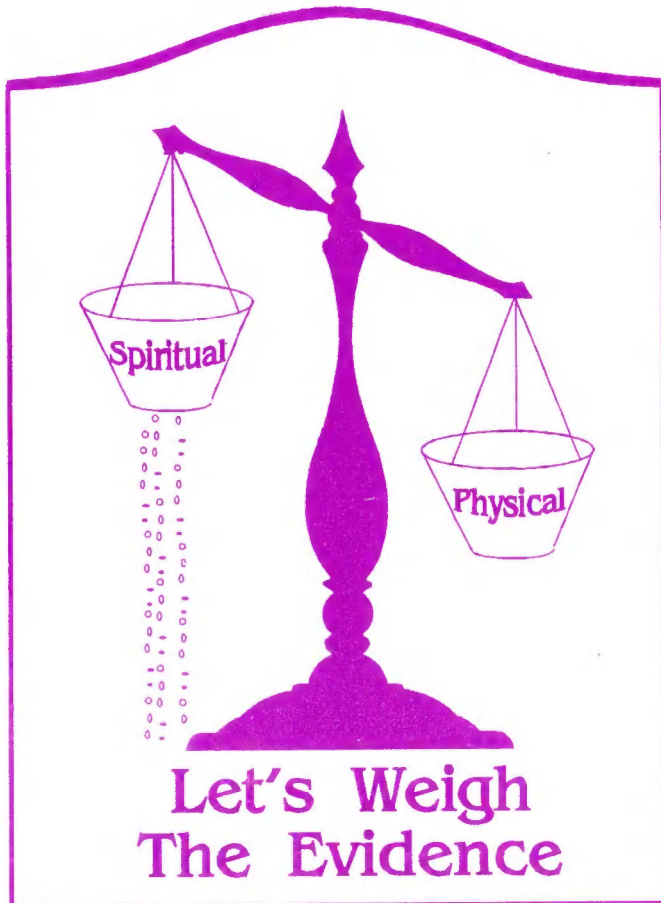


# Israel, Spiritual or Physical?



by Pastor Dave Barley

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clearly understand that the Apostle Paul was addressing the gospel to his "brethren according to the flesh," and why.

The Third Chapter discusses the purpose of God's law, shows to whom His law was given, and answers the question, "Are we saved by race, or by grace?" You will also find a section on interesting Bible terms and phrases such as "the strangers scattered," and "the twelve tribes which are scattered." The staunch subscriber to the "spiritual Israel" philosophy will also find the section which deals with Galatians 3:28, most absorbing.

I have titled the Fourth Chapter, "Bringing It Into Focus," because that is exactly what occurs in this concluding chapter. You will discover how the true meaning of "spiritual Israel" relates to the "adoption of sons," and how the New Covenant should rightfully be applied. Now, don't think you can skip the first three chapters and just read this last chapter, hoping you will find some quick overview that will tell you in short order what the previous chapters contain. If you do, you will be sorely disappointed and miss out on the total impact of this study's message. This booklet is not that long, and I have purposefully limited my research to address only the subject of Israel: Spiritual or Physical? Therefore, each chapter deals with a different facet of this complex but vitally important issue. Also, bear in mind that I have only highlighted a few points of interest for you in this introduction, as there are many additional highly pertinent Biblical and historical subjects you will find covered in every chapter. Read it all; you will be glad you did! As you do, I would encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully make up your own mind--it's your responsibility and duty to seek the TRUTH, to know the TRUTH, and uphold the TRUTH. God bless you in this endeavor.

*Pastor Dave Barley*  
Pastor Dave Barley

## ~ Chapter One ~ Who Are Abraham's Children?

Is the teaching or the doctrine of spiritual Israel Biblical or unBiblical? In case you are not aware of what I mean by the concept or teaching of spiritual Israel, it is essentially this: anyone, no matter what his race, can become an Heir of the Promise--a child of Abraham--by faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and he automatically becomes a spiritual Israelite--an Heir of the Promise.

### TRUTH SEEKING

Now, I realize that many of our readers believe in this doctrine and I'm not trying to point my finger at anyone in particular in this study. My main motive and objective is to seek the truth in this matter and hopefully, correct the many false notions surrounding this teaching.

Although I understand the arguments put forth for the spiritual Israel position by most Christians and church denominations today, I do not agree with them. First of all, let's look at some verses on this subject that many people use, beginning with Galatians 3:1-6. Paul says, "O FOOLISH Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? [i.e., through the ordinance of circumcision] Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Then comes verse 7, which is critical to the spiritual Israel argument: "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

At this point, the advocates of the spiritual Israel position emphasize the words "...they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." This passage seems to establish their argument and make clear for all to see that if a person believes in

Jesus Christ and accepts Him as their Savior, then they somehow become a child of Abraham.

This argument appears highly convincing; however, as I will later demonstrate, it proves upon closer inspection to be an inaccurate and misleading one. The underlying reason for the use of the spiritual Israel view is to somehow prove that the physical seedline of the Jacob/Israel people is no longer of importance.

### IS OUR SEEDLINE OF IMPORTANCE?

This argument is most frequently heard when the truth of the Israel message is being presented--when someone begins to explain the important present truth that the Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Germanic and kindred people are the true Israel of God to whom the covenants and promises apply. Typically, he will be told that's no longer important because we are all spiritual Israel if we believe in Jesus Christ. Of course, that often turns out to be very hypocritical and insincere since the same person will often turn around and say, "Everyone knows the Jews are God's chosen people." Even worse, if anyone denies that the Jews are the covenant people or has anything negative to say regarding the Jews, he is apt to be threatened with the punishment of God!

However, my main concern in addressing this issue stems from my discovering that, among Anglo-Israel believers today, there is much ignorance concerning this matter. Some Israel-believing churches who correctly teach that the Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Germanic and kindred people are true Israel, also teach this doctrine of spiritual Israel at the same time. They do this, as I've found out, because they really do not understand the covenant message and how it rightfully applies to Israel.

### TO WHOM IS PAUL SPEAKING?

As a first step in clearing up the confusion, let's take a closer look at one of the favorite verses used by the proponents of the spiritual Israel doctrine--verse 7 of Galatians 3. Carefully notice, this verse does not say all a person has to do is accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and automatically they become an Israelite by faith. It begins with "*Know ye therefore....*" In other words, the Apostle Paul is telling us to be sure that we know and understand what he is saying here. Paul continues, "*...that they which are of*

*faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*" I want you to notice who the Apostle Paul is talking to; **he is talking to and about the children of Abraham.** But who are the children of Abraham that the Apostle Paul is addressing in this particular verse? Well, he's saying that the children of Abraham that he's referring to in verse 7 are "*...they which are of faith....*" Now, given the particular day and time in which Paul wrote this, we must ask, "**Who are they which are of faith?**" It wasn't the Chinese, it wasn't the Asiatics, it wasn't the Indians, it wasn't the Blacks in Africa--it was the same people who were of faith all along--the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--the Israel people. They were the people who were of faith!

Now let's look a little deeper into this matter. The children of Israel to whom the Apostle Paul was speaking and referring to as the children of faith--the children of Abraham--the same were the non-divorced, Southern Kingdom of Judah.

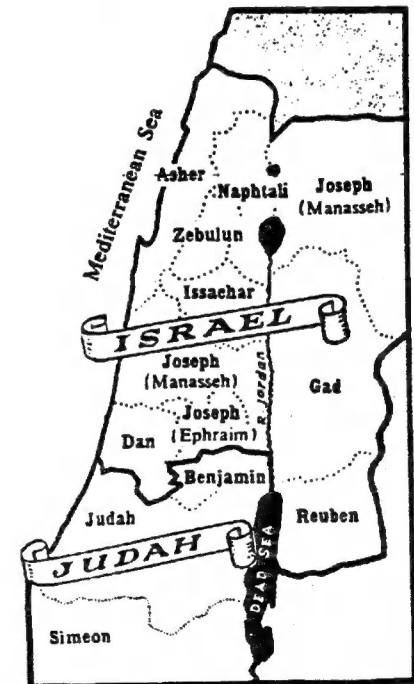
### The Two Kingdoms of Israel

The Northern ten-tribed Kingdom of Israel had their capital in Samaria.

It was this Kingdom of people, whom the Lord God divorced.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had its capital in Jerusalem.

The Lord God remained married to this Kingdom of people.





They had retained their identity as God's chosen people--as the remnant (remaining) people who were known as Israel at that time. In contrast, the northern ten-tribed nation of Israel--the Northern Kingdom of Israel--had lost their identity. They had been divorced by God Almighty--they had been put away. They had lost the faith and were no longer of the faith. They had become paganized as the heathen.

In light of the above, it becomes more clear as to who the Apostle Paul had in mind when he said in verse 7, "*Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*" God Almighty had not put away the Southern Kingdom of Judah. They had retained their identity. That's the seedline in which our Savior was born. As I've said at other times, **Christ was not an illegitimate son** since His Divine Father was still married to the nation of Judah. These were the people that had retained the faith--albeit it was in many cases a very weak faith. It had been perverted in many, many ways; yet they did remain the children of Israel and retained their identity. However, again, the Gentilized, lost, dispersed, divorced ten-tribed nation of Israel had become as the heathen, or the faithless.

#### THE STATUS OF DIVORCED ISRAEL

Now look at verse 8 which will bring into perspective the status of divorced Israel. Paul explains, "*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*" The word heathen is the same word as Gentile or nation. It's the Greek word ethnos which is a term that applies to the lost, divorced nation of Israel who had become paganized, or, heathenized. They had lost their identity.

After God Almighty divorced the Northern Kingdom of Israel, they were no longer known as His people--they were no longer known as the children of Abraham. Again, only the Kingdom of Judah continued to be known as the children of Abraham--which is who Paul is referring to in verse 7. But, as Paul recounted in verse 8, the Scripture foresaw the time when God would justify and redeem the heathen. The Savior would come to redeem, restore and purchase back the lost, divorced Northern Kingdom of Israel. Then

Israel and Judah would be grafted together as one--**that's what the New Covenant process is about!** Hebrews 8:8 makes it clear that the New Covenant process deals only with the restoration of lost Israel. That's who Jesus came to and He said so in Matthew 15:24, "*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel.*"

#### WHOM DID CHRIST COME UNTO?

Carefully consider Paul's words in Galatians 3:8-9, "*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen [lost Israel] through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*" These words should be familiar to you; Paul quoted them directly from the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 18:18. These are the people, again, that Christ came unto. God Almighty never spiritualized His covenants and promises with Abraham and his descendants. This truth is brought out in the Scriptures in many places.

#### GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION EXPLAINED

For instance, let's go to Galatians 2:7. Here Paul says, "*But contrariwise, when they say that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me...*"--now what does that mean? When Paul says that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto him, he is referring to those of the uncircumcision--the lost, divorced nations of Israel. He is explaining that this is the gospel (calling) that was committed unto him even "*...as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter.*" The gospel of the circumcision went to those of the circumcision--those who had remained in the faith and retained their identity as the children and descendants of Abraham. They represented a mere trickle from the tribes of Benjamin and Levi of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who were there in Palestine at the time Paul was writing.

For another Scriptural instance of what I'm talking about, we find Paul saying in Galatians 1:15, "*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood...*" Notice that he did not confer with flesh and blood; this was a calling from

the Holy Spirit by direct revelation to Paul that he should preach among the heathen.

This word heathen is the same word that we read in Galatians 3:8 where Paul said the Scriptures foresaw that God would justify the heathen. The word heathen again, is the Greek word *ethnos*--which means Gentile nations, people, or heathen. However, we must understand that before Israel--the northern ten-tribed Kingdom of Israel--was divorced, they were a nation made up of God's people.

### **"GOY", "ETHNOS", "HEATHEN", AND "GENTILES"**

They were a nation, a national house which was referred to in the Old Testament by the Hebrew word GOY. In the New Testament though, the Hebrew word goy became the Greek word ETHNOS. But, when they became divorced-- when they became lost--they lost their identity. When they were no longer called His people, they lost both their name and identity. They were no longer Heirs of the Promise. They had become a heathen people at that point, and these are the people that the Apostle Paul was called unto.

Now let's look at Galatians 2:2. Here Paul says, *"And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles...."* Here again, the Greek word for Gentiles is *ethnos*, which can also mean the heathen or uncircumcised. When they became as the heathen, they became as the uncircumcised--they had lost their faith--they no longer practiced circumcision. Here, we are getting to the heart of the problem that I have with the spiritual Israel concept. Many people, unfortunately, do not understand the correct interpretation of these verses. Therefore, they end up spiritualizing such verses as Galatians 3:7 which says, *"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."* They do not understand Israel's history and the important changes which took place when Israel became two nations. They don't understand that *"They which are of faith"* were the children of Abraham. Their view of Scripture leads them to say things like, "Oh, that means anyone who comes along and accepts Christ as their Savior can automatically become a child of Abraham." They're mixing apples and oranges here! I'm

not saying that the other races--non-Israelite people--can not be saved; that's a different subject than what we are covering at this time.

### **JESUS CAME TO BUY BACK (REDEEM) LOST ISRAEL**

Paul is considering some deep purposes for which Christ came. Jesus came unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel--He came to die for, redeem, buy back and purchase those people who were in dispersion--who were without hope. The Apostle Paul came unto these people to give them the Good News--isn't that Good News! If God Almighty had divorced me and I was lost without hope--if I was sadly looking back at how I had lost my identity and become paganized--and then someone came along and proclaimed the gospel message to me that Jesus Christ died upon the cross to redeem me and to bring me back as a child of Abraham through the New Covenant process, I would say hallelujah, praise God! That would excite me! Well my fellow Israelite brethren, this is exactly what Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer has done for His prodigal children.

Fortunately, as we spend time studying God's Word, we can begin to understand what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, *"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."* Those of the Kingdom of Judah were of faith--they were known as, again, the children of Abraham. Paul is not spiritualizing this at all; the children of Judah--the southern Kingdom of Judah--retained their identity as the children of Abraham. They are the *"circumcised"* Paul is referring to in Galatians 2:7 and 3:7; whereas, in Galatians 3:8, he is dealing with the uncircumcised--the Gentilized, divorced, lost sheep of the House of Israel whom he refers to as the heathen.

### **"HEIRS OF THE PROMISE" APPLIES ONLY TO LOST ISRAEL**

I want you to understand and remember that the term *"Heirs of the Promise"* applies only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. To demonstrate this and hopefully give you a deeper understanding of this important concept, let's turn to Romans 9:1. We're going to find out who the children of Abraham are. The Apostle Paul says, *"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy ghost, that I have great heaviness*

and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, [now notice this] my kinsmen according to the flesh..." [emphasis mine]. Paul's great love for his blood relatives moves him to say, "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ..." In effect, Paul is saying that his love for his brethren is so strong that he would be willing to be accursed from Christ--cast out from His presence--deprived of His love and spirit--for the sake of "...my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..." I want you to notice that Paul didn't say, "my spiritual kinsmen according to the spirit"; no, Paul said "my kinsmen according to the flesh."

### **FLESH IS PHYSICAL NOT SPIRITUAL**

The covenants and the promises to Israel were to a physical seed. **Nowhere in the Word of God are we given the authority to spiritualize those covenants and promises; that's bordering on blasphemy as far as I'm concerned, ladies and gentlemen; it's doing away with His Word! God Almighty made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants--his physical descendants--with spiritual blessings that were naturally attached to those covenants and promises--and it was an eternal covenant! Shame on us for trying to spiritualize it away or misapply it!**

Now listen to Paul as he continues from verse 3 into verse 4: "...my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises...." Paul clearly acknowledges that this physical seed of Israel is not a dead or obsolete seed! The people of the Old Covenant are the same people of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:8). These are the people of adoption.

This is very important, although the significance of the words Paul used in Romans 9:4, "...who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption...", may have eluded you. In Galatians 4:5, Paul once again speaks of those who will "receive the adoption of sons," and it should be clear from what Paul said in Romans 9:4 who the sons of adoption are--they are the unredeemed of Israel, whom Christ came to redeem.

## **~ Chapter Two ~ The Great Divorce!**

*"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed" (Galatians 3:7-8).*

These verses typify some of the main Bible passages used by proponents of the spiritual Israel doctrine. In Chapter One, I fully answered the above verses, showing that in no way could these verses be used to support the spiritual Israel concept. This study, in which I am dealing with this particular doctrinal question, is in no way meant to be antagonistic towards those who honestly hold a point of view contrary to the one I will be presenting. However, I will caution the reader, that he should follow good Biblical exegesis (truth which is consistent throughout the Word) if he wants truth which the world does not know.

### **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL CONCEPT REDEFINED**

To begin, I will briefly restate the spiritual Israel concept which is most often taught by Christians who are not aware of Israel's true history and correct Biblical standing. The spiritual Israel proponents' basic platform is that the physical descendants of Jacob/Israel--the Heirs of the Promise--no longer possess that status by race; rather, they can only claim that position now through and by their faith in Jesus Christ--terms no different than those required of all other races who are not of the seed of Jacob/Israel. To the spiritual Israel advocates who understand the true identity of Anglo-Israel, this series of articles is submitted for your consideration. As for those who are unaware that the lost tribes of Israel are found in the White European peoples of Anglo descent, I invite you to search the Scriptures with us.

### **WHO IS ISRAEL?**

This pertinent information concerning Israel's past, present, and future status as God's Covenant People is a most important key which will unlock many essential Bible truths. Now I don't know who will be reading this booklet, but to those who are unfamiliar



with the Israel teaching--that the bulk of the Celto-Saxon, Scandinavian, French, German and kindred people are the true physical descendants of Israel--let me urge you to rise above any preconceived notions and prejudices and study for yourself this belief so despised by the world today. Did Jesus Christ nullify the Abrahamic Covenant upon the cross, or somehow transform the covenants, promises, and special purposes to which Israel was called, chosen, and ordained to perform, into a multi-racial spiritual designation? Follow along with me now, as I attempt to answer this vital question.

In Chapter One, we began our investigation into the concept of spiritual Israel, by distinguishing between the children of faith, who were the non-divorced Israelites of the Southern Kingdom of Judah (Galatians 3:7), and the divorced, Gentilized (lost and dispersed), ten-tribed Northern Kingdom of Israel (Galatians 3:8). These two nations--separated by sin--developed two separate and distinct statuses.

One, the non-divorced Southern Kingdom of Judah--labeled as "Jew" in most Bible translations (but certainly of NO racial connection to those who call themselves Jews today)--retained their identity as the children of Abraham. In contrast, the divorced ten-tribed Northern Kingdom of Israel--most often identified in the New Testament by the label Gentile--lost their identity as God's Covenant People; they no longer kept the faith of Abraham, but instead continued their religious whoredom.

Let's consider now the intriguing words of our Great Shepherd--Jesus Christ--concerning this very question as to which people He came unto. Did Jesus spiritualize the true identity of the Covenant People, or did He maintain with certainty that the physical seed of God's Everlasting People--Israel--will ever remain His Called Out and Chosen?

### **JESUS AND THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN EXPLAINED**

Consider with me the Bible story of Jesus and the Syrophenician woman, from Matthew 15:21-28:

*"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O*

*Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."*

Admittedly, this puzzling Bible story does not fit the picture most Christians have of a supposedly unbiased, nondiscriminating God of all mankind. Yet these verses remain, raising a plethora of questions which beg to be answered.

For instance, why did Jesus say unto this woman who came begging Him for help, "*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel*"? It would seem that if Jesus intended to change or spiritualize the covenants and promises of God to Israel, then He certainly did not make this very clear to the Syrophenician woman. Secondly, why did Jesus tell this woman, "*It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs*"? If there is no difference between Israelites and non-Israelites, why would Jesus have made such an obvious and seemingly unChristian distinction?

### **TO WHOM WERE THE COVENANTS GIVEN?**

The answer is simple; **Jesus never spiritualized away the covenants and promises to Israel; He fully acknowledged and recognized the physical seed of Israel as the true heirs and successors of the Abrahamic Covenant!** The facts of Jesus' mission and purposes in coming to His own are certainly no mystery to those who read the whole Bible (both the Old and New Testaments), because the Old Covenant is but a prelude to the New Covenant. The Covenant People of the Old Testament/Covenant and those of the New Covenant, are the same people! I repeat, the nation of people Jesus entered into a covenant with in the Old Testament, and again in the New, are the same people! Those who have not studied this issue out for themselves will no doubt



object to such a statement; but, please do not take my word for this, let's go to the final authority--the Word of God--and read Hebrews 8:7-10:

*"For if that first covenant [the Mosaic Covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them [Israel], he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant [notice whom this New Covenant is made with] with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah [please notice the Word of God recognizes the division which existed between the two Houses of Israel until the New Covenant, and of equal importance, no other people are mentioned as being the recipients of the New Covenant]. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people...."*

#### **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL CONCEPT NOT FOUND THE NEW TESTAMENT**

As you can clearly see for yourself, the false concept of spiritual Israel is nowhere to be found in the New Covenant. Yet many Christians spiritualize the New Covenant by claiming the New Covenant equally applies to all believers and not just to Israel. They do not understand that only Israel was given the law when they were married to God Almighty at Mt. Sinai; it was the sins of Israel which Christ atoned for upon the cross with His sinless blood. In the ninth chapter of Hebrews, verses 15-16, the Word of God makes this particular point very clear:

*"And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament [the words testament and covenant are interchangeable], that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament [Covenant], they [Israel] which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament [Covenant] is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator."*

In this chapter, I want us to consider in more detail several of the Scriptures which are used by some to justify the spiritual Israel position. Let's pick up now where we left off in chapter one, with Romans 9:4-5: *"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."*

Now, who did Christ come to--did Paul mention spiritual Israel anywhere? No! In verse 4 Paul establishes Israel's credentials, and then in verse 5 he says, *"of whom [of these Israelites] as concerning the FLESH [emphasis mine] Christ came."* Again, no spiritual Israel is mentioned in these passages. The true physical/racial descendants of the Jacob/Israel people are those to whom *"...pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises...."*

Before me is the James Moffatt translation of the Bible; I think you will find this particular translation of verses 4 and 5 in the ninth chapter of Romans quite revealing:

*"For they are Israelites, theirs is the Sonship, the Glory, the covenants, the divine legislation, the Worship, and the promises; the patriarchs are theirs, and theirs too (as far as natural descent goes) is the Christ. (Blessed for evermore be the God who is over all! Amen.)"*

#### **ON-GOING VALIDITY OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT PRESENTED**

Why did the Apostle Paul take the time, in these verses, to emphasize Israel's identity, along with the covenants and promises God had made with them? He did so because he was sent unto the lost, divorced, uncircumcised/Gentilized (Galatians 2:7) tribes of Israel who did not understand the ramifications of Christ's New Covenant, or how this New Covenant was a glorious message of restoration in which both Houses of Israel would now be given equal standing in Christ (Galatians 3:28-29)!

Many of these Gentiles (divorced Israelites) doubted the Word and promises of God. It's as if they were telling themselves, "Boy, I guess there's no hope for us...I guess God Almighty has forgotten

us forever!" But, we can see the amazing grace of God in verses 6 and 7, where the Apostle Paul reaffirms the promise to Abraham:

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

Clearly, the ongoing validity of the Abrahamic Covenant is presented in these passages, especially when Paul reiterates that *"In Isaac shall thy seed be called."* The abiding truth of the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant which God Almighty made exclusively with Abraham and his physical seed through Isaac and Jacob is upheld throughout the Word of God. However, the Mosaic marriage covenant--a later, conditional covenant made between God and man--did not last. As we read earlier in Hebrews 8:8, because Israel did not keep their part of the Old Covenant, a New Covenant was founded upon better promises. Through this covenant, all the purposes of God for His Covenant People will be fulfilled and the "creature and the creation" will be blessed in a glorious kingdom, the likes of which this world has never seen!

But in this question of spiritual Israel, some will use verses 6 and 7 quoted above to support their argument that non-Israelites can now become spiritual Israelites, especially by referring to the words *"For they are not all Israel, who are of Israel."* If you do not understand the right status of Israel, as I have been and will continue explaining in this series, you will be uncertain about how to interpret these verses. Again, what does it mean, *"For they are not all Israel, who are of Israel"*? Well, the spiritual Israel advocates would say, "This Bible passage means you have the true physical descendants of Israel 'who are of Israel,' and then you have non-Israelites of all races who, having accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior by faith, spiritually become Israelites, even though they are not of Israel." **BUT, AS I WILL SHOW YOU, THIS TEACHING IS UNBIBLICAL, AND DENIES THE VALIDITY OF GOD'S COVENANTAL WORD!**

Now, I have no doubt that the spiritual Israel interpretation may sound quite plausible to those who have never heard any other explanation. However, I remind you that the term or phrase "spiritual

Israel" is NOT a Biblical term, and is nowhere to be found in the Word of God. Secondly, with the preceding verses leading up to verses 6 and 7, the Apostle Paul makes it quite clear, that the Israel he is referring to is a physical seed; there is NO hint of spiritualizing away the covenants, the promises, the glory, the giving of the law, or anything else pertaining to God's relationship with physical Israel. **God Almighty is NOT the author of confusion--Man is!**

#### **WHO THEN ARE THEY WHO ARE OF ISRAEL, BUT ARE NOT ISRAEL?**

Well, the answer is quite simple, but it is one which does require a certain understanding of Biblical history. Before I share with you the correct meaning of Paul's statement, *"For they are not all Israel, who are of Israel,"* I want to remind you of the warning Paul gave in verse 6 just prior to this phrase, in which he said, *"Not as though the word of God hath taken NONE EFFECT."* Be very careful, my friend, that you do not render the Word of God of *"none effect,"* by false teachings!

This important Biblical passage concerning Israel can be easily understood if the reader first understands the status of the two divided nations of Israel. Again, the Northern House of Israel was separated from the Southern Kingdom of Judah, creating two nations of the Israel people. Both Houses--or Kingdoms--of Israel were of Israel; yet, because of the idolatry and wicked ways of the ten-tribed Northern House of Israel, they were eventually divorced and put away by God Almighty.

After He divorced them, they no longer carried the name Israel; by contrast, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was not divorced and did not lose their name and identity as Israel. Therefore, because God Almighty divorced and put away the Northern Kingdom of Israel, they underwent a definite change of status. Although they still were of Israel, they were no longer known as Israel because of their divorced status. Thus we have the statement in verse 6, *"For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel."*

#### **REUNITING OF ISRAEL FORETOLD IN HOSEA**

In the verses cited below from the book of Hosea, this prophet of Israel looks forward to the time when Jesus Christ--the Redeemer

of Israel--is to come and unite both Houses of Israel under the bonds of a **NEW and GREATER COVENANT!**

*"And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel. And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the House of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. But I will have mercy upon the House of Judah [notice, God Almighty said, "I will no more have mercy upon the House of Israel....But I will have mercy upon the House of Judah," clearly showing the separate identity and status of the two kingdoms], and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen. Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. 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, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God" (Hosea 1:5-10).*

Notice the special promise that is given unto Israel: *"...that in the place where it was said [note: the phrase "where it was said" is in the past tense!] unto them [Israel], Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God."* As I explained in the last portion of Chapter One in this series, the promise of the adoption pertains only to Israel through the New Covenant, whereby they might become *"the sons of the living God."*

Again, these somewhat confusing and difficult-to-interpret words we've been reading in Romans 9, may sound like a riddle to those of you who do not understand them. The Apostle Paul similarly writes in Romans 9:7, *"Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called."* Well, to help clear up the confusion, we must understand there were others of the seed of Abraham besides the chosen line.

#### **WHO ARE OF ABRAHAM'S SEEDLINE?**

For instance, Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, bore a child through the seed of Abraham. His name was Ishmael, and it is from the Ish-

mael people that the vast majority of the Arab people of today descend. Therefore, we cannot deny that they are of the seed of Abraham. But those of the seed of Abraham, who are not of Jacob/Israel, do not end with Ishmael. After Sarah died, Abraham took Keturah to wife and she bore him six sons. So, being his children, they count as the seed of Abraham as well. Then, who can forget the conflicts over the birthright between Jacob and Esau and how the birthright was passed on through Jacob? God Almighty changed his name to Israel, and it was through his seed--not Esau's!--that the promise was passed on.

So we can see, the phrase *"for they are not all Israel, who are of Israel,"* means there were many claiming to be of Israel at the time Paul wrote this Epistle, who, though being of the seed of Abraham, were not of the seed of Jacob/Israel! **This distinction is of paramount importance if we are going to properly understand these Scriptures.**

The Apostle Paul wants us to understand that this seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a physical seed to whom pertaineth the covenants, promises and the giving of the law. But as we continue in Romans 9:8, we read a very curious phrase:

*"...They which are the children of the flesh...."* Well, the *"children of the flesh,"* again, are of the seed of Abraham; but, they are not of the seed of promise through Sarah's only son, Isaac. It is vital that we understand that the *"children of the flesh"* (such as the Ishmaelites/Arabs from Hagar; the children of Keturah; and the Edomite descendants of Esau) are certainly from the seed of Abraham; nonetheless, they should in no way be counted as the seed of Promise through Isaac and Jacob!

Paul goes on to say in verse 8, that the *"...children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: BUT THE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE ARE COUNTED FOR THE SEED."* This is a very important point--only the children of the promise are counted for the seed--which leaves no room for the spiritual Israel teaching. Here we see through clearly outlined Biblical ancestry how the word of promise--the covenant--which God Almighty made with Abraham long ago is developed through Sarah and her only son, Isaac. Thus we can understand Isaiah's call to Israel:

*"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him" (Isaiah 51:1-2).*

In fact, Isaiah's words of promise are restated by the Apostle Paul, as we continue in Romans 9:9-11:

*"For this is the word of promise, at this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth....)"*

Here we see the purposes of God being fulfilled according to His sovereign will and special election, rather than through the works of the flesh. So, even though this is a physical seed we are talking about--not a spiritual one--the flesh cannot take credit for this special honor, because the decision of election was made before the children of promise were even born.

### **FULFILLING OF GOD'S PROMISES**

Hopefully, you are beginning to understand more fully why I do not accept the spiritual Israel teaching. The Scriptures, properly interpreted, show that the outworkings of God's purposes and promises, up to and including the New Testament, center around Abraham and his literal, physical/racial descendants through the chosen line of Isaac.

## **- Chapter Three - Judah and Israel Reunited in Christ**

*The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the House of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. Neither shall they defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them: and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the hea-*



*in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:23-29).*

First of all, verses 23-25 establish who Paul is referring to in verse 26, when he says, "For ye ~~are~~ **all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**" Simply ask the question, who, or which people **was** the Apostle Paul referring to in verse 23, when he stated, "But before faith came, **WE WERE KEPT UNDER THE LAW**" [emphasis mine]? Good question! Who, or which people were kept under the law, if the people referred to were not the very national House of Israel?

### **THE LAW CANNOT SAVE YOU!**

Truly, the law was Israel's schoolmaster, for the law convicts of sin and condemns for sin, **but the law cannot save from sin!** The God-given purpose of the law was to instruct the lost sheep of the House of Israel in the ways of righteousness, that they might know and live according to God's Divine Purposes. Israel's courtship with Divine Law also taught them that they needed Divine Salvation. Thus, the law was Israel's "schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ."

### **RACE DOES NOT SAVE!**

**Race or ancestry does not save**, but when the Scriptures say, "...many are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14), it was Israel who was called. As Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). You see, the people of the Old Covenant were the same as the people of the New Covenant--they were both of the House of Israel (Hebrews 8:8). For example, the Galatians Paul was writing to, were Israelites from France, then known as Gaul. These Gauls established the colony in Asia Minor known as Galatia. The following is but a small sampling of the large body of available evidence which substantiates this important truth:

'Philip of the City of Bethsaida, whence also came Peter, of whom in the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles praiseworthy mention is often made, whose daughters also were outstanding prophetesses, and of wonderful sanctity and perpetual virginity, as ecclesiastical history narrates, preached Christ to the Gauls.'

(Freculphus, Bishop of Lisieus, France, A.D. 825-851, as quoted in Drama of the Lost Disciples by George F. Jowett, page 65).

Similarly, Rev. Lionel Lewis, in his book St. Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury, says on page 114:

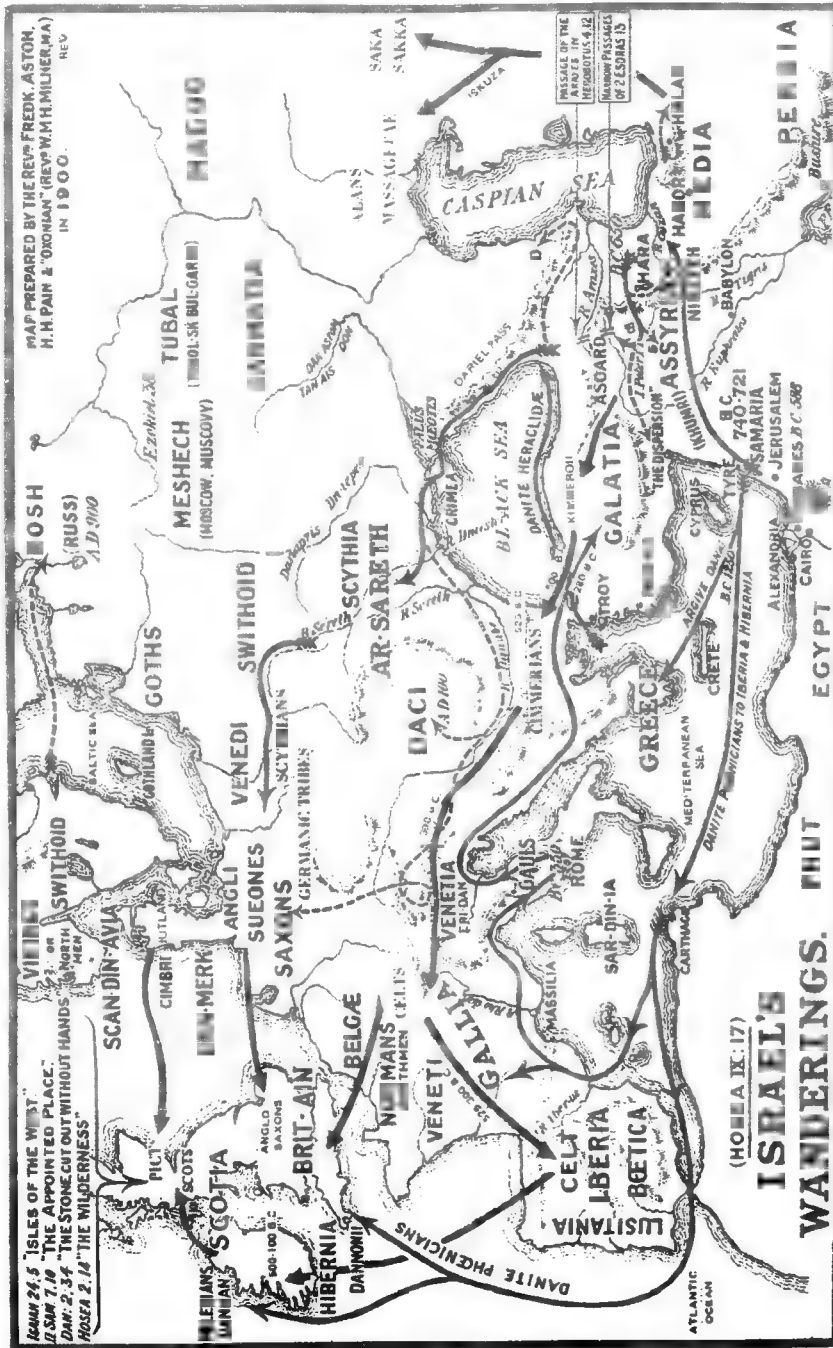
ST. EPIPHANIUS, A.D. 315-407, Bishop of Salamis, 'one of the most zealous champions of orthodox faith and monastic piety' (Smith's Dict. of Christ. Biog.), wrote: 'The ministry of the divine word having been entrusted to St. Luke, he exercised it by passing into Dalmatia, into Gaul, into Italy, into Macedonia, but principally into Gaul, so that St. Paul assures him in his epistles about some of his disciples-- 'Crescens, said he, is in Gaul.' In it must not be read in Galatia as some have falsely thought, but in Gaul.' Pere Longueval remarks that this sentiment was so general in the East, that Theodoret who read "in Galatia" did not fail to understand "Gaul" because as a matter of fact the Greeks gave this name to Gaul, and the Galatians had only thus been named because they were a colony of Gauls (Memoire de l'Apostolat de St. Mansuet (vide p. 83) par l'Abbe Guillaume, p.11).

Also, on page 92 of the same work, Rev. Lewis says:

CARDINAL BARONIUS, the great Church historian, and most learned librarian to the Vatican, in his Ecclesiastical Annals, on which he spent 30 years, under the year A.D. 35, states that in that year Joseph of Arimathea, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Marcella, their maid, and Maximin, a disciple, were put by the Jews into a boat without sails and without oars, and floated down the Mediterranean and landed at Marseilles" [note: also called Massilia, and what is now France. Please see map on page 24.].

Henry W. Stough, author of the book Dedicated Disciples (available from America's Promise Ministries as book #339), says on page 33:

There has also been a misunderstanding about the term "Gaul" and "Galatia." In the Bible, Galatia was a province in Asia Minor, and the people of the area were "Gauls." Since Galatia was near to Hierapolis, it was to these "Gauls" that Philip preached. Before Philip's time, a group of Gauls had left this area, traveled across the Mediterranean Sea and settled in what is now France, and they named the place "Gaul." This is the "Gaul" besieged by Julius Caesar. It was to this Gaul that St. Philip the Apostle came and witnessed for Christ. The early name of this settlement in Europe



was called "Galatia," and some scholars think that Paul's letter in the New Testament was written to "the churches of Galatia," which were the churches in Gaul, which is now France!

Mr. Stough explains, ■ I have already emphasized, that the "Galatians were Israelites (referred to ■ "Gentiles") who had escaped from the Assyrian captivity and were traveling north and west to the 'Appointed Place'." Reading through the various Epistles can be somewhat confusing if the reader does not understand who the Epistles were written to, and for what purposes. For instance, James 1:1 says: "*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, TO THE TWELVE TRIBES WHICH ARE SCATTERED ABROAD, greeting*" [emphasis mine].

It does not take a Bible scholar to understand that the "twelve tribes scattered abroad," clearly establishes that the book of James was written to Israel!

### "TO THE STRANGERS SCATTERED"

The very next epistle, written by the Apostle Peter, provides an equally interesting revelation: "*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, TO THE STRANGERS SCATTERED throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...*" [emphasis mine].

The term "strangers scattered," refers to Israel. Similar wording is used in such verses ■ John 11:52; Ezekiel 11:17; Ezekiel 34:5,6,11,12,13; and Genesis 17:8, where the Scriptures foretell the dividing and scattering of Israel. In Israel's wanderings, they had become strangers and sojourners. Peter was writing to his kinsmen in the flesh, just as the Apostle Paul did back in Romans 9 verse 3. As lost divorced Israelites, they had become strangers--even aliens--to the gospel and faith which the ancient patriarchs had once known. Then there's the epistle to the Hebrews, whose very title is a dead giveaway that it was written to Israel--the Hebrew people. Likewise, we shouldn't be shocked to realize that the book of Galatians was also written to Israel.

Returning now to Galatians 3 verses 23-29, we must understand that Paul is speaking to both Houses of Israel, who had been separated by sin, according to God's sovereign purposes. Then we can understand that it is the divided prodigal sons/Houses of Israel that Paul is addressing in verses 26 and 27, when he says:

"For ye [previously torn and divided kingdoms of Israel] are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

But now through Christ Jesus our Savior and Kinsman Redeemer, the sons of Jacob are being reunited through the New Covenant process (Hebrews 8:8), based on Christ's shed blood and Resurrected Life. The sons of Jacob are the true Heirs of the Promise; as Paul said in Romans 9 verse 4, and Galatians 4 verse 5, it is Israel "...to whom pertaineth the adoption..." Only as Israelites enter into death with their Savior and Redeemer, by shedding their old Jacob nature and becoming new creatures through Jesus Christ, can they become sons of the Living God.

But now we come to the principal verse most "spiritual Israel" defenders, and many Judeo-Christian, humanistic and gay rights groups will hurl at you to condone interracial marriage and homosexual lifestyles: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

#### BIBLE PERVERTERS INTERPRETATION:

The following article from the January 11, 1993 issue of *The Christian News* shows an interpretation of the above scripture as it is taught in many mainline churches today. The article contains questions from FLAG (Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to Bishop Olson of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). The Bishop's answers are typical of today's socialistic/humanistic Judeo-Christian ministers.

### Homosexuality Is Not a Sin

In your opinion, does God regard homosexuality as a sin?

"Of course not, God could (not?) care less about human devised categories that label and demean those who do not somehow fit into the norm of those in control. God made all of us and did not make all of us alike. Diversity is beautiful in creation. How we live our lives in either affirming or destructive ways is God's concern, but

being either homosexually oriented or heterosexually oriented is neither a divine plus or minus.

"The New Testament is full of verses that speak of the work of Jesus Christ in creating a new unity beyond our divisions. Paul writes, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:27-28). The Gospel is vastly more inclusive than we often imagine or have been taught."

As the above article indicates, the Bible perverters interpret verse 28 to mean, "There is neither Jew nor non-Jew, there is no law or restrictions, there is no taboo lifestyle [being a homosexual or lesbian is somehow OK, because there's neither male nor female]; all a person has to do is accept Christ as their Savior; then, whatever sexual preference he may have after that point is OK in the eyes of God." I can't begin to tell you the number of times I've heard Human Rights Task Force groups, gay and lesbian groups, as well as foolish Judeo-Christian ministers, use this particular verse to verbally shoot down Christians who decry interracial marriage as well as government's endorsement of Sodomites as role models of an innocent alternative lifestyle.

#### IMPORTANT WORDS EXPLAINED

As Christians, we are commanded to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15). How should we rightly divide verse 28, and how can we explain the various important terms contained in this verse?

Jew and Greek are terms which apply to the divided kingdoms of Israel. The word *Greek* is a derivative of the word *Gentile* which, as I have already pointed out in this study, refers to the lost, divorced, Gentilized ten-tribed Northern Kingdom of Israel; whereas the term *Jew* represents those of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

First of all, I want you to notice the order in which these various terms are given. Paul says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female". There is an important reason the Apostle Paul first listed Jew, bond and male together as one category, and Greek, free and female as a second category. You see, the terms Jew, bond and male relate to each other; just as the terms Greek, free and female also relate to each other.

The Jews/Judeans--those Israelites of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who were NOT divorced by God Almighty--were still under the law/Old Covenant; whereas, the Northern House of Israel had been divorced and was no longer under the Old Covenant or the laws of God. Perhaps some of you may be confused by this divorced-versus-non-divorced status of Israel, but if a man puts away his wife, for whatever reason, then she no longer carries his name and is no longer under his authority/law. He cannot call her

up two weeks after he divorces her and say, "HEY WOMAN, GET BACK OVER HERE AND CLEAN MY CLOTHES, WASH THE DISHES AND COOK ME SOME FOOD!" She no longer carries his name, she is no longer under his authority, her identity and status is literally changed! Thus, the divorced Northern Kingdom of Israelites became ~~as~~ the heathen They ~~were~~ no longer under the old Mosaic conditional marriage covenant, but they did remain the people of the everlasting Abrahamic Covenant.

The Jew/Judeans were in "bond," or bound by the laws of God, ~~as~~ they remained married to God Almighty under the Old Covenant. However, the divorced House of Israel--the Greeks/Gentiles--were "free" from the laws of God. You see, there ~~was~~ a status change; there ~~was~~ a chain of command. The non-divorced Judeans thought of themselves ~~as~~ being better than the divorced House of Israel. The Judeans thought of themselves ~~as~~ the "male," the more dominant and important, and Israel as the "female." This idea of a difference in status, which the Judeans arrogantly embraced, is succinctly illustrated in the following verses:

*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.* (Ephesians 5:23)

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.* (1 Peter 3:7)

*Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception: in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.* (Genesis 3:16)

The irony of this whole status hang-up of the Judeans is that they ~~were~~ really no better morally or spiritually than their divorced, Gentilized, Israelite, racial kinsmen. The truly important difference is that Jesus Christ ~~was~~ NOT born an illegitimate son! He ~~was~~ David's greater son, born through the lineage of the tribe of Judah and conceived of the Holy Spirit with full bloodline rights, privileges and Divine Authority bestowed upon Him.

The Apostle Paul, in speaking to the two divided Kingdoms of Israel in verses 28 and 29 of Galatians chapter 3, informs them that through Christ's death, burial and resurrection, He has redeemed "**ALL OF ISRAEL.**" Consequently, Judah can no longer claim to be above the House of Israel. There is neither Jew (Judean), nor Greek (lost Gentilized Israel); there is neither bond (those non-divorced Judeans under the law) nor free (divorced, Gentilized Israelites who were no longer under the authority of God's laws and had become ~~as~~ the heathen); there is neither male (the self-deluding status of Judah) nor female (the lesser, divorced status of fallen Israel).

*"And so all Israel shall be saved: ~~as~~ it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob"* (Romans 11:26).

#### GALATIANS 3:29 EXPLAINED

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

To properly understand this verse, we must consider the context of the many passages we have been reading. Again, they ~~are~~ addressed only to Israel--not the Chinese, Indians, Koreans, Aborigines, or any other people. So the Apostle Paul is saying, "And if ye [fellow Israelites according to the flesh] *be Christ's* [because Christ died upon the cross to redeem, purchase in full, both Houses of Israel], *then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise* (in other words, by a New and Greater Covenant, all of Israel shall be saved; even the divorced uncircumcised tribes of Israel are once again considered "*heirs according to the promise*").

I pray you have been able to grasp and fully digest the many important principles discussed in the Scriptures concerning the transition from the Old Covenant to the New. So many Christians have thrown up their hands in frustration, because they do not understand the critical Biblical concepts and tenets pertaining to Israel's destiny. Again, was God's original plan so faulty that He was obliged to break His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel and David, only to transfer all the blessings, curses and responsibilities to a vague, loosely defined "Church"?



The following is a quote from chapter 35 of the excellent book MAN THINKING, by Mervyn T. Judge, concerning some Biblical insights into the "Christian church":

*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:18-19)*

When discussing the word "*church*," the general idea is to think of an Ecclesiastical Organization; and sometimes merely a building; and very often when the church is being discussed, and statements made regarding it, the source of all statements stem from the idea that people are discussing a section of Organized Religion as it exists today. On the other hand, there are some of course, who consider the Church to be not Organized Religion as it is today, but the Body of Christian believers of whom Jesus Christ is the Head--e.g.--"*He is the head of the body, the church*"; and "*for his body's sake, which is the church*" (Colossians 1:18,24). But in the passage under consideration, the word "*church*" means none of these things.

In the original, it is "*Ecclesia*", and Ecclesia means the Congregation. The term "*Ecclesia*" is applied to Israel by St. Stephen when referring to Moses as being "*with the Church in the wilderness*" (Acts 7:38) and therefore the word used by our Lord when He said: "*Upon this rock, I will build my Church*" (Ecclesia) means that He is declaring that He is going to build up the Congregation of Israel; that He is NOT going to form a new organization or institution, but rather to rebuild that which has fallen. And this restoration of Israel, of course, is the theme of all prophets, and the basis of the Covenant made by Almighty God regarding the continuity and perpetuity of Israel.

Coming back to the meaning of the word "*Ecclesia*," Young's Analytical Concordance gives the meaning as "*that which is called out*." It also has the meaning of "an assembly," or "an assemblage." The descendants of Abraham, (who was called out of Ur of the Chaldees) Genesis 12:1; through Isaac and Jacob, the Israel

people, are "*the called*" of God. See Isaiah 48:12, "*Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.*"

I pray this study is helping you to understand the Israel message and it's importance better than you ever have before. Increasingly large numbers of sleeping Christians are beginning to awaken to this vital Bible truth.

## ~ Chapter Four~ Bringing It Into Focus

*"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah..."* (Hebrews 8:7-8).

Well, here we are at the final chapter and conclusion of this very important study on **Israel: Spiritual or Physical?** Many have expressed to me how this study has been an invaluable answer to prayer as a few more scales were removed from their vision and understanding, which had previously been obscured by some of the very Bible passages we have been studying. In gratitude, let us give full honor and glory to our wonderful Savior who is the giver of Light and Truth, especially to those who seek Him without preconceived notions.

Some may criticize my approach as overly emphasizing Israel; however, I would argue that the Israel truth has been diluted in the past when these verses have been discussed, leaving this truth to be swept under the rug. How upsetting and yet so very true that "truth is stranger than fiction," especially after you learn that what most believe is a lie. With that, let us move ahead with our study by going to the fourth chapter of Galatians to consider some deeper spiritual truths concerning God's purposes for Israel.

The Apostle Paul, in this fourth chapter of Galatians, continues where he left off in chapter three, by clarifying Israel's New Covenant status. In verses 1-3, Paul says:

*"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world..."*

Paul is clearly addressing this message to the Heirs of the Promise--the *true* physical Heirs of the Promise. Paul says, "Now I say, That the heir [an Israelite], as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors

*and governors until the time appointed of the father."* Within these verses, there is no spiritualizing away Israel's rightful heritage, but an exemplifying of their rightful Divinely appointed place.

You see, the children of Israel were under the law which was their schoolmaster (tutor) before Christ came to restore and consummate the process of transforming them into sons of the Living God. How is this accomplished? Well, let's use the example of parents and their child to illustrate what the Apostle Paul is explaining in these verses about sonship. A child, before he reaches the age of maturity, is an "heir" of his parents, but until he reaches the age or level of maturity, he "...differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord over all." As the Apostle Paul goes on to say in verse 2, "But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father."

A child is not mature enough to rule or have authority. He must acquire a certain degree of training, experience, and understanding in order to be seasoned and knowledgeable enough to carry and exercise authority. This is where the physical must put on the spiritual in order for us to become righteous kings and priests of the Most High.

Paul's prayer for his brethren in Ephesians 3:16-19 was:

*"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."*

Brethren, as we should be able to clearly understand, the Spirit goes far beyond the surface letter of the Word, beyond race, beyond outward appearances; it goes to the very heart, soul and intent of our aspirations-- "...to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge."

We are told in Galatians 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." The works of the flesh, as well as the fruit of the Spirit, are then listed a few verses later. You say, "That's all well and fine pastor, but what's your point?" My

point friends, is that despite our race, or our heritage, if we have not been born again, and we are not increasing according to the fruit of the Spirit in our private and public associations, then we are not New Covenant sons of God, we are merely Old Covenant children of the flesh!

Sadly, some Celto-Saxon descendants of lost Israel, who know their Biblical and racial heritage, but who have permitted themselves to become very bitter, angry and callous over political, economic and judicial injustices, have allowed outward circumstances and conditions of the world to melt away essential Spiritual attributes. True, we should be angry rather than happy with evil and wicked activity; however, the spiritually mature should also be able to discern God's Providential handiwork and purposes operating through the adversarial governments of antiChrist regimes.

You see, I'm fanatical enough in my faith to believe that if the Bill Clinton or Henry (Red) Kissinger types get elected to office, then God Almighty has a purpose in this. Getting ulcers, or letting outward circumstances and conditions keep us from manifesting the fruit of the Spirit--"*...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...*" (Galatians 5:22-23)--is and has been stunting our spiritual growth as well as short-circuiting our progress as the Covenant People.

As our friend Pastor Alan Campbell is fond of saying, "**Things are going wrong, exactly the right way, according to God's sovereign will**"; this is true, I might add, **whether we understand His purposes at the time or not**. Yet for many, instead of manifesting the nature and character of Christ, they manifest the fleshly characteristics of "*...hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*" as described in Galatians 5:20. In other words, many have become void of the necessary fruit of the Spirit which would properly qualify them to carry the banner of righteous authority. Thus we have the differences between "*...a child, [who] differeth nothing from a servant...*" and true sons, or disciples of Christ.

Under the Old Covenant, the children of Israel never seemed able to go beyond the level of a child, and in part, this is why they were referred to as the "children of Israel." This is where we get

into the real significance of *physical* versus *spiritual* Israel; or we could say, children versus sons. Many Israelites are still children spiritually. They have the earnest of the promise, but they do not have the proper spiritual understanding to become sons of the Living God.

So I'm not just talking about knowing your identity as a possible *physical* heir of Jacob (Israel), I'm talking about knowing your identity through Jesus Christ! You see, every child knows his identity, but he doesn't comprehend the duties, responsibilities and obligations associated with that identity. This is where our understanding of the adoption process is most germane to our study of Israel: Spiritual or Physical?, since it brings the *spiritual* into focus.

I have clearly shown in these studies that the physical descendants of Israel under the Old Covenant are the same as the physical heirs of the New Covenant. But there is a greater *spiritual* basis to this Biblical axiom concerning "*the adoption of sons,*" which transcends the *physical* and comes into play once we begin to comprehend God's Amazing Grace which was poured out when Christ shed His sinless blood upon the Old Rugged Cross (tree).

Paul emphasizes our adoptive status in the following verses:

*"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons"* (Galatians 4:4-5).

Now I would certainly be remiss if I did not rightfully point out, that these verses specifically tell us "*God sent forth his Son,... To redeem them that were under the law...*" **And what people were given God's righteous laws, statutes and judgments, but ISRAEL!** Beyond this important fact, these verses introduce the principle that we become sons of God by putting off the old man (self/our carnal nature) and putting on the new man (the mind of Christ). This is how the lost prodigal sons of Israel "*receive the adoption of sons.*" We become adopted sons by putting on Jesus Christ, for it is "*Christ in you the hope of Glory.*" Stated explicitly, **spiritual Israel exists ONLY when Israel becomes spiritual!** That is a literal understanding, if we must choose one, concerning the idea of spiritual Israel. The adoption process is a spiritual proc-

ess of coming "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

We must understand that the Biblical phrase "the adoption of sons" was a part of the law which allowed the actual physical heirs to be placed and recognized as no longer children, but adult sons. This meant full deliverance from the child/servant status. This again was based upon redemption and implies family likeness with its position, privilege, and prestige. Regeneration gives us the *relationship*; adoption gives us the *position*.

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Galatians 4:6-7).

Notice, "**And because ye are sons** [emphasis mine], God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts...." In the above phrase "**And because ye are sons...**," as well as throughout the many Bible passages we have read, the Word of God repeatedly refers to physical Israel and the many purposes for which they have been called and chosen. But even though we have discussed many Bible passages in this study concerning Israel: Physical or Spiritual?, we have only skimmed the surface.

As one who has looked deeply below the surface of the spiritual Israel doctrine and faced squarely its unsettling implications, R. Llewelyn Williams has written a tremendous book published by Destiny Publishers entitled God's Great Plan. On pages 126-127, he clearly outlines some of the unacceptable conclusions to which the spiritual Israel teaching leads us:

"When we try to apply the Spiritual Israel Theory to our studies, we find ourselves beset by so many difficulties, contradictions and absurdities, that we must adopt one of two courses. We must either reject it altogether or, if we feel compelled to accept it, we must at the same time reject the greater part of the book on which our faith is founded.

"If we adopt the latter alternative we are immediately faced by a terrible dilemma. If God has broken His oath to Abraham, Isaac and Israel; if He has broken His oath to David; if He has broken

any one promise which He ever made, how can we be sure that He will not break His promise again?...

"Obviously, then, if we admit into our minds any doubt whatsoever as to the power, or the will, of God to keep His promises, we immediately begin to undermine the very foundations on which the Christian faith is built up.

"The Epistle to the Hebrews states that God confirmed His promise to Abraham by an oath, because He wished to show to the heirs of the covenant the "immutability of His counsel", and it describes the promise and the oath as "two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.

"The Spiritual Israel Theory states that it was possible for God to lie and break both His promise and His oath."

Well friends, God Almighty certainly did not lie, and He absolutely did not break both His promise and His oath! The original racial Heirs of the Promise whom the great "**I AM**" called, chose and covenanted with, retain their racial identity to this day; but, as we have discovered in our study of the "*adoption*" process, the glory of an heir is not to be an Israelite after the *flesh*, but after the *Spirit*!

For those who want to deepen their understanding of what it means to be a child of God, I would encourage you to take some time and read the entire chapter of Romans 8, because it is an essential feature in our understanding of God's glorious purposes for His Covenant People. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how much these verses mean to you, now that you have gone through this study.

### CONCLUSION

As I bring this work to a conclusion, I want to say that it has been a distinct pleasure to share these many important insights which deal with the sometimes confusing issue of Israel: Physical or Spiritual?. I do pray you are fully persuaded by the evidence that God Almighty has not spiritualized away His Covenant People and that they remain His Kingdom People through which His coming Divine government will be established.

I want to close with the following verses which I pray will open new doors of understanding and enable you to develop a deeper comprehension of the mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ and His



glorious purposes, even as you seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness:

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:14-23).*

Brothers and sisters, may we rejoice in sharing descent not only from a common physical father--Jacob/Israel--but also, and more importantly, from a common Spiritual Father, since we are the regenerated and adopted sons and daughters of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

Pastor Barley has recorded on audio cassettes, a two-tape series on ***Israel, Spiritual or Physical***. For the vision impaired and those who perhaps have trouble reading smaller type, the audio tapes would be ideal.

When ordering the audio cassettes, just ask for the series on cassette tape.

We have a suggested donation of \$3.50 each for the two tapes, making a total of \$7.00.

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