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## Brand's "Perspectives on Israel and the Church: Four Views" (Book Review)

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**Perspectives on Israel and the Church: Four Views,**

edited by Chad O. Brand. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015. 328 pp. \$23.45.

ISBN 9780805445268

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As the title indicates, this book provides four perspectives on the biblical relationship between Israel and the church. An essay on each perspective was written by an advocate of that position and each of the other advocates responded with a critique. The four perspectives could be viewed on a spectrum ranging from “Traditional Covenantal” to “Progressive Covenantal” to “Progressive Dispensational” to “Traditional Dispensational.”

At the risk of drastically oversimplifying the topic, the two covenantal views argue that the current State of Israel has nothing to do with Old Testament promises made to Israel. The two dispensational views hold that the State of Israel today is or may well be the fulfillment of Old Testament promises such as the regathering of Israel to her homeland.

The two covenantal views differ from each other in that the “Traditional Covenantal View” sees the church as replacing Israel whereas the “Progressive Covenantal View” sees the church as an expansion of believing Israel in the Old Testament to include believing Gentiles.

The two progressive views differ from each other in that the “Progressive Dispensational View” holds that the current State of Israel may be the initial fulfillment of promises made to Israel in the Old Testament whereas the “Progressive Covenantal View” denies this.

The two dispensational views differ with each other in that the “Traditional Dispensational View” holds that Old Testament promises made to Israel do not apply to the church but will all be fulfilled literally for Israel in the millennial kingdom. The “Progressive Dispensational View” holds that while some Old Testament promises to Israel will be fulfilled literally, some are spiritually fulfilled in Christ.

The book is well indexed, contains a helpful historical introduction of the issues involved, and is an excellent introduction to a very challenging and important theological topic.