

## Biblical Notes — Matthew 21:43

**43 – Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.** (43. διὰ τοῦτο λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀρθήσεται ἀφ' ὑμῶν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ δοθήσεται ἔθνει ποιοῦντι τοὺς καρποὺς αὐτῆς)

“this text does not speak explicitly . . . of Israel’s being rejected, but of the “kingdom of God” being taken from “you”; in Matthew’s view, the saving activity of God continues in that community where taking up the “yoke of the kingdom” means adherence to the Torah as fulfilled in the teaching of Jesus.”

— M. Eugene Boring, The Gospel of Matthew: Introduction, Commentary and Reflections, in The New Interpreter’s Bible: General Articles & Introduction, Commentary, & Reflections for Each Book of the Bible, Including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books: Vol. VIII, New Testament Articles, Matthew, Mark (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1994), 415.

“commentators understand this *ethnos* . . . [the term “nation” as used in the Matthew text] . . . as the Gentile Church replacing Israel. Numerous problems beset this interpretation and the supersessionist replacement theology which motivates it. First, the addressees of the parable are unclear. Second . . . in Matthew the vineyard [the Jewish people as a whole] is faultlessly fruitful and only its tenants [the leaders of the people] are unsatisfactory . . . The author of Matthew does not say that . . . believers-in-Jesus are a new or true Israel, nor a replacement for Israel.”

— Anthony J. Saldarini, Reading Matthew without Anti-Semitism, in D.E. Aune, ed., The Gospel of Matthew in Current Study: Studies in Memory of William G. Thompson, S.J. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001), 170–172.

“My view of Matt 21:43 is that the kingdom of God would be taken from the current unbelieving nation of Israel and given to a future nation of Israel that would believe. Matthew 23: 37-39 indicates several important truths that support this understanding. Verses 37-38 indicate that Jerusalem, the representative city of Israel and the people of Israel, would be judged despite Jesus' attempts to gather it like a hen gathers her chicks. But verse 39 offers hope: “For I tell you, you will never see Me again until you say,” He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One ! “While the current nation of Israel would be judged, Jesus says the day will come when another generation of Israel will cry out in acceptance of its Messiah.”

— Michael J. Vlach, Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2014), 12.