Summary for the Article "The Theological Paradox of Israel"

Israel represents a theological problem because Christians have an abstract filial relationship with Jews through religion, and the issue of the modern nation touches upon geo-politics. But it is more than a problem. Is it not an intractable dilemma? The modern nation of Israel presents a theological paradox. Two views dominate Christian theology: 1) supersessionists usually view Israel and Zionism as illegitimate (and they make biblical arguments, using verses such as Romans 9: 6), and 2) Christian Zionists believe that the modern nation of Israel is evidence of divine intervention, based upon the prophecies of an end-times regathering. But dispensationalists are not identical. Other premillenarians observe that most regathering passages allude to the early days of the Millennial Kingdom. My book *The Third Temple: Regathering?* critically examines biblical evidence for the theological arguments of Christian Zionism. Do the end-times verses which allude to a regathering refer to the present time or the early days of the Millennial Kingdom? While the doctrine of divinely inspired or facilitated emigration at the present time may or may not be true, what does the Bible say? Because of the dubious theological argument, it is probably best to refrain from supporting Israel with a religious pretext. But politically one can support whomever one chooses.