

The verse 23 in the context proves. The one who was the first to receive circumcision with Abraham. In other words, who was effective in terms of “place” and timeline for the “Promised Land”. “On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him. (Genesis 17:23)”. “And his son Ishmael was thirteen (Genesis 17:25)”. Even in a real state transaction, A and B are the parties involved. Therefore, it was Abraham and Ishmael who validated the sign of circumcision. Then, does the “everlasting possession” = the “promised land” in verse 8 belong to who? It was not Israel, but Ishmael. I completely understand that dispensationalists are well aware that God will argue and has been gradually revealing His plan according to the times. Jehovah’s Witnesses will also immediately refute Ishmael. I don’t have no doubt but they will assert the basis of Galatians chapter 4 verse 22 and 23, “the slave woman” from “the slave woman and the other by the free woman” and “persecuted” in verse 29<sup>56</sup>. However, “Hagar” is translated as “slave woman” from the Greek word παιδίσκη [paidiske], but she is not a slave but a maid<sup>57</sup>. A footnote in the Holy Qur’an<sup>58</sup> also states that it was impossible for 17-year-old Ishmael to persecute Issac, who was only three years old<sup>59</sup>. Sarai drives her maid, Hagar, out of her house. Arab Orthodox and Muslims often describe the scene when Hagar and Ishmael were abandoned by Abraham in the dry,

<sup>54</sup> The time Abram becomes Abraham is after Genesis chapter 17 verse 5. “Ram” means “lifted up, exalted”, and “abram” is sometimes interpreted as “lifted up, exalted” in reference to his father “ab”. At the same time, Sarai became Sarah. Both of them had the Hebrew “h (Hebrew < ה >)” inserted, from שַׂרַי (Sarai) to שָׂרָה (Sarah) (Genesis 17:15).

1986. Roland de Vaux. *Ancient Israel: its life and institutions*. Translated by Toshiaki Nishimura. The Board of Publications, the United Church of Christ in Japan, p.283.

<sup>55</sup> 1983. Martin Noth. *History of Israel*. Translated by Susumu Higuchi. The Board of Publications, the United Church of Christ in Japan, pp.28-29.

<sup>56</sup> “It may relate to the taunting of Issac regarding the right of inheritance.” (1944. *Insight, Vol.1*. The Watchtower Society, p.223)

<sup>57</sup> Hagar is translated not as a slave but a maid. (Literal Standard Version, Young’s Literal Translation, Catholic Public Domain Version, Worrell New Testament) When Abraham falsely represented Sarah to King Pharaoh as his sister, Pharaoh didn’t know the fact and was forced to give her up. The King’s daughter Hagar accompanied Abraham and Sarah from the palace. “Sarai was a present from Pharaoh, and they came back home with King’s daughter Hagar (who was maid in Judeo-Christian tradition).

<https://www.islamreligion.com/jp/articles/296/> Sarah. Emil G. Hirsch, Wilhelm Bacher, Jacob Zallel Lauterbach, Joseph Jacobs and Mary W. Montgomery.

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=245&letter=S>. Abraham. Charles J. Mendelsohn, Kaufmann Kohler, Richard Gottheil, Crawford Howell Toy. *The Jewish Encyclopedia*. See also Genesis: 12:14-20. Iustus Josephus [c. 37-100], in his “Antiquities of the Jews 1” (translated by Gouhei Hata. Chikuma Shobo, p.79), describes Hagar as a “maid” rather than a slave.

<sup>58</sup> 2016. *The holy Qur’an*. Translated by Jun Kobayashi [1930-]. Islam International Publications, p.1203.

<sup>59</sup> Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born (Genesis 16:16), and 100 years old when Issac was born (Genesis 21:5).

barren wilderness of the Mecca Valley<sup>60</sup>. Through my visit to the Middle East, I was made to be realized that the view of Hagar and Ishmael that was inculcated in the Western Christianity is different. How do Arab Orthodox and Muslims understand the mother and son Hagar and Ishmael who were driven out into the desert?

“Where are you going Abraham, leaving us in this barren valley?” Abraham did not answer her, but continued walking. She repeated what she had said, but he remained silent. Finally, she understood that he was not acting on his own initiative. she realized that Allah had commanded him to do this. She asked him: “Did Allah command you to do so?” He replied: “Yes.” Then his great wife said: “We are not going to be lost, since Allah Who has commanded you is with us.”

While she returned to Ishmael, Abraham went on through the mountains to a narrow pass, and when he was out of sight of them, he stopped and prayed to God.

“Our Lord! I have settled some of my offspring in a barren valley, near Your Sacred House, our Lord, so that they may establish prayer. So make the hearts of ‘believing’ people incline towards them and provide them with fruits, so perhaps they will be thankful. (Ibrahim 14:37)<sup>61</sup>”

Eventually, Ishmael and Hagar returned to Abraham and Sarah because they hold the historic right to the “Promised Land” and “the sign of the covenant”.

Ishmael is mentioned repeatedly in the Bible as a son of Abraham. (Genesis 16:16, 17:23, 25)

“The angel added, ‘I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.’ The angel of the Lord also said to her: ‘You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery.’ (Genesis 16:10-11)” And moreover, Ishmael is mentioned in the Bible as, “And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. (Genesis 17:20)” I cannot help but think that the abandonment of Ishmael and Hagar is a prototype of “living without God”.

If we rank others by saying our people are superior, God’s chosen people, for our genealogy, it would be the cause of tragedy, conflict, and discrimination.

### c. Discrimination against sojourners (refugees)

The Moabites woman Ruth is recorded as a woman of “virtue”<sup>62</sup>. She was not an Israelite, but

---

<sup>60</sup> 2014. *Qur'an (Koran)*. Translated by Yuichi Sato. King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex, p.511.

2001. *Collection of Hadith Islam Traditions*. Translated by Shinya Makino. Chuokoron-Shinsha.

<sup>61</sup> Arab orthodox Muslims call Abraham as Ibrahim, Ishmael as Isma'il, Haggai as Hajar, and Issac as Ishaq.

“Say, O believers, we believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us; and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and his descendants; and what was given to Moses, Jesus, and other prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them. And to Allah we all submit.” (Al-Baqarah 2:136)

2004. *Quran, Vol.1 (Toshihiko Izutsu Translated version)*. Iwanami Shoten, p.35.

Toshihiko Izutsu [1914-1993] Linguist, Islamic scholar, member of the Japan Academy.

<sup>62</sup> The Book of Ruth 3:11 is translated as "a virtuous woman."

“The Abridged Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament” Richard Whitaker (Princeton Theological Seminary), Houghton Mifflin Company, 1906. “Brenton's English Translation of the Septuagint” Sir Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton, Samuel Bagster & Sons, London, in 1844. Brenton Septuagint Translation, King James Version, New Living Translation, Douay-Rheims Bible, JPS Tanakh 1917, Literal Standard Version, Webster's Bible Translation, English Revised Version, A Faithful Version, Young's Literal

a “sojourner (Hebrew נָזִיר *temporary, dweller new-comer* <meaning refugee>). The Israelite Boaz treated sojourner with his respect as, “And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble (Hebrew חַיִּיל *Chayil* <meaning virtuous>) character. (Ruth 3:11)” Obed, who gave birth of King David’s father Jesse, was the son of Boaz and Ruth. God’s choice is not based on bloodline<sup>63</sup>, family lineage, or race. It has been consistent that those who are almost “nothing” have been chosen<sup>64</sup>. However, one system that must be discussed for dissolution in “post-COVID” Japan is the family registry system (a system that is a continuation of the “Jinshin family registry of 1872 [Meiji 5]<sup>65</sup>. In South Korea, they revised its civil code in 2005 and abolished the family registration system. I keenly feel through disaster restoration volunteer that “family assistants<sup>66</sup>” are useful in times of disasters. However, the hierarchy created by the Meiji government with the aim of respecting the family system led to military expeditions, just like the “hunters”. It is what the national polity it is that an unbroken line of emperors. The people worshipped with their reverence, the act of respectfully bowing in the direction of the Imperial Palace, and portrait of Emperor based on the value of their family line, including their family names, family crests, and memorial tablets.

Nimrod, the head of the first *exousia* wanted to label the indigenous people and the marginal peoples who followed Noah, such as Abram, Nahor, Lot, Lud, ルゲ, テヌテ, ザバ, Almodad, ヨバブ, エサル, Abimael, サバ, アルフィン, as barbarians<sup>67</sup>. In other words, the “sojourners” were treated as people of outside<sup>68</sup>, and discriminated, excluded, and forced in hard. We have been built “Kayoko Children’s Home” by finding orphans who are Dalits<sup>69</sup> in the caste system through volunteer activities in Nepal. In Europe, migrant workers,

---

Translation, American King James Version, Geneva Bible of 1587, Bishops' Bible of 1568, Coverdale Bible of 1535, Catholic Public Domain Version, Literal Standard Versi.

<sup>63</sup> In 1867, Iwamura Tomomi [1825-1883] was the first to use the term regarding the Imperial Family, stated, “The Imperial Family has descended from the Imperial Court, an unbroken line of successive emperors, which has been engaged in politics, cultures (tradition), education and military. (Restoration of the Imperial Power)

<sup>64</sup> From the Kobe International Christ Church website, “Pastor’s Corner”,

In the Bible, God the Creator has consistent criteria for choosing his nations, people, and communities. 2,000 years ago, and 4,000 years ago, he chose “those who were nothing”. He does not choose those who are excellent, capable, or powerful. Why did he choose Israel? (Deuteronomy 7:7) “Not because of many numbers” does not make sense. There are surely many minority groups. The Hebrew word מְאֵד *meat* (meaning “same as nothing, small, poor”). “*Meat*” is translated in Probers chapter 10 verse 20 as “same as nothing”. Thus, the prophets, leaders, and apostles chosen and used in the Bible were nothing. (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-28)

<sup>65</sup> Because year of 1872 was the year of the Jinshin. In order to realize centralization like Nimrod, grasping the people was an urgent task. Yukiko Dote (working in the Kobe City Family Registry Division), a secretariat in our organization testified that even in recent years, she had seen copies of the official records that listed the lowly titles of *eta* (穢多: people who does work that is very socially dirty), *hinin* (非人: non-human), former *eta*, and new *heimin* (It is a derogatory term for the former *eta* and *hinin*), despites the fact that those words had been abolished.

<sup>66</sup> In disaster areas, “self-help”, “mutual help”, and “public help” have limitations. In the end, families were able to recover by helping each other themselves.

<sup>67</sup> From the ancient Chinese perspective, “*yi* (夷)” meant uncivilized people in the east, and barbarians in the north. *New Meiki Japanese Dictionary, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

<sup>68</sup> A barbarian people living in a remote area where the kings could not reach. How sad that I am like an uncultured people, possessed by foreign *tanka* (短歌: Japanese traditional poem), and I make it. *Fusaicho* (傳彩澄). This is a poem from “Taiwan Manyoshu”, a collection of poems (songs) by the Taiwanese who received Japanese language education during the Japanese colonial period.

2020. Mainichi Shimbun. August 1.

<sup>69</sup> Dalit (untouchables; the lowest class in Hindu society, “people who will make you impure if you touch

Roma people, American Indians in the United States, Aborigines in Australia, and Maoris<sup>70</sup> in New Zealand have also been discussed at the International Conference on anti-discrimination. There are groups of people who do not obey to “subsumption” of *exousia* (power, authority), equivalent to such as the Emishi<sup>71</sup>, the Kumaso, the Hayato, Tsuchigumo, and the Kuzu always exist throughout the world. In cultural anthropology, they have been rejected as “kegare (impure)” as dangerous elements that destroy established cultural system, and ambiguous elements that cannot be classified because they exist in border areas.

In the “Pseudo-Philo: Antiquitates Biblicae”<sup>72</sup>, there is a scene that Abraham was thrown into the fire because he was against King Nimrod. You can see in the context, “Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.’ So, the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city”, the system has been universally linked to the world’s values, religions, and politics. The historian Flavius Josephus said, on the other hand, Abraham had “a superior view of virtue than other men”.

### (3) Christian Zionism

#### a. Zionism in Japan, the U.S. and Korea

It is a Christian perspective to interpret the return of the Jews to Palestine as the “fulfillment of prophecy” by the “Balfour Declaration”<sup>73</sup> in 1917. I opened the era of conflict, refugees

---

them”, “people in poor”, “people of oppressed one”) appears in the Vishnu Code (c. 100-300). The 4<sup>th</sup> Nepal Volunteer Report. <http://kisokobe.sub.jp/international/9631>.

We have been discriminated non-human classes such as, *shyukuhinin* (宿非人: non-human without certain place), *inuinin* (犬神人: lower-ranking priest), *kawaramono* (河原者: discriminated people), *sanmaihijiri* (三昧聖: A secular saint who lived in the cemetery and was in charge of cremation, burial, and maintenance of the cemetery. Gravekeeper.), and *kojiki* (乞食: beggars), as *kegare* (穢れ, spirit / dead).

2001. *Encyclopedia of Buraku Issues and Human Rights*. Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute, p. 282.

<sup>70</sup> 2018. Y, Iwamura. *Technology supremacy brings about natural disasters: the 1<sup>st</sup> Hokkaido Earthquake Volunteer Report*. September 6, p.9. <http://kicc.sub.jp/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/6fd475dd9fe0e47f708cfde21a50a5d6.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> Kindaichi Kyosuke [1882-1971], the founder of Ainu language research, advocated the theory that the *Emishi* (蝦夷) were Ainu people. Emperor *Kanmu* (桓武天皇)\* ordered to *Sakanoue no Tamuramaro* (坂上田村麻呂) [758-811] who was an immigrant from other country, pushed Ainu people further and further north. There are 13 castles spread around, including Taga Castle, that served as bases of the task of conquering the *Emishi* (蝦夷征伐 *Emishi Seibatsu*).

\* Emperor *Kanmu* (桓武天皇) [737-806]. His birth mother was *Takano no Niigasa* (高野新笠), who was from originally *Kazu* clan (和氏), an immigrant clan of *Baekje* (百濟) origin.

She was a concubine of Emperor *Kōnin* (光仁天皇). In order to eliminate the negative effects of Buddhist politics, the capital was moved from *Heijo-kyo* (平城京) to *Nagaoka-kyo* (長岡京) and then to *Heian-kyo* (平安京) in 794.

<sup>72</sup> 2012. C, Dietzfelbinger. *Pseudo-Philo: Antiquitates Biblicae (Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum)*. Translated by Tamiko Isaka, Kenji Toki. Kyobunkwan, pp.20-25.

<sup>73</sup> On November 2, 1917, during World War 1 [1914-1918]. British Prime Minister Arthur James Balfour [1848-1930], when he was Foreign Secretary, sent a letter to Walter Rothschild of the Rothschild family, a financial capitalist. The letter contained muddled tactical contents that could be interpreted in various ways that

and tragedies in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Curse the whisperer and deceiver, for he has destroyed many who were at peace. (RSV) (Sirach 28:13)”

As I mentioned before, at the time in Japan, during the Spanish Flu pandemic, Nakata Shigeharu and Uchimura Kanzo with others were active in the Second Coming movement and Zionism. Especially Nakata enthusiastically evangelized in every part of entire Japan. “If you see things by the light of the Bible, this (military strengthening) will eventually be used to suppress those who disturb the peace of the world and to save the chosen people of Israel”. “For this purpose, the angel who ascends from the place rising of the sun will be used”<sup>74</sup>. In other words, God is trying to use the Japanese people, even non-believers may not know this, he strongly urges Christians, especially Japanese holiness people, to be convinced that they are blessed<sup>75</sup>.

Christian Zionism came from the British Puritans and the Plymouth Brethren, the Adventists, the Watchtower, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) from the same stream, has interpreted the return of the Jews to Palestine as a composite sign of the last days of the Second Coming of Christ. Neo-conservatives who still believe this are controlling the world’s politics, diplomacy, and bureaucracy.

In eschatology, is the restoration of the state of Israel God’s will, plan, and promise? Mahatma Gandhi [1869-1948] had a completely opposite idea. He said, “Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the British or France to the French. It is wrong and inhuman to try to force the Jews upon the Arabs. What is happening in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct. The mandate system was only approved in the last war. Surely it would be a crime against humanity to subjugate the proud Arabs so that Palestine could be given back in part or in whole to the Jews as a national home.”<sup>76</sup>

The conscience of the world called the neoconservatives, who claim to be the Second Coming of Christ, “a crime against humanity”.

Jesus Christ will return in the sky at the end of the world. At that time, Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Savior, are baptized, and are connected to the church will be taken up to the Lord. Derby preached the theory of the premillennial Second Coming of Christ based on the “Derby Bible”, which became the source of fundamentalism. Derby is the standard-bearer of evangelicalism and a teacher of the doctrine of verbal inspiration. All Christians will be taken away from this world by the rapture<sup>77</sup>.

In dispensations, after the Second Coming of Christ and the rapture, the earth will encounter an unprecedented period of tribulation. Literally, we interpret the Bible phrase “It will be for a time, times and half a time” as “three and a half time”, so we think the middle of the literal seven years means three and a half years. It says that after the first tribulation, a world community will be formed. This leader will rule the world while preaching world peace. Billy Graham<sup>78</sup> prophesied the appearance of a world leader. He said, “The Bible teaches us that the

---

later be called the three-faced diplomacy. The letter allowed the Jews to establish their state and promised independence to the Arabs.

<sup>74</sup> 1933. *The Complete Works of Nakata Shigeharu, Vol.2*. Seishyo yori mitaru Nihon, p.131.

<sup>75</sup> 1929-1930. *The Worldwide Mission of Japanese Holiness People, Vol. 6*, p.160.

<sup>76</sup> 1997. M. Gandhi. *My Non-violence*. Translated by Tatsuo Morimoto. Misuzu Shobo, pp.103-104.

<sup>77</sup> 1983. *The Future World Situation and Bible Prophecy*, p.212.

<sup>78</sup> Billy Graham [1918-2018] is the most famous Christian evangelist (Southern Baptist Convention) in the



world will reach the point to establish the world government and a world ruler or a president will appear. At that time, television cameras will surely be brought out to the scene. And the news will be spread all over the world that a man of peace, a ruler of all mankind, has been chosen. He will rule the world with such skill as it has never known before, and will temporarily cease the wars which have ravaged the earth, and his methods will be immediately effective. Prosperity will be restored, currency will be rich in everywhere, and the fear which has covered every part of the world will be transformed into hope. The world will stand in awe and amazed at his sublime genius and power.<sup>79</sup>”

By subscribing to the Washington Times<sup>80</sup> every morning, the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan [1911-2004, in office: 1981-1989]<sup>81</sup>, conducted politics. Just a note, former prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi<sup>82</sup>, a grandfather of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe [1954-2022] who was shot dead, supported President Reagan in a personal letter in 1984, saying that “Master Moon<sup>83</sup> is an honest man”. Masahito Abe [1937-], who is one of the current leaders of the Unification Church of Japan (now the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), was appointed as the Messiah of the State of Israel. For Christian Zionists in Japan, the U.S. and Korea, a pro-Israel policy is a lifeline. “Reagan, Bush and his son, as well as Trump, all received extensive support from the Unification Church. Father Bush

---

modern United States. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he supported pursuing Osama bin Laden [1957-2011] of Al-Qaeda, and was the first to support President Bush’s strike attack to Iraq on March 20, 2003. There was a reason that before George Walker Bush [1946-] became the 43<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States (in office: January 20, 2001 – January 20, 2009), he had recovered from alcoholism under Graham’s guidance. 2004. T. Kuribayashi. *Interpretation of the 21st Century of America*. Kwansai Gakuin University Press, p.4. In the Gallup poll on “the most respected people” in the United States, he was almost always ranked high after the current president and the Pope.

His evangelistic meetings are broadcast six times a year in prime time on the three major networks. Since the 1970s, he has been recognized as the “pastor of president”, and “pastor of nation” rather than just a denominational pastor.

<sup>79</sup> 1981. K. Takagi. *The Approaching Catastrophe of Humanity*. Word of Life, p.154.

<sup>80</sup> International Federation for Victory over Communism (the political organization of the Unification Church [current the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification]) founded the Washington Times. At the time, the New York Times had the most subscribers, followed by the Washington Post. According to a survey by the Associate Press in 1988, the Washington Times had become one of the three major daily newspapers just five years after its founding.

2022. Y. Iwamura. *Why is Article 9 of the Constitution important? Osu-kai ‘推す会’: literary meaning ‘a group to recommend Article 9’* in Kobe. Prefectural Hall 7F Youth Exchange Plaza Seminar, p.9.

<sup>81</sup> The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCH) was established during Reagan’s term in office in 1983. In 1985, Christian Friends of Israel (CFI), an organization that aims to bring blessings to Israel through prayer and humanitarian projects, was established. 2021. M. Ishii. *The historical Development and Activities of Christian Zionism in East Asia; Focusing on the 1990s and after*. Monotheistic World. Doctoral Candidate, Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions. Graduate School of Theology, Doshisha University, p.69.

<sup>82</sup> In 1968, under President Park Chung Hee [1917-1979] and with the official approval of the KCIA, the Unification Church established “the International Federation for Victory over Communism” and began its behind-the-scenes work in Japan. Nobusuke Kishi worked hard to organize the organization in Japan. Ryoichi Sasakawa was appointed honorary chairman. In 1973, Nobusuke Kishi visited the Unification Church headquarters and together with Douglas MacArthur II and others, sent a letter of opinion to the U.S. President Nixon, requesting the release of Moon Yong-Myeong, who was serving a prison sentence.

<sup>83</sup> Sun Myung Moon [1920-2012] was born Chongju, Heianhoku-dō.

In 1954, he founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC). And later the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and the Unification Church. He also established International Federation for Victory over Communism. His wife is the current leader, Hak Ja Han.

even stated, ‘Without the members of the Unification Church, I would not have won the election.’<sup>84</sup>” The impact of Zionist Middle East policy, Palestinian diplomacy, and nuclear disarmament of Iran and other countries give to powerful people in Nagada-cho and Kasumigaseki on Media cannot be underestimated<sup>85</sup>. At An Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in May 2024, 143 of the 193 member states supported Palestine’s formal membership in the UN. In 2012, Japan voted in favor of a resolution to upgrade Palestine’s UN membership status to “statehood”. Furthermore, when the Palestinian National Authority Abbas visited Japan in February 2016, the Japanese government referred to him as “President of Palestine” rather than “representative”, but countries like Japan, the US, and Korea where the presence of Zionist is strong, have not recognized Palestine as a state<sup>86</sup>. On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ)<sup>87</sup> provisionally ordered Israel to take all measures to prevent genocide in the Gaza strip, the autonomous territories of Palestine<sup>88</sup>. However, immediately after this order was issue, Japan and the West countries suspended founding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)<sup>89</sup>, which provides support for refugees in Gaza. Zionist strategic thinking is more influential than humanitarian policy.

The United States is a rational democratic nation, so it is okay for them to possess nuclear weapons. However, Zionist argue that Iran, a theocratic state based on Islamic law, and North Korea, a dictatorship, should not possess it. This only work out by ignoring the fact that the United States has conducted 1,032 times of nuclear test, which have caused radiation damages to many citizens. In comparison, North Korea, which recently announced that it possesses nuclear weapons, has only conducted 6 times of nuclear test<sup>90</sup>.

The policies of Japan, the United States, and South Korea, which are infected with Christian Zionism, cannot be influenced by the logic of denial to the genocide committed by the State of Israel. It means that they probably are paralyzed as if their repentant conscience were burned by a branding iron. I would like to explore the origins of Zionism in Japan.

---

<sup>84</sup> The report of investigation of Korean-American Relations by Subcommittee on International Organizations of the Committee on International Relations U.S. House of Representatives 1978.

The reason why the Republican Party of the United States still uses the anti-communist banner is because of the financial manipulation of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) and *Shyokyo Rengou*, which do not want to repeat the same situation like they experienced in South Vietnam.

<sup>85</sup> In January 2020, The Washington Times published a widely circulated article about the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that the virus was engineered as a biological weapon by the government of the People's Republic of China. On January 30, the BBC fact-checked the misinformation about the new coronavirus, stating that The Washington Times was the source of this misinformation.

<sup>86</sup> 2024. *The Asahi Shimbun*. June 18.

<sup>87</sup> The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was founded in The Hague, Netherlands in 1945. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

<sup>88</sup> 2024. *BBC News*. January 27.

<sup>89</sup> UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) was established in 1949 by the United Nations General Assembly. It began operations in 1950 and provides support in Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

2021. Y, Iwamura. *Christianity and Refugee*. Kobe International Christ Church, p.4.

<sup>90</sup> 2020. Y, Miyamoto. *Why the Atomic Bomb is Not Evil: America's Nuclear Consciousness*. Iwanami Shoten, p.89.

<What is Zionism?>

From “Creating Peace through Nonviolence” by lecturer Koichi Kimura at the Hanshin Religious Association (recorded on May 24, 2024) (Edited by Iwamura)

① Theodor Herzl, a modern political Zionism, proposed the creation of a Jewish state at the first Zionist conference in 1897.
② With the motto of “practical labor Zionism” and “love for Zion”, Zionists have migrate to Palestine mainly since the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and live together in “kibbutz (agricultural communities that reject private ownership and jointly manage, produce and educate others). Unlike the Amish in the Unites States, this is non-religious socialism. It can be classified as “Socialist Zionism”.
③ “Religious Zionism” rejects Zionism. It reject Zionism of ①and ②. Rav Abraham Itzhak Kook looks forward to the return of the Messiah by putting the “Messiah theology (teacher of righteousness)” in the center.
④ “Spiritual Zionism”. Rejects the exclusionary ideology of Moses Hess, Theodor Herzl, and David Ben-Gurion [1886-1973: the 1st Prime Minister of Israel]. Respects a life of coexistence and prosperity with indigenous peoples.

b. Uchimura Kanzo and colonialism

What did the Christian church send out when the Spanish Flu [1917-1920]<sup>91</sup>swept through Japan? Did Kanzo Uchimura [1861-1930], who was a representative of Japan at the time, speak of caring for the victims of the Spanish Flu? Rather, like Nakata Shigeharu [1870-1939]<sup>92</sup>, did he passionately speak about the approaching of the Second Coming of Christ<sup>93</sup>? In the midst of a pandemic (a global epidemic, from the Greek word *pandēmos*: *pan* <all> + *demos* <people>), he must have gathered an audience so large that it was impossible to fill the synagogue.

While he emphasized “we should refrain from saying that is must be a certain year and month by ourselves”<sup>94</sup>, he emphasized with a sense of urgency. Uchimra was rousing people by saying; “In the city of Barcelona, Spain, the death toll reached 1,200 in one day, making this a truly terrifying global epidemic”, “prophesied about the end of the times”, and “None of the

<sup>91</sup> “Nearly 30% of the World’s population, or 500 million people, have been infected, and 20~50 million people have died (WHO).

It is estimated that one in three people in the world has been infected. A total of 23,804,672 patients, 388,727 deaths.” (The Home Ministry of Health)

<sup>92</sup> Nakata Shigeharu emphasized this under the headline, “To acetate His Coming”. “If even one more person is saved, the coming of Jesus will be sooner”.

1973. I, Yoneda. *Complete Works of Nakata Shigeharu, Vol.1*. Words of Life, p.478.

Eben when the Spanish Flue was sweeping entire Japan as “infectious influenza was at its high peak”, Uchimura Kanzo was not only avoiding the three “Cs” (closed spaces, crowded places, and close contact) but he was giving lectures of “the Second Coming of Christ and Evangelism” one after another.

18983. K, Uchimura. *Collective Works of Uchimura Kanzo, No.33*. Iwanami Shoten, p.31, p.37.

<sup>93</sup> The Second Coming is an eschatology in which Christ returns to accomplish the reign of God. In my writing, I noted it to liken to the Normandy landings, “Christ’s death and resurrection are like D-Day, while the Second Coming and the final judgement are like V-Day.”

2000. Y, Iwamura. *Evangelical Theology; Eschatology*, pp.127-128.

[http://www.evangelical-theology.jp/jets-hp/jets/paper\\_in\\_printable/031-5\\_in\\_printable.pdf](http://www.evangelical-theology.jp/jets-hp/jets/paper_in_printable/031-5_in_printable.pdf)

<sup>94</sup> 1982. K, Uchimura. *The Complete Works of Uchimura Kanzo, No.24*. Iwanami Shoten, p.617, 443, 503, 539.

greatest evangelists were believers in the Second Coming of Christ. Even if the whole nation revolts against me, I cannot give up evangelism if I believe in the Second Coming of Christ. The only secret to evangelistic zeal is faith in the Second Coming”, “I say again to the Christian people of the West and to all Christians around the world, we must engage in evangelism with even more.”

Next, I would like to examine the negative history of the theory of the Second Coming, which gave a justification to “colonialism”. One of the spiritually influential leaders of the Meiji era was Nitobe Inazo [1862-1933:], who studied with Uchimura at Sapporo Agricultural College. Nitobe said, “Colonization is generally the taking over of an inferior race by a superior race.<sup>95</sup>” He had a face to despise the Ainu as “barbarians”, saying, “The Ainu can hunt a bear for three or four days without sleep, but when it comes to handing a hoe, they cannot even endure two hours of work<sup>96</sup>.” This gave influence the direction of the Meiji government regarding colonial rule. Due to his democratic education, Nitobe’s remarks would be condemned as racism today. I imagine that this was due to the American pioneering spirit that was absorbed through the founding of the American-made Sapporo Agricultural College, and *ethea* that justified of the violation of the indigenous American Indians<sup>97</sup>. Uchimura’s disciple Tadao Yanaihara [1893-1961, the president of the University of Tokyo 1951-56] accepted Nitobe’s colonial studies while studying at the University of Tokyo. Yoshihiro Yakushige, a director of Palestine Forum Japan, considered about “Zionism movement of Jews. Immigration to Palestine”, and defined “Colonization is the phenomenon in which a social group migrates to a new area and becomes socially and economically active<sup>98</sup>”, and migration and colonialism<sup>99</sup> is a structure in which settlers who migrate from outside become the rulers of the land and dominate, oppress, and exploit the people (indigenous people) who have lived there for generations. Therefore, the definition of Zionism and colonialism “is believed to be rooted in America’s self-centered view of the world based on an axis ‘Christian civilization’, which continues to this day<sup>100</sup>”. Yakushige also mentioned about the roots in his

---

<sup>95</sup> 1969. *The Complete Works of Nitobe Inazo, No.4*. Kyobunkwan, p.139.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid*, p.143.

<sup>97</sup> 1993. H, Uemura. *Indigenous People*. Buraku Liberation Publishing House, p.116.

There were frequent cases of white people hunting down and massacring indigenous people as if they were “prey”. In court, the perpetrators said they didn’t even think the indigenous people to be “human beings”.

<sup>98</sup> 1963. T, Yanaihara. *Complete Works of Yanaihara Tadao, Vol.1*. Iwanami Shoten, pp.14-15.

“One of the things that interest me about the Zionism Movement is its non-capitalistic commercial, non-exploitative colonial operation, which is especially noteworthy today when capitalist colonization is on the verge of ending. Another point is that it is the revival of the Jewish people.

There is no other mysterious people than the Jewish people. They lost their homeland and were scattered in exile for two thousand years...thus, the Zionism Movement is not only interesting as a unique ethnic movement, but also has a deep significance when viewed from a Christian historical perspective. The revival of the Jewish people is an important element of the development of world history prophesied in the Bible.” *Ibid*. pp.531-532.

<sup>99</sup> 2023. R, Khalidi. *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*

*A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917—2017*. Translated by Hiroyuki Suzuki, Kensuke Yamamoto. Hosei University Press, pp.10-11.

<sup>100</sup> 2018. Y, Yakushige. *Modern Japanese Colonialism and Gentile Zionism: Nationalism and World Perception in Uchimura Kanzo, Yanaihara Tadao, Nakata Shigeharu*. Impact Shuppankai, p.84.

On page 299 of 24 Chapters of “Understand the Present State of Palestine / Israel”, Yakushige points out about Japan’s military industry that is contributing to the genocide in Gaza. Nakata’s eugenics ideology is based on dispensationalism. Africans came into contact with Western civilization 500 years ago, much earlier than India, China and we Japanese encounter, but they have not made much progress in spite of that.

essay that Nakata Shigeharu's Zionism message has been influenced on Japanese evangelicals.

Probably it was only natural for Nakata, who studied at Moody Bible Institute<sup>101</sup> in the United States, and Uchimura Kanzo, who graduated from Amherst College where Nijima Jo [1843-1890]<sup>102</sup> also studied, to inherit Eurocentric values. However, Nakata went a step further. It was a Jews centrism. He said, "I have no hesitation in saying that as God's specially chosen people, we will become the center of the world. This is the place comes from the light of the Bible. Geographically, also, the Jewish nation is the center connects the three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe. The Jewish people are the central people of the world<sup>103</sup>."

What the differences between Jews centrism advocated by Nakata from Eurocentrism?

Why we cannot see the signs of resolution for the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Gaza war, and the Palestinian conflict? It is not over to say that the real cause is a half-understanding, lack of understanding, and misinterpretation of Zionism. I feel this strongly through my volunteer work in the Middle East.

We should not be overlooked that the State of Israel that established in 1948, was not created by Jews, but by "secular Jews<sup>104</sup>" that is consisted by a new identity from Eastern Europe and Russia. Unlike Jews who live their lives according to the Torah, "secular Jews" are Zionists who do not actually worship God. Moses Hess [1812-1875]<sup>105</sup>, atheist and communist who is said to be the "father of Zionism". Theodor Herzl [1860-1904]<sup>106</sup>, who contributed to the establishing of the state, led the movement as chairman of the Zionist Congress from 1896, based on his book "The Jewish State". Initially, he tried to establish the state in Argentina, not in Palestine.

However, Nazism in Germany forced Western European Jews to flee to the Middle East. The grassroots conservative churches and Christian Zionists in the deepest and south parts of

---

*Complete Works of Nakata Shigeharu, Vol.2, p.47.*

<sup>101</sup> As of 2000, 45% of the American population considered themselves evangelicals or born-again\* Christians. Among them, a large number of 84% of white evangelicals and born-again voted for Republican Bush, while only 16% went to Democrat Gore.

2005.T, Kuribayashi. *Christian Empire, America*. The Kirisuto Shimbun, p.45.

In other words, they believe that the return of the Jews to Israel and the establishment of a nation is "the fulfillment of biblical prophecy that shows the imminent return of Jesus Christ".

\*They become Christian consciously through conversion experiences.

2004. T, Kuribayashi. *Interpretation of the 21st Century of America*. Kwansai Gakuin University Press, p.6.

<sup>102</sup> Nijima Joe secretly left Japan in 1864 (Genji 1) and traveled to the United States. He was baptized and studied at Amherst College and Andover Theological Seminary). He was a Christian educator. In 1872 (Meiji 5), he visited *oshu* (current norther part of Japan) for about a year as an interpreter for the Iwakura Mission, which was visiting the United States.

<sup>103</sup> 1933. S, Nakata. *Japan Seen Through the Bible*. Hachiman Shyoten, p.91.

<sup>104</sup> 2010. Yakov M, Rabkin. *Au nom de la Torah*. Translated by Kenji Sugano. Heibonsha, pp.73-80.

2024. Peter C, Craigie. *The Problem of War in the Old Testament*. Translated by Michiya Murata. Word of Life, p.41.

Zionism is a political ideological organization that has nothing to do with religion.

<sup>105</sup> German socialist. He is known as the "Father of Zionism". Founder of political Zionism who influenced Herzl. In 1864, he worked with Marx to bring about a communist revolution.

1972. C, Auguste., M, Wolfgang. *Moses Hess and Early Marx*. Translated by Yushirou Takei. Miraisha, p.9

<sup>106</sup> 1997. T, Herzl. *The State of the Jews (Der Judenstaat)*. Translated y Yasuhiko Sato. Hosei University Press, pp.32-34.

the America not only sympathized with them. They interpreted the “return” of the “people of God” in a biblical way that was influenced by the shadow of the Old Testament. They linked it to the eschatology of salvation, the Second Coming, and dispensation. What will happen to Israel in the near future? I was used to belonged to the Brethren denomination about 35 years ago in 1989. At that time, there was a flow of Derby. I unashamedly wrote prophetic interpretations. I faithfully accepted Derby’s dispensationalism. I interpreted Genesis chapter 18 verse 5<sup>107</sup> literally and published my book.

It was an irreparable mistake. I have not accepted to reprint my book. I learned the danger of writing.

Recently, political Zionists also use the Old Testament to justify the occupation of the Golan Heights, Gaza, and the West Bank in territorial disputes.

They have also influenced many Japanese Christian businessmen<sup>108</sup>. They believe that “the Japanese people will play an active role on the world stage” by holding a biblical view of the nation, as Nakata emphasized, “rising from the East”.

Zionist in Japan, the United States, and Korea, so to say evangelicals, are holding “holy meetings, special lectures and evangelistic meetings”. They proclaim that Christ will return at any moment<sup>109</sup>. 100 years ago, they also were marching around places with beating drums by saying “Believe in Jesus” and vigorously preached about the Second Coming of Christ. The Japanese people whose life hanging in the balance due to the Spanish Flu, were hungry for spiritual care. Churches did not provide any care, companionship or nursing care because they did not think it is urgent matters to be aside of people. After nearly four years, the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19) that began in December 2019 seems to be coming to an end. However, the number of attendees at Sunday services at Christian churches has halved, fallen to one-third, and some churches have been closed.

---

<sup>107</sup> Commenting on “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18).

“Did the people of Israel ever rule over the area from the river of Egypt (the Nile) to the Euphrates River? This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled even at the time of; (1) when they returned from Jezebel under Moses, (2) during the rule of David and Solomon, (3) when they returned from Babylon, and (4) when the Republic of Israel was established in 1948. God is the one who always keeps his promises.”

1989. Y. Iwamura. *Debate on the Basis of the Bible with Them*. Shinrinomikotoba Dendo Kyokai, p.160.

“It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Romans 4:13) Not for the Zionists, the New Testament change the oracle to “heirs of the world”.

<sup>108</sup> Kyogoro Kawabata [1876 – 1957], author of “The Lumber Shop of Jesus”. Nobuhiro Iijima [1941-], president and CEO of the Yamazaki Baking Company. Especially with Yasuo Miki [1939 – 2023], CEO of Tamanohada Soap and Miyoshi Soap Company who was close friend of me, discussed the final war for Israel, the theory of Japanese and Jewish common ancestry, and Japan’s rearmament. Surprisingly, he had not deviated one step from Nakata Shigenori’ traditional interpretation. Nakata’s words were the ultimate controlling factor, rather than Christ speaking from the Bible.

2023. Y Iwamura. *Memories of my benefactor Miki Haruo*. December 13, p.2

<sup>109</sup> H, Okayama. *Evangelical Theology, Eschatology*, p.37.

“Dispensational theology was advocated by John Darby and others in the UK in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and quickly spread in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in America in conjunction with the fundamentalism movement. ...it is a unique eschatology, especially it is ‘he context of the Bible predicts that there will be a period of tribulation at the end of the world.’ It makes a clear distinction between the church and Israel, and holds that during the tribulation period, the church will be raptured to heaven, while Israel will remain on earth.”

2021. Y, Iwamura. Is it fine to be indifferent to the tragedy of Palestine? Erasmus Institute of Peace Studies. May, 16<sup>th</sup>, pp.1-2.

The gospel is something touch a chord deep within of the sick, orphans, single mothers who are at a loss due to pain, suffering, anger and regret.

c. Seeking conflict resolution through love and prayer, not power

Kanzo Uchimura, who lost his job in an ungodly affair said. He declared, “After all, the world will be saved by Christianity. And it will be saved by Christianity grafted onto Bushido.<sup>110</sup>” Pastor Masahisa Uemura, a former samurai like Uchimura and Inazo Nitobe [1862-1933], also taught that Christianity was grafted onto the samurai. He said, “We don’t need rickshaw drivers or craftsmen in our church”, “We want to take the good parts of the samurai, embrace the Lord of heaven and earth, the Lord of salvation, and graft them onto the spirit of the cross.<sup>111</sup>”

I cannot help but tell you that the fact that Christianity was not grafted on the common people, the poor, and people who had pain, suffering, anger, and bitterness, rather than on the samurai, is a fatal flaw in the history of Christianity in Japan. In the first century AD, the people who surrounded and followed Christ were nameless people; “News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. (Matthew 4:24)”

I would like to reflect on the origins of Christianity, which was born around the 4<sup>th</sup> century on the Mediterranean coast, and especially the Western Christianity, which was established by the first Church Father Augustine of Hippo [35-430] (it is the foundation of the current doctrines of the Western Christianity, such as Roman Catholicism and Protestantism). Constantine the Great [Constantine I c. 280-337] issued the Edict of Milan (313 AD), and the way of Christ was officially recognized, and it became the state religion of the Roman Empire in 392 by Theodosius the Great. Christianity was not only indifferent, irresponsible, and oppressive towards the sick, women and children, orphans, prostitutes, and drifters; the lowest classes of society. The church authorities with teaching power built an empire of religious elites who patronized the wealthy.

Recent book, “the Problem of War in the Old Testament” is very thoughtful. I was once an evangelical supporter of war, but am now anti-war. I believe that rather than being dualistic, “the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing (‘Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis chapter 15 verse 6’)” that stays with ambivalent perspective before diplomacy and the preamble of the Constitution, human rights will be protected. Translator describes later that, “the author Craigie sees the state as inevitably including violence, and as inevitably involving war. However, he also believes that the Old Testament prophets have expectations on an apocalyptic vision.<sup>112</sup>”

---

<sup>110</sup> 1998. *Collection of Historical Documents on the United Church of Christ in Japan, Vol.2*. The United Church of Christ in Japan during the war time 1941~1945. United Church of Christ in Japan Mission Research Institute, p.322.

<sup>111</sup> 1894 [Meiji 27]. M, Uemura. *Fukuon Shinpo*. Nippon Kirisuto Kyoukai.

1982. K, Uchimura. *The Collective Words of Uchimura Kanzo*. No.22. Iwanami Shoten, pp.161-162.

2005. Mark R, Mullins. *Christianity Made in Japan*. Translated by Megumi Takasaki. Transview, p.87.

1967. K, Takeda. *Indigenous and Apostate*. Shinkyō Publishing, pp.11-14.

Takeda points out that Uchimura and others have strong consciousness on problems to root Christianity in the heritage of Japanese spiritual history.

<sup>112</sup> 2024. Peter C, Craigie. *The Problem of War in the Old Testament*. Translated by Michiya Murata. Word of

Who is suffering right now in the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza war? Let us pray for the orphans, war widows, and handicapped who are gasping for breath in the screams of hell. Please send your heart and energy to them.

<Conclusion>

An artificial, non-religious Zionist state, supported by the West, appeared in Palestine in 1948. I have argued that the Zionist state was founded by socialist Moses Hess, the “father of Zionism”, and Theodor Herzl, the founder influenced by Hess. When I visited Jerusalem, I sensed a hint of religion, and it was because of spirituality from the unbroken Arab Orthodox churches that were existed before cloisters and Islam. Christians from the West and Japan are also flocking out to visit the Holy Land. The location indicated by the guide, which reminded me of Christ’s presence 2,000 years ago, was the appearance of Arab Orthodox churches in Galilee, Nazareth, and around Jerusalem, including the Syrian Orthodox Church and the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. I think the impression that people have is that “I had visited the Holy Land”.

Israel is a country without democracy. There is no place and day where you do not encounter soldiers with guns. The city remains occupied territory, and in reality, peace exists under armed oppression<sup>113</sup>. There is strict baggage inspection before entering the Western wall in the Jewish quarter. The streets are the same as in Europe. LRT (Light Rail Transit) run through the city. Cars are prohibited from the main street. There are no bulletin boards broadcasting the news, large LCD screens, or TVs in hotel lobbies, which are common in the West, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Israel is a country where English is spoken. However, signs in public institutions are only in Hebrew. Although over 20% of the 8 million people are Arab, Arabic is completely ignored. There is a constant to-down attitude.

Israel is a non-Jewish Zionist country that has not even read the five Books of Moses, and is so-called atheist. However, it has cleverly infiltrated Western countries that claim to be Christian, especially Japanese, American, and Korean Christian Zionists. And there, they skillfully promote a misinterpretation of the “Promised Land” and God’s providence centered on ethnic Israel. It is probably an artificial bait. The period from Christ’s first coming to his second coming is not “parenthesis”. The world’s media, Hollywood movies, and novels are Islamophobic. Just like *Ki-chiku-Bei-Hei* (鬼畜米英: Demons –animals-United States-the United Kingdom) before the World War 2<sup>nd</sup>. Japan, the United States, and Korea are terrified when they hear “North Korea”. Therefore, politicians are insensitive to the orphans of Gaza who are groaning and screaming. We can only be bystanders to the non-Jewish Zionists who have an exclusionary mindset, self-justification, and are disrespectful people. I hope that a voice to stop the fighting will put an end to Israel’s genocide.

The Bible says, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile” (Galatians 3:28).

---

Life, p.243.

<sup>113</sup> 2021. *Mainichi Shimbun*. February 1.