

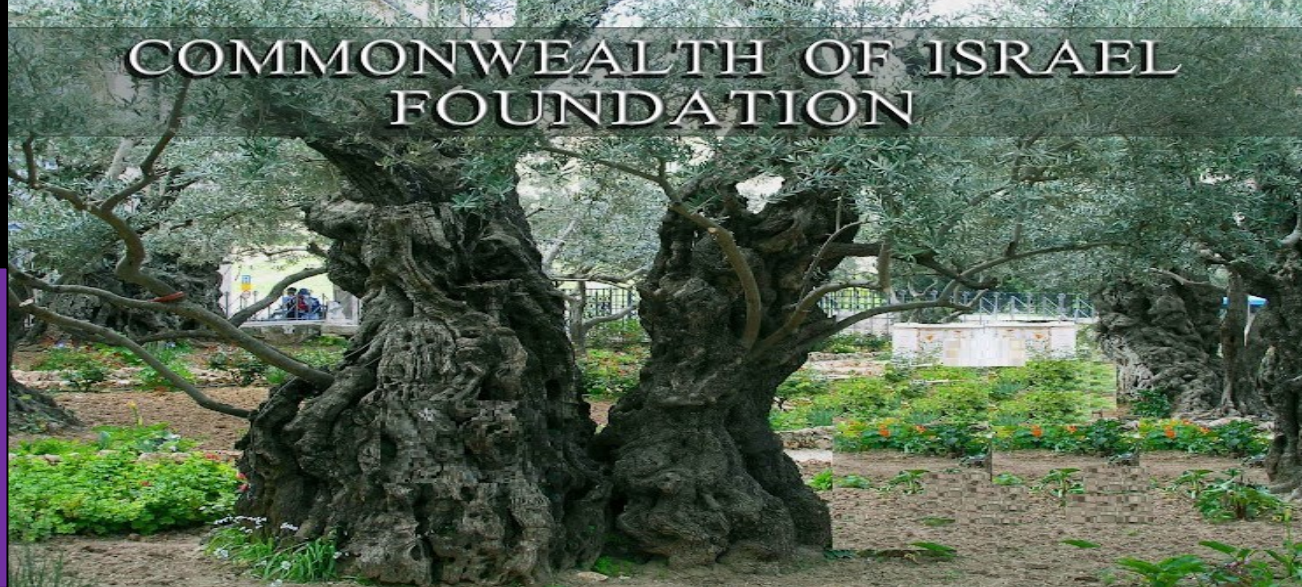


COMMONWEALTH
OF ISRAEL FOUNDATION

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Associate Editor

Chris W. Steinle

"FROM THE RIVER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" – Zechariah 9:10b

"From the River to the Sea" bespeaks not only of the Israeli State's ultimate annihilation but of the rise of virulent worldwide anti-Semitism (viz. "Jew Hatred"). It appears impossible to disassociate anti-Zionism (i.e., a "national homeland for the Jewish people") with anti-Semitism. Notwithstanding, fringe groups like the ultra-Orthodox Haredi sect of Jews, Neturei Karta, are wholly opposed to the existence of the State of Israel. Even so, some traditional liberal Jews dating back to the likes of British Sec. of State to India, Edwin Montague (himself Jewish), who on August 23, 1917 wrote a scathing denunciation of the Balfour Declaration (officially released – Nov. 2, 1917, initial draft, 18 July 1917)—calling the "draft" for the creation of a Jewish State by Lord Balfour blatantly anti-Semitic with worldwide implications.

It's unavoidable that Psalm 2:1-4 at this juncture in world history must come to light:

*"Why do the nations (Gentiles) rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?*

*The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,*

*Against the LORD and against His
Messiah, saying, 'Let us break*

*Their bonds in pieces and cast away
Their cords from us.'*

*He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision."*

"Against the LORD and against His Anointed (aka Messiah)" is actually the focus of the Gentile rage; however, in Psalm 2:6 Zion comes into view wherein we read: *"Yet I have set My King upon the hill of My holiness"* – which just happens to be in Jerusalem (viz. "Zion's Holy Hill") – *ipso facto* the obvious link between Israel and "Their" (Note the capital "T") bonds/cords—i.e. the LORD and His Messiah or Anointed One AND Their inhibitors.

You see, dear reader, the worldwide outrage against today's Eretz Israel (the "land of Israel" – Zion/the Jews) is really a "tumultuous throng" engaged in a "worthless/empty" contest against the King of the Jewish Messiah Whom the Almighty has set upon the "hill of His holiness." *"Their bonds and cords"* restrict the nations and, frankly speaking, they don't like THEIR confinement—the nations are NOT free to move about the cabin.

Of the 193 member nations of the UN those voting (176) just 66 days after the infamous October 7, 2023 carnage inflicted upon Israel by Hamas, 153 voted for Israel to "cease and desist" their defense; 23 abstained; and 9 voted with Israel, making it 10. There you have it—around 6% of the world's nations "stood by Israel" with the rest "righteously" opposed to Israel's outrage against Hamas.

One might be inadvertently clueless regarding such obtuse animosity toward the Divine when voting at the UN but the Almighty's laughing upon His throne and holding the nations in "derision" while *"He speaks to them in His wrath"* and intends to *"distress them in His deep displeasure"* – be aware, this is no small thing from the "Divine perspective." You might say, God is determined to get the "last laugh!"

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Doug
Krieger
Chair of
COIF

Anti-Zionism Morphs into anti-Semitism



The first large-scale anti-Zionist Crowd of Arab Muslims and Christians
at the Damascus Gate, Jerusalem - March 8, 1920

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Speaking of the King-Messiah and His Kingdom stretching *from the River to the ends of the earth* according to Zechariah 9:10—not just “from the River to the Sea” thereby eliminating Israel but grossly expanding the King’s jurisdiction to include the whole earth leaves the peace negotiators somewhat flabbergasted!

As I recall in my synthesis of the Oracle of Damascus (now ongoing, found in Zechariah 9:1-8) concludes with the Triumphal Entry of the King seemingly “out of context” wherein the First and Second Coming of the Messiah having both “salvation” (First Coming) and “universal dominion” (Second Coming). Both stages of the Messiah are delineated with prescient clarity in all four gospels of the New Testament harkening back to Zechariah 9.

Today’s kidnapping trauma surround the “hostages”—let alone the catastrophic conflict taking place between the IDF and Hamas, et al, is alluded to in Zechariah 9:11 in which the Almighty declares: “I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit”—these prisoners now held in a “waterless pit” are enjoined to “return to the stronghold” to become “**prisoners of hope**” whereupon the King will “retore double to you” (Zech. 9:11-12). All this is predicated upon the “blood of your covenant” (vs. 11) which was shed not only for Judah (Jerusalem) but, as well, for Ephraim (vs. 10). The Almighty did all this through the “blood of the covenant” which in context is wholly connected to the King riding upon the colt, the foal of a donkey—i.e., the Triumphal Entry—whereupon He was slain for us and our salvation nigh four days later!

We at COIF affirm that Ephraim (the 10 Northern Tribes) were assimilated among the very nations spoken of in both Psalm 2 and Zechariah 9, as well as Isaiah 17 and Hosea 9:7-10). The LORD prophetically decreed: “I have bent Judah (the Jewish people), My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim (the “elect from among the nations/Gentiles”) and raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and made you like the sword of a mighty man” (Zech. 9:13).

This enigmatic text must be taken in context with the coming King; otherwise, it makes no sense at all. What we are witnessing is the gathering together of His Remnant from both Judah and Ephraim . . . “If it is marvelous in the eyes of **the remnant of this people** in these days (happening now in time), will it also be marvelous in My eyes?” says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west (lit. “rising sun – setting sun”); I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness.’” (Zech. 8:6-8).

We find that a passage in Zechariah 8 has immediate reference to the rebuilding of the Second Temple during the prophet’s days; with this prophetic outburst “O house of Judah and house of Israel/Ephraim” (Zech. 8:13). But where was the House of Ephraim upon the return of Judah from Babylonian Captivity? Yes, the Almighty in those days was “determined to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah” (Zech. 8:15) but in the latter days “the flock of His people” shall include not only Judah, My bow, but He shall fit “the bow with Ephraim” (Zech. 9:13). Together, Judah (His bow) and Ephraim (His fitted arrows) “shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land” (Zech. 9:16).

Imagine, the ambiguity of stalwart Christians, whose affinity to the Jewish people (Judah) today is both puzzling to the secularist, as well as downright disgusting (at times) to some religionists (Jews, Christians, Muslims, etc.—let alone to “Bible-believing Christians”) will readily be explained “on that day” wherein Ephraim’s scattering and assimilation among the nations will be clearly understood—even James, the half brother of Jesus, at the “Jerusalem Council” explained the incursion of the Gentiles/nations into the Ekklesia Jesus was building in this way in the here and now:

“After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David (i.e., the “United Kingdom of David”), which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind (lit. “Edom”—Amos 9:11-12) may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles (lit. “ethos” or “nations”) who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.’” (Acts 15:16-17)

I strongly disagree with brethren who assert that what was then

happening at this Jerusalem Council was for the “sweet by-and-by” having no immediate relevance—awaiting, a future millennium reign of the King of kings. No, the United Kingdom of David—the Tabernacle of David—was and continues to happen with ever greater intensity both then and especially NOW! Let me be perfectly frank: Ephraim is just as much Israel as Judah is Israel. We have no intention—no biblical intention—to become Jewish/Jews/Judah in that the “scepter shall not depart from Judah” (Gen. 49:10) but we, the remnant of mankind (Edom)—even “all the Gentiles”—who enter into the Tabernacle of David—are full citizens, in the eyes of God Almighty, of Israel just as much as the Jews!

“...that at that time you were without Christ (the King/Messiah), being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel...now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph. 2:12, 19).

I’m not sure you’re getting it? Where’s your Israeli passport? You’re bold enough to declare your membership in the Body of Christ but what about your citizenship in Israel?


Now, that kind of changes things—theologically—as in MASSIVE! Those of you “in the know” can righteously declare with Paul: “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, but 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” (Rom. 2:28-29). Yes, very true—but that Jew living inside of your heart doesn’t cancel your citizenship in Israel; if anything, it only affirms it!

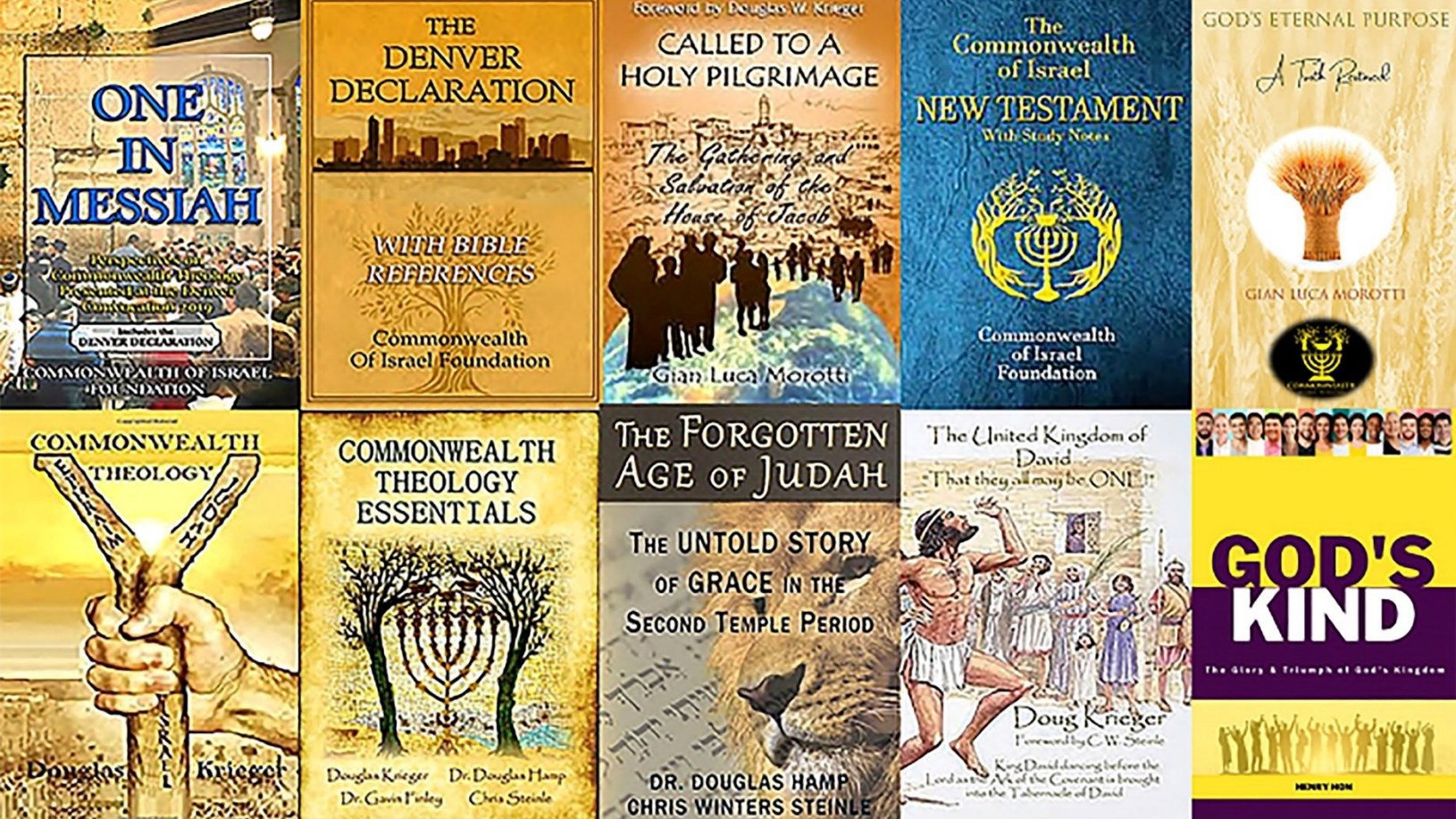
What we are advocating is an eschatological (prophetic) SEA-CHANGE wherein our Catholic-Reform understanding of what constitutes Israel is void of Jews wherein the True Israel of God is constituted by adherence to One Olive Tree. Furthermore, and although well-meaning brethren among Evangelical Dispensationalists wish the Jews well in their “separate plan” versus the Church’s plan even to the extent that there is one “wife of Jehovah” for Old Testament saints and Jews in general, and the Bride of Christ for New Testament saints, aka Christians, wherein “Jacob’s Trouble” is a “Jewish problem” and the “Valley of Dry Bones” in Ezekiel 37 is reserved for “Jews only” is flat-out theologically wrongheaded!

No, “Jacob’s Problem” is OUR MUTUAL PROBLEM and the Valley of Dry Bones—if ever Judah and Ephraim needed reviving—is just as much Ephraim’s Revival as it is Judah’s, to wit:

“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 prophesy and say to 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 . . . Again, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions. Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand” (Excerpts, Ezk. 37).

Folks, “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 then . . . My servant David shall be their prince forever. 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 . . . I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” (Ezk. 37:24-28).

We simply cannot sequester these passages for “Jews only” when the rest of Scripture screams aloud that the “remnant of Ephraim” is “taken out from among the nations” whereupon these “two sticks” comprise the Whole House of Israel. Yes, there’s a profound anointing within Bible-believing brethren as to why they have these “feelings” toward Israel—because the LORD is into making us ONE STICK in His hand! 



The Lost House of Israel—Saved on a Technicality? Part 2 of 2



Chris Winters
Steinle
Is the lead editor
of COIF's
New Testament
w/Study Notes
and a
Prolific Author
And Co-author

ALL ARE ALIVE TO HIM

Before we review specific passages in which Peter and Paul mention Christ's preaching to the dead, let us consider the "deadness" of the party being addressed. Those belonging to the House of Israel who had died, from the time of Israel's rejections until the time of Christ—wherever on earth they had migrated—"died in their sins" on a national level. On the national level, they were no longer God's people—at least "for a little while." Jesus warned those belonging to the House of Judah (the Jews) that they were in danger of the same plight: "Unless you believe I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:21, 24).

Our first theological hurdle will be to address the question of posthumous salvation. Off' quoted by contemporary evangelists is Ecclesiastes 11:3b: "And if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie." Ezekiel had the opportunity to play this card when God asked him about the dead House of Israel: "Can

these bones live?"

They had indeed died in their sins. The prophet was wise enough to defer to the One with whom all things are possible—even the salvation of those dead in their sins.

Jesus, in answering the Sadducees question, disclosed a pivotal theological truth—humanly speaking, a **loophole**—regarding the status of the dead: "For to Him all are alive" (Luke 20:38). So HAS that tree *really* fallen (To God, that is)? What if God, in His sovereignty, decided to "end run around" and to "remember their sins and lawless deeds no more"? After all, as noted in 2 Samuel 14:14: "He devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast." This is NOT even to suggest that such a redemption could occur apart from "the new covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25); which is precisely why the Lost House of Israel could only obtain mercy (forgiveness) AFTER THE CROSS. The fortunes of both houses of Israel were bound inseparably to the New Covenant that would be established "after those days." (Jer. 31:33-34). J. Vernon McGee highlights the "blood of my covenant with you" propounds the same in his exposition of Zechariah 9:11-13 (viz. it bespeaks of the New Testament in My blood for both Judah and Ephraim as the sons of Zion).

Now, lest the Gentile Christian reader should withdraw in a huff, let us readily and gratefully affirm God's plan "that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel..." (Eph. 3:6). Also

rest assured that further clarification on posthumous salvation will follow our examination of key verses documenting Christ's words to the dead.

Washed by the Word

Similar to Ephesians, Peter's first epistle suggests he was also mindful of the Lost House of Israel in that he stated:

"For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).

Notice they didn't "turn" but "returned." These "pilgrims" among the nations (v.1) were not merely believers who had been dispersed after the stoning of Stephen. These sojourners already had a Shepherd at some time in the past and were returning to Him.

We have already established that the Church Fathers acknowledged Christ's visit to the underworld. Now we will review Peter's direct reference to that event before looking into a more indirect reference mentioned by Paul.

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also **He went and preached to the spirits in prison**, who formerly were **disobedient**, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the **days of Noah**, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the **answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him (1 Peter 3:18-22).*

Jesus preached to the spirits in prison. "Preaching" implies these spirits were alive (alive to God) and capable of acknowledging the message that was being preached. These particular spirits were formerly disobedient. Peter's insertion of this qualifier would have been wholly unnecessary were it intended to represent all fallen souls from the time of Adam. These were souls who had at one time been obedient, but then made a choice to disobey. As a consequence of God's judgment, although they once were God's people, it was determined that, for a time, they were not His people. Thus, they were taken captive—held as prisoners. These prisoners remained "*alive to God*" under His forbearance while the "ark of Christ" was being prepared.

That these prisoners were indeed the once-disobedient House of Israel wherein it becomes altogether obvious by Peter's reference to Noah's ark:

*"With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I WILL HAVE MERCY ON YOU," Says the Lord, your Redeemer. "For this is like the **waters of Noah to Me**; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you" (Isa. 54:8-9 Emphasis mine).*

Just as the thief on the cross beside Jesus could do nothing to change his past, the wayward House of Israel, which had died in its sins, could not change the history of the Northern Kingdom. The filth of their flesh in times past could not be removed. At Christ's preaching, however, they did receive mercy and were made clean by the word of the Living Word. By the grace of God they were given the answer of a "*good conscience toward God*."

Now we will look at Paul's indirect reference to the same event. The passage to be considered is only obscured by the omission of Christ's descent into the abode of the dead. But the elements: the husband; the wife; God's inheritance; and, the cleansing by the word; these are all presented—and not apart from Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish... This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Excerpts from Eph. 5:25-32).

In order to interpret these verses in the light of the predicament of fallen Israel—rather than treating Christ's ekklesia as a modern, distantly-related entity—we should begin with the question: When was Christ's ekklesia ever defiled? Is it even possible for the "Ekklesia," defined by modern English Bible translations as the "Church," to become dirty and in need of cleansing—considering that the Congregation is the Body of Christ? Well: Yes, it is possible or Paul would never have mentioned it; but in what context?

Solving the mystery of the Congregation's cleansing also requires eliminating the prejudice injected into English translations, which was perpetrated by incorporating a special word for the "congregation of believers in Messiah"—the term, "Church." This translation of "congregation" became accepted as a convenient way to distinguish believers in Christ from God's formerly ordained people, who had not yet corporately believed. (This manipulation of words and the possible motives were discussed earlier in this volume.) Nevertheless, it is helpful to overcome the bias of modern translations by referring back to Tyndale's translation of these verses:

Husbandes love youre wyves even as Christ loved the **congregacion** and gave him silfe for it to sanctifie it and censed it in the fountayne of water thorow the worde to make it vnto him selfe a glorious **congregacion** with oute spot or wrynckle or eny soche thinge: but that it shuld be holy and with out blame. So ought men to love their wyves as their awne bodyes. He that loveth his wyfe loveth him sylfe. For no ma ever yet hated his awne flesshe: but norissbeth and cheriseth it even as the lorde doth the **congregacion**... This is a great secrete but I speake bitwene Christ and the **congregacion** (Excerpts from Eph. 5:25-32: The Tyndale Bible;ⁱ Emphasis added).*

The “Commonwealth of Israel” defined throughout Ephesians is ONE BODY, ONE CONGREGATION—we must hesitate, though, to say “One Church” because of the exclusive connotation attached to that extra-biblical term. The text of the original language never intended to be exclusive but INCLUSIVE concerning the Commonwealth of Israel, as explained in prior chapters; i.e.: **distinguishing between those who have believed in Christ and those who have not; but not excluding indefinitely God’s foreordained people to whom the promises were made.**

Christ loved the “congregacion” and gave Himself for it/her. To understand the cleansing aspect applied to the “wife” we must respect the definition of the **Congregation** developed by Paul in the previous chapters of Ephesians.

Mainstream theologians have erred greatly because they have put the cart before the horse. (Or put the horse down, altogether.) These elements of the New Covenant were experienced FIRST by the children of Israel: Those in Hades and the Early (all Jewish) Church. The Congregation among the Nations has received these elements TOGETHER with their fellow heirs of the Commonwealth of Israel—the ancient House of Israel....

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

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*Editor’s Note:

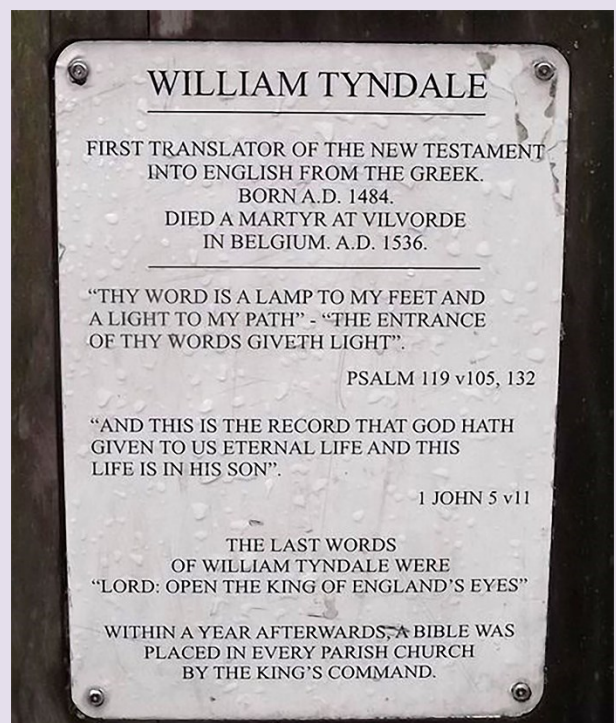
William Tyndale’s version of the New Testament and subsequent books of the Old Testament were the first “Early Modern English Translation” from the koine Greek and Hebrew (cir. 1526-1535); whereas John Wycliffe and associates translated the entire Bible (66 books/Christian Sacred Scriptures—i.e., cannon; cir. 1384) into Middle English from the Latin Vulgate (which in turn was translated from Hebrew [OT] and Greek [NT] in 405 AD by St. Jerome).

Tyndale was strangled (first) and burned at the stake by Catholic authorities primarily because he refused to translate the word “ekklesia” (Greek) into the English word “Church” but insisted it be translated as “conregacion” in that the word from the Greek laid emphasis upon the “people” and not “houses of worship” (i.e., buildings); to wit:

Tyndale's translations were condemned in England by Catholic authorities, where his work was banned and copies bought and burned. Catholics, prominently layman Thomas More, charged that he had purposely mistranslated the ancient texts in order to promote anti-clericalism and heretical views. In particular they cited the terms "church", "priest", "do penance" and "charity", which became in the Tyndale translation "congregation", "senior" (changed to "elder" in the revised edition of 1534), "repent" and "love", challenging key doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.

Tyndale's use of the word *congregation* conflicted with the Catholic Church's doctrine that the lay members and the clergy were two separate classes within the Church, and the Catholic teaching of the Sacrament of Ordination. If the true church is defined as a congregation, the common believers, then the Catholic Church's claim that the clergy were of a consecrated order different than the average Christian and that they had different functions within the Church no longer held sway.

(Source: Wikipedia)



Pillars Within Commonwealth Theology



Dr. Gavin Finley and others here at COIF are putting together a dynamic, yet concise, trailer/video which will encapsulate the major elements of Commonwealth or Grafting Theology (*Commonwealth* signifies His “Governmental or Administrative” Unity and *Grafting* signifies His “Organic or Life” Oneness). Once the seeking soul gets a taste of what God’s Eternal Purpose is all about in the establishment of His Kingdom—that vision will, we affirm, be transformative in which a SEA-CHANGE

will take place among God’s People.

Dr. Finley created somewhat of a “script” - laying down some of the rails on which our “trailer train” will track:

There are a number of elements, derived from a number of our members, which actually extend the story. Here are some of the added themes Dr. Finley has accessed from our COIF members (not necessarily in thematic order):

1. Israel’s divorce and remarriage (we will spend more space on this because of its centrality within CT): Dr. Doug Hamp has synthesized an amazing revelation from Romans 7:1-4 which sheds abundant light upon the Mosaic Law of “Marriage and Remarriage” and how it directly impacts upon the core affirmation found in Commonwealth Theology; to wit:

The presupposition of what constitutes the “Israel of God” is broken down throughout Scripture (both Testaments) as the “People of God.” Yes, if you were *Gentile* “*ethnos from the nations*” you were welcomed into Israel—however, the “Mosaic Covenant” was exclusive to Israel’s twelve tribes. It was not until the ONE NEW MAN, through Messiah’s cross, would Jew and Gentile be considered partakers of the New Covenant. Much earlier we find that Israel’s polity was divided into the 10 Tribes of the North known as Ephraim-Israel/Jezreel/Samaria and the 2 Tribes of the South known as Judah-Israel and Benjamin (e.g. Joshua was from the Tribe of Ephraim and Caleb from Judah—the only two spies of the 12 who made it into the Good Land from Israel’s journey in the Wilderness)—along with the Tribe of Levi as Israel’s priesthood—Caleb inheriting land in Judea and Joshua in Samaria.

In sum: The Mosaic Covenant at Sinai (the “giving of the law”—the Ten Commandments) and subsequently expanded to include other aspects whereby Israel’s 12 Tribes were to obey/live by was considered a “marriage accord/covenant” between YHWH and Israel. In other words, this bilateral arrangement was akin to the Almighty saying “I will/do” (the Male) and Israel saying “I will” (the Female) and later explained to God’s People among earthly relationships known as the “law of marriage and remarriage” (Deut. 24).

Once the distinction between Judah-Israel and Ephraim-Israel was made (i.e., 2 Southern Tribes-Judah and 10 Northern Tribes-Israel) and politically formalized, due to the sin of King Solomon, at the “Breach of King Jeroboam”—himself of the Tribe of Ephraim

and henceforth delineated “Israel, Samaria, Jezreel, Ephraim” thereafter two separate kingdoms competing with one another whereupon the United Kingdom of David (i.e., the Tabernacle of David) was delimited and found “in ruins.”

All of the 19 “Northern Kingdom” kings did evil, with some of the 20 kings of the Southern Kingdom doing “good” and some “evil” (Saul, David, Solomon reigned over the United Kingdom making the total number of kings: $3 + 20 + 19 = 42$ kings).

However, Israel’s 10 Northern Tribes played the “harlot”, therefore, Ephraim was “legally given a certificate of divorce” by the LORD (Jer. 3:8); and though her sister (Judah) was “more treacherous” than “backsliding Israel” (i.e., Ephraim) which had “committed adultery” she was not given a divorce certificate because of the mercies of the LORD shown to King David of Judah and the prophetic implications given by Jacob-Israel concerning Judah (Gen. 49:10) for Shiloh/Messiah would come through Judah—“the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh come.”

Notwithstanding the implications derived from Ephraim’s certificate of divorce—it was prophesied she would one day repent of her backsliding and return to the LORD (Jer. 3-4:1-2; Hosea 1-14) for the Almighty declares to Israel’s 10 Northern Tribes who were “swallowed up of the nations” (i.e. “assimilated”—Hos. 8:7-10): “*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*” (Hos. 2:19-23, excerpts).

At question is the very *law of marriage and remarriage*. If a divorced woman remarries she commits adultery—she cannot go back to her first divorced husband for it is an abomination nor can she remarry until her first husband dies lest she become an “adulterous woman.” Furthermore, since the Almighty’s plan was to “betroth” Israel’s 10 Northern Tribes forever . . . how could He do so if the first husband had not died? Moreover, her first husband was the LORD Himself—somehow He had to die AND He did that very thing, according to Paul in Romans 7:1-4: “*Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God*” (Rom. 7:4).

2. Law vs. Grace as a false dichotomy. As we see, each of the two houses of Israel is “playing favorites” with the two witnesses to the God of the whole earth (Ref. Rev. 11). That Law vs. Grace bun-fight is the theological conundrum of rationalism and Aristotelian man-centered reasoning. These revolving doors in the Hellenized mind are the basis for the Church versus Judah squabble. It perpetuates the nearly 3,000-year-old family feud and fuels the fires of Ephraim’s jealousy, while aggravating mutual vexation in that it exacerbates the terrible social disease of anti-Semitism.

3. This can and will be resolved with the evangelical Joseph anointing known as the Increase in God, the fruitful branch that extends over the wall, by a well, the wells of salvation, and streams in the desert. Are we afraid to speak of this born-again reality? Is it not refreshing?

This is the inauguration of the “born again” NEW COVENANT (Not a refurbished, dusted off, reglueing of the broken pieces of the Mosaic Covenant that waxes old and is ready to fade away—Heb. 8:13). The New Covenant is not waiting for Armageddon. The New Covenant is NOW AT WORK, YES, RIGHT NOW, in the hearts, in the NAOS of God (the spirit of man/his temple) . . . and LATER to be revealed CORPORATELY at the apocalypse in Jerusalem, even the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of people descending from heaven, as John saw. The “One New Man so making peace” is NOW (Eph. 2:15); the “Perfect Man” (full-grown) is NOW (Eph. 4:13-15, excerpts); and the “New Creation” is NOW and that’s all that matters (not circumcision nor uncircumcision)—Galatians 6:16 . . . for all this NEW is the very Israel of God (Gal. 6:16) . . . *“For as many who march in step to this standard (rule), peace and mercy upon them—they are the Israel of God”* (lit. Greek). (Note: Not “peace and mercy” be upon the Gentile Galatian believers and then only Jewish believers who “see the New Creation” are considered the “Israel of God”—NO, the New Creation IS the Israel of God—both Jew and Greek!

We, as supposedly saved individuals (no longer considered “unsaved sinners” according to Acts 15:1 and Galatians 2:14-16) need to understand this. Then we can save ourselves from engaging in useless circuitous ramblings in seminarian/rabbinical style mind games.

If the Bible affirms God is a God of righteous law then we must believe it. If the Bible affirms that God is a God of Grace and mercy we must also believe that. BOTH are reconciled through the indwelling Christ. If we decide to neglect the evangelical message then we are wasting our time. We may spend years smoking our pipes in the seminary, stroking our beards in the yeshivas, and yet NEVER come to any resolution of the matter. The truth that reconciles our theological conundrums will escape us. We shall be yacking away in circuitous, yet meaningless, arguments.

Are we afraid to talk about the born-again reality in Messianic and HRM (Hebrew Roots Movement) circles? Are we hiding the stumbling block, just to be “nice”? YES! That is what we are doing. We are gutless wonders in that area. We are backing away from the evangelical Joseph anointing, and lending a hand to unsaved Judah and the non-Jewish HRM “Torahites” whose hidden unresolved anger persists amongst many of them to this day. By short-changing the Joseph anointing we are merely perpetuating what is the quintessential Family Feud, even unwittingly fueling anti-Semitism. This is very disappointing. Notwithstanding, we cling to the promise: *“He will set up a banner for the nations . . . Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim”* (Isa. 11:12-16; excerpts).

4. The dual office of Messiah in the Order of Melchizedek (**King of Salem/Peace—King of Righteousness** . . . **Priest of the Most High God**; (Heb. 7:1-2) is a key piece of our COI story. I am sad that this element is not being picked up on yet. This is a vital, and very powerful part of the peace-maker’s biblical armament, even as he seeks to perform the work of reconciliation between the House of Judah and the House of Joseph/Ephraim. This theme is carried out in Zechariah’s “Two Sons of Oil”—Dual Anointing upon Zerubbabal the Governor (kingship) and Joshua (the High Priest).

5. Moses and Peter, both speak of a cross-linked “Royal Priesthood-Holy Nation.” Notice, Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 did not say a “Holy Priesthood, the Church and a Royal Nation or Kingdom of Israel.” This mutual embracing of the two houses of Israel helps both our Christian and Jewish listeners. They need to unlearn the false theology of a supposed “Gentile” (heathen, outsider, alien) Priesthood or Church, and a Jewish (only) Nation Israel.

6. The Breach of Jeroboam. Yes, this breach is predicated upon the “sin of King Solomon”; however, the full-blown, divinely-orchestrated political separation into two distinct kingdoms of Judah and Israel took place (call it what you will—regardless of its predicate) at the very Breach of Jeroboam (1 Kings 11). If the Church did not have a label for this fractious rebellion before now it certainly has been so labeled. The term clearly describes this historical, national event in the history of the 12 Tribes of Israel.

It must not be spirited away, vaporized, or lawyered away in some obtuse technicality. Biblical truth must be upheld in clarity with faithful terms being used, describing what the Holy Spirit is plainly telling us upon the pages of Holy Writ.

7. The “lost ten tribes” are not lost. As we know from Yair Davidiy’s research and books, they went, in the main, “into the West.” But it seems that this biblical blockbuster is not yet ready for prime time. As King Solomon said, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. So this mystery, which is already being grabbed and misused by British Israelism, will probably be allowed to break forth later on, during the gatherings of the saints in the wilderness of the peoples during the future 70th Week (Dr. Finley’s prognostication and others here at COIF).

8. Revelation 7, and the much neglected story of fully restored Israel as a Congregation-Nation/Kingdom with its Commonwealth is comprised of a global company in Messiah drawn from every nation, race, and tribe. This is Messiah’s global agenda, His Kingdom, His Family of Abraham, His racially INCLUSIVE and Eternally SUSTAINABLE plan and purpose; indeed, His Ekklesia, Congregation, ultimate New Jerusalem—for it was shown to Abraham right back at the beginning, who “looked for a City Whose Builder and Maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). This Revelation 7 vision John saw totally trounces the accusations that Israel is RACIST. This too is a peace-making item of information and witness for immediately after the “unification of the 12 Tribes” described in Revelation 7:1-8, John witnesses *“a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, etc.”* (Rev. 7:9-17). Far too long have we blithely separated this “composite vision” of “expanded unification” for it is indeed the “Glorious Company” – *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and ekklesia of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel (animal sacrifices)”* (Heb. 12:22-24).

9. We resoundingly and theologically reject the two-tiered notion that Jehovah has a wife (Israel) and Christ has a Bride (the Church). Our God is NOT a polygamist—He is ONE and He as our Beloved has but One Bride. Neither are there “two New Covenants” nor two eternal plans and purposes: One for the Jews (Israel) and one for the Church (aka “the Gentile Church”); nor are there two Holy Cities—there is but one Holy City which is multi-dimensional upon the Earth (Ezk. 40-48) and descending from the heavens (Rev. 19-22) and linked by the vision seen by Jacob’s ladder manifested and linked by the Son of Man (Son of God from Heaven; King of Israel upon the Earth—John 1:49-51).

The “Braided Challah” or LOAF

Each of the Two Loaves at SHAVUOT are Braided into 6 Sets to Resemble the 6 Loaves on Each Side of the Table in the Temple or in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness



Leviticus 23:17

“You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flower; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the FIRSTFRUITS to the LORD.”

Prepared and Eaten at:
THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
or
Feast of Weeks - SHAVUOT
TWO LOAVES IN RESURRECTION - 50: JUBILEE

10. The two puffed up loaves we saw lifted up at the last feast, the Feast of Pentecost . . . yes, they were leavened. Leaven is a symbol of increase and expansion as well as being a symbol of sin. If one loaf was a showcasing of the unification of the 12 Tribes (Rev. 7:1-8) and the other loaf the Great Multitude or *Melo-Ha-Goyim* (Rev. 7:9-17—His all-inclusive Ekklesia/Congregation) then what is that demonstration at Pentecost all about?

11. The rabbinical speculation of two Messiahs, Mashiach Ben Judah and Mashiach Ben Joseph, were seen as two offices of Messiah quite clearly. The Children of Israel were given the Spring Feasts and

the Fall Feasts in Leviticus 23 to reveal this “two in one” Messianic revelation. But they failed to appreciate His two comings (Zechariah 9:9—First Coming/Mashiach Ben Joseph [His sufferings bringing “salvation”] and Zechariah 9:10—Second Coming/Mashiach Ben Judah [“and the glories that would follow”—1 Peter 1:10—for “His Dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth”—Zech. 9:10]).

12. The totally unscriptural notion of a “spiritual people”, (the Church—aka “other worldly”), and an “earthly people” (aka the Jews “this worldly”). This is not only totally without biblical foundation but also subtly anti-Semitic. Does the royal Jewish House of Judah really have no spiritual inheritance? God help us!

13. Let us gently entreat the saints to unlearn the lies and deceptions of Satan and fallen humanity in order to discover the peace that can only come through the indwelling Messiah, Who comes into human hearts to establish BOTH:

a. His throne, the Throne of David, to successfully administer His LAW, the LAW of the Spirit, and also to establish . . .

b. His altar, for GRACE and Mercy, in the Gospel, in the Increase of missions abroad and a great Fall Feast Harvest season, bringing in the sheaves, with Joseph’s sheave to be prominent among those of his brothers.

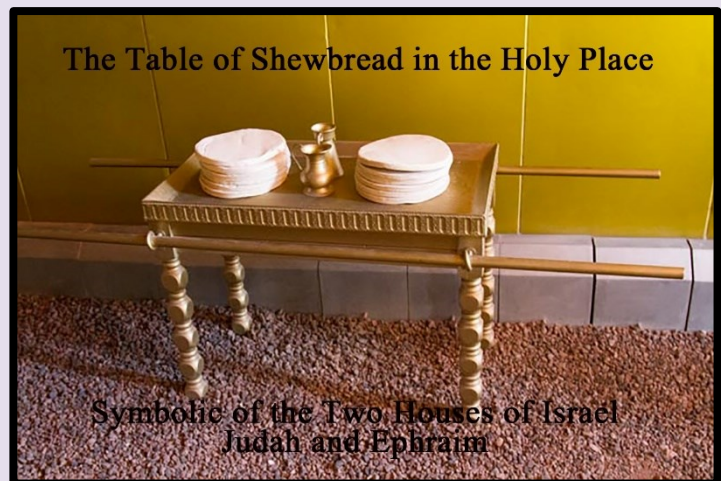
14. The two angels over the ark of the covenant. Who are they, and why are they overshadowing the mercy seat? What is each one looking for, as they see the blood of atonement sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat, which also appears to be a Judgment Seat? Yes, “two” is for TESTIMONY—testimony of what? Is one angel there as a witness to God’s Justice in the Law, and the other to see God’s Mercy in the blood of redemption? Is this just one more of the many instances where the Holy Spirit is laying out a beautiful picture in His multi-faceted peace-making story?

15. The Lion and the Lamb. Yes, that story. The Sacrificial Lamb celebrated first at Passover came into its New Covenant fulfillment 2,000 years ago.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is the King of kings, returning at the conclusion of the legal matter of the Judgment Day, the Last Day, as the sun sets on the Day of Atonement (for only the Lamb is worthy to judge) and the angels of the Harvest come to execute the Judgment, the gathering of the wheat and the tares, the plucking up of the Wicked in the Day of the Lord, and the Resurrection-Rapture, welded together irrevocably in 1 Thess. 4 and I Cor. 15.

To be continued . . .

The Table of Shewbread in the Holy Place



Symbolic of the Two Houses of Israel
Judah and Ephraim



WHY ANTISEMITISM?

...We're all going to have to choose...



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According to Merriam-Webster, antisemitism (of anti-Semitism) is “hostility towards or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.” Over the centuries, countless attempts have been made to give a comprehensive definition of antisemitism and innumerable things have been written about it (this is not the place to give an exhaustive discussion of them). Our focus is on *Why Antisemitism?*

Now, since the creation of the world, Abraham’s lineage has been violently contrasted by Satan and his minions knowing that from them would come the One who would crush his head according to the Genesis 3 prophecy after the serpent seduced Eve into sin. Therefore, it is known as the first mention of the “Good News” (The First Gospel), better known as the Protoevangelium. We read God’s answer to the serpent in verses 14-15 of Genesis 3:

“So the LORD God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise [lit. crush] your head, and you shall bruise His heel.’”

From that moment onward, it has been a merciless and relentless fierce battle in order for Satan to discover who would be that Seed, born of the woman, who would defeat him at the end. Finally, at the Cross, Yeshua defeated Satan, the Serpent, and “disarmed principalities and powers making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15).

However, since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been targeting the direct genetical lineage of Abraham’s physical descendants; in particular, those within the House of Jacob; specifically, the Jews or those of Judah (from whence we derive the word *Jehudi* [Heb. יְהוּדִי] or Jews or Jewish [Anglicized] which is found in Zechariah 8:23; Jeremiah 34:9, 43:9; Esther 2:5, 3:4, 5:13, 6:10, 8:7; 9:29, 31; 10:3 and the feminine Jewess (Heb. הַיְיִדִּיָּה) found in 1 Chronicles 4:18 (Note: *Jew, Jewish* is found in numerous passages in the Bible). The initial use of the term was popularized prior to and during the Babylonian 70-Year Captivity of Judah/Benjamin/Levites (607-537 BCE).

However, from that day onward, a ruthless hunt was in force to try to eradicate from the face of the earth the *earthly seed* from whence Satan’s head would be crushed for only the Anointed

One, the Messiah, the “Seed of the woman” could do so! This “woman” would give birth to the One, ultimately of the Tribe of Judah Who would declare the Serpent’s demise. The SEED would come forth from Judah, for Judah was “governmentally chosen” to bear the insignia of the Kingship in that as *Jacob*, whose name was changed to *Israel*, declared: “*The Scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh [the Messiah, the Prince of Peace] comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people . . . [for this is the One] binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes*” (Gen. 49:10-12). Indeed, if Satan could eliminate Abraham’s Seed, through Judah, then his head (his rebellious, governmental head) would NOT be crushed—but the Almighty’s plan could not be thwarted!

But the “sore loser” (Satan) wherever Judah went, Satan’s bruising hatred, anti-Semitism, followed them—for Satan determined to “bruise his heel”—the same heel or feet that would, through the authority given to the Body of Messiah, CRUSH the Serpent’s head (“*And the God of peace [Shiloh] will crush Satan under your feet shortly*”—Rom. 16:20). No, the Scepter has never departed from Judah—it is welded in Messiah’s hand Who hails from the Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9-10; Rev. 5:2-5; Isa. 11:1-10; Heb. 7:14—“*It is clear that our Lord descended from Judah*”—Yeshua’s Linage is found through Judah in Matthew 1:1-17). Therefore, is it not obvious that hatred of Judah/Jews is in revelatory essence the very hatred of Messiah destined to crush the Serpent’s head through Messiah’s “seed” (“*Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of man, but as of one. And to your Seed,’ who is Christ . . . and if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*”—Galatians 3:16, 29). Therefore, the “seed of the Messiah” is wholly identified with the Lion of the Tribe of Judah Who is the very Seed of Judah unto Abraham, and Whose people, His seed, are the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15.

Do you see it? That is precisely why we who identify with the Messiah, the Christ, are inexorably tied to the Jewish People—yea and amen, identified so closely that we cannot escape this attachment—“*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*” (Rom. 2:29). I quote this passage because of our intense spiritual reality is that of the greatest Jew who ever lived—though His praise be not of men—but of God alone! Listen up, “*Jesus Christ has come in the flesh*”—indeed, He was the Son of God, but the eternal King of Israel: “*Nathanael answered and said to Him (Yeshua), ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’*” (John 1:49). To deny that the Son of Man came in the flesh is to deny He was Jewish—He was Jewish then, and He abides in His resurrected body as a man who is STILL JEWISH!

Thus we witness . . . during the centuries Abraham’s progeny were scattered throughout the whole earth. Pogroms and massacres decimated them. They were chased away from many nations. We can hold up the example of the attempt at the

extermination of the Jewish people by Haman, minister under Darius II, Artaxerxes the Great, king of Persia (521-485 BC—book of Esther); the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492; the pogroms since the 17th century in Poland; the gulags in Russia during the 19th Century; the Holocaust during World War II, where Jews were terrorized, persecuted, and six million murdered.

Even so, the enemy is working hard to divert God's plan of salvation on behalf of the Jewish people using all methodologies at his disposal to derail and avert as much as he can in a vain attempt to delay his final demise . . . for Judah, the literal Jewish people, are intrinsically united to all 12 Tribes and prophetically bound to them all! Hence, that's why the antisemitism. It's from Satan himself because antisemitism questions the very right for Jews to exist as a people, a tribe, and especially as a nation! They were promised by the Almighty a homeland—and, yes, it is upon the earth and designated perpetual under His Covenant to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-2; 15:2, 18-21; 17:7-8).

But there is more to it because it has to do with God's choice of a people. Isaiah 44:7 states that God appointed the descendants of Jacob ("*Since I appointed the ancient people*"). It follows that, having selected and appointed them to be His people, they are qualified to be His witnesses, and it is against this very role of God's witnesses that the hordes of hell have conspired against, to demonize the Jews and see them responsible for virtually all the world's evil. It's a matter of hating God's choice. In fact, antisemitism has also been defined as "*hatred of Judaism and ethical monotheism, followed close by the Chosen People idea*" ([Source](#)) Indeed, it is the hatred against all Jews which hides a real hatred against God, His Messiah, and His Word (viz. the "inspired, biblical truth" as recorded in the Bible).

But it has a spiritual component to it that we cannot underestimate. Antisemitism can be felt and perceived because it stems from a real spirit at work. I could personally testify regarding an evil spirit the day when I approached a man to hand him a Christian yearly devotional. He was known in the neighborhood as a very violent man, so I prayed to the Lord to give me the courage to go and speak to him kind words, but the moment he realized that I was there to show Jesus' compassion, he turned against me with fury, throwing a river of words against me wishing me to die like the Jews in the ovens of Auschwitz. Had he known what my role is in helping the Jews fulfilling their God-given destiny in making Aliyah (returning to the Land of promise according to the Hebrew prophets) I would have understood the reason of his hatred, but he did not. As he spewed from his mouth a river of filth against me and against the Jews, I could feel the venom of a nasty and threatening spirit coming out of him. Such an experience I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.

So, being a spiritual thing, in its myriad of manifestations, like anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism, antisemitism is a hatred against the Jews because they bring upon themselves the Name of God, to become an affront against the person of God Himself. Whether they are secular Jews or religious ones, it doesn't matter; they are the target of the evil spirit of Haman, who, as of old, still has plans for extermination.

Today we witness an insidious rise in antisemitism throughout the nations. Both Jews and Christians find they're being thrust together in suffering this worldwide malady. Is this the Almighty's final plan of gathering together His Elect from the nations? Why would this man decry my faith while at the same time attacking the Jewish people? Why would the Lord allow me to so clearly see it?

But if the Garden of Eden was the cradle for antisemitism, it was in the courts of Susa, in the chambers of power in the Medo-Persian Empire at the time of Xerxes the Great, that the foundation for all future attempts of extermination of the Jews was laid when a plot was developed by Haman, which, if it had been successful, would have resulted in the complete genocide of the Jews ([Source](#)).

CHRISTIAN ANTISEMITISM

Notwithstanding how this man identified my faith in Jesus with the Jewish people, allow me to draw your attention to history's "Christian antisemitism." Just as the whole COVID phenomenon caused a great sifting and brought division amongst believers in the Body of Christ, so too are the events unfolding from the October 7th Hamas attack acting as a sieve. Even in the Body of Christ, people are choosing sides, opposing those with different views. It is not just antisemites in general who are spreading conspiracy theories, demonizing Jewish people, and making them responsible for virtually all evil on the planet. Professing Christians are embracing and spreading these lies as well. And they are using the Bible to justify their viewpoints.

We need to understand that antisemitism is a spiritual conflict, and knowing where it comes from. We now know why God's election is so contested, at all levels. The devil has been trying to obscure the essential prophecies regarding the Jews knowing that the fewer people who know about these prophecies, the better. He has blinded scores of pastors and leaders to the restoration of Israel to the Land by allowing a legion of religious spirits swirling around this subject trying to impede the knowledge of truth, placing a gulf of ignorance to serve as a great divide, having them buying into the antisemitic lies.

How can there be a State of Israel, as even some religious Jews espouse, without Messiah's literal incursion into the affairs of man? What we see on that sliver of land on the Eastern Mediterranean is but an aberration, an anomaly, a fluke of history, or worse, an apostate state or nothing more than remorse for the Holocaust! What "theological blather" is this!

Many are those who say of the Jews that they are pulling the strings behind the major events that are taking place in the world. Tragically, "professing Christians are embracing and spreading these lies. And they are using the Bible to justify their viewpoints" ([Source](#)).

Similarly, the dynamic issue of "*we the Church vs. those Jews*" is evidence of a broken relationship—a jealous envy, long foretold between Judah and Ephraim (Isa. 11:13), abides to this day! The "us and them" approach is very definitely being taught

from worldwide pulpits within the majority of evangelical circles (as well as Catholic, Orthodox, and most Protestant denominations). In fact, this has become so entrenched (normally under the conspiratorial guise of the Jews conspiring to “take over the world” or righteous proclamations denouncing Israel/the Jews for their own inhumanity to man), especially in Western culture. It’s getting bad, so bad that many fundamentalist Christians can’t believe this is happening in the here and now; therefore, they are “anxiously comforted”) in their peculiar doctrine in which God Almighty has chosen a separate path for the Jews and a path for the Christians. The separation of paths and destinies where the mainline Bible prophecy teachers proclaim that the Church has a separate role and a separate destiny from Israel and the Jewish house, including their nation and their Judaism; however, they begrudgingly surmise that in the Eschaton (after the literal Millennial Reign of 1,000 years, yet future) we might find ourselves together as one People—that will take heaven to pull that one off—even then, the Jews will remain a separate people throughout all eternity (so these, excuse me, false prophets (misinformed?) somberly proclaim). Let us be clear—at its core, anti-Semitism is a deeply “spiritual affliction” exonerated via distorted exegesis—satanically inspired!

This system of interpretation has produced an unbridgeable chasm between Jews and Gentiles to the extent there is both distinction but irreparable separation. Moreover, those who adhere to this belief system (especially our “dispensational” brethren) are hostile to their members who show an interest in standing with the Jewish people or in the Hebrew roots of their faith—imaging and contriving all manner of heresies among those who wish to discover those peculiarities of the House of Judah/Joseph. Consequently, this persistent error in this theology has fueled the blood feud between the Church and Jewish Israel to this day. This is a deep error and seriously misleading because it is based upon a medieval Church tradition going back to heretics like Marcion and Montanus, as well as Augustine, Constantine, and, most certainly, Origen. Again, it can be traced to the earliest of the so-called Early Church Fathers, let alone the adjudged heretic, Marcion (cir. 144 AD), whose principal goal was to get rid of all traces of Judaism in Christianity. Marcion became known as the archenemy of the *Jew-God*. Nevertheless, the Church as an entity ultimately found herself separated from Israel of the flesh—this is not founded upon any biblical truth whatsoever. As Dr. John Garr states, surely “a virtual Neo-Marcionism, as it were, continues to survive in the teaching and practice of Christian replacement and displacement doctrines” ([Source](#)).

Paul, the apostle, said, *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel”* (Romans 11:25-27). Ignorance about the mystery of the partial hardening of Israel, coupled with one’s insecurity about its collocation in the *commonwealth of Israel* (Ephesians 2:12) have always been the cause of misunderstanding and at the helm of many erroneous conclusions as to the validity of God’s covenant faithfulness with Abraham’s progeny. Moreover, many believers today are envious of the special status accorded by God to Israel

in the Torah and arrogant towards them. To these, the admonition is: *“...do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.’ ‘Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble for if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either”* (Romans 11:17-21 NIV).

The whole tragedy serves to make a clear distinction between the wheat from the chaff in the nations (especially so). Nations and people groups are being sifted in the Lord’s winnowing fan right now and this goes for all those who stood up in the nations waving the flag of a nation that they don’t live in, and standing against Israel, the nation that we here at COIF affirm God has established to declare on that day: *“Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna”* (Matt. 23:39). It says in Zephaniah 2:8: *“I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the insult of the people of Ammon, with which they have reproached My people, and made arrogant threats against their borders.”* God took notice then—and He’s taking notice today! Well, here is a warning to the nations of the earth that are taunting and boasting against the people of the Lord of hosts.

So, as we see the wicked being made clearly visible in every nation of the earth in these days we know that we have come to the consummation of the age. And we have come to the time of harvest (Matthew 13:36-43) whereupon the wicked are first made visible; then the tares become easily identifiable. Then these tares are gathered and appointed by the Almighty into consuming fire. Then the wheat is harvested. Should the wicked be dealt with before the wheat is harvested and the chaff is separated from the wheat? Look at the timing and look at the sequence of events. First those who cause offense and act wickedly are identified and gathered into bundles or into groups first. Then how are the tares gathered out? They are plucked out by the roots and removed to the fire of judgment.

In conclusion, someone rightly suggested that “You cannot love Jesus whom you have not seen (who was/is Jewish) if you don’t love the Jewish people whom you have seen” ([Source](#)). (Once more, in case we may have forgotten it, Yeshua, the man, is returning as the “Root of Jesse, the Son of David”—yes, returning as the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah”—*ipso facto* He’s still Jewish!). **That’s why we’re all going to have to choose—that includes all those of the nations (aka, the Gentiles) and especially the religious of the world, including “Christians” (especially so).** ☿



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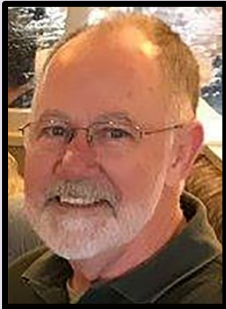
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Looking Deeper into the True Meaning of "The Church"

Part 1 of a 4-Part Series



**GUEST
Article**
**Russell Smith
Poteau, OK**

Section 1

True Beginnings: Abraham, Joseph, the House of Israel

*Now these things happened to them as an example,
and they were written for our instruction,
upon whom the ends of the ages have arrived.*
(1 Corinthians 10:11)

*Beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,
He interpreted to them the things concerning
Himself in all the Scriptures.*
(Luke 24:27)

Those who are of faith, those are sons of Abraham.
(Galatians 3:7)

**This is the way most
Christians view the
people God is dealing
with in the Bible:**

**JEW
Old
Testament**

**Christians
New
Testament**

We Are New Testament Believers

The statement above has been a frequent rebuttal, made by countless pastors and other believers, when encountering the view that some of the Old Testament instructions are still relevant today for those who claim to be following the God of both testaments.

But, what does that statement mean? Are we to ignore the Old Testament? Does the New Testament somehow supersede and overrule the Old? Is there a different plan in place now, did God in fact *change* the plan of salvation *and* the people He is saving?

Or, is there something we have been missing, some element that we have not been taught? Has some error been mixed with the truth we have inherited from our fathers in the faith? Could we find that God truly did *not* change, that the Son of God, the Messiah our Savior and our God, really has been the same, forever? Is it possible that our Bible is one story, not two?

That is the premise I will attempt to present and defend in this writing. God did not change people groups. He did not change the plan of redemption, the ways of salvation. He did not change, period. He has declared the ending since the beginning (Is. 46:10), and He has made known through His prophets and His word all that He is doing. Please join me as we seek to look deeper into God's dealing with the singular group that He calls: MY PEOPLE.

To begin with an illustration, I believe this graphic is a fairly accurate depiction of the prevailing view of today's "New Testament" Christian. God dealt with the Jews, but it didn't work out so well, so He sort of put them aside and will deal with them later. He is now working with a different group, the "Gentiles", who are saved through different means ("grace", not "law") and so don't have to follow those 613 burdensome laws of the Old Testament.

Have you ever stopped to think how many changes we just described? How do you reconcile that many changes with a God Who says He doesn't change? If Jesus was the Lawgiver (James 4:12) but is now the mediator of grace, how is it that He is declared to be the same yesterday, today and forever? I believe most Christians don't try to reconcile these things or answer these questions, we just accept what we have been taught.

Flocculating the Scriptures

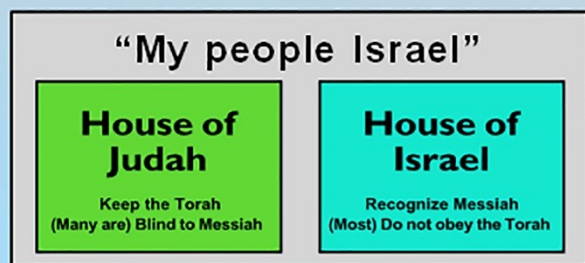
If you've ever owned a swimming pool, you may know about flocculant or may have even used it. A type of clarifier, flocculant removes suspended materials that make water cloudy and difficult to see through. As we all know, we can see much better and deeper through clarified water. In a similar way, I believe some of the things we have been taught have "clouded" the truth of scripture. We need to flocculate the scriptures, so we can look deeper. That is what I hope to do here.

The teaching mentioned above, that God "changed" people groups, is one of the major contributors to this cloudiness, obscuring the true meaning of scripture. I realize many of you will disagree with that statement, but please give me a chance to show you. The early church, the church of the first few centuries, was largely led by people who were anti-Semitic, to say the least. There was a virulent and often violent hatred of anything "Jewish", and anything that smacked of Judaism, including Sabbath, was strongly prohibited. With this thinking, it was important that God be distanced from the Jews, so a theology was developed to sideline the Jews and allow a new group, the "Gentiles", to replace the Jews in God's plan.

But, when this hazy, problematic teaching is removed, I believe the clearer vision of scripture will reveal that God chose a people and has not changed; He continues with that choice. This singular people, the people YHWH calls "My people Israel", has been divided into two groups, but this division is a divine doing for specific purposes, which we will identify. This purposeful division into two groups, with different purposes and different histories, is a fact that most Christians have not seen or understood. Not only was the division planned and purposeful the reuniting of these two branches or "sticks" is prophesied multiple times by multiple prophets. Even Yeshua referred to this when He mentioned "other sheep" that He must bring and meld into one group with Judah (the Jews).

What I will attempt to clearly show is that these groups are actually not Jews and Christians (or Gentiles), but rather the house of Judah and the house of Israel, often called Joseph or Ephraim. And though most do not recognize it, true Christians are part of the House of Israel. If you don't believe it, please read on. As I hope to show, this is the story that the Bible tells!

A more Biblically accurate way to view the two groups comprising God's people:



Presently divided into two groups, scripture clearly and repeatedly states they will again become one.

THE ROAD MAP: The Genesis of the Church

Using scripture, this is what I hope to show you in the pages that follow:

1. What is the true beginning of the "Church", the called-out ones?
2. Is the "Church" older than we thought?
3. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the first called-out ones
4. The eternal promises made to the Patriarchs - and to their seed
5. A promise repeated many, many times!
6. The patriarch families become tribes; the tribes become a nation
7. Two tribes are marked as leaders; their prophetic destinies announced
8. This is an important key to scripture
9. The nation becomes two; these prophetic destinies begin to be realized
10. Northern tribes are scattered: "to the ends of the earth", "to this day"
11. Scattered tribes (Israel) will be gathered; the divided kingdom reunited
12. This is going to be the really good part!
13. "And so all Israel will be saved"

Acts 2 – The Birthday of the "Church"

While the events in the upper room described in Acts 2 are presumed by most believers to be the beginning or birthday of the "New Testament Church", scripture does not actually make this statement. What is missed by most Christians is the "why" of this gathering. The believers were gathered in Jerusalem for one of YHWH's commanded feasts, and the signs accompanying the outpouring of the Spirit carry significant meaning related to a previous event in Israel's history. We will return to this topic in more depth later in the study.

Also important in this discussion of the "newness" of the "church" in the NT is the fact that *ekklesia*, the Greek word translated as "church" was frequently used in the Greek version of the Old Testament (Septuagint) to refer to assembled Israel. The Hebrew words translated by *ekklesia* were words that indicated a congregation or a purposeful assembly of Israelites. The coining of a new word to translate *ekklesia* in the New Testament was likely purposeful — to indicate a change in God's choice of people groups.

"It appears to be a significant fault of various English translations of the "Christian Bible" that the word "Church" was translated for the Greek word *ekklesia* in the NT, since this suggests an anti-Jewish bias in their work by implying that there is a radical discontinuity between "Israel" and the *ekklesia* of Jesus (i.e., the "Church"). In other words, if the same Greek word (*ekklesia*) is used in both the LXX (the Septuagint) and the NT, then why was a new word invented for it in the English version of the NT? Why not rather translate the word as it was used in the LXX, or better still, as it was used in the OT Scriptures? (*Israel and the Church – Some Theological Options* --John J. Parsons, hebrew4christians.com)

The True Beginning – Looking Deeper to Called-Out Abraham

Rather than looking to Acts 2 for the beginning of the "Church", I propose that we look much further back, all the way to Genesis 12. There should be no question that YHWH chose Abraham for the purpose of making him a great people, a great nation. Examine the scriptures:

And Yahweh said to Abram, "Go forth from your land, and from your kin and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
(Genesis 12:1-3)

Pay attention to the underlined phrases, they will be repeated. But not only does God promise to make Abraham a "great nation", the promise also includes a multitude of offspring and a land in which they may dwell. Please note the promise of land is "forever"; that pledge will be repeated, as well.

And Yahweh said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your seed forever. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your seed can also be numbered." (Genesis 13:14-16)

And He brought him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your seed be." (Genesis 15:5)

Two times here, with two different allegorical numberings, Abraham is promised an innumerable seed. Now, if you care to do the research, you will find that it is possible to fairly accurately number the Jewish population of individual countries and even the entire planet. So, YHWH must be counting something besides the Jews. Just what is He referring to? That's an important question, and is exactly what we're hopefully going to discover! Keep reading!

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, be blame, so that I may

confirm My covenant between Me and you, and that I may multiply you exceedingly." Abram fell on his face, and God spoke with him, saying, "My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. Your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will go forth from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your seed after you. (Genesis 17:1-7)

"I will greatly multiply your seed; your seed shall possess the gates of his enemies." (Genesis 22:17)

God repeats his promise to Abraham, and again he is told he will be exceedingly fruitful and will even be the father of a "multitude of nations". This is important, Abraham will not be just a "nation", but "nations". He is also promised dominion, as his seed "shall possess the gates of his enemies". And, once again please note the duration of the covenantal promise; YHWH states that it will be "everlasting".

Even though scripture indicates that we, through faith, are the "seed" of Abraham, I believe Christians tend to not recognize the significance of Abraham, and our significance as his seed. Consider what this writer had to say about Abraham:

"This call of Abraham set him apart from all other men on the face of the earth. God chose Abraham to be a recipient of God's blessing and a channel of God's blessings to others. This covenant of blessing was unconditional. There are several things we should consider. First, this was not some spiritualized, ephemeral proposition, but it involved a flesh and blood man who was to have flesh and blood children. This covenant is very much part of this world. That means it is going to be very real, historically speaking. It has to do with all of subsequent history. The impact of this choice on the part of God is still being felt in the world. It is the secret of all earth history, all the history of mankind from that day on until now and on into the future. God said 'I will do it.' The promises were unilateral and unconditional." (Roger Rusk – *The Other End of the World*, P. 78)

Abraham and Beyond – The Covenant Blessing Continues

If there was any doubt about YHWH's faithfulness to His promises to Abraham, that doubt is dispelled as He repeats and emphasizes what He intends to do. Consider what God tells Isaac. He repeats the promises of covenantal blessing, and again states that the entire earth will be blessed by Abraham and Isaac's descendants.

I will be with you and bless you . . . and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (Genesis 26:3-4)

From Isaac the promised blessing passes to Jacob, and even though Jacob used deception to receive the firstborn blessing from his father Isaac, I think we can agree that it was YHWH's plan to continue the chosen nation through Jacob, not Esau. Again we see that those blessing God's chosen people will be blessed, and those cursing will be cursed. Notice also the introduction of abundance as well as fruitfulness, along with previously- mentioned dominion and authority.

Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine; may peoples serve you,

and nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, And may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, And blessed be those who bless you." (Genesis 27:28-29)

And if there is any mistrust as to the accuracy and authority of Isaac's blessing over Jacob, that difficulty is removed completely as YHWH Himself speaks to Jacob, continuing and even expanding the blessings given to Abraham and Isaac:


"I am Yahweh, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 28:13-14)

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you. "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you." (Genesis 35:10-12)

The promises of land, a multiplicity of descendants, a blessing to all the families of the earth and becoming a "company of nations" are all repeated. Additionally, these descendants will spread out, to the "west and to the east and to the north and to the south". Could this information be a key to understanding one of the ways that "all the families of the earth" would receive blessing from Abraham's descendants? Although I am in no way discounting the blessing Messiah has brought to all peoples, I believe we will see that the scattering of Abraham's seed has also "scattered" blessing, north, west, east and south, to all the earth!

The Promised Blessing Summarized

1. Abraham was to be the father of "many nations"
2. Abraham was to be very fruitful and kings would come from him
3. His descendants would possess the land God promised him
4. His posterity was to be as "sand" and "stars" for number
5. His posterity was to "possess the gates" of their enemies
6. His posterity was to expand as "a company of nations"
7. These nations would expand to the south, east, north & west
8. These nations were promised a bountiful inheritance materially
9. A blessing on those blessing them; curses on those cursing them
10. Blessings are conditional; covenant is unconditional and eternal

To my knowledge, there is no indication in scripture that God ever "took back" any of the promised blessings to Abraham and his descendants, there is no record that God changed. If this is true that the covenant stands "forever", then we should be able to see this covenant being worked out in real people in real history, as Roger Rusk states above. I believe many of us haven't seen it because we've been looking in the wrong place. But I'm getting ahead of myself; let's continue the story the Bible is telling, summarized in the chart below. 

NOTE: This is PART 1 of a 4-PART SERIES.

The Return of Jesus, the Splitting of the Mt. of Olives, and Armageddon

(A Biblical Dramatization of Actual “Prophetic Events”)

[A Multi-Series]

After saying, “Baruch Haba B’shem Adonai,” the Jerusalemites will likely have to hide from the impending hordes of hybrids who want to kill them. We get the impression that nearly three days have passed since they called upon Jesus, based on Hosea:

“Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up (Hos. 6:1). After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight (Hos. 6:2).”

However, the cataclysmic events will darken the sun and moon, and fill the air with smoke and gases from the elements that will melt. Mankind will panic, and it may not even be possible for them to determine the time that has passed since it all started; but it may be 3 literal days. Regardless, the Jerusalem remnant will try to make their way to the Mount of Olives because they know that is where Jesus will come. Jews have elected for centuries to be buried on the Mount of Olives, anticipating that will be where the resurrection occurs first—according to their expectations.

“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle (Zech. 14:3). And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east (Zech. 14:4).”

The Jerusalemites may be trying to make it to the top of the Mount of Olives when they find themselves surrounded by what appears to be a pincer move from the Beast’s forces who are coming from the north, and from the south to destroy them. Satan might once again think he has won, but he will again be outfoxed.

Even though the Remnant is surrounded by mountains on two sides and hybrid hordes on the other two, Jesus will give supernatural powers to the governors of Judah:

“In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a **firepan in the woodpile**, and like a **fiery torch in the sheaves**; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.” (Zech. 12:6).

They are in the Valley of Jehoshaphat; the forces of antichrist are coming against them; and then the governors of Judah who are on the periphery receive power from the Lord to have fire shoot from their hands. This is more than feasible based on what the text says:

“In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them” (Zech. 12:8).

In Habakkuk 3:4, we learn: “He had rays flashing from His hand” this means Jesus has rays of light flashing from his hand” (Hab 3:4)! This is far cooler than any superhero movie. Jesus will give them power; the strong among them will be like the angel of the Lord before them. They will have fire coming from their hands to defend themselves until Jesus gets there.

The Jerusalemites in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Kidron valley are waiting for Jesus; they are fending off the people, the hybrid hordes of Gog that are coming and are devouring them on the right and on the left. The forces of antichrist are doing a pincer move, planning to conquer them from either side.

Finally, Jesus touches ground on the Mount of Olives, and when He dismounts his horse, then the mountain will split. Which might be the cause of the world’s greatest ever earthquake (more on that later).

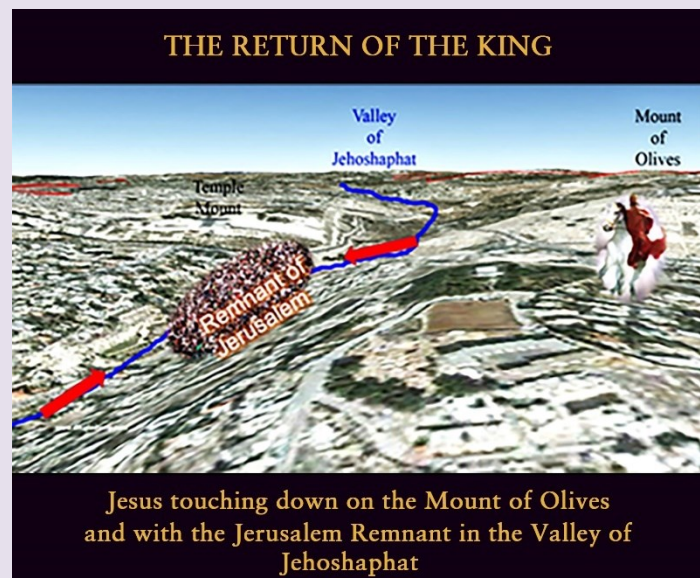
Suddenly, where there was no way to escape, God makes a way!

“The Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south (Zech. 14:4). Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You (Zech. 14:5).”

We recall that Israel was in this predicament before. They were trapped between a rock and a hard place, with Pharaoh on one side and the Red Sea on the other side. This will be the second Exodus!

“For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in’ (Exod. 14:3). ‘Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.’ And they did so (Exod. 14:4).”

After the ten plagues, Pharaoh did not learn his lesson and thought he could trap the Israelites and enslave them again. However, it was God who was creating the trap for Pharaoh. In Exodus, we find the sea splitting down the middle, but in the last days, it will be a mountain splitting down the middle. Just as God said that He would “harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host” (Exod. 14:17), so too “the **LORD alone will be exalted in that day**” (Isa. 2:17).



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THE MOTHER OF ALL EARTHQUAKES

The earth will experience the greatest earthquake the world has ever seen and will ever see. Though Scripture does not specifically state it, we have good reason to believe that quake could be caused by Jesus' feet touching down on the Mt. of Olives. The Mount of Olives will open up wide enough for a multitude of people to flee through, similar to the parting of the Red Sea, and will cause tremendous shaking. We know that not many kilometers from Jerusalem, there is an area known as the Dead Sea Transform—"a transform plate boundary, along which two tectonic plates slide past one another."¹ Dr. Yariv Hamiel, head of the GSI's Geological Hazards and Geological Engineering Division in Israel cautions: "In general, we're worried about the whole Dead Sea Transform (the Syrian-African great rift) from Eilat to

Lebanon ... There could be a strong quake anywhere along it at any time."²

The Dead Sea Transform is itself at the center of four major plates: the African plate, the Anatolian plate, the Arabian plate, and the Eurasian plate. Jesus splitting the mountain could be the very domino that sets in motion the greatest of all earthquakes the world has ever seen. In fact, this is almost certainly the case based on the plethora of Scriptures that talk about massive earth shaking when God returns.

Nevertheless, even if Jesus' foot stomping is not what causes the greatest of all earthquakes, the earth will experience a worldwide and unprecedented quake when He returns. It will be so monumental that it is mentioned repeatedly throughout Scripture.

"I will shake the heavens, and the **earth will move out of her place**, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger" (Isa. 13:13).

We find this same event repeated in Revelation where we learn that "**every mountain and island was moved out of its place**" (Rev. 6:14). That is a big deal. This same event is repeated in chapter 16:

"There was a great earthquake, such a mighty and **great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth**" (Rev. 16:18). "Then **every island** fled away, and the **mountains**

were not found" (Rev. 16:20).

There will be the biggest earthquake in history. It will be so big that every mountain and island will move and flee away. The whole geographical structure of the surface of the earth as we know it will suffer dramatic changes. Nothing has or will ever compare to this event. In 2011, there was a 9.1 magnitude earthquake around Fukushima, Japan that caused unbelievable damage. They say that the earth shifted about an inch. Many of us watched in real time as tsunami waves overwhelmed houses, cars and people. That was just one island and just one inch. According to NASA,

"Calculations also show the Japan quake should have shifted the position of Earth's figure axis (the axis about which Earth's mass is balanced) by about 17 centimeters (6.5 inches), towards 133 degrees east longitude... This shift in Earth's figure axis will cause Earth to wobble a bit differently as it rotates."³

Now imagine if **every** island and **every** mountain moved out of its place! The prophet Isaiah described the event, "the **foundations** of the earth are **shaken**" (Isa 24:18); and,

"The earth is **violently broken**, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly (Isa. 24:19). The **earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard**, and shall **totter** like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again (Isa. 24:20)."

The devastation is so bad that Isaiah had to add, "it will fall and not rise again." The earth will never be the same. Jeremiah described it as the earth, "*tohu vavohu*," the same words used in Genesis 1:2 which describes a liquid:

"I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void [*tohu vavohu*]; and the heavens, they had no light (Jer. 4:23). I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth (Jer. 4:24)."

During sizeable earthquakes, the soil begins to act like quicksand, known as liquefaction, which is why buildings can just fall over; the soil under the foundation below them is eroded and becomes like liquid.⁴

In other words, the surface of the earth has lost its previous shape and consistency and lies marred, sunken and cracked. Jeremiah further explains the coming devastation:

"I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth (Jer. 4:24). I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled (Jer. 4:25). I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger (Jer. 4:26). For thus says the LORD: "The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end (Jer. 4:27). For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it (Jer. 4:28)."

Habakkuk states, "the perpetual mountains were shattered, the ancient hills collapsed" (Hab. 3:6 NASB).

How many times can the earth have every island and every mountain move from its place? It will only happen once because it will irreversibly destroy man's proud cities:

“And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been ... (Rev. 16:18) ... and the cities of the nations fell ... (Rev. 16:19).”

The haughtiness of man has been brought to nothing: The factories of man's industry which produced tanks, planes, guns and bombs; the grand, magnificent skyscrapers, built ever higher, as well as the homes of both the humble and the proud; the stadiums full of idolatry; the great underground cities built for that very day; the glorious and stable pyramids, everything lies shattered in smoldering ruins, debris and rubble as if ripped apart by a tornado, crushed by Jesus' fierce anger.

However, this is not the end. We recall that the Beast and the Marked have prepared for this day by upgrading themselves into hybrid “gods” so that they could fight against Jesus. The earthquake certainly rocked their world, but they are not out of the fight yet. This reminds us of how after taking Israel out of Egypt, God was not done with Pharaoh. “And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen” (Exod. 14:18). So too, in the battle of Armageddon, God says:

“You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes” (Ezek. 38:16). “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?’” (Ezek. 38:17). “So I will show my **greatness** and my **holiness** and make **myself known** in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezek. 38:23). In other words, God will be glorified when the boastful, blaspheming Gog is humbled and destroyed. It will also be on that day that an unprecedented earthquake will strike.

“For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: surely in that day there shall be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel (Ezek. 38:19), so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and **all men who are on the face of the earth** shall shake at My presence. The **mountains shall be thrown down**, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground’ (Ezek. 38:20).”

Ezekiel describes this same event in which there will be an enormous earthquake that affects Israel and the whole world so that the mountains are thrown down and every wall falls. Every skyscraper will fall because every mountain and every island will move and it will be the greatest earthquake we will ever know.

“For the day of the LORD of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty...” (Isa. 2:12). “Upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up; (Isa. 2:14) upon every high tower, and upon every fortified wall” (Isa. 2:15) “... And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day” (Isa. 2:17).

Gog / the Beast has seen his fortune change, but his blasphemous arrogance will not allow him to throw in the towel. He will continue to fall into God's trap, just as Pharaoh did before him. In order to give time to prepare the way for Israel to go through the sea,

“The angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and **stood behind them** (Exod. 14:19), coming **between the host of Egypt** and the **host of Israel**. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night (Exod. 14:20).”

God is going to make a way for the Jerusalem Remnant to get away. Rather than it being a wall of fire and cloud as between Israel and Egypt, this time it appears it will be a wall of gigantic hail, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

“And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, **great hailstones**, fire, and brimstone (Ezek. 38:22). Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD (Ezek. 38:23).”

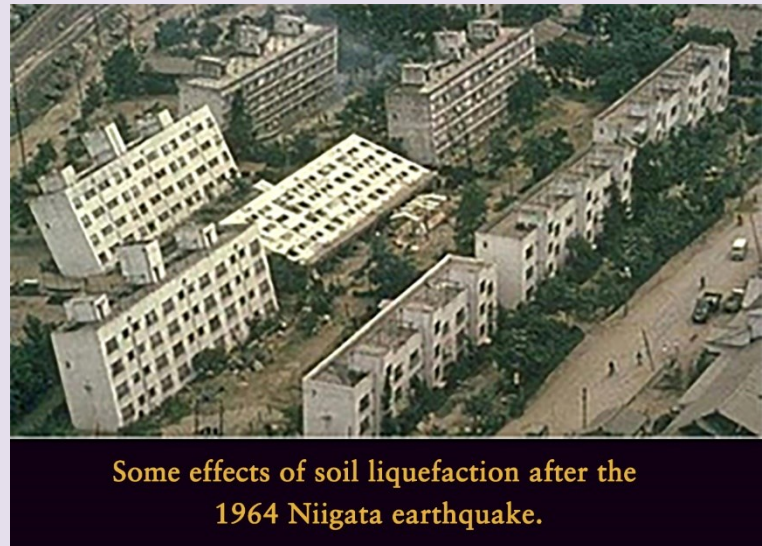
The same description is in the Revelation Armageddon passage:

“And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. (Rev 16:18) ... And **great hail** from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent (Rev 16:21).”

A talent is roughly 75 pounds, or 34 kilos. The largest hailstone ever recorded was:

On June 22, 2003, chunks of ice the size of softballs rained down on Aurora, Nebraska. One, a jagged behemoth with a 7-inch (17.8-centimeter) diameter, entered the record books as the largest U.S. hailstone ever. Although large in size, it didn't unseat the champion by weight, which fell in Coffeyville, Kansas., in 1970, according to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). That hailstone weighed more than a pound and a half (0.75 kg).⁵ A pound and a half chunk of ice hitting someone at high speed could easily kill. Nevertheless, it will be dwarfed by the hailstones that will fall during the end of the Tribulation. A 75-pound hailstone falling is more like a cannonball.

Just as Pharaoh was blocked, while “the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left” (Exod. 14:22). So also, falling hail will block the Beast / Gog and his hordes as the Jerusalem Remnant “shall flee through My mountain valley” (Zech. 14:5), a canyon with steep walls on their right and left! (To be continued SPRING Newsletter.)



Some effects of soil liquefaction after the 1964 Niigata earthquake.

JACOB'S TROUBLE

"Alas! For that day is great,
So that none is like it;
And it is the time of Jacob's Trouble"
Jeremiah 30:7

What's happening in Israel should affect us all—especially followers of Yeshua.

Anti-Semitism, Judahistic Hostility, Exegetical Separation, Casual Disregard . . . they are all the same when it comes to how you see the nation and people of Israel or interpret the scriptures regarding them.

Most believers would outright reject an accusation of Anti-Semitism on their part, but Judahistic hostility is alive and well for many Christians—allow me to explain. Such overt or subtle Anti-Semitism, I've observed in multiple Christian circles is, unfortunately, alive and very much well.

We may declare that we love all people but wholeheartedly reject the idea of having anything that has the appearance of being "Jewish" in our weekly worship or daily practice. This includes any of the so-called Jewish *laws*. This is where Exegetical Separation comes into play.

If one is not antisemitic or hostile toward Jewish practices, then Biblical separation will suffice in which God has different plans for different peoples. "Surely what He meant for Israel is not what is meant for me" or "God has a plan for the Church" and God has a plan for the Jews and never the twain shall meet.

Laws, prophecies, teachings, and practices must certainly be different in such a way as to "set apart" Gentile believers from Jewish believers. This would of course imply that after God set apart Israel (Lev 20:26) from the nations, He then set apart the believing nations (1 Pet. 1:16) from Israel. At face value, this contradicts, at the very least, the fact that God does not change (Mal. 3:6)—although heretics like Marcion espoused the notion that the God of the "Old" Testament is NOT the God of the New Testament!

However, the Almighty is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11) and yet such dispensationalist teachings (viz., "God has a plan for the Jews and a plan for the Church—even the Church is the Bride of Christ and the "believing Jews" constitute the Wife of Jehovah) run amok with assorted convolutions. Such doctrinal beliefs have existed since the beginning of what we know as modern-day Christianity.

The enemy has won a great victory in teaching the nations that they have no part in what they believe to be Jewish history and therefore have nothing to do with its prophecies.

Jacob's Trouble and God's Revenge (Jeremiah 30:7)

For many dispensationalists, which includes theologians and rank-and-file Christians alike, Jacob's Trouble (The End-time Tribulation) is Jacob's (The Jews) problem and not theirs. This is due to all or some or one of the aforementioned conditions. After all, God needs to have His revenge on those evil Jews for

ED DOSS



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rejecting and killing the Messiah, and here (the end-time tribulation) is where it will happen. Just before the Messiah's arrival, the Jews will be forced to weather the tribulation alone with the wicked "earthlings" while Christians will be whisked away in a pre-tribulation rapture. Why you might ask? Well, it's because Israel had their chance and lost it—there's a horrible price to pay for rejecting the Messiah!

Now, the New Testament Church, free of the trappings of Jewish rebellion and tradition is the new bride in waiting. Never mind the fact that a pre-tribulation rapture can't even be proven scripturally—check out Krieger's book: the Testimony of Jesus—Why the Rapture of the Church Matters for super scripture on this issue.

How can I, within the short space that I have in this brief article, properly explain the fallacy of this position? My brothers here at the Commonwealth Of Israel Foundation have already exhausted the equal amount of time and space, and quite honestly, I could not do it as well as they did.

However, I think I can narrow it down to just a few verses so bear with me. And, if you were paying attention, I have already started. In my personal journey of discovering truth, I have found it to be very helpful to break complex teachings from the Bible down to their basic parts. Names, dates, and eras can be confusing for some, myself included.

The most potentially confusing part of understanding this "mystery" lies with the House of Israel. Not to be confused with the united 12 Tribes of Israel, but the 10 tribes that suffered divorce from Yehovah and were swiftly cast into the nations leaving only the House of Judah in Jerusalem. Why does this matter? It matters because the House of Israel (Ephraim) are now Gentiles. In Hosea 1:9 the Almighty speaks of the 10 Northern Tribes in this manner: "For you are not My people, And I will not be your God" and yet God promised to somehow redeem them—Hosea 1:10: "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'"

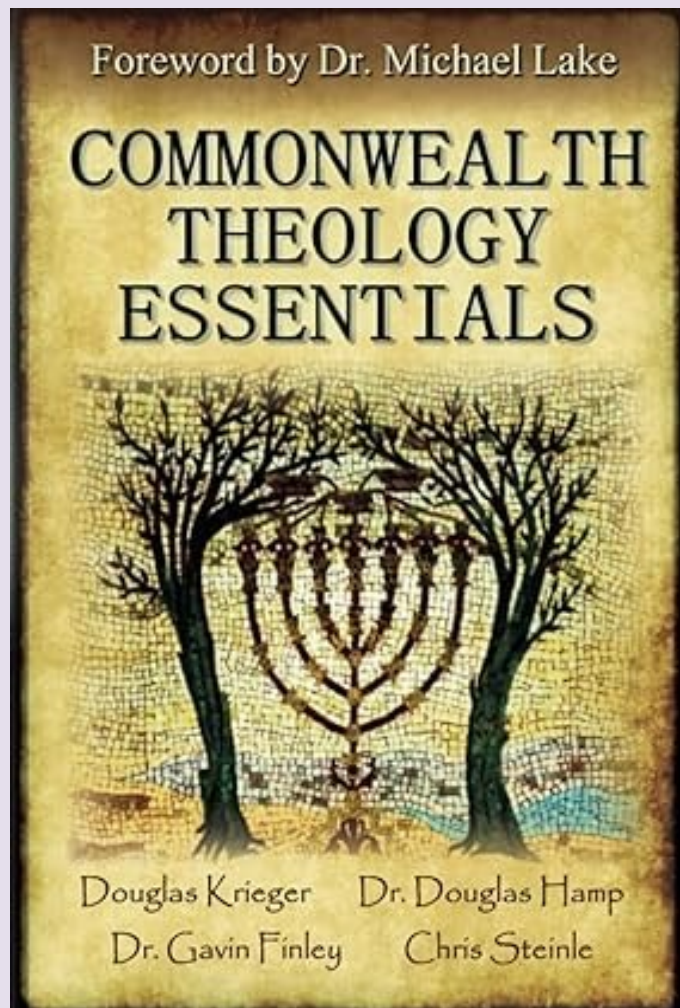
Did you hear that? **They Are Us, and We Are Them!** When the House of Israel (10 Northern Tribes) were cast into the nations (Gentiles), they became Gentiles themselves. "Not my people" from Hosea is the same as saying "Gentiles." They

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assimilated into every corner of the globe. And this was prophesied in Deut. 4:27 if they failed to honor the covenant . . . and they did fail as we all know.

God is His mighty sovereignty would use this failure to reach the world (Romans 11:11-ff). When you pour a glass of wine (House of Israel) into a glass of water (The Nations) and desire to get the wine back out, how do you do that? You cannot. You simply take the whole mixed glass of wine and water. How else could the "number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea" as Hosea said?



As of 2022, Israel's population is approximately 0.115% of the world population and historically never been a large people by number, but it will someday be immense—because when those Gentiles (which now includes you and me) come to faith in Christ, they become members of God's household and of His Israel (Ephesians 2:11-13, Romans 6:16). We ARE Israel! I ask you—you're a member of the Body of Christ, right? Aren't you, as well, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Israel according to Ephesians 2? Of course you are!

This means that any prophecy of Israel is also a prophecy for those Christians who prefer a separation, but only if you ARE Israel. I say this tongue-in-cheek because I know that there are many Christians in the world who would never submit to what Paul is saying to the church in Ephesus. They would say that they're NOT Israel, they are the church! Which pretty much sums up my introduction.

So, to come full circle, God is not a respecter of persons and He does NOT change. If you held to those two pillars of truth alone while studying your Bible, you would understand more than you could imagine. You would understand that the Father has always had and will always have a single people called by His name. His Israel, or as Paul put it "the Israel of God" (Gal 6:16). And if you name Christ as Lord, that means you—which means that Jacob's Trouble is your trouble as well if you live to see it. And if all of this matters not to you, then you may be in the 4th category of casual disregard.

Jeremiah 30:1-11 NKJV

¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ²"Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: 'Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity **My people Israel and Judah,**' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' ⁴Now these *are* the words that the LORD spoke **concerning Israel and Judah.** ⁵"For thus says the LORD:

'We have heard a voice of trembling,
Of ^{la}fear, and not of peace.

⁶ Ask now, and see,
Whether a ^{lb}man is ever in ^{lc}labor with child?
So why do I see every man *with* his hands on his loins

Like a woman in labor,
And all faces turned pale?

⁷ Alas! For that day *is* great,
So that none *is* like it;

And it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble,
But he shall be saved out of it.

⁸ 'For it shall come to pass in that day,'
Says the LORD of hosts,

'That I will break his yoke from your neck,
And will burst your bonds;

Foreigners shall no more enslave them.

⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God,
And David their king,

Whom I will raise up for them.

¹⁰ 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,'
says the LORD, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel;

For behold, I will save you from afar,
And your seed from the land of their captivity.
Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet,
And no one shall make *him* afraid.

¹¹ For I *am* with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you;
Though I make a full end of all nations
where I have scattered you,

Yet I will not make a complete end of you.

But I will correct you in justice,
And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'



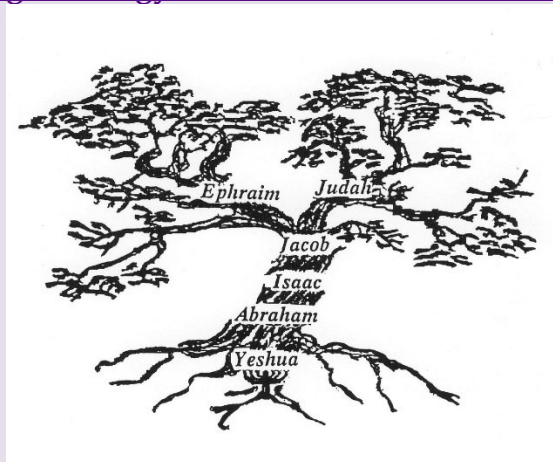


Scott Harwell & Others

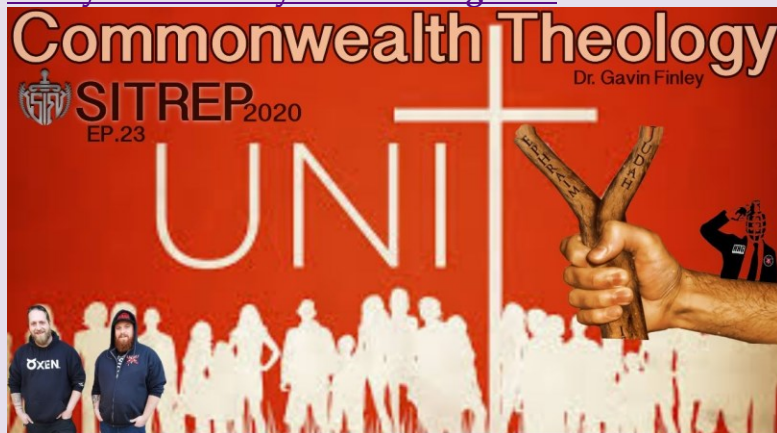
Scott practices Personal Injury/Litigation law in the State of Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Admin. and Marketing from Auburn University and a Doctor of Law (L.D.) from the University of Oregon School of Law. Scott has a passion for God's Word and is ever-expanding his outreach via podcasts, videos and other electronic means in celebrating our unity in the Commonwealth of Israel.

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COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL SUMMARIES

By Dr. Douglas Hamp

COIF TAGLINE:

COI Theology teaches the good news that we former Gentiles can be full citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel and that Israel and Judah will be restored into one nation.

Commonwealth of Israel Theology Brief Intro.

Commonwealth of Israel Theology teaches that God married Israel at Sinai (Old Covenant). Israel was unfaithful, divided into two kingdoms, and then God divorced the northern kingdom (though Judah deserved it too). He then promised to betroth Israel again, but the curse of the law (due to adultery) prevented that. Only through the death of the husband, Jesus, could the curse be removed and could Israel (scattered and assimilated into the nations) come back to God. The good news is they/we can be full members (citizens) of the Commonwealth of Israel; and God will restore the two houses into one.

Commonwealth of Israel Theology Summary

God elected Israel (Deut. 7:6) and entered into a marriage contract with her at Mt Sinai (Exo. 24:7-8



Jer. 31:31), COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE Old Covenant. Sadly, instead of being faithful, Israel repeatedly went after other gods (Jer. 3) which lead to the split of the United Kingdom into the southern Kingdom of Judah (house of Judah under Rehoboam) and the northern Kingdom of Israel (House of Israel/Ephraim under Jeroboam) (1 Kings 11:31-32). Finally, after seven hundred years of adultery since Sinai, God gave the northern kingdom a certificate of divorce and sent her away (Jer. 3:8, Hos. 2:2), calling her No-Mercy (*Lo-Ruchama*) and Not-My-People (*Lo-Ammi*) (Hos. 1:8-9) and she (the ten northern tribes) assimilated into pagan gentiles (nations) (Hos. 7:8,

Hos. 8:8, 9:17; 2 Kings 17:23-24). Judah likewise deserved divorce but God would not because of his promise to David (Hos. 1:7, 1 Kings 11:32).

God then promised to betroth the house of Israel to Himself in righteousness (Hos. 2:19) and to restore the two kingdoms into one (two sticks per Ezek. 37:16-23). That promise created a divine dilemma because God's instructions (law) did not permit a woman to come back to her first husband after she had been married to others (Deut. 24:1-4) (that was the curse of the law) (Gal. 3:13).

This divine dilemma was resolved by Jesus' (the husband's) death which canceled the Old (Marriage) Covenant and canceled the curse of the law (due to her adultery) (Rom. 7:1-4). Now those who were not his people (Rom. 9:24-26) and who had not obtained mercy (1 Pet. 2:10) could come into the Commonwealth of Israel as full members and citizens (Eph. 2:11-19) which was also in fulfillment of Ephraim becoming the multitude of nations (Gen. 48:19; Rom. 11:25).



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No Longer Aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel - A final Word from our Associate Editor of the COIF Newsletter, Chris Winters Steinle:

It is imperative, if we are to understand the fullness of the message undergirding Commonwealth Theology - simply but profoundly clarified we find the following to be its foundation truths (primarily from the NT book of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians):

1. We all must be adopted into the household and inheritance of God through faith in Jesus—this is true for the Jew as well as the Gentile as expressed by Jesus in John 8.
2. God planned before the foundations of the world to include the Nations—the rest of mankind—in His great salvation (Gen. 12:2; Amos 9:11-12; John 11:51-52; Acts 15:16-18).
3. This plan, which has now been revealed, remained shrouded in mystery until the work of Christ; and Paul was made administrator of this revelation (Eph. 3:6).
4. The Commonwealth of Israel includes those adopted from among the Nations and the "natural branches,"—the Jews, Paul's fellow countrymen, "to whom pertain the adoption..." (Rom. 9:4);
5. Even those of Judah (the Jewish people) who, until the present time, remain disobedient to the gospel, that in the future, they may become obedient: "Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy" (Rom. 11:28-32).
6. Thus, the Commonwealth of Israel requires a distinction between:
 - a. The irrevocable gift of election, and
 - b. Unmerited Messianic salvation, which is freely given through faith (as in Abraham was justified by faith, not works) in the finished work of Christ.