

Israel And The Church

by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —

IC1

Three Tape Series

4101 *Who Are The Israel Of God?*

4102 *Jews, Gentiles And The Church*

4103 *The Prophetic Word Made More Sure*

Who Are The Israel Of God?

4101

I. Both *Israel* And The *Church* Derive Their Inheritance By *Descent* From *Abraham*

A. *Israel*—Gen. 17:7–8, 15–21

B. *Church*—Rom. 4:9–17; Gal. 3:7–9, 25–29

II. Picture Abraham, As A Friend Of God

A. 2 Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8; James 2:23

B. Not primarily “religious”

III. God Made *Two Covenants* with *Abraham*

A. Gen. 15:8–18—*First covenant*: fulfilled by the *Law* (under *Joshua*)

B. Gen. 17:1–8, 9–14—*Second covenant*: fulfilled in the *Messiah*

C. Note the *differences*

“*A*” covenant

No Provision for Abraham

Not everlasting

Blood of *animals*

“*My*” covenant

Provision for Abraham *first*

Everlasting

Blood of *Abraham* and his *seed*

D. If God had only made the *first covenant*, He would now have *no further obligation* to Abraham.

IV. Three Pictures Of Abraham’s Seed

A. Gen. 13:16; 28:14—*Dust* of the earth: *physical* descent only—regardless of *faith* (perhaps includes *Ishmael*)

B. Gen. 22:17—*Sand* of the sea: through *Isaac*—Heb. 11:12, i.e., *Israel*. Features of *sand*:

1. *Resists* ceaseless pounding of the waves

2. *Divides* between sea and dry land

C. Gen. 22:17—*Stars of heaven*: i.e., the *church*—Heb. 11:12, to fulfill the function allotted to them in Gen. 1:16–18 (Note again: “*Divide*” [Phil. 2:14–16])

V. Israel And The Church Are Two Distinct Entities

A. (See *list* of occurrences of “*Israel/Israelite*” in the New Testament):

“*Israel*”—69 times; “*Israelite*”—5 times. *Total*: 74

B. Note the following:

1. In at least 71 cases, no reasonable doubt that New Testament use of “Israel” is same as Old Testament use. Percentage = 96%
2. 9 cases are *direct quotations* from Old Testament
 - a. In each case use of “Israel” is same as in Old Testament
 - b. This sets a New Testament pattern for interpreting “Israel” throughout Old Testament

VI. Possible Exceptions

- A.** No. 52/3: Rom. 9:6—Occurs *twice*:
1. Once same as Old Testament—once *limited* to those who *believe* God’s *promises* and *acknowledge their Messiah*.
 2. This does *not extend*, but *restricts*, the use of “Israel.”
 3. It does *not include* Gentiles, but it *excludes* some Israelites.
- B.** No. 66: Gal. 6:16—Who are “the Israel of God”? Same as *restricted use* in Rom 9:6; only *true Jewish believers* in the *Messiah*. Paul refers to *two groups*:
1. “Those who walk” = *believing Gentiles*
 2. “Israel of God” = *believing Israelites* (compare Rom. 3:30—The *same two groups* (in opposite order)
 - a. “The circumcision by (on basis of) faith” = believing Jews
 - b. “The uncircumcision through faith” = believing Gentiles
 3. No. 73—Rev. 7:4—144,000 of all tribes of *Israel*. Depends on how Revelation is to be interpreted—but in the two other cases in Rev. “Israel” has same meaning as in Old Testament.
- C.** Even if the above explanation is not accepted, the *total number of possible exceptions* is 3 out of 74.

VII. Other Related Uses (indicated by †)

- A.** No. 63: 1 Cor. 10:18—“Israel according to the flesh” = Those who are Israelites by *natural descent* only, but lack *faith* (and so did not enter the promised land)—corresponds to distinction in Rom. 9:6.
- B.** No. 67: Eph 2:12—“Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,” i.e., Gentiles without Christ. Through faith in Christ they become *members* of the *commonwealth*, but *not Israelites*.
1. Contemporary *examples*: Arab citizens of Israel; New Zealand and Australia in British Commonwealth.
 2. Compare: Abraham is a *father* of *many nations* (*Gentiles*)—not merely of *Israelites*. Gen. 17:5; Rom. 4:16–17; Gal. 3:26–29.
 3. Gentiles can be “Abraham’s descendants” without becoming Israelites.
- C.** Rom 2:28–29—Similar to Rom. 9:6—*Reducing, not extending*, the number of those to whom *Jews* should be applied.
1. “Jew” occurs nearly 200 times in New Testament (26 times in writings of Paul)
 2. It is *never* used as a synonym for “Christian”—to interpret in this way would make nonsense of most of these passages (e.g. 1 Cor 10:32).

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VIII. Inheritors In Christ

- A. Eph. 2:14–16—*In Christ*, the *dividing wall* between *Jews* and *Gentiles* has been *abolished*, But:
- B. Num. 23:9—Outside of Christ, the separation remains
- C. Gal. 3:26–29—*In Christ*, Jews and Gentiles share equally in Abraham’s inheritance. But this does *not obliterate* all distinctions of *race*, any more than all distinctions of *sex*. Nor does it mean that *all Gentiles become Jews*. Compare:
- D. Acts 16:1–3—Paul had Timothy circumcised because his mother was Jewish.
- E. Gal. 2:2–5—Paul *refused* to have *Titus circumcised* because he was a Greek.

IX. Israelites Distinguished From Christians

In four passages in Romans Paul uses “Israel” to distinguish unbelieving Israelites from believing Gentiles

- A. Rom. 9:30–31—*Gentiles* attained . . . but *Israel* did not . . .
- B. Rom. 10:19–21—Same principle as above
- C. Rom. 11:7, 11—Same as above
- D. Rom. 11:25–26—Same as above

X. Practical Application Of The Above

- A. Old Testament prophecies about Israel still refer to Israel and mean exactly what they appear to mean.
 - 1. There is no other way to make sense of many such prophecies: e.g. Lev. 26:32–33, 36–39; Hos. 3:4–5; Zech. chs. 12, 13, 14 (esp. 14:3–4).
 - 2. At the same time, such prophecies contain many *principles* and *examples* that are important for the church.
- B. We may expect unfulfilled prophecies of the Old Testament to be fulfilled in just the same way as those which were fulfilled in the New Testament. *Examples of fulfilled prophecies from the life of Jesus:*
 - 1. He was born of a *virgin* (Is. 7:14 + Matt. 1:24–25)
 - 2. He was born in *Bethlehem* (Micah 5:2 + Luke 2:4–7)
 - 3. He taught in *parables* (Ps. 78:2 + Matt. 13:34–35)
 - 4. He was *betrayed* by a *friend* (Ps. 41:9 + John 13:18)
 - 5. He was *hated* without a cause (Ps. 35:19, 69:4 + John 15:25)
 - 6. He was condemned with *criminals* (Is. 53:12 + Luke 22:37)
 - 7. His garments were *divided* by *lot* (Ps. 22:18 + Matt. 27:35)
 - 8. He was offered *vinegar* to drink (Ps. 69:21 + Matt. 27:48)
 - 9. His body was *pierced* without His bones being broken (Ps. 34:20 + John 19:36 & Zech. 12:10 + John 19:37)
 - 10. He was *buried* in the tomb of a *rich man* (Is. 53:9 + Matt. 27:57–60)
 - 11. He *rose* from the dead on the *third day* (Hos. 6:2 + 1 Cor. 15:4)
- C. Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the New Testament makes it *even more sure* that the remaining prophecies will be *fulfilled likewise* (2 Pet. 1:16–21). They therefore require our *earnest attention*.

XI. Israel’s Destiny Is Based On God’s Sovereign Election, Not On Israel’s Merits

- A. Rom. 9:10–16, 11:28–29 (compare Is. 41:8–9, 44:1–3)
- B. But the same is *equally true of the church* (Eph. 1:3–6, 2:8–10; 2 Tim. 1:9)
- C. Rom. 8:29–30; 1 Pet. 1:1–2
 - 1. He foreknew us
 - 2. Having foreknown us He chose us
 - 3. Having chosen us he predestined us
 - 4. In time He called us
 - 5. When we accepted, He justified us
 - 6. He glorified us—not future but past (1 Cor. 2:6–7)

XII. Uniqueness And “Newness” Of The Church

- A. The *church* is a “*mystery*” never previously revealed (Eph. 3:2–10)
- B. Also, a *new creation* (2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15)
- C. Also, a *one new man* (Eph. 2:11–16)
- D. On the other hand, Israel had already existed for 15 centuries

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XIII. Differing Destinies

If Israel and the church are not identical, then *how do their destinies differ?*

- A. Gen. 22:17—As *stars*, the destiny of the *Church* is *heavenly*
- B. Heb. 11:12—As *sand*, the destiny of *Israel* is *earthly*
- C. Is. 51:16—The *two together* will “take over” (for God) both the *heavens* and the *earth*

XIV. Aspects Of The Church That Are Heavenly

- A. 1 Pet. 1:3–4—Born from above to a heavenly inheritance
- B. Phil. 3:20—*Citizenship* in *heaven*
- C. Eph. 1:3—*Blessings* in the *heavenlies*
- D. Eph. 1:20–23—*Headquarters* in the *heavenlies*
- E. Eph. 2:6—*Enthronement* (i.e. place of *authority*) in the *heavenlies*
- F. Eph. 3:10—Reveals God’s wisdom in the *heavenlies*
- G. Eph. 6:12—Wages *war* in the *heavenlies*
- H. Heb. 3:1—*Calling* is *heavenly*
- I. Heb. 6:4–5—Has tasted a *heavenly gift* and the *powers* of the *age to come*
- J. Heb. 12:22—Assembles in the heavenly Jerusalem (The Bible speaks of a heavenly Jerusalem and Zion but not of a heavenly Israel)
 - 1. From its *heavenly position*, the church is called to play a *decisive role* in *earth’s affairs* (Ps. 103:19; Col. 1:12–13; Rev. 1:6; 5:10)
 - 2. Specifically, to pray for the *coming of God’s kingdom on earth* (Matt. 6:10)

XV. By contrast, Israel’s Inheritance Is Earthly (Gen. 17:7–8, Ps. 105:8–11)

XVI. Both Israel And The Church Will Have To Gain Their Inheritance By Fighting (After The Pattern Of Joshua And Canaan)

- A. *Israel*—Jer. 51:19–23; Micah 4:11–13; 5:7–9; Zech. 12:6

- B. *The Church*—2 Cor. 10:3–5; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:7–11
Angels also will share in the conflict (Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:7, 10)
- C. *Final victory* will come through the *personal intervention* of the *Lord Jesus* (Ps. 110:5–6, Zech. 14:3–5; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; 2 Thess. 1:6–10)

XVII. Setting Up God’s Kingdom On Earth

- A. The restoration of Israel to their land must prepare the way for the setting up of the kingdom—and will indicate the approach of the close of the age (Jer. 30:1–7; Luke 21:24–28)
- B. A “remnant” of Israel, preserved through great tribulation, will form the nucleus of the kingdom (Rom. 9:26–29 & 11:26, Joel 2:32, Micah 4:7–8)
- C. Its center for *worship* and *administration* will be *Jerusalem* (Is. 2:1–4; Micah 4:1–4; Zech. 8:20–23, 14:16–17)
- D. The *returned Messiah* will be *king* (Is. 24:23; Zech. 14:8–9)
- E. Israelites will be its *priests* (Is. 61:4–6; compare Ex. 19:3–6)
- F. The earth will at last know *true peace* (Is. 9:6–7; Ps. 72:1–11) and will celebrate its *long-awaited sabbath* (Heb. 4:9)
- G. *Nations* will be *admitted*, or *excluded*, on the basis of their treatment of “the brothers of Jesus” (Joel 3:1–3; Matt. 25:31–46)
- H. Those who have served Jesus in this age will be the *heavenly administrators* of His kingdom on earth (Matt. 19:27–30; Luke 22:29–30; 1 Cor. 6:2–3, Rev. 2:26–28)

XVIII. However, The Kingdom Thus Established On Earth Will Not Be The Final Phase Of God’s Purposes (Rev. 21:1–5)

Use of “Israel” and “Israelite” in the New Testament

- *1. Matt. 2:6 “ . . . a Ruler Who will shepherd My people *Israel*.”
(cited from Mic. 5:2)
- 2. Matt. 2:20 “. . . the land of *Israel* . . .”
- 3. Matt. 2:21 “. . . the land of *Israel*.”
- 4. Matt. 8:10 “. . . not found such great faith, not even in *Israel!*”
- 5. Matt. 9:33 “. . . never seen like this in *Israel!*”
- 6. Matt. 10:6 “. . . to the lost sheep of the house of *Israel*.”
- 7. Matt. 10:23 “. . . not have gone through the cities of *Israel* before the Son of Man comes.”
- 8. Matt. 15:24 “. . . except to the lost sheep of the house of *Israel*.”
- 9. Matt. 15:31 “. . . they glorified the God of *Israel*.”
- 10. Matt. 19:28 “. . . will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of *Israel*.”
- *11. Matt. 27:9 “. . . whom they of the children of *Israel* priced . . .”
(cited from Zech. 11:12–13)
- 12. Matt. 27:42 “If He is the King of *Israel*, let Him now come down . . .”
- *13. Mark 12:29 “Hear, O *Israel* . . .” (cited from Deut. 6:4–5)

14. Mark 15:32 “Let the Christ, the King of *Israel*, descend now from the cross . . .”
15. Luke 1:16 “And he will turn many of the children of *Israel* . . .”
- *16. Luke 1:54 “He has helped His servant *Israel* . . .” (cited [approx.] from Is. 41:8)
17. Luke 1:68 “Blessed is the Lord God of *Israel* . . .”
18. Luke 1:80 . . . till the day of his manifestation to *Israel*.
19. Luke 2:25 . . . waiting for the Consolation of *Israel* . . .
- *20. Luke 2:32 “. . . A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people *Israel*.” (cited from Isaiah)
21. Luke 2:34 “. . . the fall and rising of many in *Israel* . . .”
22. Luke 4:25 “. . . many widows were in *Israel* . . .”
23. Luke 4:27 “. . . many lepers were in *Israel* . . .”
24. Luke 7:9 “. . . not found such great faith, not even in *Israel!*”
25. Luke 22:30 “. . . sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of *Israel*.”
26. Luke 24:21 “. . . He who was going to redeem *Israel*.”
27. John 1:31 “. . . that He should be revealed to *Israel* . . .”
28. John 1:47 (Nathanael) “. . . an *Israelite* indeed . . .”
29. John 1:49 “You are the King of *Israel!*”
30. John 3:10 “Are you the teacher of *Israel* . . .”
31. John 12:13 “Blessed is . . . the King of *Israel!*”
32. Acts 1:6 “. . . restore the kingdom to *Israel?*”
33. Acts 2:22 “Men of *Israel* . . .” (literally, *Israelites*)
34. Acts 2:36 “. . . let all the house of *Israel* know . . .”
35. Acts 3:12 “Men of *Israel* . . .” (literally, *Israelites*)
36. Acts 4:10 “. . . let it be known to . . . all the people of *Israel* . . .”
37. Acts 4:27 “. . . with the Gentiles and the people of *Israel* . . .”
38. Acts 5:21 “. . . all the elders of the children of *Israel* . . .”
39. Acts 5:31 “. . . to give repentance to *Israel* . . .”
40. Acts 5:35 “Men of *Israel* . . .” (literally, *Israelites*)
41. Acts 7:23 “. . . to visit his brethren, the children of *Israel*.”
42. Acts 7:37 “. . . Moses who said to the children of *Israel* . . .”
- *43. Acts 7:42 ““Did you offer Me . . . O house of *Israel?*”” (cited from Amos 5:25–27)
44. Acts 9:15 “. . . to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of *Israel*.”
45. Acts 10:36 “The word which God sent to the children of *Israel*.”
46. Acts 13:16 “Men of *Israel* . . .” (literally, *Israelites*)
47. Acts 13:17 “The God of this people *Israel* . . .”
48. Acts 13:23 “. . . God raised up for *Israel* a Savior . . .”
49. Acts 13:24 “. . . the baptism of repentance to all the people of *Israel*.”
50. Acts 21:28 “Men of *Israel* . . .” (literally, *Israelites*)
51. Acts 28:20 “. . . for the hope of *Israel* I am bound . . .”
- ?52/3. Rom. 9:6 . . . they are not all *Israel* who are of *Israel* . . .

54. Rom. 9:27 Isaiah also cries out concerning *Israel* . . .
- *55. Rom. 9:27 “Though the number of the children of *Israel* be as the sand . . .” (cited from Is. 10:22–23)
56. Rom. 9:31 . . . but *Israel*, pursuing the law of righteousness . . .
57. Rom. 10:19 . . . did *Israel* not know?
58. Rom. 10:21 But to *Israel* he says . . .
59. Rom. 11:1 . . . I also am an *Israelite* . . .
60. Rom. 11:7 *Israel* has not obtained what it seeks . . .
61. Rom. 11:25 . . . hardening in part has happened to *Israel* . . .
62. Rom. 11:26 And so all *Israel* will be saved . . .
- †63. 1 Cor. 10:18 Observe *Israel* after the flesh . . .
64. 2 Cor. 3:7 . . . the children of *Israel* could not look steadily at the face of Moses . . .
65. 2 Cor. 3:13 . . . the children of *Israel* could not look steadily at the end . . .
- ?66. Gal. 6:15–16 . . . peace and mercy . . . an upon the *Israel* of God. (Rom. 3:30)
- †67. Eph. 2:12 . . . aliens from the commonwealth of *Israel* . . .
68. Phil. 3:5 . . . of the stock of *Israel* . . .
- *69. Heb. 8:8 “. . . I will make a new covenant with the house of *Israel* . . .”
- *70. Heb. 8:10 “. . . the covenant that I will make with the house of *Israel* . . .” (Heb. 8:8, 8:10 both cited from Jer. 31:31–34)
71. Heb. 11:22 . . . Joseph . . . made mention of the departure of the children of *Israel* . . .
72. Rev. 2:14 . . . Balaam . . . put a stumbling block before the children of *Israel* . . .
- ?73. Rev. 7:4 One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of *Israel* . . .
74. Rev. 21:12 . . . the names of the twelve tribes of the children of *Israel* . . .

*Cited from the Old Testament
 †other related uses