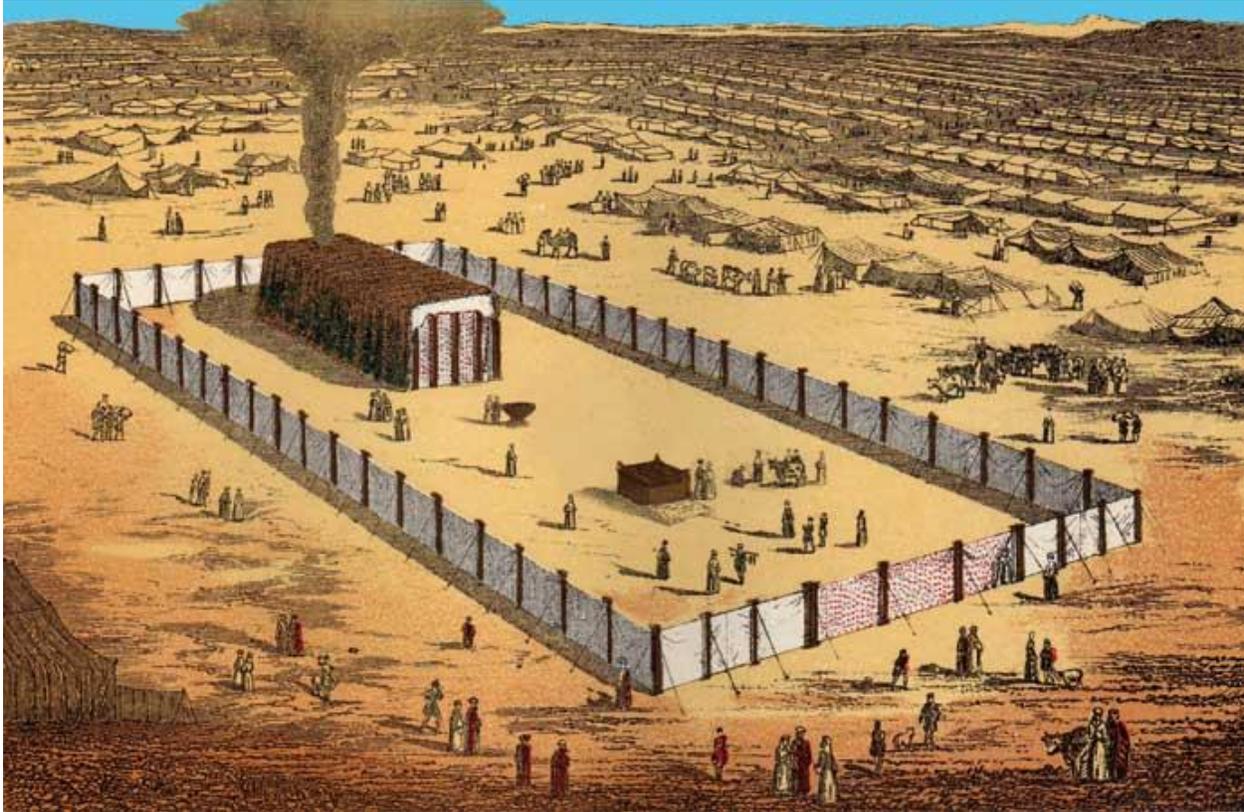


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LESSON #1

THE REAL ISRAEL OF GOD



INTRODUCTION

We know that God made a covenant with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that was for all mankind. Later God repeated the same covenant with Israel because of His promise to Abraham and to his descendants. Because God wanted a people to preserve His law and truth in the world. Israel became God's special nation among all the nations of the world. God has never made a covenant with any other nation, and no covenant was ever made with the Gentiles. That means that everyone who becomes a child of God must be grafted into the nation of Israel. (See Romans 11:17-24) Let us look at some of the things that make Israel of such importance to us today. Let pray:

Father please send your Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and comprehension that we might see the beauty of being a part of Israel and what that means for us today. I ask this in the name of Jesus your Son. Amen.

God told Abram that he must leave his home in Ur (Babylon) and if faithful He would make Abram's descendants, a great nation, his chosen people and that the whole world through his seed would be blessed. He would be the father of many nations. Kings would come from him.

Abram was tested, after 10 years he still had no offspring Sarai suggested he marry Hagar her servant as a second wife. Ishmael was born and trouble soon followed, we still have

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the family feud in the Middle East today. That is the way it always turns out when we try to help God fulfill His promises. God cannot use man's help because man can only pollute the promise with sin. God cannot use anything polluted with sin in His work of redemption.

When Abram was 99 God visited him again and established the rite of circumcision. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning father of many nations. Sarai's name was also changed to Sarah, meaning mother of nations. By this action God reaffirmed the promise of Abraham being a great nation. Sarah was to bear him a son the next year. Abraham fell on his face laughing because Sarah could no longer bear children, she was 90 years old. Sarah laughed at God also.

Never-the-less a year later Isaac was born. Gen. 21:1, 2 tells us the Lord visited Sarah and she conceived.

Some years later "God did tempt" Abraham gen. 22:1. This word tempt is also test (see Strong's Concordance word #5254).

So God tested Abraham, God wanted Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Isaac was the promised son and Abraham loved him very much. How could he give his son up? What a test of faith. Abraham knew God had opened Sarah's dead womb so she could conceive. If Abraham offered his son, how could he become a great nation? Abraham trusted God, he made the decision to obey, not knowing how God would work it out. He must not interfere with his own devising as before. Somehow God would work it out for the good. Maybe God would raise Isaac from the dead. Whatever the outcome, he must obey God and leave the results with Him. No wonder Abraham is called the father of the faithful.

You know the story, how the angel intervened and saved Isaac's life, thus giving him back to Abraham. I want you to see that Abraham was a sinner. He lied to the king when he told him that Sarah was only his sister. Abraham did this on two different occasions. He was an adulterer, he took Hagar to wife while married to Sarah. Yet God knew Abraham would be an overcomer and sacrifice all, including his son to God. And so the test must come to all, to prove to Satan and all the watching universe that we, like Abraham, are faithful to our heavenly Father and safe for salvation. Only those who are faithful like Abraham are counted as real Israel.

Now let us look at Jacob. This is the patriarch from which Israel derives her name. He stole his Brother Esau's birthright. Look how he plead for forgiveness. Yet it is true that every sin committed must be recompensed for. Though Jacob was forgiven the wrong or debt must be paid. It was the same with King David's sin. And so it is with every sin that we commit. The penalty must be met, yet because of repentance death is not obligatory. Jacob was treated falsely by his uncle. Fourteen years he worked to finally marry the girl he loved. He was cheated on his wages 10 times. When he did finally leave his father-in-law he had to steal away in the night while Laban was absent. What a sneak, Jacob seemed to have no courage or will power at all.

When Laban caught up to Jacob he could not do harm to him. God had told Laban not to harm Jacob in a dream. It seems that Jacob was soon to have other more serious problems. He learned that Esau was coming to meet him with a band of men ready for war. Jacob knew he was helpless before his brother. He arranged the flocks and his family in such a way to indicate that they were to be received of Esau as a

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gift if he was coming for revenge or retaliation. Many say that Jacob was smart in doing this and I am sure it was a wise move on Jacob's part. But if looked at closely and thought about, from a worldly point of view, it was also a cowardly thing to do. He sent his wives and children forward without any defense whatever while he remained in the rear hoping that this would appease his brother. How bad Jacob must have felt because of this. It was stealing the birthright that really worried Jacob. The sin that caused all his troubles. And so the night of struggling for his life. As dawn began to break Jesus revealed himself and said, "let me go for the day breaketh." Jacob's answer, I will not let thee go lest thou bless me." Jacob knew he was wrestling with the angel of the covenant. What a God we serve, He granted Jacob his petition of blessing. His name was changed from Jacob, meaning supplanter, to Israel meaning prince or one who prevails with God. Jacob was assured of forgiveness of all his past sins.

Unknown to Jacob, once again God intervenes to save him. Esau was forbidden to harm his brother.

Isn't this experience to be that of those who come up to the last great struggle and night of terror, refusing to let go of Christ, they will receive the same victory and same name as their forerunner Jacob. **And so true Israel is formed.**

NOTE: It was by persistence determined faith that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. To become one of the children of God, (Israel) one must struggle with Yahweh for victory over sin. God will grant the sincere determined struggle for that victory. Let us see how this name will represent God's true children in the Christian era.

ACTS 3: 22-23. "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, **A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things** whatsoever he shall say unto you. V. 23. **And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.** V. 24. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. V. 25. **Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** V. 26. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, **sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."**

It is evident, that prophet was Christ, those who would not accept (or "hear Him") were to be "destroyed" from Israel. Those who refused to hear Him were not true Israel. In Daniel 9:24 it is firm that after the 70 weeks Israel was to be cut off. By this it is clear that being of the bloodline of Abraham, or Jacob (literal Israel) does not make one a member of the true Israel of God.

In Matthew 23:37, 38 we read: "**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! V. 38. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**"

The Jews rejected Christ therefore they are no longer counted as the Israel of God. Only those who accept Christ, obey and follow Him into Heaven by faith can be counted as true Israel. Let's go back to Acts 3.

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VERSE 25. “In thy seed shall **all the kingdoms of the earth** be blessed.” The gospel to the Gentiles was part of the covenant to Abraham. Only those who had faith like Abraham could be counted as real Israel.

VERSE 26. “Unto you (Israel) first.” But because of their rejection the blessing was given to another nation. Please read this next text carefully

Romans 11:25, 26. “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. v. 26. And so **all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written. There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall **turn away ungodliness from Jacob.**”

NOTE: Gentiles and literal Israelites who accept and obey Christ are now true Israel. Those who are only blood relatives to Israel have been disowned because they did not receive Christ, their house is left desolate. The word means “deserted by the shepherd,” it is reasonable to believe that the nation of Israel no longer have any special consideration as God’s chosen people. The special privileges of being called the nation of Israel is therefore transferred to the born again Christian.

Gal. 3: 29. “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Gal. 6:15, 16. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

V. 16. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”

John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me”

NOTE: Only in Christ is Israel found, and the truth is inseparably connected. “I am the way, the **truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” To remain in Christ one must accept truth and remain in the truth.

If we do not accept truth when it is presented, then God gives time for the truth to be compared with the weight of evidence from scripture and if the truth is not accepted God does not continue to send more light. Truth must be accepted before more light can be given. Here is what **Early Writings P. 55:2, 56:1**, has to say concerning those who refuse to accept truth.

“I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness.” EW. 55:2.

“I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. **Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God.** I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, **“Father, give us Thy Spirit.” Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence;** in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God’s children.” **EW. 56:1.**

NOTE: When we do not accept truth, then Satan will always step in with his deceptions to counter what God is trying to accomplish. And eventually that deception will grow until we will think we are praying to God but our prayers are going to someone else. It is evi-

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dent, to remain a part of true Israel we must remain in and follow every truth of the Bible. We should never even listen to ministers who are teaching error even though some truth may be in the message they teach you can be sure that a lie will be interwoven in their discourse. The unholy influence of Satan is being breathed upon you! **Not one ray of light** passes from the Father to these fallen ministers. Why? Because they have refused to believe the truth. We must remember that Satan gives them **light and much power**. Light represents truth, but you can be sure that the message is false and full of deceit. Satan's purpose is to "deceive and to draw back and deceive God's children" (Israel).

It is always those who follow all truth that are the true Israel of God, and it is from among this group that the 144,000 are chosen. It is no wonder that Satan is determined to accomplish their apostasy and destruction.

There is a procedure of determining true Israel. With each step the test becomes closer and still closer. First is was the nation of Israel God used as channels for light. But they rejected Christ. So the early Christian church became the truth bearers, but after Rome's apostasy, it was the reformed churches that became Israel. Once the founders of each group died they quit reforming and apostatized and would not follow the truth. They refused the truth of God's movement to the Most Holy Place in 1844. After that Israel became the S.D.A. Church. But by 1980 that church had accepted the wine from the cup of the harlot, Babylon' and had fallen, becoming part of the Roman apostasy. Israel had to be redefined. That title, Israel, fell to those who sigh and cry for all the abominations which were practiced within all the churches. These become the Israel of God. So true Israel has always been those who follow

the truth in every generation no matter to which Christian organization they belong.

And so the process goes on. Do not ever think that all truth has been understood and received. God's truth is infinite and can never be fully understood by finite man. It is evident that as truth is revealed true Israel will follow it regardless of church affiliation. Eventually, when the call is heard, they will "come out" of those fallen churches.

JOHN 8:22-59 (Read Text)

There is a tremendous amount can be said on this text. I want to look at verses 23, 24. Keeping in mind that the issue is concerning the heirs of Abraham, or true Israel, who qualifies, who doesn't. V. 23. "And he said unto them, ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. 24. I said therefore unto you, that **ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**"

NOTE: The word Israel means "one who prevails with God". If you die in your sins you certainly have not prevailed with God. Read what **Acts 3: 22,23** says "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; **him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.**" Now compare **John 8:31** "If ye continue in my word, then are ye **my disciples indeed.**" Compare this with Galatians 3:26- 29. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if

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ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Let us look at **John 8:32, 33, and 47.** "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, we be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." V. 47 "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

NOTE: He that is of God (Abraham's seed) heareth God's words: "Ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." That explains why so many people get mad when approached about the truth. That is also the reason that many are not really Israel who are in Israel.

Romans 9:6, 7. "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."

NOTE: it is obvious, to be heirs, of the promises of Israel, and heirs of salvation we must know the Father as did Jesus! Please pay close attention to this next.

Philippians 2:5. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

1st Corinthians 2:16 last part. But we have the mind of Christ."

Hebrews 8:10. "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.**"

NOTE: Do you get the picture? When we allow Jesus **by His holy spirit** to write the law in our mind, then we have the mind of Christ. Notice that the new covenant is based on the law of God just as the old covenant was based on that same law, except, here it is written on the fleshly tables of the heart instead of tables of stone. For this reason how can that law be changed or done away with, as the majority of Christians believe.

5 B.C. P. 1082 under heading of Heb. 2:11-18...

Paragraph 1 Man must become a partaker of the Divine nature"

Paragraph 2 "Man may become a partaker of the Divine nature"

Paragraph 3 "We may be partakers of the Divine nature."

Paragraph 3 "Divinity and humanity may be combined in them."

NOTE: The whole matter of true Israel can be summed up by saying this: to be heirs according to the promise, we must have the faith, trust, and belief of Abraham that he manifest in obedience to all God's commands, even to the point of sacrificing family. What a test. Could you or I pass such a test?

It is also clear in the New Testament, to be grafted into the nation of Israel we must allow Jesus to put that mind that was in Him into us. That not only includes His character but the whole of scripture, including the law of God. In **ST. Sept. 4, 1884 par. 15**, we are told: "God's law is a copy of His mind and will." Also in **Our High Calling P. 138: 5** "The law of God given from Saini is a copy of the mind and will of the infinite God. ...Obedience to its requirements will perfect Christian character, and

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restore man, through Christ, to his condition before the fall.” And in **1SM. P. 21: 2**. We have this, “The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind.” By this we have the literal fulfillment of **Hebrews 8: 10**. “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.”

JOHN 1: 1, 2, 14. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” V. 14. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

NOTE: “The Word became flesh.” The Word is all of the Bible, God’s thought made understandable for us. The Word was incarnate in Jesus, it was revealed in human flesh! It must be revealed in human flesh again, in the 144,000.

John 14: 7-11. “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.” This union with the Father is to be our goal in life!

NOTE: It is the Father that is in Jesus doing the works, speaking the words. Jesus divested Himself of self and gave over to the Father His entire mind and will while on the earth. We must do the same if we want to be heirs with Abraham. That mind which was in Christ is best summed up as the mind of the Father and can best be expressed in the 10 commandments and the statutes given to Moses at Sinai. These were all placed in the Most Holy place which is a symbol of God writing them in our minds. **The word must be made flesh again in ourselves if we are to become one of the 144,000, the bride of Christ.**

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

“**A new creature**” the creative power of God dwelling within makes a new creature of us. “As many as walk according to this rule...mercy ...upon the Israel of God.”

NOTE: If you are a born again Christian and remain connected with Christ in the truth then you are a grafted in member of modern Israel.

From the evidence presented in this lesson it becomes clear that to be a member of the body of Christ one must become a grafted in member of the nation of Israel, whether Jew or Gentile. That Jewish nation (house) was left desolate). One must understand the truth and continue to obey the truth, for the truth is Jesus. By accepting truth we accept Jesus. By rejecting truth we absolutely reject Jesus. The literal nation of Israel no longer can expect to receive the promises of God except as they are grafted back into the parent stock. Those promises will

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be fulfilled to true Israel of today, those of the true faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let us pray:

Father, I ask you for your holy spirit to be poured out upon us as we contemplate your word. May each one receive understanding and comprehension that we may assimilate the truth into our very being. I asked this in the name of Jesus your son. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Virgil