



Truth For These Times



36. THE TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

The Bible abounds with promises that the people of Israel will be saved. They are called “the people of God” and “His holy nation.” Many times the promise is given that, even though they are scattered throughout the whole world, they would be gathered again, returned to their own land, and dwell there forever. (eg. Jer 30:3).

However, many have misunderstood the Scripture in supposing that literal Jews, the descendants of Abraham, are the true Israel of God. As we go through this study we will see how God’s true people are composed of all the nations of the earth. Many believe that the present Zionist movement, and the restoration of the nation of Palestine, are a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, but any prophecy concerning the return of the literal Jews to their homeland already has had its fulfillment in Old Testament times. A literal Jew is not of spiritual Israel unless he accepts the plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is the second birth – conversion – that makes a man or woman an Israelite.

Galatians 6:15,16 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Those who belong to Christ are identified as the “Israel of God.”

Genesis 32:28 And He said, “our name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

Jacob prevailed with God and became an overcomer. An Israelite is one who has overcome evil by the blood of the lamb. (Jesus)

Romans 9:4; 6-8 Who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.



Job prevailed.

Paul could not put the matter clearer. He is saying that being a literal Jew is not a passport into the family of God. God's family consists of the children of promise. The true Israel of God are true Christians.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 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 in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

The children of Israel who came out of Egypt were God's chosen people. They received the oracles of God; to them the promises were made when God entered into a covenant relationship with them. But God planned that His people should enter into a better covenant relationship with Him. The basis of the new covenant was not written on tables of stone (the 10 commandments), but the same law was written on the heart. The old covenant was given to literal Israel, but the new covenant to spiritual Israel. Even before the cross men were saved by virtue of the promises of the New Covenant that were ratified by the blood of Christ at Calvary. God's true people – spiritual Israelites – were always those who loved God enough to obey Him. His law was written in their hearts. Their religion was not an outward show, but an inward experience by the power of God, which manifested itself in righteous living.



God's chosen people.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Christ is the Mediator of the New Testament (covenant) by means of His sacrifice. The forgiveness of sins through His blood made it possible for us to enter into a saving relationship with Him. Through the cross we became part of His family.



Everyone becomes part of the family through the blood of Christ.

In a previous study we examined the [2300 day prophecy](#) in Daniel 8 & 9. The first seventy weeks of the prophecy gave a time limit for literal Israel to repent of their sins and come back to God. However they failed to do this, then they were no longer God's chosen people. In the margin of Daniel 9:26 it says of this time "AND THE JEWS THEY SHALL BE NOT MORE HIS PEOPLE." The gospel then went to the Gentiles. Individual Jews could still be saved, but only as they accepted Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 11:16 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.

The Jewish nation – or literal Israel – is likened to a cultivated olive tree.

Romans 11:17-26. 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, (verse 17).

The great truth that the Gentiles may become Israelites is here illustrated. Jeremiah and Paul likened the Jewish nation to a cultivated olive tree and Paul also likens the Gentiles to a wild olive tree. The branches that were broken off were the Jews who rejected Christ. They were a part of Israel, but because of unbelief lost their standing as members of God's household. But Christ, the stock and root of the house of Israel remains. New branches must be found and grafted in so as to complete God's nation. Here the Gentiles were to have their chance. They were to take the place of those who had fallen out. They were warned about boasting for they could fall from grace too if they stopped trusting in Jesus. To remain a part of the cultivated olive tree they were to continue in faith and not fall into unbelief. One's natural birth does not count. Furthermore God will spare no one who gives up his faith in Christ, no matter what his nationality or earthly standing.

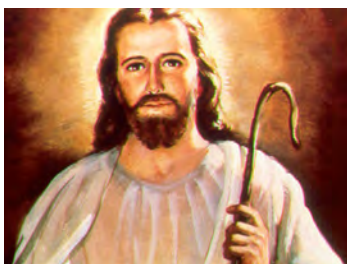
Paul concludes by saying "And so all Israel will be saved" (verse 26). This is so true, for Israel is made up of those whose sins Christ has taken away.

Ephesians 2:19,20 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 foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*.

Gentiles cannot be saved unless they become Israelites through the new birth. Those who were once Gentiles, and were without God and had no hope are through the blood of Christ brought into the household of God. They are now part of God's family. They have become one in Christ.

Romans 2:28,29. For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.

There is no room for further doubt. The house of Israel that God recognises is not literal but spiritual. Its membership does not consist of a people of a certain race, but people of a certain faith – in Jesus.



In Jesus we are all Abraham's seed: the people of faith.

Galatians 3:29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Every promise made to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ. When He comes to make up His people He says "Whosoever will" may come. "Look to me and be saved" is His plea. All who accept the invitation will be welcomed to His heart and home and counted as members of the Israel of God.

Lesson 36 – True Israel of God

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

The promises made to Abraham concerning the inheriting of the earth were not fulfilled in him or his literal descendants. They recognized that they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth. The promises are yet to be fulfilled and will take place when the curse of sin is removed from the earth. When the restoration of the earth is complete God's people will enjoy the promised inheritance. All who enter the Holy City of God will be Israelites, not strangers or foreigners. They are not Jew and Gentile, but one vast united nation. They are the Israel of God. Dear friend, be sure to be a part of that nation today, its foundations are eternal for it is founded on Christ. To belong to God's family means eternal life for you too.

Review Sheet – The True Israel of God

ASSIGNMENT – Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. How many of Israel are to be saved? Romans 11:26.
And so _____.
2. Who are identified as being the true Israel of God in Galatians 6:15,16?
Answer _____
3. What virtuous act caused Jacob's name to be changed to Israel? Genesis 32:28
Men, and _____.
4. Who are true Israelites according to Romans 9:4; 6:8?
Answer _____
5. Where is the law of God found in true spiritual Israelites? Jeremiah 31:31-33
Answer _____
6. What prophecy in Daniel foretold the termination of the literal Jews from being God's nation?
Explain.
Answer _____
7. What was a symbol of the Jewish nation used by God? Jeremiah 11:16
The LORD called your name, _____.
8. How is the truth that Gentiles can become spiritual Israelites illustrated in Romans 11:17-26?
Answer _____
9. What wonderful promise is given to the Gentiles in Ephesians 2:19,20?
You are no longer _____,

_____.
10. What is a true Jew? Romans 2:28,29
Answer _____
11. Through whom do we receive the promise of God? Galatians 3:29
And if you are _____,
_____, _____.
12. When will the promises to spiritual Israelites be fulfilled?
Answer _____

Have you chosen to be a part of the family of God? YES _____ NO _____