

# ***What Are We to Make of Israel?***

Compiled by Steve Gregg

“It is amazing how much confusion there is among evangelicals with regard to Israel and the Jewish people. Much of it stems from the lack of solid biblical teaching about the covenants of God. It is alarming how many ancient errors are reemerging in churches today with respect to Israel. Some Bible teachers and their followers are seeking to create confusion on this important subject.”

(David Hocking, “Replacement Theology”, p.24)

## **Common Claims of Dispensationalism:**

“KEEP YOUR EYES ON ISRAEL! Israel is the key to Bible prophecy and to Biblical understanding. It is the centerpiece of God’s prophetic program, and God has NEVER forsaken Israel and will fulfill all His promises to her!”

(David Hocking, “Replacement Theology”, p. 66)

“The covenant to Abraham was everlasting and irrevocable (Psalm 105:8-11). It was confirmed to Isaac (Genesis 26:2-4, 24) and to his son, Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15; 35:10-12), and applied to the 12 sons of Jacob who were called “the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28)” when God remembered His covenant (Exodus 2:24-25; 6:2-8).”

(David Hocking, “Replacement Theology”, p. 27)

“In Genesis 15, He gives the borders of the land. They have never possessed that land and so if they don’t ever possess that land, then, what God said is not true.”

(Mark Hitchcock, in video dialogue with Pastor Jack Hibbs)

## **Scriptural support (a mere sampling from a much larger number of similar texts):**

### Genesis 15:18-21

“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

### Psalm 105:8-11

He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance...”

### Jeremiah 31:26-27; 33:25-26

“If [the sun, moon & stars] depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever. If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done... If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.”

### Ezekiel 37:21-22

“Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.”

### Romans 11:1-2, 25-26

“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew... For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved...”

## **Supersessionism (aka “Replacement Theology”):**

“The simplest definition of Replacement Theology is that it refers to those who believe that the Church has replaced Israel in God’s prophetic plans. The argument is that Israel by its disobedience and sin has forfeited its right to exist as a nation and its right to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

“Replacement Theology”, p.1)

(David Hocking,

“For the true spiritual Israel ... are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ.”

(Justin Martyr (AD 100-165), Dialogue with Trypho 11, in Ante-Nicene Fathers 1:200)

“During the formative period of the Christian tradition, the common view was that what was promised to Israel found its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus, the Israelite par excellence. It follows that the Church completely and permanently replaced ethnic Israel in the working out of God’s plan as the recipient of Old Testament promises originally addressed to Israel. This view [is] variously known as ‘supersessionism’ or ‘replacement theology...’”

(Dr. Roger E. Diprose, “*Israel and the Church: The Origin and Effects of Replacement Theology*,” p.2)

“Early church leaders became convinced that the Church had replaced Israel, and the hatred for the Jewish people intensified. They concluded that all the blessings of God to Israel had been transferred to the church (obviously without the curses!) ...Sadly, some of the greatest crimes against the Jews have been in the name of Christianity, beginning with the highly revered Church Fathers who, in their allegorical approach to interpretation, ignored the clear teaching of the Bible concerning the Nation of Israel.”

“Replacement Theology”, pp.4, 3)

(David Hocking,

“Many Christians who believe that the Church has replaced Israel in God’s prophetic program certainly do not hate Israel or the Jewish people.”

“Replacement Theology”, p.2)

(David Hocking, “Replacement

“All of these [Supersessionist] interpretations arise from a wrong understanding of God’s covenant with the nation of Israel and His unconditional and everlasting promises to them. ...The Preterist [that is, Supersessionist] position in interpreting Bible prophecy is not based on Biblical facts or on the events of history. Facts are twisted and viewpoints strained to come up with these fabrications!”

“Replacement Theology”, pp.58f)

(David Hocking, “Replacement

“These views are anti-Semitic, antibiblical, and anti-God...” (David Hocking, “Replacement Theology”, p.58)

“It is absolute heresy. I would go so far as to say it is blasphemous. You are misrepresenting the very heart of God—basically saying that God rejected a people that He chose.”

(Paul Wilkinson, in a video dialogue with Pastor Jack Hibbs)

“Israel as a nation today disproves the anti-Semitic Replacement Theology that is a part of some church doctrine in our world today and is actually setting the stage for Bible prophecy to be fulfilled...Replacement Theology is an anti-Semitic, dangerous theology which is actually setting the stage for Bible prophecy to be fulfilled.”

(Jimmy DeYoung, <http://raptureintheairnow.com/?topic=is-replacement-theology-dangerous>)

“...when we’re talking about...replacement theology, we are not condemning these guys, you know, many of them are brothers in Christ. We are saying this is dangerous, this is an end-time agenda that Satan is playing out in the church! (Paul Wilkinson, in a video dialogue with Pastor Jack Hibbs)

*Are these claims correct?*

# *The Covenantal Status of Israel and the Church*

## **I. The Abrahamic Covenant**

**Stated where?** Genesis 12:1-3/13:16/15:5/17:5-6

**Made between what parties?** God with Abraham and his “Seed.”

**Conditional or unconditional?** Conditioned upon Abraham leaving Ur and migrating to Canaan.

### **Promises:**

1. God will make Abraham (through his seed) a great nation
2. God will bless Abraham and make his name great
3. God will make Abraham (through his seed) a blessing
4. Those who bless Abraham (and his seed) will be blessed and those who curse him will be cursed.
5. (in later passages) God will make Abraham’s seed numerous “as the sand of the sea” and make him “father of many nations.”
6. This is an eternal covenant (Genesis 17:7)

### **Time and manner of fulfillment:**

1. Literal fulfillment of those promises that apply to Abraham personally.
2. The blessing promised to Abraham, which he would bring to all nations, was that of justification by faith (Gen.15:6/ Rom.4:1-3, 9-12/ Gal.3:6-9, 14).
3. The promises concerning his numerous seed have an initial fulfillment in the Arab, Edomite, and, especially, the Jewish races. The number swells when the spiritual seed of Abraham (the Church) are added to the natural seed.
4. The Jewish nation having apostatized, however, the promise of Abraham’s seed bringing blessing to the world finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ, through the gospel (Gal.3:8, 16).
5. Any remaining promises to Abraham’s “seed” belong only to Christ and those who are in Him (Gal.3:9, 29). No part of the inheritance can be claimed by those who are merely Jewish by bloodline but who reject Christ (Gal.4:30-31).

## **II. The Palestinian Covenant**

**Stated where?** Genesis 12:7/13:14-17/ 15:18-21/17:8

**Made between what parties?** God with Abraham and his “Seed.”

**Conditional or unconditional?** No conditions stated initially. Conditions later mentioned (see under Sinaitic Covenant).

### **Promises:**

1. The seed of Abraham would inherit all the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates, the land of ten Canaanite nations, variously called Palestine, Canaan, and (eventually) Israel.
2. This is an eternal possession to Abraham’s “seed”

**Time and manner of fulfillment:**

1. Initial literal fulfillment to the natural descendants of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob in days of Joshua (Joshua 21:43, 45/23:14), confirmed in the days of Solomon's (II Chronicles 9:26).
2. When the promise applied to the physical offspring, there was no unconditional grant to the land. The land belonged to God, and the Jews were conditional tenants (Lev.25:23), whose right to retain possession of the land depended on their faithfulness to God (Lev. 18:24-28/Deut.28:15, 21, 63)
3. In the present messianic phase of fulfillment, the Jews having forfeited their claim to the land, the promise transfers to the remnant people of the Messiah (the Church—Matt.5:5) and is expanded to include the whole world (Rom.4:13) as well as a “heavenly country” (Heb.11:14-16).

**III. The Sinaitic Covenant**

**Stated where?** Exodus 19:5-6

**Made between what parties?** God with the mixed multitude at Sinai

**Conditional or unconditional?** Conditioned upon Israel's obedience to God and faithfulness to the covenant (see Jeremiah 18:7-10).

**Promises:**

1. Israel will be God's treasured people, His Kingdom and priesthood to the world.
2. By implication, they will be the “seed” to whom the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant (e.g. the possession of the land of Canaan) apply.

**Time and manner of fulfillment:**

1. At Sinai, Israel was betrothed or married to God. God made them a great nation and gave them the land of Canaan. He blessed them with prosperity and security, when obedient, and with prophetic communications, when disobedient.
2. Israel was faithless to the marriage and played the harlot in worshipping many gods. God, the betrayed husband, gave many severe warnings, including a trial divorce (the Babylonian exile) to try to save the marriage. Israel was very unresponsive to correction, ignoring the prophetic warnings and abusing the God's messengers.
3. Finally, God sent His Son to issue a final call to Israel to repent. Only a small remnant responded favorably, while the rest of the Jews engineered the murder of the Messiah. Before His execution, the Messiah established a new covenant (see below) with the faithful remnant (later called the Church), and announced the rejection of the Old Covenant and its religious institutions.
4. The Sinaitic Covenant not only contained covenantal blessings, but also covenantal curses (Deut.28:15-68). That is, unfaithfulness would result in ongoing exile (Deut.28:48-64), persecution (Deut.28:49-51), and insecurity (Deut. 28:65-67) and bondage (Deut.28:68). These covenantal threats have been fulfilled in the destruction of the Jewish state and religion in 70 AD. The Jews, characteristically ignoring God's decisions, formulated for themselves a man-made religion (Talmudism, a.k.a. Judaism), so as to continue in their rejection of Christ as if nothing had happened.

5. As God once was willing to bless them “forever,” He also threatened that the curses will be on them “forever” (Deut.28:45-46). As God once “rejoiced...to do [them] good,” so also He threatened that He would “rejoice...to destroy” and to “bring to nothing” the nation of Israel (Deut.28:63).

#### **IV. The Davidic Covenant**

**Stated where?** II Samuel 7:11-16

**Made between what parties?** God with David concerning the Messiah.

**Conditional or unconditional?** unconditional (2 Sam.7:14-15; Ps. 89:30-34)

**Promises:**

1. God would build a Davidic dynasty (house)
2. A son of David would succeed him on his throne
3. This son of David would build a house for God
4. He would enjoy a Father/ Son relationship with God
5. His kingdom would be established forever

**Time and manner of fulfillment:**

1. Initially, a fulfillment was in Solomon, who, as a type of Christ, succeeded David to the throne and built the temple.
2. After Solomon, kings of David’s dynasty ruled in the City of David for twenty generations until the Babylonian exile.
3. The eternal fulfillment is in Christ, who has assumed the throne at the right hand of God, fulfilling all that was promised to David concerning his seed (Acts 2:30-36/13:32-34)

#### **V. The New Covenant**

**Stated where?** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Made between what parties?** God with Israel and Judah

**Conditional or unconditional?** No conditions stated.

**Promises:**

1. Law will be written on the heart
2. All shall know God personally
3. Remission and forgetting of sins
4. They shall be God’s people

**Time and manner of fulfillment:**

1. Jesus established this covenant with the faithful remnant (His disciples) in the upper room the night of His betrayal (1 Corinthians 11:25). This covenant is essentially the Abrahamic Covenant reaching its ultimate phase in the Messiah.
2. The institution of the New Covenant rendered the Sinaitic predecessor obsolete (Hebrews 8:13).
3. The New Covenant is everlasting (Hebrews 13:20), ruling out the possibility of any previous covenant reemerging to replace or coexist with it. In other words, the reestablishing of the Jewish temple and associated rituals will never be done within the will of God. Any attempt to do so is tantamount to demonstrative rebellion against the Mediator of the New Covenant (Jesus), and can never be endorsed or supported by Christians.

### ***Ethnic Israel's present claim to the Land***

- A. The gift of the Land, in fulfillment of the Abrahamic promises, was realized in the conquest of Canaan, in the time of Joshua (Deut.1:8; Josh.21:43-45; 2 Sam.8:3; 1 Kings 4:21)
- B. The gift of the Land was conditional (Lev.25:23; 18:24-28; Deut.28:20-21, 63; Josh.23:15-16; Jer.18:7-10; Luke 19:41-44)
- C. The gift of the Land was a type and shadow of the Messiah's inheritance of the whole earth (Gal.3:16; Rom.4:13; Psalm 2:8; Matt.5:5; 1 Cor.6:2; Rev.5:10)
- D. Though the promise of the physical Land was made conditionally to the twelve tribes, its spiritual fulfillment (Heb.4:8-10), like that of other typological features of the covenant—e.g., circumcision (Gen.17:13), Sabbath observance (Ex.31:16-17), Passover, (Ex.12:14, 24), the Levitical priesthood (1 Sam.2:30), God's association with Solomon's temple (1 Kings 9:3)—was to come to pass through the obedience of the Messiah and His people (Gal.3:16, 29; Phil.3:3; Col.2:16-17; 1 Cor.5:7; Heb.7:12; 2 Cor.6:16).

#### Assessment by a Dispensationalist scholar:

*Though modern Israel has a human and international right to the land, she falls far short of her covenant obligations. To put it bluntly, she has no biblical right to the covenant land. She has never recognized the Messiah God sent, let alone mourned over his wounding. Though many in Israel admit to Jesus' greatness as a Jewish teacher, they adamantly reject him as Messiah. They see him as but one of several prominent pseudo-messiahs.*

*The State of Israel will allow nearly every deviation from Jewish orthodoxy in its policy of toleration and pluralism. Even Jewish atheists are welcomed as citizens but not believers in Jesus. Though the Law of Return of 1950 granted citizenship to anyone born Jewish, it was amended in 1970 to apply to anyone who is "born of a Jewish mother or who has been converted and is not a member of another religion."<sup>8</sup> On December 25, 1989, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that Messianic Jews "do not belong to the Jewish nation and have no right to force themselves on it. Those who believe in Jesus are, in fact, Christians."<sup>9</sup>*

*Judged on biblical grounds, the nation today does not pass divine muster. The promise of the land is directly tied to the nation's response to Messiah. Though her international right to the land can be well defended, her divine right by covenant has only sentiment in its favor.*

(Dispensationalist, Dr. Stanley A. Ellison, "Who Owns the Land?" pp.173f)

## ***Defining "Israel"***

### **A. The Remnant**

1. “Chosen” status has never been ethnically defined (Rom.9:6-13)
2. From its beginning, the chosen people were ethnically mixed (Gen.17:12-13; Ex.12:38)
3. Only those faithful to the covenant are the chosen people (Ex.19:5-6; Psalm 50:5, 16; John 8:37, 39; Rom.9:6; 11:2; Gal.3:7, 29; Rev.2:9; 3:9)
4. From the beginning, covenant-breakers were “cut off from the people” (Gen.17:14; Exodus 12:15; 31:14; Lev.7:27; Rom.11:19-21)
5. There is a new covenant made between God and Christ’s disciples. It is now this covenant (the old one being obsolete—Heb.8:13) to which one must adhere in order to be in Israel (Rom.2:28-29; Gal.3:3; 4:22-31; Phil.3:3; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

## **B. Christ is the New Israel**

1. God’s “Son” called out of Egypt (Hos.11:1; Matt.2:15)
2. The elect “Servant of Yahweh” (Isa.41:8; 44:1; 45:4; 49:6; 42:1; Matt.12:17ff)
3. The True Vine (Isaiah 5:7; John 15:1)
4. The Olive Tree (Jer.11:16; Rom.11:16-17)
5. Redemption is “in Christ”—no longer “in Israel” (Ex.6:6; Isa.59:20; Eph.1:7)

## ***Biblical Teaching About the Jews and Israel***

### **I. Viewed racially, the Jew occupies no different position than does the Gentile**

- A. There have always been those genetically descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob whose status was equivalent to that of Gentiles (Rom.9:6-13)
- B. Even in Old Testament times, there were Gentiles who participated in the covenant standing with God (like Ruth), and there were racial Jews who were excluded (Ps.50:16).
- C. Being descended physically from Abraham confers no advantage in terms of relationship with God, which is based entirely upon faith and inner considerations (Matt.3:9/ John 8:39/ Rom.2:28-29/ 9:7-8)
- D. A person could be a racial Jew and, at the same time, a child and synagogue of Satan (John 8:44/Rev.2:9/3:9)
  - E. Only a small remnant of those descended from Abraham are saved (Rom.9:27)
- F. There is no distinction between the unbelieving Jew and the unbelieving Gentile (Acts 10:34/ Rom.2:11/ 3:9, 22-23/ 10:12)
- G. Nor is there any distinction between the believing (Christian) Jew and the believing Gentile (Gal.3:28/ Eph.2:14-15/ Col.3:11)

## **II. Viewed as a politico-national entity, as the earthly embodiment of God's Kingdom among the nations, Israel's role has passed to the church.**

- A. Israel's role in this capacity was stated to be conditional from the beginning (Ex.19:5-6)
- B. Israel, when disobedient, was declared by God to be "not my people" (Hos.1:10)
- C. They, being unworthy of God's "invitation," have come under judgment, and the invitation has gone out to others (Matt.22:1-10)
- D. The kingdom privilege has been taken from them and given to another "nation" (Matt.21:33-44)
- E. The "holy nation" is identified now with the Church of Jesus Christ (I Pet.2:9-10)
- F. The giving of this status to the Church does not issue in a situation wherein God has now two chosen peoples, but all those who are God's people are "one new man" and "one flock" (Eph.2:15/John 10:16)

## **III. Viewed as a religious body, Judaism is defunct, has been abolished, and is in no respect a valid means of pleasing God.**

- A. Jewish religion requires a temple (or tabernacle), an altar of sacrifice, and a racially Levite priesthood (see Leviticus)
- B. Lacking these distinctives, any system calling itself "Judaism" is nothing better than Talmudism—that is, traditions and commandments of men—condemned by Jesus and Paul (Mark 7:7-9/ Col.2:20-22)
- C. In the Old Testament, temple Judaism served a temporary purpose, providing types and shadows of the spiritual realities introduced by Jesus Christ (Col.2:16-17/Heb. 8:5/ 9:9-10)
- D. Once those realities arrived, those tutorial props that comprised ritual Judaism were no longer needed nor valid (Gal.3:23-25 /4:9).
- E. The system never adequately reflected God's highest pleasure (Psalm 40:6/Heb.10:6) and His ultimate disowning of that system was historically demonstrated in the destruction of the system in 70AD (Matt.23:37-39/ 24:1-2).
- F. The rituals of Judaism were aspects of the Sinaitic Covenant, which has been supplanted by a New Covenant, rendering the Old one obsolete (Heb.8:13)
- G. The continuation or restoration of Jewish religious practices is thus outright rejection of God's New Covenant and rebellion against the Mediator of the New Covenant, Jesus Christ—God must condemn every such effort (I Cor.16:22).

"Pharisaism became Talmudism, Talmudism became Medieval Rabbinism, and Medieval Rabbinism became Modern Rabbinism. But throughout these changes in name the spirit of the ancient Pharisee survives unaltered."—Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, *"The Pharisees: The Sociological Background of Their Faith"*

"...rabbinic Judaism, the first-born child of Pharisaism, remains a unit until this day."

## ***Is There a Predicted Future for the Nation of Israel?***

*“An intercalary [inserted into the calendar ] period of history, after Christ’s death and resurrection and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, has intervened. This is the present age, the Church age. . . . During this time God has not been dealing with Israel nationally, for they have been blinded concerning God’s mercy in Christ. . . . However, God will again deal with Israel as a nation. This will be in Daniel’s seventieth week, a seven-year period yet to come.” —E. Schuyler English, A Companion to the New Scofield Reference Bible (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 135.*

*“We dispensationalists believe that the church has superseded Israel during the current church age, but God has a future time in which He will restore national Israel ‘as the institution for the administration of divine blessings to the world.”*

—Thomas Ice, “The Israel of God,” The Thomas Ice Collection

[www.raptureready.com/featured/TheIsraelOfGod.html#\\_edn3](http://www.raptureready.com/featured/TheIsraelOfGod.html#_edn3)

### **I. The status of the covenant promises**

*All promises made by God to the nation of the Israelites fall into one or more of the following categories:*

#### **A. Those that have been literally fulfilled and require no additional fulfillment in the future**

1. The promise of obtaining the land of the Canaanites (Josh.21:43-45)
2. The re-gathering of dispersed exiles (Deut.30:1-5/Ezek.11:16-18/Ezra 1:1-3; 2:1)

#### **B. Conditional promises which have been forfeited because of disobedience**

1. Ongoing possession of the Land of Palestine (Lev.18:24-28/Deut.28:15, 21, 63)
2. The temple of Ezekiel (Ezek.43:10-11)

#### **C. Promises whose fulfillment continue in a spiritual mode through Christ and the Church (Gal.3:16, 29/2 Cor.1:20)**

1. Promised Land (Gen. 17:8/Rom.4:13/Heb.4:1-3; 11:9-10, 14, 16/Matt.5:5)
2. Gathering of God’s people from all nations (Isa.43:5-7/Ps.107:2-3/Luke 13:29/John 10:16; 11:51-52/Eph.2:12-13)
3. Restoration of acceptable worship among the remnant
  - a. Remnant to be gathered—to Jesus (Isa.10:20-22; Rom.9:27)
  - b. Temple terminology (Ezek.40-48/John 2:19-21/Eph.2:20-22/1 Pet.2:5/2 Thes,2:4)
  - c. “Levites” (Jer. 33:18-21/Isa.66:20-21/Heb.7:11-12/1 Pet.2:5, 9/ Rev.5:10)
  - d. Sacrifices (Ezek.40:38-39/43:18/Zech.14:21/Heb.10:12-18; 13:15-16)
  - e. Changed hearts (Jer.31:31-34/Ezek.36:24-28/2 Cor.3:3)
  - f. The river of life (Ezek.47:1-3/Zech.14:8-9/Joel 3:18/John 7:37-39)

## II. Questions concerning specific predictions

### A. The Seventy Weeks of Daniel (Dan.9:24-27/Matt.24:15, 34)

### B. Zechariah 12-14

- The New Testament treats this entire section as if it is fulfilled in events now past—e.g.,  
 —compare: 12:10 with John 19:34 — Looking on Him whom they have pierced  
 —compare: 13:7 with Matt.26:31 — Smite the Shepherd and the sheep will scatter  
 —compare: 13:9 with 1 Pet.1:7 — Refined as gold  
 —compare: 14:8 with John 7:37-39 — Living waters flowing from “Jerusalem”

### C. The Olivet Discourse (Matt.24/Mk.13/Luke 21)

### D. The Book of Revelation

1. The things written there were predicted to come presently (1:1, 3; 22:6, 10)
2. The 144,000 (14:4/Jas.1:18 [comp. Jas.1:12 & Rev.2:10])
3. The “beast” identifiable by name by original readers (13:18)

### E. Romans 9-11

1. Though the OT promises that Israel will be saved, this does not apply to all racial Israelites (9:6-8, 27)
2. Those who are saved are actually of mixed races (9:23-24)
3. The Olive Tree, which is Israel (Jer.11:16), now lacks some of its former (Jewish) branches, and has come to include foreign (Gentile) branches (11:17).
4. Thus the promise: “Israel shall be saved” (Isa.45:17) is understood to be fulfilled by the partial blinding of Jews who were not of the believing remnant and the saving of the believing Gentiles, who assume their position in the Olive Tree—in this way (“so” or “thus”) “all Israel shall be saved” (11:25-26)

### F. Kingdom restored to Israel (Acts 1:6; 1 Pet.2:9; Rev.1:5-6) See below:

O.T. Passage / Kingdom characteristic	Davidic Kingdom	Gentiles Subdued	Exiles return Exodus Highway	Peace and Prosperity	Temple Worship	Salvation Restoration	Everlasting duration	N.T. References and allusions
Psalm 72	verse 1	verses 8-11	verse 4	vs. 3, 7, 16	-	vs. 12-14	vs.5,7,17,19	-
Isaiah 2:2-4	-	verses 2-4	-	verse 4	verse 2	-	-	-
Isa. 9:1-7	verses 6-7	—	-	verses 3, 7	—	verse 4	verse 7	<b>Matt. 4:12-17</b>
Isa. 11:1-16	verse 1	vs.13-14	vs.11f, 15f	verses 6-9	-	-	-	<b>Romans 15:10</b>
Isa. 35:1-10	-	-	vs. 8-10	-	-	vs. 1-7	verse 10	<b>Hebrews 12:12 Matthew 11:1-6</b>

<b>Jeremiah Chs. 30-33</b>	30:9 33:15, 17, 21-22	30:16	30:3, 10 31:8-10, 21, 32:37, 44	30:19-20 33:6	31:14 33:18, 21f	30:7-8, 17 31:11, 34 33:8, 16	32:39-40	<b>Matthew 2:17f Luke 22:20 Hebrews 8:7-13; 13:20</b>
<b>Ezekiel Chs. 34 &amp; 37</b>	34:23-24 37:24-25	34:28-29	34:11-13 37:21	34:14-16 25-29	37:26-28	34:22 37:23	37:26-28	<b>John 10:11,14 Hebrews 13:20</b>
<b>Joel 2:28-3:21</b>	-	3:4-7	3:1	3:18	-	2:32 3:21	3:20	<b>Acts 2:16-21</b>
<b>Amos 9:11ff</b>	verse 11	verse 12	verses 14-15	verse 13	—	-	verse 15	<b>Acts 15:14-17</b>
<b>Zechariah Ch.14</b>	-	vs. 3, 14, 16-19	-	-	vs. 16-21	vs. 10-11	-	<b>John 7:37-39</b>
<b>Additional Passages</b>	II Sam.7:12ff Isaiah 55:3	Isaiah 66:20	Isaiah 10:21	numerous	Ezek.40:38f 43:18 Isaiah 66:21	Isaiah 45:17 59:20-21 Jer. 23:6	Daniel 2:44 7:13-14	
<b>Fulfilled:</b>	Acts 2:29ff 13:32ff	Romans 15:16	John 11:51f Romans 9:27	John 14:27 16:33/Eph.2:14 -17	Heb. 7:12 10:1-10,18	Romans 11:25-26	II Cor.4:18 Heb.5:9	

***Next Question: Has God historically preserved a Jewish race to this day, to whom Old Testament promises could be fulfilled?***

“In 1970 the Israeli Knesset adopted legislation defining a Jew as one born of a Jewish mother or a convert.”  
(*Funk & Wagnall’s New Encyclopedia*, 1979, vol.14, p.214)

If a Jewish woman marries a Gentile man (let’s say a proselyte), then her children will be regarded as Jews, though they have only 50% Jewish blood. If one of her daughters marries a man of Gentile stock, then the children of this union will also be regarded as “Jewish,” though their bloodline is only 25% Jewish, and so forth. If this process were to continue through two more generations, then the great, great grandchildren would still be considered racially “Jewish,” though their bloodline would be 6.25% Jewish and 93.75% Gentile. Three more generations of the same would produce “Jewish” children who were less than 1% racially Jewish.

Has such mixture of Jewish blood occurred in history? Biblically, we know of many cases—e.g. All of Jacob’s sons (the progenitors of the twelve tribes), as well as Moses and Solomon all married Gentile women. Salmon (a Jew) married Rahab (a Canaanite); Boaz (a Jew) married Ruth (a Moabitess); Bathsheba (probably a Jew) married Uriah (a Hittite); Esther (a Jew) married Xerxes (a Persian); Timothy’s mother Eunice (a Jew) married a Gentile man (Timothy’s father).

*The Jewish Encyclopedia* (vol.6, pp.610-611) says: “Nevertheless the Israelites during the pre-exilic period did intermarry with the Gentiles...the offspring of intermarriages with the Idumeans and Egyptians were to be admitted to the congregation of the Lord...marriage with converted Gentiles was no longer regarded as intermarriage.”

The same authority states that, in 1900, 9.3% of Jewish marriages were racially mixed with Gentiles. From 1921-1925, about 42% of Germany’s Jews married Gentiles. Jews in every part of the world bear the physical characteristics of the Gentiles in the same lands, suggesting a high degree of racial mixing.

“Perhaps as much as a third of the Jews in Italy were not descendants of Abraham...but the descendants of Romulus and Remus, inasmuch as their ancestors were former pagans who had converted to Judaism as far back as 100 A.D. The story was much the same in France and Germany.” (Max I. Dimont, in *Jews, God and History*, p.213)

*Time Magazine*, in 1975, reported that one-third of American Jewish marriages are racially-mixed.

Dr. Camille Honig, a Jewish authority, and literary editor of the *Jewish Voice of California*, Sept. 25, 1953, wrote:

"If you studied Jewish types and communities in five continents, as this writer had the opportunity of doing, you would have realized that it is sheer nonsense, and very dangerous nonsense, as well as unscientific, to speak about a Jewish race."

*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1973, vol.12, p.1054, states:

"The findings of physical anthropology show that, contrary to the popular view, there is no Jewish race."

Of the nearly 4,000,000 Jews in Israel, "approximately 47% were Israeli-born, but their immediate forebears came from more than one-hundred different countries and spoke eighty-five different languages or major dialects. The two major groupings are European or Western ("Ashkenazi") Jews, who make up about 31 per cent of the Jewish population, and Asian or North African ("Sephardic") Jews, who make up about 28 per cent." (Funk & Wagnall's *New Encyclopedia*, 1979, vol.14, p.10)

The Ashkenazim "are the Jews whose ancestors lived in German lands. The name derives from Ashk'naz, the traditional Hebrew name for Germany. During and after the Middle Ages, Ashkenazim Jews spread all over Europe (except the Mediterranean countries). From there they migrated overseas, retaining their Yiddish language." (*Encyclopedia Americana*)

The following information is a summary of the contents of an article in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1973, vol.13, pp.328-330:

From the 6th century onward, an empire of people known as Khazars formed part of the western Turkic empire. They were attacked in 1016 by a coalition of the Russians and the Byzantine emperor, and their territories were thereafter made subject to Byzantium. In 740, the Khazar ruler, and probably the greater part of the ruling class, converted to Judaism.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* (vol.16, p.391) says that the Khazars—

"...were a people, probably of Finnic stock, who lived around the Caspian Sea and in the spurs of the Caucasus mountains from about 190 A.D. to 1100....Many of them adopted the Jewish faith from Jews who fled persecution at Constantinople during the 700's. The Jews of modern Russia may have an admixture of Khazar blood."

*The American People's Encyclopedia*, 1964 (15:292)

"In the year 740 the Khazars were officially converted to Judaism. A century later they were cursed by the in-coming Slavic- speaking people and were scattered over central Europe where they were known as Jews. It is from this grouping that most German and Polish Jews are descended, and they likewise make up a considerable part of that population now found in America. The term Aschenazim is now applied to this division."

*The Jewish Encyclopedia*, Third Edition, 1925:

"Chazars: a people of Turkish origin whose life and history are interwoven with the very beginnings of the history of the Jews of Russia."

Arthur Koestler. In "*The Thirteenth Tribe*" (New York: Random House, Inc., 1976), wrote:

"In the 1960's, the number of the Sephardim was estimated at 500,000. The Ashkenazim, at the same period, numbered about eleven million. Thus, in common parlance, Jew is synonymous with Ashkenazi Jew."

Alfred Lilienthal writes, in "*What Price Israel*" (Henry Regenery Co., 1953), p.222, wrote:

"These Ashkenazim Jews have little or no trace of Semitic blood."

**Summary:**

*While it is barely possible that there are some pure-blooded, unmixed Jewish individuals in the world today, it would be irrelevant, since God does not evaluate people, whether favorably or unfavorably, by reference to race. God is no “respector of persons” (Acts 10:34; Rom.2:9-11; 10:12).*

*It seems unlikely that many (or any) modern individuals are of unmixed Jewish ancestry. Through the generations since the last diaspora (AD70), being “Jewish” has largely been determined by religious and cultural practices—that is, by circumcision and (selective) Torah and Talmudic observance. Historically, a family observing Passover and a Saturday Sabbath has been regarded as a “Jewish” family, whereas a family observing Christmas and worshiping on Sunday has been regarded as a “Christian” family. Race has had little to do with it.*

*The children of a family that follows Jewish culture and traditions are called “Jewish,” regardless of ancestry. On the other hand, multitudes today, whose parents identified themselves as Jews, and who were raised with that identity, are no longer observant of Judaism, but have embraced atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, and other non-Jewish beliefs and cultures. Their children, like their parents, soon lose any identity as “Jewish.”*