

The Israel of God

By: Edward Hendrie

Many ignorant Christian pastors, who have been brainwashed in seminaries controlled by undercover Jesuits and Talmudic Jews, believe that it is important for the United States and all Christians to support Israel. As authority for their position they cite Genesis 12:2-3. "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 12:2-3 AV) The passage does not refer to earthly Israel. Jesus never hesitated to curse the Jews. John 8:39-47; Matthew 15:1-9; Matthew 23:23-33. In fact, God calls earthly Jerusalem "Sodom. and Egypt" See Revelation 11:8.

Some think that all references in the Bible to Israel are references to fleshly Israel and that passages that refer to events that are believed to have not yet occurred, are prophecies regarding fleshly Israel. That is simply false doctrine! All prophecies referring to general blessings upon fleshly Israel that have not been fulfilled will never be fulfilled because those promises were conditional promises based on the obedience of Israel. Fleshly Israel rebelled against God and therefore has been cut off from the tree of life. God has saved a remnant of fleshly Israel to be grafted back in to the tree, but their ingrafting is upon the same grounds as everyone else, by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Many cite Romans chapter 11 as proof of a future renewal and blessing upon fleshly Israel outside the church. Let us look at that section.

And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. **For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also**

now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11:17-33 AV)

That passage says nothing about the regeneration of fleshly Israel. It simply states that salvation comes only through being grafted into the olive tree of life and that a remnant of fleshly Israel has been chosen by God for salvation. It says nothing about some future renewal of fleshly Israel outside being ingrafted into God's church. Some take the position that fleshly Israel as a nation will be grafted back into the olive tree as fleshly Israel. That is not possible. God's kingdom is not of the flesh but of the spirit. Once a Jew is grafted into Christ he becomes a part of spiritual Israel, the church. "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, **They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**" (Romans 9:6-8 AV) There is no more distinction between Jew or Gentile, all are one in Christ. Romans 10:12; Colossians 3:11, 28.

Some state that the passage in Romans 11 that "that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" indicates that there will be a Jewish dispensation sometime in the future, at which time the Christian dispensation will end. That is false doctrine. The theme of the Gospel is that there will be no end to Christ's kingdom, or his people, the church. 2 Peter 1:11. When the fullness of the Gentiles come in then will be the end of the world. 1 Corinthians 15:23-24. God did not state that the Jews will be saved *en masse* after the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. He simply stated that the Jews will be blind in part until the world ends. God has chosen a remnant of Jews to save from every generation, not just one generation during some post-Christian era.

God's plan is to establish the earthly then the spiritual. "Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly." (1 Corinthians 15:46-48 AV) God will not reverse course and reestablish the earthly kingdom of Israel in place of his spiritual kingdom of Israel. That is contrary to his revealed plan. Fleshly Israel was intended by God for an example to us, his church. 1 Corinthians 10:6. It is not the circumcision of the flesh that counts but the circumcision of the heart. Colossians 2:11.

He would not have us return to the weak and beggarly elements of the old testament law under fleshly Israel. *See* Galatians 4:9-11. To teach such a thing is to blasphemously state that Christ's sacrifice was imperfect and insufficient, and that therefore there is a need to reinstate the animal sacrifices. The old testament law was to act as a schoolmaster until the promise of Christ. God would have no reason to reinstate something that was intended to be in place only until he came to offer his own body as a perfect sacrifice. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, we are all one by faith in Christ. He is not going to divide us once again into Jew and Gentile. His

church is his body which cannot be divided. 1 Corinthians 1:13. For a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. Mark 3:24. The seed of the promises to Abraham is Christ and those who have the faith of Christ, his church, not fleshly Israel.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** (Galatians 3:23-29 AV)

A Jew who believes in Jesus as Christ becomes a new creation. He is no longer a fleshly Jew. He becomes a spiritual Jew, a Christian. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." (Galatians 6:15 AV)

The bible makes clear that the old covenant made to fleshly Israel has vanished away, being replaced by the new covenant of faith in Jesus Christ. "In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away." (Hebrews 8:13 AV) Why would God reinstate something in which he has said would vanish away and in which he has had no pleasure? "In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure." (Hebrews 10:6 AV)

Fleshly Israel is symbolized by the fig tree. That fig tree will never again bear fruit.

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not *yet*. And Jesus answered and said unto it, **No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.** And his disciples heard *it*. . . . And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. (Mark 11:13-14, 20-21 AV)

Whereas spiritual Israel is symbolized by the olive tree. "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." (James 3:12 AV) The answer is no! Fleshly Israel will never ever bear spiritual fruit for God. The spiritual fruit only comes from the spiritual olive plant, the church.

The blessings of God do not flow to the physical seed of Abraham but rather to his spiritual seed. Who is the seed of Abraham? Jesus is the seed of Abraham. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.** (Galatians 3:16 AV)

All who believe in Jesus are heirs of the promise given to Abraham. Galatians 3:23-29. Through faith in Christ one becomes the spiritual seed of Abraham. Obedience to God is the result of salvation not the cause of it. Just as with Abraham, who believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness, so too all others who believe God it is also accounted unto them as righteousness.

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (Galatians 3:6-9 AV)

A true Jew is the spiritual seed of Abraham, not the physical seed. “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.” (Romans 2:28-29 AV) “Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” (Romans 9:6-8 AV)

The eternal blessings of Abraham flow to all who believe in Jesus Christ. God’s kingdom is a spiritual kingdom not an earthly kingdom. His children are spiritual children not earthly children. In God’s kingdom there are no distinctions between Jew or Gentile. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye *be* Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:28-29 AV)

Fleshly Israel of the Old Testament is a temporal type of the spiritual Israel of the New Testament, which is the church.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. **Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.** (1 Corinthians 10:5-6 AV)

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Corinthians 10:11 AV)

Thus, the prophecies regarding Israel had both temporal and spiritual fulfillments. The distinction between the temporal Israel and the eternal Israel is explained clearly in R. B. Yerby’s book *The Once and Future Israel*. First there is the temporal earthly fulfillment and then there is the spiritual fulfillment. 1 Corinthians 15:46.

The scriptures teach us that in all of God's dealings with mankind, from the time of Adam, we may discern the same divine principle at work, namely, "first the natural, then the spiritual." (1 Cor 15:45-46) God has progressively revealed his purpose through, first, his dealings with the natural Israel and, second and finally, his dealings with spiritual Israel. (There is no scriptural basis for the regressive idea that God's dealings will again be centered exclusively on natural Israel at some future date.)

Because God's dealings follow the sequence of first the natural, then the spiritual, it is easy to see and understand that the same progression applied to his people and his promises. The natural people of Old Testament Israel enjoyed the natural fulfillment of the promises made to them, and saw the promises invalidated through sin and unbelief. Likewise, the spiritual people of New Testament Israel, the followers of Jesus Christ, have received, are receiving and will receive all spiritual fulfillments of the promises.

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[In Galatians 4:21-31] as in many other New Testament passages, Paul skillfully defeated his adversaries with their own ammunition. He took the "foolish Galatians" who desired to be under the law" (Gal 4:21) right into the thick of Old Testament Law, into Genesis, the first book of Moses, to prove a spiritual truth with natural types. The early church recognized the need for spiritual authority to support their doctrines (for them, of course, the scriptures were the writings we today call the Old Testament) and therefore, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they quoted freely from the Old Testament.

In the fourth chapter of Galatians, as elsewhere, Paul proved his point through the superior understanding God gave him of the true meaning of the Old Testament scriptures. He said that the story of the two sons of Abraham was more than just a prominent part of the history of the Jewish people. It was, he said, an allegory (Gal. 4:24), that is, a story in which the people and events were symbols or types standing for some greater truth (Gal. 4:24).

The allegory speaks of two women and their two sons who were fathered by Abraham. Hagar, the bondwoman and the mother of Ishmael who was "born after the flesh" (Gal 4:23), typifies natural Jerusalem. Sarah, the freewoman and the mother of Isaac, the child of promise (Gal 4:23, 28), typifies the church which is spiritual Jerusalem. The children of natural Jerusalem are in bondage (Gal. 4:25), as are all who are unsaved, but the children of the church, the heavenly Jerusalem, are free (Gal. 4:26). Those who are in bondage, who are not born again are only "born after the flesh" (Gal. 4:29) cannot possibly be God's people. Therefore, the scriptures "cast out" (Gal 4:30) the natural Jerusalem and her children after the flesh, and identify the heirs as the believers in Christ who are the children of promise (Gal 4:30).

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Paul was constantly in trouble with the Jews because his spiritual interpretations of the Old Testament scriptures warred with their natural interpretation. Our onetime Pharisee had come to see clearly that "the things that are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:18) but his former colleagues could not believe that their highly vaunted institutions were ready to "vanish away" (Heb 8:13).

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Because the Lord Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb 12:2) spiritual Israel hears a better voice than the voices heard by natural Israel (Heb. 1:1, 2), and we have, among other things, a better Priest (Heb. 4:15), a better priesthood (Heb. 5:6), a better hope (Heb. 7:19), a better covenant (Heb. 8:10), a better Tabernacle (Heb. 9:11), a better altar (Heb. 13:10), a better sacrifice (Heb. 9:14), a better country (Heb. 11:16), and a better city (Heb. 12:22).¹

Many believe that some of the prophecies in the Old Testament regarding natural Israel have not been fulfilled and therefore there must be a post-Christian period during which they will be fulfilled. Let us examine these Old Testament prophecies. In Genesis 12:2 God told Abraham: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." Abraham did not see the fulfillment of that prophecy. That promise was fulfilled in part by fleshly Israel. "And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here *am* I. And he said, I *am* God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for **I will there make of thee a great nation**" (Genesis 46:2-3 AV) After a 400 year of captivity God raised up Moses who brought Israel out of Egyptian bondage and it became a great nation, just as promised by God. See Joshua 8-12; 1 Chronicles 17:21.

Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, **Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?** (Deuteronomy 4:6-8 AV)

There, however, was yet to be a spiritual fulfillment of the promise that from Abraham would spring a great nation. The church was the spiritual fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are*

now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 AV)

On three different occasions God promised that Abraham's descendants would be too numerous to count.

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered. (Genesis 13:16 AV)

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. (Genesis 15:5 AV)

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; (Genesis 22:17 AV)

Was that promise fulfilled in part by temporal Israel? Yes! We have the proof of the God inspired testimony of Moses, Solomon, and the author of Hebrews.

Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for **thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.** (2 Chronicles 1:9 AV)

The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye *are* this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (Deuteronomy 1:10 AV)

Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. (Hebrews 11:12 AV)

Judah and Israel *were* many, as the sand which *is* by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. (1 Kings 4:20 AV)

There, however, was to be a future spiritual fulfillment of that promise through the church. The seed of Abraham is a spiritual seed. The nation that would spring from him would be a nation built not on fleshly Israel only. There would be a better fulfillment of the promise through faith.

Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of **the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,** (Romans 4:16 AV)

In Genesis 17:5 God told Abraham he would be a father of many nations.

(As it is written, **I have made thee a father of many nations,**) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. (Romans 4:17 AV)

As Abraham believed the promises of God and God counted it as righteousness. So too are those who have the faith of Abraham, they are the spiritual seed of Abraham. The church of God is the promised spiritual great nation.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, **So shall thy seed be.** (Romans 4:18 AV)

Those that believe in Christ are Abraham's seed and the innumerable children that God promised Abraham. First came the temporal earthly fulfillment of the promise through natural Israel, then came the spiritual eternal fulfillment through the church of Christ.

And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29 AV)

On no less than four different occasions God promised to Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan. Genesis 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:7,18; 17:8. Many say that the promise of the land was not fulfilled. That is not true. God has stated clearly that all the land that he promised to fleshly Israel was given to them.

And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. **There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.** (Joshua 21:43-45 AV)

Some claim that the land that Israel occupied did not reach all the way from Egypt to the river Euphrates, as promised by God in Genesis 15:18, and therefore there is to be a future fulfillment of the promise. That claim is simply not true. Solomon, King of Israel, ruled from the river Euphrates to Egypt. "And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from **the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt:** they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life." (1 Kings 4:21 AV) Is the river mentioned in verse 21 the Euphrates? Yes it is! In verse 24 we read that Solomon had dominion over Tiphah. Tiphah was located on the Euphrates in Mesopotamia. "For he had dominion over all *the region* on this side the river, from Tiphah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him." (1 Kings 4:24 AV)

Some have tried to beguile the children of God by stating that because Genesis 17:7-9 states that the land of Canaan was to be an everlasting possession of Israel, it is God's plan that

natural Israel regain possession of that land. Let us look at that passage.

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.
(Genesis 17:7-9 AV)

Notice that it refers to an everlasting covenant. That everlasting covenant is the New Covenant of Christ, which is fulfilled in Christ. It is a spiritual covenant. The land promised is a heavenly land that will be “everlasting.” God himself has revealed that truth to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.** Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. **These all died in faith, not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly:** wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Hebrews 11:8-16 AV)

Notice that those pilgrims of God died in faith not having received the promises on earth. The everlasting covenant of God is spiritual, the land is eternal in heaven, not temporal on earth. For the earthly land of Canaan could not possibly be an everlasting possession of fleshly Israel, because the earth will one day be destroyed and replaced by a new heaven and a new earth. “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:12-13 AV) “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” (Revelation 21:1 AV)

God made a conditional covenant with Israel that is referred to as the Mosaic covenant. The blessings were conditioned on the obedience of Israel. Israel violated that covenant and

therefore the blessings did not flow to fleshly Israel.

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. (Exodus 19:5-8 AV)

No sooner did they agree to obey God that they immediately fell into idolatry.

Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for *as for* this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices *by the space of* forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. (Acts 7:40-43 AV)

The history of natural Israel is one of continual sin intermixed with periods of repentance, until God finally finished with them according to his foreordained plan. There is a spiritual Israel, the church, to whom the blessings flow. God's true Israel is and always was the church. The church contains the children of the promise. "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise." (Galatians 4:28 AV) The church is the Israel of God. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the **Israel of God.**" (Galatians 6:15-16 AV) The church is the temple of God. "Know ye not that ye are **the temple of God**, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16 AV) The church is God's holy nation inheriting the promises made by God in Exodus 19:5-8. "**But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9 AV)

God does not have a plan of salvation for fleshly Israel that is any different than the plan of salvation he has for Gentiles. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ for all. There is one body of Christ, his spiritual Israel, made up of Gentiles and the remnant of fleshly Israel.

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For

by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. **For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained in ordinances*; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so making peace*; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.** For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:5-22 AV)

Christ did not in any way provide some exclusive plan for the Jews. He stated that the gospel was to be preached to "all nations." Luke 24:47. The only difference for the Jews was that the preaching of the gospel should start at Jerusalem. It was to start with the Jews, but that does not mean it is to end with the Jews in some post-Christian era. The Old Testament has prophecies of the church of God consisting of both believing Jews and Gentiles. Amos 9:11-12; Hosea 1:10; 2:23. The Old Testament prophecies regarding salvation to the both the Jews and Gentiles together are explained in Acts 15:13-17; 26:22-23; Romans 9:23-26; and 1 Peter 2:10.

The New Testament writers, being inspired by God, clearly understood that the church is the Israel of God and is the object of the promises made to Israel by God in the Old Testament.²

Paul said that *believers* are:

- "The children of God" (Romans 8:16).
- "The Household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).
- "The children of Abraham" (Colossians 3:7).
- "Abraham's seed" (Galatians 3:29).
- "The Children of promise" (Rom. 9:8, Galatians 4:28).
- "A peculiar people" (Titus 2:14).
- "The elect of God" (Colossians 3:12).
- "Heirs of God"(Rom. 8:17).
- "Heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

"The temple of God" (1 Cor 3:16).
"The circumcision" (Philippians 3:3).
"The Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16).

Peter said that *believers* are:

"A chosen generation" (1 Peter 2:9).
"A royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9).
"A holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9).
"A peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9).

James said that *believers* are:

"Heirs of the kingdom" (James 2:5).

John said that *believers* are:

"The sons of God" (John 1:12).
"Kings and priests unto God" (Revelation 1:6).
"The new Jerusalem" (Revelation 3:12).
"The Holy city" (Revelation 21:2).

The letter to the Hebrews said that *believers* are:

"The people of God" (Hebrews 4:9).
"Mount Zion" (Hebrews 12:22).
"The city of the living God" (Hebrews 12:22).
"The heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22).

The Jews are our enemies, because they are antichrist. Romans 11:28. Jews hate Christ and Christians. We, however, are to love them and pray for them. "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:27-28 AV) God has chosen a remnant of Jews for salvation. We should preach the gospel to the lost world, including the Jews. We, however, should not think that a Jew any different in God's plan than a Catholic, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Satanist or any other follower of one of Satan's pagan religions.

Salvation for all, is by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. If a Jew repents of his antichrist religion and believes in Jesus, then he is saved. Once saved, a Jew will not continue in his Talmudic practices any more than a Catholic will continue his Catholic practices or a Satanist will continue his Satanic practices once they are saved. All believers in Christ become spiritual Jews, which are Christians.

Loving our enemies does not mean that we should condone the pagan practices of the Jews, Catholics, Muslims, or other pagans. Rather, we are called by God to reprove them. "And

have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.” (Ephesians 5:11 AV)

Endnotes

1.R.B. YERBY, THE ONCE AND FUTURE ISRAEL, p. 73-75 (1977).

2.See R.B. YERBY, THE ONCE AND FUTURE ISRAEL, p. 47 (1977).