

ISRAEL - AND END TIME PROPHECY

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

Replacement Theology

These two words summarize a view of “The Church” as the replacement for “Israel.” Israel’s last surviving tribe - Judah - rejected her Messiah. Therefore God has left Israel to her fate, and has turned to the Gentiles to carry forward His plan of salvation for as many as will believe in Jesus Christ. The Jews are no longer the “chosen people,” according to this teaching. The New Testament Church is the new Israel, a “spiritual Israel” with a “New Covenant.”

Dispensationalism

Another view, which I will try to summarize, retains Israel as a people of God, but sets Israel aside for the “age of the Gentiles.” Evangelicals in Great Britain founded a group called The Plymouth Brethren around 1830. One of their most gifted teachers was John Nelson Darby, who developed a new variety of premillennialism (the teaching that Jesus will return before the millennium). This new teaching was called “dispensationalism.” Darby taught that God’s method of dealing with mankind was different during different “eras,” or “ages,” of human history. His method of dealing with the Israel was different from His way of dealing with the Gentiles. Israel and The Church are two distinct and absolutely separate peoples of God.

The prophecies of Daniel 7-9, allotted 70 “sevens” to Israel. Darby reasoned that Jesus was put to death at the end of the 69th “week” of years. By that reckoning Jesus should return 7 years later, to set up His kingdom on earth. To explain why Jesus did not return at that time, Darby said that the 70th week was delayed. This was called **the “postponement theory.”** When the Jews rejected their Messiah, Jesus suspended the prophetic timetable, and turned to the Gentiles. The “Church Age” had begun, during which Christ would build up His “heavenly people.” This long age of Gentile domination Darby called “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

According to Darby, at the end of the “church age” Christ will remove His “heavenly people” from this world, and resume His dealing with Israel. The 70th week (7 years) of Daniel’s prophecy begins when the church is removed from the world to heaven. After the church is “raptured” to heaven, the Antichrist comes to power. He deceives the Jewish people for the first half of the 7 years, then becomes a dictator who demands worship during the last half of the 7 years - called the “tribulation,” or the “time of trouble.” God punishes those who have persecuted His people by pouring out great plagues. Finally, at the end of the 7 years, Christ returns to set up His earthly kingdom, when He will reign in peace for 1000 years.

Later C.I. Scofield, an American follower of Darby, published the “Scofield Reference Bible” which contained the dispensational views. Scofield’s commentary was printed on the lower half of each page of the Bible. Scofield’s views were widely accepted, and to this day, are deeply held belief by many evangelical denominations. (“Living in the Shadow of the Second Coming” by Timothy P. Weber 1979)

PART TWO: A BRIEF STATEMENT OF OUR BELIEFS

First: We believe that God's method of saving individuals from sin, and Satan's domination, has always been the same. The study at this web site titled "Grace and the Law" explains why we believe this is so.

Second: We believe that Gentiles who come to faith in Christ as Messiah, are grafted into Israel (see Romans chapter 11, and Ephesians chapter 2). True Israel and the church (or the congregation) are one and the same. This study will explain in detail why we believe this is so.

Third: We believe that the 70 "sevens" of Daniel chapter 9 will be 70 literal weeks without any interruption, at "the time of the end." This also, will be discussed in another study.

Fourth: We believe that Christ returns for all of His people on the same day, following "three and a part years" of terrible persecution.

Fifth: We do believe that Christ will remove His people from this earth before the seven last plagues.

Six: We believe that the "trumpets" of Revelation are the result of God letting go the restraint which He has maintained on Satan and his demonic forces. The "seven vials" of Revelation are the result of God withdrawing His spirit from the earth. This belief is explained in detail in the study titled "The Wrath of God" at this web site.

THE ISRAEL OF GOD

PART THREE: "ADOPTED" AND "GRAFTED IN"

ROMANS 11:13 "For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I [Paul] am an apostle to the Gentiles ... v.17-24 "And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, ...You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ... And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, [Gentiles] and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree [Israel], how much more will these, [Jews] who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?"

COMMENT: Paul makes it clear that Gentiles who have come to belief in Christ, ARE GRAFTED INTO THE OLIVE TREE. These are Israelites. They have been made Israelites by God. They are grafted into the tree. [Words in brackets are added by this author.]

JEREMIAH 11:16-17 "The LORD called your name, Green Olive Tree, Lovely and of Good Fruit, with the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, and its branches are broken. For the LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced doom against you for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense to Baal." (See also, Jeremiah 5:10-11.)

COMMENT: In referring to Israel as the Olive Tree, Paul is referring back to this passage written by Jeremiah the prophet, just before the Babylonians conquered Judah.

EPHESIANS 2:11-22 “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh ... that at that time you 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 you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ... For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.”

EPHESIANS 3:6 ... “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel...”

COMMENT: Before Christ, there were only two kinds of people, so far as the Jews were concerned – Jews and non-Jews, Jews and Gentiles, Israelites and aliens, Israelites and strangers. (See Lev. 17:8,10,13; Deut. 24:14; 2Chron 2:17; Joel 3:17; Jer. 9:16, 10:2, 10:25) Now, in Christ, the “strangers and foreigners” are made “fellow citizens” of “the commonwealth of Israel.”

COMMENT: Notice that no mention is made in any text, of bloodline, or parentage. The Gentiles who would be grafted in, were not necessarily related by blood to descendants of Jacob.

COMMENT: “The law of commandments contained in ordinances” which was “abolished” is the law which forbade Israelites to keep any company with Gentiles, or allow daughters or sons to marry with them. (See Acts 10:28, Exo. 23:32, 34:12; Ezra 9:12; Neh. 13:25; John 4:9, 18:28)

1PETER 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (*This passage was definitely written to Gentile believers.*) (To read these promises as they were given to Israel read: Isa. 43:20; Deut 10:15 chosen; Isa. 61:6 “Priests of the Lord”, Isa. 66:21; Exo. 19:5-6; Deut 4:20; Deut 14:2; Titus 2:14; Hosea 1:9-10; 2:23).

COMMENT: The “twenty-four elders” (Rev. 5:8-10) are “kings and priests” of God. Yet in their “song” they proclaim that they were redeemed to God “out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Therefore they cannot all be biological descendants of Jacob.

study continues on the next page

THE “UNCLEAN” MADE “CLEAN”

ACTS 10-11 Cornelius, a Gentile who believes in the God of Israel, has a vision. He is told to send for a man named Peter. Just as the messengers from Cornelius approach the house where Peter is staying, Peter himself has a vision. Peter is on the roof, and he sees a sheet, let down from heaven, containing all kinds of unclean animals. He has never eaten anything forbidden (Leviticus chapt 11). In the vision, Peter is told to “arise, kill, and eat.” Peter is appalled. He protests. The voice from heaven speaks again saying, “What God has cleansed you must not call common (or unclean).” This was done three times.

Peter awoke from his vision just as the messengers from Cornelius were knocking at the door. The Spirit said to Peter, “go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.” After Peter had preached the news of Christ to Cornelius and his household, while he was still speaking, “the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” The Jews who had accompanied Peter on this trip, were astonished “because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” These Gentiles were immediately baptized with water. Later in Jerusalem, Peter had to defend this baptism of Gentiles saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

COMMENT: Peter gives no hint that God has turned from Israel. Peter IS a Jew after all, as are all of the apostles. His news, is that God has brought the believing Gentiles into what was once an exclusively Jewish club.

PART FOUR: THE PROMISES

ROMANS 9:4 (Paul speaking) “who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises ...”

COMMENT: It might be well to point out that “the covenant”, including each and every covenant promise, including the “new covenant,” was made with Abraham or with his chosen descendants.

TO ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12:2-3 “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” v.7 “To your descendants I will give this land.”

GENESIS 13:15-16 Land for all descendants of Abraham.

GENESIS 15:18 “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates--

COMMENT: Abraham had sons by Hagar (Ishmael) and by a second wife, Keturah (Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah). He gave gifts to these sons, and then sent them eastward (to the Arabian peninsula) away from the land promised to Isaac. Descendants of these sons have become the great enemies of Israel. Paul explains that these were not “the children of God” or “children of promise” (Romans 9:6-8).

GENESIS 17:2-22 Abraham to be the “father of many nations” (v.4). The “land of Canaan,” promised “as an everlasting possession;” to Abraham’s descendants, “and I will be their God” (v8). The sign of the covenant would be male circumcision at eight days of age (v10).

GENESIS 22:17-22 “I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven... and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

COMMENT: The covenant promise was continued to Isaac, to Jacob, and to the 12 tribes of Israel (descended from Jacob). Specific promises were made to King David of the tribe of Judah, that a son of his would reign over Israel forever (1Chron. 17:4-15; 1Chron. 17:4-15; 2Sam. 7:4-17; Psalms 89:3,4, 34, 35-37; 1Kings 9:4-9; 2Chron. 7: 12-22).

THE PROMISE WAS TO CHRIST

GALATIANS 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ.”

COMMENT: Here Paul makes it clear, that the promises made to Abraham were actually made to Christ.

COMMENT: Christ fulfilled the conditions of the first covenant, the very first covenant - made in Eden, with Adam. That covenant said, “Obey and live - disobey and die.” He therefore has a right to the dominion of earth, which Adam lost through disobedience. Christ also fulfilled the conditions of the Mosaic covenant - He obeyed the Law of Moses perfectly.

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF PROMISE, THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM?

GALATIANS 3:7, 9, 14 “Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.”... “So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.” ...“That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus...”

GALATIANS 3:26-29 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile), there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you ARE Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

GALATIANS 4:26-29 “But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. For it is written, ‘Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; for more are the children of the desolate than of the one who has a husband.’ **And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.**”

ROMANS 4:9-12 Abraham is called the “father of all those who believe,” whether circumcised or not.

ROMANS 4:13-16 “For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ...Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”

COMMENT: First: Remember that the letters to the churches in Galatia, and to the Romans were written to Gentiles. Second: Consider the promise that Christ, the Seed of Abraham, would be heir of the world, and we with Him (Psalm 37:9; Matt 5:5).

WHO IS A JEW?

DEFINITIONS

- A. Descendant of Judah.
- B. Member of the tribe of Judah.
- C. The southern kingdom after the division.
- D. After the captivity the term was extended to all national descendants of Abraham, contrasted with Gentiles. For example-Saul, although a Benjamite, claimed to be a Jew. (Acts 21:39; 22:3).
- E. An adherent to the Jewish faith as distinguished from the Christian faith. (I Cor. 9:20).
- F. A true believer, who lives by faith in Messiah.

Three groups identified : 1Corinthians 10:32
Jews (race and culture) - Gentiles (race, varied cultures) - Church of God

Note: It is very important to determine the meaning of the term Jew in the context.

ROMANS 2:28-29 (Paul wrote) "...For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But **he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter**; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

COLOSSIANS 2:11 "In Him you (Gentile believers) were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, **by the circumcision of Christ**,

GENTILES

- A. Non-Jews (Gentiles in the flesh, meaning not circumcised).
- B. One who has no knowledge of or loyalty towards the true God. One separated from God.

Ephesians 4:17,18 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

COMMENT: When we study the prophecies, especially those by Old Testament writers, we must study the context carefully. The term "Gentiles" may refer to non-Israelites by blood, who come to faith in Messiah. It may refer to those evil persons who will attempt to destroy the people of God, and who will be destroyed by God. The term "Israel" may refer to biological descendants of Jacob, or to true believers who walk by faith. Especially as used in the Revelation to John, the term "Israel" may refer to God's remnant of the faithful.

ISAIAH 44:1-5 But hear, now, O Jacob My servant, Israel whom I have chosen!
Thus said the Lord, your Maker, Your Creator who has helped you since birth:
Fear not, My servant Jacob, Jeshurun whom I have chosen,
Even as I pour water on thirsty soil, And rain upon dry ground,
So will I pour My spirit on your offspring, My blessing upon your posterity.
And they shall sprout like grass, Like willows by watercourses.
One shall say, "I am the Lord's," Another shall use the name of "Jacob,"
Another shall mark his arm "of the LORD"
And adopt the name of "Israel." TANAKH

COMMENT: Jacob is a type of the Messiah in this passage. His name meant supplanter - one who takes the place of another, one who supercedes another. Did not Christ come to take the place of Satan, who was here first (just as Esau was born before Jacob. Esau had the birthrite of supremacy. Yet Jacob supplanted him because Jacob's heart was towards God - just as Christ supplanted Satan. Jacob then became Israel - a Prince of God. Is not Christ THE Prince of God - His own son.

HOSEA 1:10 **Yet the number of the sons of Israel (Christ) will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And it will come about that, in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God." NAS**

ROMANS 9:24-27 "even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. As He says also in Hosea (1:10, 2:19), 'I will call those who were not My people, My people, and her who was not beloved, Beloved. And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are Not My people,' 'there they shall be called sons of the living God.' And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, 'Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved.'"

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

HOSEA 2:16 "And it shall be, in that day, says the Lord, That you will call Me 'My husband.' ... v.19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD. ... v.23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy. Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

REVELATION 21:9-10 "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ... "And he showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." 21:2 "Then I, John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

REVELATION 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb** is come, and **his wife hath made herself ready**. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

COMMENT: There is no 13th gate into the Holy City, with a sign saying, "Gentiles enter here."

COMMENT: Yes, I believe that God chose the nation of Israel through which to carry out His will, in preserving the writings, prophecies, covenants, and a physical means of bringing Messiah into the world. But I believe His plan continued on - to bring in the Gentiles, into that same body. Not to create another body of believers in God.

Jesus is our High Priest. How many stones are in His breastplate? 12 - right? There is no 13th stone, for all the Gentiles. If we gentiles are represented as being carried on the heart of Christ in heaven, it has to be as part of the 12 tribes. There was no 13th loaf of bread-as food for "everyone else."

PART FIVE: THE CHURCH



144,000 cannot be literal Israelites “in the flesh.” (Revelation 7:4-8, 14:1-5)

Isaiah 5:7 “For the vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.”

John 15:5 **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

The Church

Acts 7:38 This is he(Moses), that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: 39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

Eph. 1:22-23 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the **church**, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph. 5: 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church:** and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Hebrews 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned,

or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22 **But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn,** which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Note: Hebrews who come to Christ come to the church. The people who make up this assembly or church are written in Heaven. Are the members of the church "the firstborn" or is this Christ - who is the firstborn?

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Note: Only way in to the New Jerusalem is through one of the gates with the names of the tribes. No gate is labeled "Gentiles." So Aaron's breastplate had the names of the 12 tribes inscribed upon precious stones. This symbolized Christ, who became our High Priest in Heaven before His father's throne. In Christ's day the 10 tribes no longer existed as tribes (there were individuals). There was no stone labeled Gentile believers. Therefore - Israel must be symbolic for the people of God - all of them - including Gentile believers.

In the Old Testament - God married to Israel. In the New Testament - Christ married to the church. Only one body - not two.

ISRAEL

- A. Jacob whose name was changed to Israel.
- B. Descendant of Jacob.
- C. The Northern kingdom, after the division.
- D. The remnant who returned from Babylon and their descendants. (The house of Israel)
- E. The part of the physical descendants of Jacob who had a heart toward God.

Romans 11:26 and thus all Israel will be saved

- F. ??? A special people within the body of Christ, the physical descendants of Jacob who will receive special privileges and will have special duties in Christ's coming kingdom on earth.

Question: Why were these people (other than the Apostles) not given special distinction in the church of God on earth? Were they identified to be the teachers and leaders of the church on earth - no/yes??

- G. All whose heart is right toward God. Israel being another name for the body of Christ, or "My people." ????????

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises; 5 Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over **all**, God blessed for ever.

Amen. 6 **Not** as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are not all Israel*, which are of **Israel**: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they all* children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 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.

Exodus 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn**: 23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

Note: To the firstborn went a double portion. Israel received the Law and the Prophecies. They had a special relationship and communication with God for thousands of years before the Gentiles. So they did receive a double portion. Firstborn was the priest, to teach about God, and to pray for family. Jews failed in this miserably. (See Ezekiel 34) Walled themselves off from others. Tried to keep the gift all to themselves. Firstborn received a double portion of land. (???? Don't know what this would mean relative to Israel).

(What is the "church of the firstborn" mentioned in Hebrews 12?)

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

John 10:16 "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and **they shall become one flock** with one shepherd.

Ezekiel 34 esp v. 13: And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will **bring them to their own land**; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country v. 22 therefore I will save **My flock**, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23. I will establish **one shepherd over them**, and he shall feed them, -- My servant David, He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24. And I the Lord will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

Note: Perhaps Gentiles were never called Israelites because this would give too much offense to Jews?

FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Hosea 3:4-5 "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. 5. Afterward the children of Israel shall return, seek the Lord their God and David their king, and fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

Jeremiah 33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. 7 And **I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.** 8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. 9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they

shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Regathered:

Isaiah 11:1-12 NAS Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; 4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. 6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. 10 **Then it will come about in that day That the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.** 11 **Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain,** From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. 12 And He will lift up a standard for the nations, **And will assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.** 13 Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, And those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, And Judah will not harass Ephraim. 14 And they will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; Together they will plunder the sons of the east; They will possess Edom and Moab; And the sons of Ammon will be subject to them. 15 And the LORD will utterly destroy The tongue of the Sea of Egypt; And He will wave His hand over the River With His scorching wind; And He will strike it into seven streams, And make men walk over dry-shod. 16 And there will be a highway from Assyria For the remnant of His people who will be left, Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 24:5 "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place *into* the land of the Chaldeans. 6 'For I will set My eyes on them for good, and **I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.** 7 'And I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart. 8 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness-- indeed, thus says the LORD-- so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and the ones who dwell in the land of Egypt. 9 'And I will make them a terror *and an* evil for all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all places where I shall scatter them. 10 'And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence upon them until they are destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their forefathers.' "

Note: This seems like a promise to those who were exiled to Babylon. The promise would be

conditional, upon their continued faithfulness to God, otherwise they would be “plucked up.”

Jeremiah 30:10 'And fear not, O Jacob My servant,' declares the LORD, 'And do not be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your offspring from the land of their captivity. And Jacob shall return, and shall be quiet and at ease, And no one shall make him afraid. 11 'For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you; For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you. Only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly, And will by no means leave you unpunished.'

Note: This seems like a promise of return from Babylon. Babylon and Assyria were destroyed and do not exist as nations any longer.

Amos 9:11 "In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 **That they may possess the remnant of Edom (mankind) and all the nations (Gentiles) who are called by My name,** "Declares the LORD who does this. 13 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine, And all the hills will be dissolved. 14 **Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel,** And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*, They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God. "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine, And all the hills will be dissolved. 14 **Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel,** And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*, They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Note: This prophecy seems to me to apply to after the second coming, after the harvest is reaped. The kingdom of David will embrace “all of Edom (mankind) and all the nations (gentiles) who are called by My name.” Christ - the seed of David - is to rule over Israel.

Ezekiel 58-17 Destruction and dispersion predicted.

Acts 3:15 “and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began

Note: Prophecies of restoration not fulfilled until Christ returns.

Zechariah 14: Describes the final destruction of the wicked. After that all the nations will come up to celebrate the feast of tabernacles. V.21 In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite (culture and God’s worshiped) in the house of the Lord of hosts.”

Refining and times of trouble:

Ezek 22: 19-22; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:1-3; Jeremiah 30:4-7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-31

Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time, and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Restored to favor:

Ezekiel 36:24-27 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. 28 "And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Note: This prophecy may have several applications. I would see the final complete fulfillment taking place after the resurrection. After the millenium, the nations who come up to try to take Jerusalem will see that God is protecting these people. The full realization of the promise of the infilling of the Holy Spirit will only be realized after the resurrection.

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

Zechariah 13:1 "**In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.** 2 "And it will come about in that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. NAS

Note: Jews will recognize Christ.

Jeremiah 3:8 "**And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce,** yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also. 9 "And it came about because of the lightness of her harlotry, that she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. 10 "And yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception," declares the LORD. 11 And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. 12 "Go, and proclaim these words toward the north and say, 'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD; 'I will not look upon you in anger. For I am gracious,' declares the LORD; 'I will not be angry forever. 13 'Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' declares the LORD. 14 'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the LORD; 'For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.' 15 "Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. 16 "And it shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land," declares the LORD, "they shall say no more, 'The ark of the

covenant of the LORD.' And it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again. 17 "**At that time they shall call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the LORD,' and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem,** for the name of the LORD; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. 18 "In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance. 19 "Then I said, 'How I would set you among My sons, And give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me. '

Isa. 31:35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: 36 "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, " Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease From being a nation before Me forever. " 37 Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD.

Israel is still a nation in the sight of God.

Redeemed sing the “song of Moses.”

Revelation 15:3 And they sang the **song of Moses** the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE THEE, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed."

ALIENS AND STRANGERS

KJV Exodus 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, *Israel is* my son, *even* my firstborn:

Why would not Abraham be God's firstborn. Did he not come to God first from all men? Why not Adam? He was the first created? (See Jer. 31:9, and Hos 11:1)

Each Pharaoh considered himself "the son" of the God Ra. So Moses is directed by God to say to Pharaoh that Israel is His son.

How could a whole nation be "a son"? Later on the nation of Israel was the wayward wife.

[In Egypt there were 10 last plagues. The first three fell on both Egyptians and Israelites. The last 7 only on the Egyptians. ??? Parallel with the 7 last plagues of Revelation?]

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NKJ Exodus 12:19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* a stranger or a native of the land.

[Note: The stranger, was considered a member of the congregation of Israel, and would be cut off for eating leaven during the Passover. Word congregation? = Church.

Exodus 19:5 "If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

[Note: If]

KJV Exodus 27:21 In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which *is* before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: *it shall be* a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

Note: Did not last forever. Temple destroyed twice. But Christ took over this duty as our High Priest.

Covenant:

Exodus 23:22 "but if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will beetc.

Note: if.

NKJ Exodus 12:48 "And when a stranger dwells with you *and wants* to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.

KJV Exodus 12:49 One <0259> law <08451> shall be to him that is homeborn <0249>, and unto the stranger <01616> that sojourneth <01481> (08802) among <08432> you.

NKJ Leviticus 16:29 " *This* shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth *day* of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, *whether* a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.

NKJ Leviticus 17:8 "Also you shall say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice,NKJ

NKJ Leviticus 17:15 " And every person who eats what died *naturally* or what was torn *by beasts, whether*

he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.

Leviticus 17:10 ' And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

NKJ Leviticus 19:34 'The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

NKJ Leviticus 20:2 "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives *any* of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.

NKJ Leviticus 22:18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings, which they offer to the LORD as a burnt offering --

NKJ Leviticus 24:16 'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name *of the Lord*, he shall be put to death.

NKJ Leviticus 24:22 'You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I *am* the LORD your God.' "

NKJ Leviticus 25:23 ' The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land *is* Mine; for you *are* strangers and sojourners with Me.

[Note: Here the Israelites are called strangers and sojourners.]

NKJ Numbers 15:15 'One ordinance *shall be* for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells *with you*, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.

NKJ Numbers 15:16 'One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.'

"

NKJ Numbers 15:26 'It shall be forgiven the whole congregation of the children of Israel and the stranger who dwells among them, because all the people *did it* unintentionally.

NKJ Numbers 15:29 'You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, *for* him who is native-born among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them.

NKJ Numbers 15:30 ' But the person who does *anything* presumptuously, *whether he is* native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

[Note: The stranger is considered to be a part of "his people."

NKJ Numbers 19:10 'And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until evening. It shall be a statute forever to the children of Israel and to the stranger who dwells among them.

NKJ Numbers 35:15 'These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.

NKJ Deuteronomy 10:19 "Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

NKJ Deuteronomy 14:21 " You shall not eat anything that dies *of itself*; you may give it to the alien who *is* within your gates, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

NKJ Deuteronomy 28:43 "The alien who *is* among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.

{Daut. 28:15-68 The curses for disobedience.

NKJ Joshua 8:33 Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them *were* in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

NKJ 2 Chronicles 2:17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who *were* in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

NKJ Isaiah 14:1 For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. **The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.**

NKJ Isaiah 56:1-8 Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. 2Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil. 3Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD speak, saying, "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people" Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree." 4For thus say the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, 5Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. 6Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants--everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant--7even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." 8The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him."

1. Members of other nations who came to live among the Israelites had been excluded from worship, at least for several generations (see Exo. 12:43; Deut. 23:3,7-8).
2. Eunuchs were also excluded from "the congregation." (See Deut. 23:1). The work of "the Servant" would change this (see Acts 8:27-39).
3. The Sabbath, like circumcision, was a sign of the whole covenant.
4. Even the eunuch, once banned from the congregation, would have "a name" and "a memorial" within the

Temple walls. All this would be brought about by the work of “the Servant,” Israel’s hope. Isaiah prophecies of this righteous Servant who will come, in chapter 50:1-11; 52:13-53:12.

NKJ Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- 12 that at that time you 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. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has **made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens** with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:16-38 Renewal of Israel. Verses 24-29 New Covenant Promise. Chapter 37 Dry bones live. Verse 11-14 “Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ Therefore prophecy and say them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, O My people I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,’ says the LORD.’ V.21-22 Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.’ 37:24 David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. 25 Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 28 The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” Ezekiel 38 The last terrible battle with the enemies of Israel. Divine intervention. Fire from heaven. Ezekiel 40 Given a vision of a new Temple on God’s high mountain. Temple is described in detail. Ezekiel 44 Who may enter this Temple. V.7-9 When you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to defile it -- **My house**--and when you offered My food, the fat and the blood, then they broke My covenant because of all your abominations. And you have not kept charge of My holy things, but you have set others to keep charge of **My sanctuary** for you. Thus says the Lord GOD: **No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart or uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner who is among the children of Israel.**

Ezekiel 44:10-31 Laws governing priests. 45:1-25 A portion of land around the Temple as Holy Ground. 46:1-24 Manner of worship, how offerings prepared. All of this applies to an earthly Temple for the returned exiles from Babylon.

Ezekiel 47: The river of life flowing from under the right side of the Temple. V.8-9 This river flows down to the dead sea, and the waters are healed and now abound with life. V. 13-20 Borders of the land. Then chapter 48 - the division of the land among all the Tribes, including Ephraim and Manasseh. Finally in v30-35 Twelve gates are named after the 12 sons of Jacob. (Joseph instead of Ephraim and Manasseh.)

I would understand this to be a dual prophecy, first of the Temple to be rebuilt after the return of the exiles from Babylon, and second of the Temple of the LORD in the earth made new.

Especially to be noted is the division of the land:

NKJ Ezekiel 47:22 "It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, **and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.**

NKJ Ezekiel 47:23 "And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance," says the Lord GOD.

Inheritance for Zadok in Ezekiel 47: Zakok was descended from Aaron. Was High Priest in Jerusalem as was faithful to David, during the rebellion of Absalom, along with another priest named Abiathar. Abiathar sided with Absalom and was banished from Jerusalem, leaving Zadok the sole High Priest. His line served until the reign of Aniochus IV Epiphanes (175-164BC). Fulfilled the prophecy 1Sam. 2:35) "I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind."

NKJ Ezekiel 48:11 "It shall be for the priests of the sons of Zadok, who are sanctified, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray.

NKJ Malachi 3:5 And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, **And against those who turn away an alien** -- Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts.

In the Old Testament the command concerning Passover is everlasting - Exo. 12:14, Lev 23:21, Lev 23:31, Lev 23:41. The observance of the Festivals continues after entering the promised land - what does that say? Anyone Jew or Gentile may keep the Passover, if they have been circumcised. Paul and the Acts 15 committee changed that to "circumcision of the heart."

The committee didn't address most of the Ten Commandments - only the sexual immorality. They didn't talk about whether it was necessary to keep the Sabbath. We say it was because those things were so obvious they could go without saying. But were not the Festivals the same. Leviticus 23:2 says "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them; 'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'" And the list of feasts starts with the 7th day Sabbath.

At the end of the discussion in Jerusalem, after the list of prohibitions, it was said, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." Acts 15:21.

It was assumed that the people would learn the rest of the Scriptural requirements from its reading in the Synagogue “every Sabbath.” The committee dealt with those things which were especially repugnant to Jews, those things which were threatening to split the church.

My feeling is that if God expects Jews to keep the Festivals and not Gentiles, then the body of Christ is still split into two camps. God then has two wives. In the Old Testament Israel was the wife of Yahweh. In the New Testament the Church is the Bride of Christ.

It is my belief that Gentile believers come in to the true Israel of God through the Messiah who has extended His covenant to them.

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--

that at that time you 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 you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ.

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, . . . that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross

Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens** with the saints and members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:11-19.

Try looking at all of the texts through the OT concerning aliens and strangers. In this passage Paul brings the Gentiles in to the commonwealth of Israel, not the Jews in to a new body of Christ called the Church.

In Romans 11, all of the branches were not broken off the tree. The tree still retained branches. The tree did not die. Spiritual Israel remained a viable entity. God did not abandon plan A, and move on to plan B. He is not like that. He made a New Covenant (renewed the covenant) *with Israel* (not with a mixed group called the church.) Gentiles who believe come in to this covenant, becoming citizens of this Israel who received the New Covenant.

There was a literal “fleshly” nation of Israel, and there were individuals in that nation who remained true to God (who constituted the true Israel.) It is this true Israel into which we Gentile believers come. “They are not all Israel who are of Israel.” Rom 9:6.

So, I’m not an alien or a stranger, but rather a citizen, and therefore an Israelite. As an Israelite I will keep the festivals, not with animal sacrifices, but in a new way centered upon Christ.

The Sealed of Israel

Revelation 7:1-8 The four winds are about to blow. The “other angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God” (this is probably Christ) cries with a loud voice to whom it was granted to take peace from the earth, saying “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.

This says that the sealing is not yet completed. The time of great trouble is about to begin. In 9:4 the demons are given authority to hurt only those men who do not have the seal. So the sealing must be complete before the trumpet judgments begin. And there are men on the earth during the time of the judgments, who have

the seal of God.

First: The 144,000 is a symbolic group. They are from every tribe of Israel - yet 10 of those tribes no longer exist and cannot be traced. 7:8 says "of the tribe of Joseph" - there was no tribe of Joseph. The tribe of Manasseh is listed - yet Manasseh was a son of Joseph. [The "tribe of Joseph" should comprise both Ephraim and Manasseh.] In Revelation 14:1-5, the 144,000 are described as "virgins." I do not believe we are talking about 144,000 Jewish males who have never had sex. This is symbolism for their pure faith. They also sing a song which no one else can learn. This would seem to say that they share an experience which no other human beings have ever endured.

They are called "first fruits." I have heard the explanation that these are those people who were raised by Christ after His resurrection, those who were presented by Christ to His Father as "first fruits" of the harvest of the earth. But why would those who lived before Christ, have an experience which no one else has ever had. My personal feeling is that these will be the first human beings to receive the fullness of the Spirit of God, the New Covenant, which still living on the earth, in mortal bodies. This infilling of the Spirit will bring them to a perfect state of oneness with God - the sealing. This outpouring of the Spirit will take place at the conclusion of the judgment in Heaven [Daniel 7] when the number of those listed in the Lamb's Book of Life is made up.

The New Covenant Promise

Hebrews 8:8-12, 10:16-17, Jer. 31:31-33, Ezekiel 36:22-29 [Israel], Ezekiel 11:16-20

Promise spoken to Israel and Judah. Promise to regather, bring into land and bless. Promise to put His spirit within, and cause to walk in His law. Israel has not received the promise because their hearts are not right towards God. They depend on armies, not on God.

This promise is also to Gentiles because they partake of all the covenant promises, in Messiah. Do they not also receive of the Spirit? Are they not also brought into the promised land (new earth)?

Christ said, "The first shall be last." The Jews were never evangelistic. They kept it all to themselves. They claimed to be the first, best, only. So they will be last?

NOTE:

Matthew 19:28

Luke 22:30

Disciples to sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. Yet they are not from each of the 12 tribes. Why would man from Judah judge tribe of Dan, or Levi, or Ruben?

ISRAEL - THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Genesis 9:16; 17:7,8; 17:13; 17:19; 24:8;

2Samuel 24:5

1Chron 16:17
Psalm 105:10
Isa 24:5
Isa 55:3; 61:8
Jer 32:40
Ezekiel 16:60; 37:26
Hebrews 13:20

Boaz - the kinsman redeemer - took a Gentile bride - Ruth
Joseph - also a type of Christ - married a Gentile
so also did Moses

Same Covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Israel - Psalm 105:8-12

Galatians 3:7 - We are sons of Abraham
Romans 4:13, 16

HUSBAND TO GENTILES:

Hosea 2:16,
2:19-20
2:10-11

2Samuel 7:24 You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever.”

Who or what is the "holy nation" in 1Peter 2:5. My Rabi says this refers to Messianic Jews. The "disporia." I'm not so sure about that.

Revelation 20:6 says that all those who come forth in the first resurrection will be "PRIESTS of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Now I plan to be one who comes forth in the first resurrection. So that would mean I would be included in those "priests of God" - right?

The 24 Elders - redeemed from every nation, kindren, tongue, people - are not all Jews, yet function as priests. Revelation 5:10 the group sing, "hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth." Who are the ones signing this?

If Christ is the "High Priest" over the "house of God," (Hebrews 10:21) and 1Peter 2:5 speaks to a group who "are being built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ," who is Peter speaking to? Who make up this "spiritual house." Are we not included, because we are not Jewish? I can't believe that!

Hebrews 7:12 says that the priesthood was changed. Now of course the author of Hebrews was

speaking of Christ not being from the tribe of Levi, but I think it could also be applied to the other priesthood, of all believers.

I do not believe that the 144,000 are literal Jews, unless they are also literal "virgins."

Right now I believe that the borders of Israel have been enlarged. The Gentiles have "come in."
(Romans 11:25.

I believe the tree is Israel, and some of the natural branches (non-believing Jews) were broken off, so that believing gentiles could be grafted on.

Ephesians 2;11 (paraphrased) you Gentiles, before you came to believe in God and His Son

12 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:
(You were foreigners from Israel, were outside the covenants)

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

(the wall of partition kept Gentiles out, of places leading to God. Now Gentiles can enter into every place which was once the domain only of Jews, including, in to Israel itself)

15 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;

(We are all citizens of the one "holy nation" now. I believe the "holy nation" is called Israel - those who strive with God and prevail)

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

(one body - what shall we call it? Calling it the "body of Christ" is good. But the body of Christ is "the church" and the Messianic Jews I know say that the Church is Gentile and Israel is Jewish).

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (In other words - we are all priests.)

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household** of God;

(There's that word "house" again. One house - one nation, fellow citizens. In the Old Testament, you

were either an Israelite or a foreigner/stranger, one or the other. But the same law applied to both. Now we are all Israelites.)

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

(The "house" with Christ as the foundation, becomes a Temple - with priests).

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs, and of the same body**, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

("of the same body" - but what I hear from the Messianics is that there are two distinct groups within the body, Jews and Gentiles. They believe that only Jewish believers in Messiah will reign with Christ as instructors to the rest of the world, during the millenium. They convey in a very subtle way, "Everyone is special, but we are a little more special." Everyone is chosen, but we are THE chosen. It is divisive and corrosive. It divides the body of Christ. They are doing the very same thing that they did before Christ came. Saying "we are more special to God, because we've been chosen for something that you were not chosen for." I don't buy it.

HUSBAND TO ISRAEL AND JUDAH

NRS Jeremiah 31:31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, **though I was their husband**, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Isaiah 66:18 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. 19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they

shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. 20 And **they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations** upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. 21 And **I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.** 22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 44:1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3 **For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:** 4 **And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.** 5 **One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.** KJV

Note: Outpouring of the Holy Spirit came after Christ's ascension. The water (Holy Spirit) was poured upon the dry ground. This passage would be a prophecy of the time after Christ's sacrifice