

ABRAHAM OUR FATHER JERUSALEM OUR MOTHER

A Biblical Analysis of Judaism &
the Modern State of Israel in Relation
to the Church of Jesus Christ



Alan Morrison

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the Modern State of Israel in Relation
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Dedicated to my Divine Master:
The Christ
who walked this earth in the flesh
fulfilled His mission
defeated the forces of darkness
and who will come again
with power and great glory



The contents of this eBook were first published as a smaller essay in 1998 (1st edition), updated in 2007 (2nd edition), refreshed somewhat in 2020, and fully updated with 25% extra material and redesigned into this new eBook version (3rd edition) in 2022 and published by **Under the Radar Publications**.

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Bible references in this eBook are often from the Berean Study Bible. The author also consults the Hebrew or Koine Greek texts and uses his own personal translations of them in order to get as close to what he believes to be the best meaning possible.

Table of Contents

Author's Preface to the Third Edition.....	8
INTRODUCTION: The Rise of the Neo-Judaizers.....	10
A False Line of Descent	11
Some of the Many Claims I have Heard from 'Christian Zionists'	13
PART I: THE HALLMARKS OF MODERN JUDAISM.....	19
1. It Denies the Jurisdiction of the New Testament.....	22
2. It Upholds the Talmud as Authoritative Writings	26
3. It Champions the Kabbalah as if it Was a Wholesome Spiritual Practice	30
PART II: THE HALLMARKS OF BIBLICAL JUDAISM.....	36
1. A True Jew is a Person of any Nation, Tribe or Tongue who has Faith in Christ	36
2. A True Jew is a Person Who has been Inwardly Transformed by the Power of God	41
3. A True Jew is, and Only Ever has been, one of a Relatively Small 'Remnant' out of the Nation of Israel	45
4. A True Jew is One who has Made the Transition from the Old Covenant with Old Testament Israel to the New Covenant in Christ	49
PART III: AN ANALYSIS OF SOME COMMON FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT ISRAEL AND JUDAISM	60
FALSE CLAIM #1: "The Establishment of the Middle Eastern Nation State of Israel Today is a Fulfilment of Bible Prophecy"	60
1. The Land Promise was Clearly Fulfilled in the Old Testament Era..	60
2. The Restoration of Israel in the Old Testament has Only Ever been Based on a Number of Clear Conditions	65
i. Deep Repentance	66
ii. Faithfulness to God	67
iii. Being True Zionists (Rather than the False 'Zionists' of Today)..	68
iv. Engaging in Genuine Spirituality	69
v. The Desire to be in a Perpetual Covenant Relationship with God..	70
3. The Real hope for Israel is not a Restoration of Israel to the Land but to Jesus Christ at His First Coming.....	75

A Model Example of Good Scripture Interpretation.....	76
The Hope of Israel or its ‘Cheat’?.....	79
FALSE CLAIM #2: “The Nation Israel is still God’s Chosen People Today”	84
FALSE CLAIM #3: “The Establishment of the Israeli state in 1948 is the Beginning of a Process that Culminates in a Global Conversion of Living Jews after all the Gentiles have been Saved”.....	92
PART IV: WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE?	101
CONCLUSION: Why this is Not a ‘Secondary Issue’	107
Make No Mistake: This is Part of a Wider Spiritual Battle.....	110
This Watershed Time of History & Gathering Darkness	111
The Church is “the Israel of God”	114
File this Book Under the Label of “Truth”	116
Israel and the Web of the Antichrist	117

“Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may rest on grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. **He is the father** of us all” (Letter to the Romans, chapter 4, verse 16).

“These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and **she is our mother**” (Letter to the Galatians, chapter 4, verses 24-26).

Author's Preface to the Third Edition

During my decades-long sojourn around cyberspace, I have come across so many people calling themselves “Christians” or “believers” whose understanding of the Bible and its teachings is what I can only describe as being “all over the place”. There seems to be a great instability in so many people which borders on obsessional hysteria, resulting in the adherence to certain sensationalist *vogue fallacies* such as “the rapture”, or “the mark of the beast” being in the form of a microchip implant, or “living the abundant life” (the so-called ‘prosperity gospel’), or that being ‘baptised by the Holy Spirit’ means falling down when a corrupt pastor zaps you on the forehead,¹ or the faithless notion that the demons who allegedly rule your town must first be identified and dislodged before one can begin to evangelize the area (so-called ‘Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare’),² or a foolishly literalistic belief that Christ will return to reign over this present earth from Jerusalem for exactly one thousand years. Yet, that hotchpotch of trendy contrived beliefs and practices represents just a few of the many which have plagued the visible Church over the last half-century as part of Satan’s ongoing war of attrition against the true *Ekklesia* of Jesus Christ. However, by far the most popular of all these *vogue fallacies* involves celebrating the modern state of Israel, founded in 1948, as if it is a restoration of the Israel in the Old Testament.

In many ‘Christian’ circles today, a common interpretation of the words in the Bible, “*And so all Israel shall be saved*”,³ is that shortly before the end of this age there will be a global mass conversion of all living Jews. The “Israel” there is taken to mean the earthly nation of Israel.

¹ Which is an exact replica of an occult practice known in Eastern religion and New Age circles as “Shaktipat”.

² For more information about this kind of dangerous, unfounded ‘ministry’, please see the section “Controlling the Charismatic Mind” in Part 7 of my free-to-download eBook, “*Discerning the Signs of the Times*” on my website here: <https://diakrisis-project.com/2022/09/14/new-book-discerning-the-signs-of-the-times/>.

³ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 25.

The existence since 1948 of the current earthly nation, Israel, in the Middle East, is therefore seen by many as part of the necessary build-up to this mass-conversion phenomenon. Correspondingly, there is an enormous interest throughout the Church in the modern state of Israel and in Jewishness in general, right down to the celebration of Jewish festivals, the wearing of prayer shawls and holding meetings on a Saturday. In many cases, one could even call all this an obsession, almost as if it is a cult. We seem to be witnessing today a massive revival of the kind of Judaizing which the early Church was at pains to reject definitively, such as we see in Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

How has all this come about? **How has Judaism managed to inveigle so many of those who profess to be 'Christians' to give their allegiance to modern-day Israel as if it was an exact replica of the Israel which existed during Old Testament times?** As you will discover while you work your way through this book, I believe all this to be a distinct work of Satan which could only take root to such an extent because of erroneous teachings which already exist in the first place, such as a rejection of Divine election, which is very much a part of 'the deep things of God' and needing to be understood deep within the soul.

In this little book — now on its third edition, containing 25% more material than the second edition — these ideas are examined against the clear teaching of hundreds of sacred texts. It is my belief that the failure to "*accurately handle the word of truth*" has led to an erroneous division of the people of God, who are called to be "*one flock with one Shepherd*".⁴ My hope is that you, the reader, will carefully check all my words and references below and scrutinise them to see if they represent the truth of the matter.

Alan Morrison,
December 2022,
Mexico.

⁴ Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 2, verse 15; Gospel of John, chapter 10, verse 16.

INTRODUCTION:

The Rise of the Neo-Judaizers

Shortly before December 25th, 1997, a huge frontpage banner headline appeared in one of the United Kingdom's quality national newspapers which read: "*It Never Happened*". Above this headline was a portrait of the 'manger scene' at the birth of Christ. The article set out to disprove the historicity of His Incarnation. In the wake of this conceit, there was no clamour from clergymen, no bellow from bishops, not a peep from the proletariat. It was a blasphemous statement; but it was 'politically correct'.

Now imagine what would have occurred if, above that headline, "*It Never Happened*", in the place of the manger scene, there was a portrait of Mohammed making his hegira to Medina, or of Gautama Siddhartha Buddha sitting under a Banyan tree in Bihar, or of Arjuna and Krishna conversing elatedly in their chariot, or Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Sinai. Imagine the huge chorus of outrage that would have ensued from the assorted mobs on Twitter — not to mention the outcry from the massed ranks of mortally offended interdenominational clergymen and their interfaith bishops.

In the present climate, it is fashionable to do everything possible to undermine the claims of Christ and overturn the veracity of the Bible. One can utter the foulest blasphemy against Jesus, but one must never cast the slightest aspersion against any of the world's religious movements, or one might even receive a knock at the door from the police accusing you of committing a 'hatecrime'! Such is the global agenda of political correctness in the religious field. **However, this same gag on exposing false religion has even spread to the heart of evangelicalism, which has become protective of the present-day religion of Judaism — even upholding that the modern antichristian state of Israel in the Middle East is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy and a portent of the end of the age!**

Because so many professing 'Christians' have bought into the lie of 'political correctness' — the institutionalised suppression of truth — non-acrimonious and open discussion of these matters is universally barred, while emotive accusations of 'antisemitism' and 'racism' are hurled at anyone who dares to analyse this dire state of affairs. The

stultifying ‘politically correct’ atmosphere being generated in the ‘Christian’ scene today, apart from being dishonest, is most unhelpful to proper analysis, debate and discussion on a range of issues.

Even more disturbing than this is the fact that in many professing Christian circles it appears that what one believes about ‘Israel’ and ‘Jewishness’ has come to define the authenticity of one’s discipleship in Christ. Those who do not toe the party line on Israel — that is, who do not accept that the modern state of Israel is a restored biblical Israel — are likely to find themselves treated with considerable disdain and even ostracised by fellowships of professing Christians. For example, in a ‘Jewish-Messianic’ newsletter, it was stated that because a well-known church in London sold a book entitled “*The Church is Israel Today*” (which teaches that the Israel of God under the new covenant is the Church, the *Ekklesia*) it therefore “*resembles more of a tomb than it does the vibrant house of worship it was under Spurgeon*” and now “*has ICHABOD written all over it*”.⁵ That is a very serious charge indeed. The Hebrew word אִי-כָבוֹד, *ichabod*, means “no glory”, “*the glory has departed*”.⁶ It is the equivalent of having a sign over the door saying, “*Abandon hope, all ye who enter here*”. To claim that there is nothing of the glory of God left in a church merely because it sells a book, or holds a view with which one disagrees is schismatic in the extreme.⁷

A False Line of Descent

A startling fact about which most Christians are completely unaware is that there was an equivalent in ‘Jewish’ history to the situation in which the Roman Emperor Constantine declared his empire and subjects ‘Christian’ after his own conversion, resulting in a large influx of pagans into the church, thus adulterating it and its beliefs. In 740 AD, the Emperor of Khazaria, in the steppes of Russia, declared his subjects ‘Jewish’ after his own conversion to Judaism. Rabbis were

⁵ *Moriel Prayer and Newsletter*, UK and Ireland Edition, No.10 Spring 1998, page 22.

⁶ cf. First Book of Samuel, chapter 4, verse 21.

⁷ Although I hope that by the time we reach the end of this book we will see that Messianic Judaism is not merely a disagreement but is an oxymoron of the highest order and not really a secondary issue at all but strikes at the heart of truth concerning the work of Christ and the veracity of the sacred texts.

brought from Babylonia to teach his subjects in the Khazar kingdom the kind of Pharisaic Judaism that had flourished from the 6th to 10th centuries. If one wonders about the ghettos of Warsaw, Budapest and Prague being so far from Palestine, it is because their Jewish inhabitants never came from Palestine but were part of the mass conversion of the Khazar Empire.

What does this imply? **That most of the Jews ‘returning’ to Palestine never came from Palestine in the first place and are not even in the lineage of Shem, but are Gentile converts.** This throws a massive eschatological curve-ball at this idea of genuine Jews returning to the modern State of Israel under divine sanction. In reality, a high percentage of today’s Jews are descended from the Khazars, according to the respected *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Princeton Professor D.M. Dunlop’s *The History of the Jewish Khazars*, and Arthur Koestler’s *The Thirteenth Tribe* (Random House, N.Y., 1967). *The Thirteenth Tribe* was Koestler’s last original book before he and his wife were found dead in an apparent suicide in their London apartment. Koestler, one of the most celebrated Jewish writers of the 20th Century, who himself believed strongly in a Jewish state in Israel, laments in his introduction that “*The story of the Khazar Empire, as it slowly emerges from the past, begins to look like the most cruel hoax which history has ever perpetrated*”.⁸

Of course, this information is vigorously disputed by politically correct historians, and also by one of Koestler’s biographers, David Cesarani, who was in fact a Jewish historian and Holocaust expert, so no surprises there! Others for whom the ersatz Israeli narrative is necessary in their worldview also lined up to criticize Koestler. Some significant figures supported his findings, including Shlomo Sand, Israeli Emeritus Professor of History at Tel Aviv University, the New York Times Book Review, and others. One can only imagine the propaganda which would be brought to bear in order to resist it; for **the implications of all this are staggering for those who would claim that modern Israel is a restoration of the Israelite kingdom of the Bible.** Yet, this claim is even being vigorously asserted today by a vast

⁸ Arthur Koestler, *The Thirteenth Tribe, The Khazar Empire and its Heritage*, Random House, 1976, p.17. Original 300+ page edition is available here: <https://www.amazon.com/Thirteenth-Tribe-Arthur-Koestler/dp/0945001428>

number of professing Christians who are also Zionist supporters of Israel.⁹ There can be no doubt that a modern form of ‘Judaizing’ has gripped many branches of the professing Church and that the spirit of Paul’s letter to the Galatians needs to be invoked against that. It is for this reason that I believe the present book is called for. It seems that an unconditional love for the modern earthly nation Israel has become an ‘article of faith’ among many modern evangelicals. **As a consequence of this, all manner of strange and unchecked claims are being made by many untaught and often arrogant people about Judaism and Israel.** Here are some of the claims which I have heard being made over the years:

Some of the Many Claims I have Heard from ‘Christian Zionists’

- 1) That the Jews as an earthly nation are still God’s *real* chosen people and the modern state of Israel is their rightful home.
- 2) That Gentile converts to Christ are somehow of inferior status to those converted out of Judaism.
- 3) That the nation-state called Israel in the Middle East is the fulfilment of biblical prophecy and a sign of the approaching appearance of the Christ — either for the ‘rapture’ or His second coming, depending on the belief system to which people adhere.

⁹ They give themselves the exclusive title of ‘Messianic believers’, as opposed to ‘ordinary Gentile believers’. But such a policy creates a wrongful division in the church, contrary to Scripture (cf. Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 14-22; Gospel of John, chapter 10, verse 16; chapter 11, verse 52; First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 12-13; Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verses 26-29; Letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verse 11. (In the Book of Isaiah, chapter 19, verses 23-25, although having a purely earthly fulfilment, we also see here a prophecy which has its ultimate fulfilment in the Gospel Age, in which there will be a unity of nations within the Church, as all artificial boundaries dissolve in the *Ekklesia*). Creating an artificial division between so-called ‘Messianic believers’ and ‘ordinary Gentile disciples’ is rather like the caste system in India. But the reality is that *all* believers in Christ are ‘messianic’, not just a few who happen to have a Jewish background; for Christ is the Messiah for all. As I will show, it creates a false division to have two ‘classes’ of disciples, and goes completely against the “one flock under one shepherd” concept which was precious to the apostles.

- 4) That if we encourage the Jews of the world to emigrate to Israel, the return of Christ will be hastened.
- 5) That Gentile Christians have a God-given duty to assist the modern state of Israel in every way — including financially.
- 6) That the Jews are the real root of Christianity and should therefore be held in the highest esteem.
- 7) That it is only because of the ‘temporary’ rejection of the Jews that Gentiles can be saved at all.
- 8) That Jews do not need to be ‘born again’ because they are already God’s chosen people.
- 9) That Jews who come to believe in Messiah do not need to become part of the Christian Church, which is intended specifically for Gentile converts to Messiah, but instead should gather in so-called Messianic Fellowships.
- 10) That Jews who have ‘accepted Messiah’ should continue with all the rituals, festivals and feasts of the Mosaic law — including a Saturday sabbath — and even non-biblical festivals such as Hanukkah.
- 11) That those who say (as, in fact, the Bible plainly teaches, as I will show throughout this book) that the Old Testament promises to Israel have now been fulfilled in Christ and His believing people are guilty of a ‘heresy’ to which they have appointed the disparaging nickname of ‘Replacement Theology’. (I will show below that such ‘replacement’ is true).
- 12) That when the LORD said to Abraham *“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you”*,¹⁰ it was also meant to be threateningly applied to all those who dare to say anything which is at all critical about the nation-state of Israel today.
- 13) That to write books like the one you are now reading represents the height of blasphemy, racism and antisemitism and will bring a curse down upon the writer’s head.¹¹

¹⁰ Book of Genesis, chapter 12, verse 3.

¹¹ In fact, right from publishing the first (much smaller) edition of this book as an article in the late 1990s, I received all manner of insults and denunciations from both professing Christians and Jewish people (all Zionists from both camps), and more serious threats when I published the edition in

Obviously, no one individual will necessarily adhere to ALL these claims. But they represent those I have heard from various quarters of ‘Christian Zionism’ over a number of years. It should be said here that the ‘curse’ mentioned in #12 above was originally pronounced by God so that the bloodline would be preserved which would lead to the promised Seed, Christ. This is obvious from the curse’s context which says, “*and all the families of the earth will be blessed through you*”. So Abraham is not only the father of the Old Testament faithful of Israel but of “*all those who are of the faith of Abraham*”, which must include all transformed Gentiles.¹² So that curse is on those who oppose God’s people, which today is the entire *Ekklesia*, and has nothing whatsoever to do with the unbelieving, disobedient modern nation called Israel. **The moral here is that if you try to come up against God, He will come up against you — especially in relation to the building of His Church, the *Ekklesia*.**

I should also add that the purpose of this book is not to incite any kind of animosity against Jewish people. On the contrary, I seek to remove division between disciples of Christ and promote the salvation of Jews through encouraging the kind of evangelism which is based on the Bible rather than a false agenda which has been dictated by Jewish people themselves along with theologically ignorant ‘Christians’ who are also dictating that same false agenda in the *Ekklesia* today.

It might be helpful to readers for me to state here that my own Hebrew name is אֶהְרֹן בֶּן יִצְחָק (Aaron son of Isaac) in Biblical Hebrew or אהרן בן יצחק in modern Ivrit — having come from a Jewish background, with a ‘Barmitzvah’ at age thirteen and therefore I

2007. Anyone who tries to overthrow the theological fantasies of the New Judaizers will have vituperative aspersions cast on their character, and gossip of the nastiest kind will be spread about them widely. Frankly, although I have encountered many vindictive people in my life, none have been as vindictive as those who set themselves up as defenders of modern-day Israel. I wonder what will happen this time with this 2022 edition? I await with interest, happy to receive whatever it might be, no matter how extreme (see Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, verses 10-11). **However, whatever aspersions or calumnies anyone could throw at me, the fact is that the veracity contained within this book remains intact.** I believe I have proved what the Bible teaches, or I would not be writing it. Truth will always survive its detractors.

¹² Letter to the Romans, chapter 4, verse 16.

understand the issues well. I am aware that the accusations of ‘anti-Semitism’ or ‘racism’ may be made against me from certain Jewish and even ‘Christian’ quarters. But to fall back on such charges is extremely disingenuous, manipulative, and plainly designed to stifle fruitful and honest discussion. I have a sister who lights candles every Friday night and identifies as Jewish. She knows my views, yet we get on extremely well and have many rational discussions about these issues.

I saw an example a while back of the closed behaviour I mentioned above when the organisers of a Christian event which was designed to evangelise Jews were accused of practising “*spiritual Nazism*” by a Jewish Rabbi.¹³ We see this kind of emotional manipulation frequently from Jewish people. Hiding behind the terrible persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany, they seek, through highly subjective emotionalism, and the organized clamour of outrage, to prevent anyone — those professing to be Christians included — from conducting any biblical debate about Jewish or Israeli matters. A typical example of this occurred in an article I discovered some years ago on the internet, entitled “*Antisemitism in the New Testament*” by Shmuel Golding. Here Golding writes:

“Christian love for the Jew is a kind of hatred. It loves the Jew, yet hates him for being what he is. It sees him as blind and in need of being changed into a believer. When missionary efforts failed, or are fobbed, the love for the Jew quickly turns to hatred and contempt.

We are not deceived by the ‘new Christians’ of today’s hand-clapping Jew-loving fundamentalists. They teach the same anti-Semitic doctrines as the church of yesteryear. Their tactics are different, but we know that the message is the same. Any Jew who can pay homage to the New Testament or allow himself to believe in it, is, in my opinion in the same category as a Jew who tries to justify

¹³ See the article “*I Believe in Jesus — not Hitler*” by Nick Howard in the Daily Telegraph, 20th February 1998. Nick Howard is the son of a former leader of the Tory party in the UK, Michael Howard, who himself is Jewish.

Hitler's *Mein Kampf* or, as one who covers up for the deeds of the Nazis".

While it is true that disciples of Christ understand Jews (in common with all those outside the faith) to be spiritually blind and in need of finding Christ, it is not at all true that those disciples hate Jews, for they feel the greatest compassion for *all* those on the outside, whether Jews or Gentiles. To compare Christians to Nazis and the New Testament to Hitler's "*Mein Kampf*" is to indulge in the most extreme form of emotional manipulation. Sadly, many professing 'Christians' have also fallen into the same sort of manipulation, and would try to smear the present little book as an example of 'antisemitism' or 'racism'. Well, I categorically refuse to be stifled by such false charges.¹⁴ First, it is inaccurate, to say the least, to restrict the name 'Semite' to a person of the Jewish religion, for it has a far wider definition. In Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, a Semite is defined as: "*A member of any of a number of peoples of ancient southwestern Asia including the Akkadians, Phoenicians, Hebrews, and Arabs*".

So the use of the term 'antisemitic' to mean that a person is anti-Jewish is strictly a misnomer. Technically, a Semite is a descendant of Noah's first son, 'Shem' (thus, a 'Shemite'), from whom many Middle Eastern peoples and nations are descended, as per the table of nations in the Book of Genesis, chapter 10. Secondly, there is no such thing as

¹⁴ Unfortunately, George Carey, when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, allowed himself to be manipulated by these sort of accusations when, in March 1992, he broke a 150-year-old tradition by turning down an invitation to become ex-officio patron of the Anglican "Church's Ministry Among the Jews", declaring that it would be unhelpful in his efforts to "*encourage trust and friendship between different faith communities in our land*" (as reported in Christian News, Vol.30, No.44, November 30, 1992, p.6.). Similarly, we find the former Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, Hugh Montefiore, declaring: "*In Jewish society, to become a Christian is to go over to the enemy, and I have found it counterproductive to try to convert Jews*" (Daily Telegraph, March 4th, 1998). Here this 'bishop' reveals his failure to understand the sovereignty of God in evangelism, for it is not us who transforms anyone, but God who does so (see the First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 6 for a beautiful lesson on that). It is not our place to decide to whom we do or do not preach. The truth about Christ should be taken to every person with the glorious proviso that God will add His blessing to it according to His will and purpose.

the ‘Jewish race’ — a term which many mistakenly use today — or any other race, for that matter. As the Encyclopedia Britannica states in its article on ‘Race’:

“There are no genes that can identify distinct groups that accord with the conventional race categories. In fact, DNA analyses have proved that all humans have much more in common, genetically, than they have differences. The genetic difference between any two humans is less than 1 percent. Moreover, geographically widely separated populations vary from one another in only about 6 to 8 percent of their genes. Because of the overlapping of traits that bear no relationship to one another (such as skin colour and hair texture) and the inability of scientists to cluster peoples into discrete racial packages, modern researchers have concluded that the concept of race has no biological validity”.¹⁵

Therefore, any accusations about this book as being ‘antisemitic’ or ‘racist’ are equally meaningless. **It is perfectly acceptable before God for us to open up these matters for debate, provided it is done in a rational, civilized manner.** Just as it is legitimate for us to analyse claims made about Islam — e.g. that they ‘worship the same God as Christians’ (which is untrue), or that they have the same ‘father’, i.e. Abraham, as Christians (which is also untrue, see the Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 29, which shows that one has to belong to Christ to be “Abraham’s seed”) — so it must also be legitimate for us as mature disciples of Christ to analyse and discuss the bewildering array of claims being made today about Jewish people or Israel and to reassert what we believe to be the plain truth from the Bible.

The scheduled plan in this book is, firstly, to examine the issue of Judaism and Israel purely from an individual standpoint, comparing post-Calvary Judaism with the biblical view; then to consider the issue on a corporate level, examining the many claims about the nation Israel, comparing the Middle Eastern nation-state of today with that which features in the Bible.

¹⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/race-human> .

PART I:

THE HALLMARKS OF MODERN JUDAISM

First it would be useful to identify the origin of the term ‘Jew’. In Scripture, the term originally referred to a member of the state of Judah.¹⁶ In Hebrew, a Jew is יְהוּדִי, *yehudi* (and still is to this day in modern Hebrew), while in Greek it is Ἰουδαῖος, *ioudaios*.

In the New Testament, we find that the word “Jew” is used to refer to members of the Jewish faith or their representative leaders — especially in the Gospel of John where the word is used 68 times, the apostle being at great pains to show the vituperative nature of Jewish opposition to Christ and His disciples, as well as the spiritual redundancy of its religious foundations.

The word Jew has its origins in the Hebrew word יָדָה, *yadaw*, which means ‘praise’. Paul takes this up as a ‘play upon words’ in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 2, verses 28-29 when he speaks of a true Jew as being a person “*whose praise is not from men but from God*”. We will be looking in more detail at those important verses further below.

In exposing a brief comparison between the religion and aspirations of modern Judaism and the kind of Judaism which is revealed in the Bible, we need to be clear that they are not at all the same. Modern Judaism has certain trappings which are associated with the Old Testament religion of Israel, but in reality it bears very little relation to the true spirituality of the Bible. Modern Judaism, especially through what are known as the “frummers”, has much in common with the false religion of manmade regulations and pseudo-fundamentalism which was espoused by the Scribes and Pharisees, with whom the Lord Jesus repeatedly took issue, and which continued to be adhered to and codified after Calvary and especially after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70. There are also comparisons to be made between the secular Jews of today and the Sadducees of Christ’s time, who were mainly well-to-do merchants, busying themselves with

¹⁶ e.g. Second Book of Kings, chapter 16, verse 6; chapter 25, verse 25, where the Hebrew word, יְהוּדִי, *yehudi*, is used.

temple business, while denying that God was the controlling power in the world, refusing to believe in the supernatural, while they themselves controlled the Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin.

As John rather pointedly observed on a number of occasions, “*there was a division*” among the Jews caused by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁷ And that division was not of equal proportions, but consisted, on the one hand, of the mass of the people who went along with the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees and, on the other hand, of a small ‘remnant’ who became His disciples and followers and thereby the firstfruits of the *Ekklesia* which would be made up of both former Jews and Gentiles.

After the debacle in Jerusalem in AD 70, both groups — unbelieving Jews and the *Ekklesia* (made up of converted Jews and Gentiles) — were scattered across Europe and the Middle East taking their religion with them. The *Ekklesia* then began to evangelise the world with the Gospel,¹⁸ and the unbelieving Jews set about consolidating their struggling faith which by then had its roots in Talmudic Pharisaism and mystical Essenism.

From that time to this — as post-Calvary Judaism was based on the refusal to believe that the Messiah had come combined with a hatred of all things connected with Christ — certain characteristics of Judaism have held sway. And principal among those characteristics is that it does not maintain the exclusive authority of Scripture, the Bible, but even raises above it other works of literature. The only truly *authoritative* source of spiritual information, in both teaching and for practical matters, is the written word of God, the Bible:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work”.¹⁹

¹⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 7, verse 43; chapter 9, verse 16; chapter 10, verse 19.

¹⁸ As in the Book of Acts, chapter 1, verse 8.

¹⁹ Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 3, verses 16-17.

The importance of neither adding nor taking away from the word of God is paramount in both Old and New Testaments. We see this near the beginning of the Bible: “*You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it...*”;²⁰ in the middle of the Bible: “*Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar*”;²¹ and at the end of the Bible we find a couple of verses which could plainly be applied to more than just the Book of Revelation:

“I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book.”²²

So, from start to finish, the Bible — consisting of both Old and New Testaments — is complete and all that is necessary for revelation and teaching, and any other source which we wish to cite, whether an idea, a feeling or a work of literature must be compatible with the Bible rather than claiming to be equally (or even more) authoritative, regardless of whether it tallies with the sacred texts. Even the Old Testament Scriptures alone are “*able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*”.²³

However, as post-Calvary Judaism has developed and adapted throughout the past 1900+ years, the prevailing Judaism of today is drawn primarily not from what was revealed by Jehovah on Mount Sinai, or from the authoritative writings of the Bible, but from man-made writings which have a decidedly legalistic and antichristian emphasis.²⁴

²⁰ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 4, verse 2.

²¹ Book of Proverbs, 30, verses 5-6.

²² Book of Revelation, chapter 22, verses 18-19.

²³ Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 3, verse 15.

²⁴ See, for example, <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/29970> .

There are three ways in which modern Judaism fails to uphold the authority of Scripture. The first of these is:

1. It Denies the Jurisdiction of the New Testament

Augustine of Hippo made the statement: “*In the Old Testament the New is latent; in the New Testament the Old is patent*”. The “Messiah who is to come” is the principal subject of the Old Testament. The “Messiah who has come” is the principal subject of the New. Thus, the entire Bible is Messianic! The New Testament is the Divinely inspired outgrowth of the Old. The Jewish nation, with its special code of civil and ceremonial law, was instigated by the Lord as a vehicle of succession for the coming Messiah.²⁵ Everything about their law pointed towards the advent of the Christ.²⁶ So when He finally came, they should have received Him,²⁷ which in large part they did not. And when the new revelation was given which became the New Testament, they should similarly have received that as authoritative.

However, post-Calvary Judaism has never accepted the New Testament or its writers. Indeed, the authoritative Jewish Encyclopedia refers to Paul the Apostle as an antinomian and a Gnostic, who deserved to be beaten, accusing him of contaminating God’s people by preaching the Gospel to gentiles:

“While thus opening the door wide to admit the pagan world, Paul caused the influx of the entire pagan mythology in the guise of Gnostic and anti-Gnostic names and formulas. No wonder he was frequently assailed and beaten by the officials of the synagogue”.²⁸

Furthermore, the words of the Messiah Himself, as recorded in the New Testament, are judged by the authorities of modern Judaism to be derivative of the teachings of either the Pharisees or the Essenes:

²⁵ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 19.

²⁶ Letter to the Colossians, chapter 2, verses 16-17.

²⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 11.

²⁸ The *Jewish Encyclopedia*, (Funk & Wagnalls, 1903), Vol. IV, p.52.

“Many of Jesus’s sayings can be traced to rabbinical sayings current in the Pharisaic schools; and many sentences, if not entire chapters, have been taken over from Essene writings”.²⁹

This claim that entire chapters of the New Testament have been lifted from the writings of the Essenes is a wild claim indeed, and worthy of exposure as a misleading allegation — especially as a major false claim of the New Age Movement today is that Jesus was really an Essene or a Gnostic.

It is significant that the sect of the Essenes is never directly mentioned in the New Testament — unlike the Pharisees and Sadducees who feature so prominently in the four Gospels. The reason for this is most likely because they never attempted to confront Jesus directly and tended to live in secluded, secretive circumstances in desert areas. However, there are many indirect references which are most instructive.

The word *Essene* is derived from the East Aramaic, *hasen*, meaning ‘the pious ones’ (from which the name of the orthodox Jewish *Hasidim* is derived). The Essene sect (2nd century BC to 2nd century AD) was an ascetic, commune-based, Jewish monastic order which regarded itself as the true Israel. In some ways they resembled the Pharisees in terms of such elements as ritual purity and legal observances; indeed, in this respect the Essenes often out-Phariseed the Pharisees! But their rigid adherence to the Levitical code was augmented by many additional works and practices which were, at best, in transgression of Pentateuchal Law and, at worst, downright sorcery and superstition. For example, they adored the sun and earnestly prayed to it before it rose,³⁰ they used a variety of magical and esoteric books, they practised divination and developed a highly elaborate angelology and cosmogony which went far beyond the biblical teachings of Moses.³¹ Their teaching on angels was, in fact, ‘*derived from the Magi*’,³² and in many

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ J. Hastings (ed.), *Dictionary of the Bible* (T. & T. Clark, 1898), Vol.I., p.769.

³¹ J. Hastings (ed.), *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church* (T. & T. Clark, 1915), p.368.

³² *Chambers’s Encyclopaedia* (George Newnes, 1963), Vol.V, p.395.

ways, as Chambers Encyclopaedia states, the Essenes '*became the forerunners of the Gnostics and of the Jewish Kabbalists*'.³³

This knowledge that the angelology of the Essenes was derived from the Magi takes on an important significance when we are informed that among these Magi '*there was a strong tradition which favoured the exercise of sacerdotal and occult powers*'.³⁴ What is even more significant is that these Magi

‘were in communication with evil spirits, and could consequently do whatever lay within the power of their invisible allies... certainly, they were well acquainted with Mesmerism and every practice of modern Spiritualism’.³⁵

So the influences on the Essenes were decidedly occultic. Under these circumstances, is it at all likely, as the ‘authoritative’ Jewish Encyclopedia claims, that vast tracts of the Gospels — and in particular the words of the Lord Jesus Christ — would have been plagiarised from the writings of the Essenes? In truth, there are far more similarities between Essenism and the later Gnosticism than with the teachings of Jesus. As even the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church puts it: “*The suggestions, occasionally made, that...Christ Himself had Essene connections, are most improbable*”.³⁶ So let’s just list some of the glaring contrasts between Essenism and Christianity.

Unlike the Essenes, Jesus did not withdraw, nor did He advocate withdrawal from the world.³⁷ Neither did He reject the aged and the

³³ Ibid. The *Kabbalah* is Jewish Gnosticism and will be our subject in a later section below.

³⁴ Merrill C. Tenney, *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 1975, Vol. IV, p.31.

³⁵ G.H. Pember, *Earth’s Earliest Ages and their Connection with Modern Spiritualism, Theosophy, and Buddhism* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1889), p.263. This is a book which is well worth reading if you can find an unabridged edition. You may not agree with everything in it; but it will reward you with its encyclopaedic knowledge and range of issues dealt with.

³⁶ F.L. Cross & E.A. Livingstone, *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (O.U.P., 1983), p.471.

³⁷ cf. Gospel of John, chapter 17, verses 15 &18.

physically handicapped,³⁸ nor did He advocate hatred of His enemies, as did the Essenes. Christ is never said to have purified Himself before eating with ‘sinners’,³⁹ whereas the Essenes always did. He did not advocate or practise vegetarianism,⁴⁰ and did not believe that defilement and uncleanness comes from unpurified food, clothing and people — all of which were part of being an Essene.⁴¹ So deep was their bondage to the laws of purification that if one of their members was expelled from the community for sins committed, he would find himself unable to eat the unpurified food of the outside world and thereby die of starvation.⁴² The Essenes did not hang around the Temple, but Christ was there frequently.⁴³ The Essenes condemned wine and marriage, whereas Christ plainly approved of marriage by His presence at the wedding of Cana in Galilee where He also turned water into wine.⁴⁴

One of the principal traits of the Essenes which distinguished them from the other Jewish sects of their day was their disapproval of ointments and balms, which they regarded as contaminating and unclean, whereas Christ praised the woman who brought a precious jar of ointment to Him.⁴⁵ Christ never rejected the aged and the physically handicapped, whereas the Essenes did. The Essenes also had such a highly developed system of elitism within their sect that the more ‘advanced’ members believed that they became spiritually polluted if they came into physical contact with, or ate food prepared by, novitiates.⁴⁶ Jesus indulged no such system of elitism.

³⁸ cf. Gospel of Matthew, chapter 12, verses 9-13; chapter 15, verse 30.

³⁹ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 9, verses 10-13.

⁴⁰ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, verse 19.

⁴¹ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 15, verse 11.

⁴² J. Hastings (ed.), *Dictionary of the Bible* (T. & T. Clark, 1898), Vol.I, p.769.

⁴³ For example, see Gospel of Mark, chapter 12, verse 35. Also, where Christ said to the mob which came to arrest Him: “*Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts...*” (Gospel of Mark, chapter 14, verse 49).

⁴⁴ Gospel of John, chapter 2, verses 1-11.

⁴⁵ Gospel of Luke, chapter 7, verses 36-50; Gospel of Matthew, chapter, 26, verses 6-13.

⁴⁶ Ibid. One is here reminded of the caste system in India.

It is also quite probable that Jesus was referring to the Essenes when He made the enigmatic statement: “*You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour’ and ‘Hate your enemy’*”.⁴⁷ However, nowhere is the idea of hating one’s enemy advocated as such by the Jewish Law in the Old Testament.⁴⁸ There are, however, a number of such references in the Essenic documents which were found at Qumran in 1948.⁴⁹ **Therefore, far from being an Essene Himself, the teachings of the Christ were diametrically opposed to Essenic doctrine.**

In spite of this mountain of evidence against the false idea that Jesus was an Essene and that He plagiarised Essene teachings, the Jewish Encyclopedia asserts otherwise. There can be no other reason for this than to undermine the authority and witness of the New Testament scriptures. And that is precisely what lies behind the teachings of the new Judaizers also.

Obviously, it should be of no surprise that modern Judaism fails to regard the New Testament as authoritative Scripture. But does it rely on any other authority? This brings us to the second way that Judaism does not uphold the authority of Scripture:

2. It Upholds the Talmud as Authoritative Writings

One of the primary complaints of the Lord Jesus Christ against the Pharisees was that they maintained the authority of man-made teachings (traditions of the elders) rather than the Holy Scriptures, thereby bringing the people under unnecessary bondage.⁵⁰ On one occasion, the Jewish religious leaders asked Jesus: “*Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead, they eat with defiled hands*”. To which He replied:

⁴⁷ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, verse 43.

⁴⁸ cf. Book of Leviticus, chapter 19, verses 17-18.

⁴⁹ G. Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (Penguin Books, 1975), pp.72-73, 91.

⁵⁰ e.g., Gospel of Matthew, chapter 11, verses 28-30; chapter 15, verses 8-9; chapter 16, verses 11-12; chapter 23, verses 1-4, & 23; cf. Letter to Titus, chapter 1, verse 14.

“Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; they teach as doctrine the precepts of men.’ You have disregarded the commandment of God to keep the tradition of men”.⁵¹

On the number of occasions when the Lord Jesus said to the Jewish religious authorities “*Have you never read...?*”,⁵² He was surely being deliberately ironic. He knew very well that they most certainly *had* “read” over and again the Old Testament to which He was referring; and in the Scribes’ case their time was spent from morning till night copying out scrolls of Scripture to the highest degree of accuracy. They had indeed “read” the Scriptures, but they neither upheld them nor implemented them in their lives as their only rule for faith and practice, according to the commandment of God.⁵³

From that time onwards — but especially after the destruction of the Temple in AD 70 — unbelieving Judaism has continued to centre its teaching primarily on man-made written ‘Talmudic’ teachings. In fact, even when the claim is made by Jews that the Old Testament is their highest authority, one generally finds the most cavalier allegorisation of the text, very much akin to that of the kind of liberal ‘Christian’ scholars who indulge in biblical criticism in typical university theological departments.

Regardless of any Jewish claims to hold the Old Testament as the highest example of authoritative writings, the truth is that the man-made Talmud takes precedence over the inspired Word of God for the vast majority of the Jews. The only exception to this is the sect known as the Karaites, who refuse to accept any Rabbinical writings which add to the Old Testament. However, it is interesting to note that the other Jews are particularly scornful of the Karaites. For example, the glossary of Jewish terms advertised by the Jewish American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (A.I.C.E.) defines Karaites as

⁵¹ Gospel of Mark, chapter 7, verses 5-8.

⁵² e.g. Gospel of Matthew, chapter 21, verses 16 & 42; Gospel of Mark, chapter 2, verse 25; Gospel of Luke, chapter 6, verse 3.

⁵³ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 4, verse 2; Book of Proverbs, 30, verses 5-6.

“A Middle Eastern *heterodox* Jewish group that arose in opposition to Rabbinism in the 8th century CE and emphasized the written scriptures while criticizing the rabbinic use of ‘oral law’”. [emphasis added, NB: Heterodox means deviant]

And this disdainful view of the Torah-based Karaites is shown in the words of the Jewish poet, Walter F. Field, in his poem “*A People’s Epic*”, when he wrote about the dispute between the Karaites and Talmudic Rabbis:

“With Saadia, the Gaonate [Talmudic scholarship] reached its peak,
Karaites claimed for Judaism to speak,
But Saadia proved all their arguments weak”.

And so the Talmud holds sway over the Torah as the primary authoritative source for modern Jewry. This is even seen in the Talmud itself. For example, in one edition of the Talmud, we find the words: “*My son, be more careful in the observance of the words of the Scribes than in the words of the Torah*”.⁵⁴ Accordingly, we find the statement in an article in the Jewish Chronicle that in true *yeshiva* (religious teaching), Jews are “*devoted to the Talmud to the exclusion of everything else*”.⁵⁵ In the authoritative Jewish Encyclopedia it is stated: “*Those who professed Judaism felt no doubt that the Talmud was equal to the Bible as a source of instruction and decision in problems of religion*”.⁵⁶ And it goes on to say even more explicitly: “*For the majority of Jews [the Talmud] is still the supreme authority in religion*”.⁵⁷

Frankly, it beggars belief to read translations of the original editions (rather than the politically correct, sanitised editions) of the Talmud, in which, for example, it is said that a man should thank God every day for not making him a Gentile, a woman or a slave,⁵⁸ that Jesus is being boiled in excrement in hell,⁵⁹ that those who read the New Testament

⁵⁴ Erubin, 21b.

⁵⁵ March 26th, 1993.

⁵⁶ *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (Funk & Wagnalls, 19), Vol. XII, p.26.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Menahoth 43b-44a.

⁵⁹ Gittin, 57a.

are anathematised,⁶⁰ and that Jews are advocated to destroy Christian literature.⁶¹ And such destruction really does happen. For example, in accordance with the entreaties in their Talmud, Israelis burned hundreds of New Testament books on March 23rd, 1980, under the auspices of *Yad Le'akhim*, a Jewish religious organisation subsidised by the Israeli Ministry of Religions.⁶² In fact, most non-Jews are entirely unaware of the venomous, 'Jewish supremacist' nature of the Talmud and modern Jewish Orthodoxy. The reason for this — as the late Israeli writer Dr. Israel Shahak showed in his revealing work "*Jewish History, Jewish Religion*" — is because

“the rabbis deceptively eliminated or modified certain passages — but not the actual practices which are prescribed in them”.⁶³

However, in spite of these wayward and offensive directions, the Talmud is held to be the highest authority of modern Judaism and the proper field of rabbinical exposition. It is true that much of secular Jewry worldwide is not too interested in the Talmudic writings; but in Zionist Judaism there has been a resurgence of interest in recent years in these extra-biblical sources and they have fuelled Israeli nationalism.

Whatever one's attitude to the Talmud, there can be no doubt that it is vigorously antichristian, upholds Jewish supremacism, and undermines the authority of the Bible.

The third way that modern Judaism does not uphold the authority of Scripture is seen in the fact that

⁶⁰ Sanhedrin, 90a; Rosh Hashanah 17a.

⁶¹ Shabbath 116a.

⁶² Israel Shahak, *Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years*, Pluto Press, 1997, p.21. This important book by Dr. Shahak — an ex-concentration camp Israeli Jew, and a former professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem who was bravely willing to expose the lies of his fellow-countrymen — should be read by all disciples of Christ who seek to understand the true evolution of the state of Israel and the Jewish people today. See also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Shahak .

⁶³ Ibid., p.24.

3. It Champions the Kabbalah as if it Was a Wholesome Spiritual Practice

A great many Jews today uphold the Kabbalah as being a valid spiritual pathway and it has assumed increasing popularity. The Kabbalah is a *'theosophical system'* which *'has strong connections with Gnosticism and also with magical practices'*.⁶⁴ It is also described as *'the ancient esoteric Jewish mystical tradition of philosophy containing strong elements of pantheism and is akin to Neo-Platonism'*.⁶⁵ In a section above we have already noted that the Jewish sect of the Essenes *'became the forerunners of the Gnostics and of the Jewish Kabbalists'*. So the Kabbalah is really a Jewish form of Gnosticism. As the Jewish Encyclopedia proudly boasts: *"Gnosticism was Jewish in character long before it became Christian"*.⁶⁶

By the first century, Judaism had degenerated into occultism through the Essene cults in Israel, which had borrowed from Persian Zoroastrianism and other oriental mixtures. During the early Church period, this Jewish mysticism was to develop into the teachings of the Kabbalah — a complex esoteric and magical system which applies occult symbolism to the Old Testament, in much the same way as do the Freemasons. The Kabbalah subsequently became the foundation stone of occult organisations such as the Rosicrucians and various transcendental magic practitioners such as Eliphas Lévi (1810-1875) and that arch-master of Thelemic darkness and British spy, Aleister Crowley (1875-1947).

The Kabbalah is now extremely popular among many Jewish groups, with TV and radio stations devoted to its propaganda in Israel.⁶⁷ As long ago as 1990, this writer recalls seeing a mainstream book on the Kabbalah prominently displayed in W.H. Smith bookshop in Temple Fortune near Golders Green (a predominantly Jewish area in London), the commendatory preface of which was written by none other than the then Prime Minister of Israel! That is an indication of how far the Kabbalah has become another faddish arm of Jewish-Israeli nationalism. If you go into Amazon and then in the book section, do a

⁶⁴ *Macmillan Encyclopedia* (Macmillan & Co.), 1986, p.659.

⁶⁵ *Hutchinson Encyclopedia* (Helicon Publishing), 1992, p.453.

⁶⁶ *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, op.cit., Vo.III, p.458.

⁶⁷ See <http://kab.tv/#/stream> and <http://www.kab.fm/#/stream>

search on the word “Kabbalah”, you will be presented with an astonishing array of occult literature that I would describe as satanic.

Furthermore, the Kabbalah has become the vogue religion among the Hollywood glitterati in much the same way as the Maharishi and Eastern mysticism became vogue for the Beatles and other celebrities in the 1960s and 1970s. The Kabbalah has been the trendy cult of various celebrities such as Barbara Streisand, Jeff Goldblum, Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis, Diane Keaton, Donna Karan, Britney Spears, Demi Moore, Paris Hilton, David and Victoria Beckham, Mick Jagger, and Jerry Hall. Even the pop ‘idol’ Madonna became a full time devotee of the Kabbalah, which is what lay behind her 1998 album, “Ray of Light”. In a BBC interview, Madonna said that the great attraction of Kabbalah for her is that it teaches much the same as Buddhism and other mystical religions: “*that we each control our own destiny*”.⁶⁸ This is essentially ‘ego religion’ posing as ‘higher knowledge spirituality’, as is the case with all forms of mysticism/Gnosticism, right into the related New Age Movement.

Being a Jewish thing, you would expect it to be very well marketed! So how can you get all this Kabbalah? Well you can pay just \$49 for a \$500 value of Kabbalah material, should you be so gullible.⁶⁹ Or you could pay \$504 annually to “*start your spiritual journey today*”.⁷⁰ Modern Kabbalah is now clearly just another New Age type of self-help programme masquerading as ancient Jewish mysticism... and you can buy it from many sources! On “*The Kabbalah Web Page*” on the Internet, the Kabbalah is described in the following terms:

1. The essence of religion is in the reaching by mankind of the highest possible level of development. This should be done in a good and painless way, not by suffering.
2. The desired goal — reaching this highest level (depending on the amount of work the person has done on himself) is a possibility that exists in our world!.

⁶⁸ BBC World Service news programme, 0500hrs, Monday 16th March 1998.

⁶⁹ <https://go.kabbalah.com/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.kabbalah.com/> .

3. Religion has been given to us not as a means of pleasure and benefit. It is rather a guide showing us the ways for self-improvement.

“A guide to self-improvement”? We see here that Kabbalah is yet another serving of false religion with a Jewish mystical twist. How fallen human beings love to wallow in such esoteric activities, imagining they are improving while driving themselves further away from the truth. This is the essence of the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’, which involves the rabid denial that Christ is God manifested in the flesh. You would expect the Jews to come up with a million and one ways to avoid that truth as their entire religious thrust is in that direction. Their spiritual blindness and endemic disbelief that Jesus the Christ is the Messiah is the direct result of the vituperative hatred for the Christ of the Pharisees, lawyers, Scribes and high priests which led to the crucifixion of their Messiah. Anyone who has bought into Jewishness at any time since then also becomes a direct inheritor of that vituperative hatred for Christ and His disciples.

So, instead of submitting to the fact that true spirituality means receiving *“the righteousness of God”* which has been revealed in the gospel of Christ,⁷¹ the Jews have to invent a righteousness of their own which, in these New Age times, means that it comes in an esoteric wrapper posing as a mystery religion, such as the Kabbalah.

Many people will not realise that the so-called ‘Star of David’ — the Jewish symbol portrayed on the Israeli flag and emblem of the modern state of Israel — is derived from the occult-gnostic Kabbalah. As the 1998 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica explains:



“The term *Magen David*, which in Jewish liturgy signifies God as the protector (shield) of David, gained currency among medieval Jewish mystics, who attached magical powers to King David’s shield just as earlier (non-Jewish) magical traditions had referred to the five-pointed star as

⁷¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 1, verses 17-18.

the ‘Seal of Solomon’. Kabbalists popularized the use of the symbol as a protection against evil spirits. The Jewish community of Prague was the first to use the Star of David as its official symbol, and from the 17th century onward the six-pointed star became the official seal of many Jewish communities and a general sign of Judaism, though it has no biblical or Talmudic authority. The star was almost universally adopted by Jews in the 19th-century as a striking and simple emblem of Judaism in imitation of the cross of Christianity”.⁷²

Jewish magic — in common with other occult traditions — has always used five and six pointed stars (pentagrams and hexagrams) in its rituals and symbols. As the Encyclopedia Britannica states about the six-pointed ‘Star of David’:

“The symbol — which historically was not limited to use by Jews — originated in antiquity, when, side by side with the five-pointed star, it served as a magical sign or as a decoration”.⁷³

The fact that modern Judaism and Israel has borrowed its chosen emblem from the ritual designs of pagan transcendental magic is rather hard to square with the Lord’s direction to His covenant people Israel in the Bible about the need to be separated from the ways of the heathen nations: “*When you enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable ways of the nations there*” (Deut.18:9).



Moreover, it is surely a great irony that the five and six-pointed stars, as also was the case with the Swastika usurped by the occult-influenced Nazi Germany, with its notorious ‘Thule Society’,⁷⁴ were all originally occult symbols used in magic and can plainly be seen in ancient pagan

⁷² Encyclopaedia Britannica CD 98, Article on *The Star of David*.

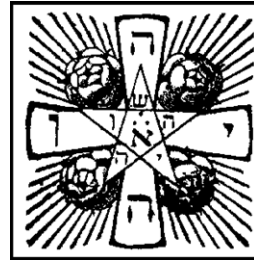
⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ See “*The Occult Roots of Nazism — Secret Aryan Cults and Their Influence on Nazi Ideology*”, Nicholas Goodrick-Clark, Tauris Parke, 1985, 2019.



Hindu designs and decorations (e.g. see image, above). **When we realise that the modern state of Israel has nothing whatsoever to do with the theocratic nation founded by Jehovah as recorded in the Book of Exodus, then the fact that both Nazi Germany and modern Israel have their roots in the occult and conniving political cabals becomes far easier to**

understand. Above, left, we see the five-pointed star (pentagram) used in the Kabbalah and other occult/satanic traditions. This is actually called the "Tetragrammaton kabbalah pentagram". In the image to the right, we see that pentagram when it was borrowed by the occult-gnostic sect of the Rosicrucians, complete with Hebrew lettering and 'impaled' on their cross surrounded by four roses.⁷⁵



That the Jewish six-pointed so-called 'Star of David' has its roots in occult tradition and *not* in the Old Testament era is even admitted by today's Jewish rabbis. In an article on the star, Rabbi Amy Scheinerman states:

"It further appears that the hexagram and pentagram were used interchangeably until this period, and then the six-pointed star gained favor, as it was associated with the notion of a "shield" of God and taken to have magical powers when used as an amulet. From the 14th century through the 18th century, the terms "shield of David" and "seal of Solomon" were used in magical texts indiscriminately though the hexagram ascended in popularity as the pentagram diminished in popularity. It is in this context that the Prague

⁷⁵ Illustration taken from John Ferguson, *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mysticism and Mystery Religions* (Thames & Hudson, 1976), p.159. As Martin Luther's personal seal or emblem was a rose and cross, it is likely that the Rosicrucians, in the sixteenth century, stole Luther's emblem and then — to add further insult to injury — impaled on it the Kabbalistic five-pointed star!

Jewish community chose to use the hexagram as its symbol when King Charles IV granted them the privilege of having their own flag in 1354”.⁷⁶

Thus, the six-pointed ‘Star of David’ actually had nothing whatsoever to do with King David, except as an invention of freemasons and their occult understanding of the ‘Ring-Seal of Solomon’ which is a six-pointed star consisting of two inverse triangles allegedly used by King Solomon, such as we see below in a facsimile.



Therefore, modern Judaism and Israelite Zionism cannot be viewed outside of the influence of Jewish Gnosticism and occultism as contained in the Kabbalah. We can see, therefore, that modern Judaism is not governed by the sacred texts of the Bible, and does not maintain the authority of the Bible, regardless of its ridiculously hollow claims to

have its foundations in the Old Testament. That is what characterises modern Judaism and its foundations today. Pure and simple, the Kabbalah is another powerful tool used by Satan in his smorgasbord of pseudo-spiritual offerings to deflect you away from Christ and get you lost in a mass of symbols and esoteric meanderings. It is absolutely in the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’. [To the right, we see the six-pointed star from King Solomon’s Seal above the door of an old freemasonic lodge on Hill Street in Edinburgh].



Having examined the hallmarks of *modern* Judaism, let us now turn to discover how the Bible identifies the religion of Judaism itself.

⁷⁶ See <http://scheinerman.net/judaism/Rituals/index.html> . Scroll to bottom of page and click on the link, Star of David.

PART II:

THE HALLMARKS OF BIBLICAL JUDAISM

If Biblical Judaism is to be understood at all, it must be understood spiritually; and to be understood spiritually, it must be understood from the information provided not only in the Old Testament but also in the New. We have already quoted Augustine: “*In the Old Testament the New is latent; in the New Testament the Old is patent*”. Another way of saying that would be: “*In the Old Testament, the New is concealed; in the New Testament, the Old is revealed*”. While the Old Testament Scriptures can make a person “*wise for salvation*”,⁷⁷ they are still incomplete without the vital additional divine revelation afforded in the New Testament. And in the New Testament we find that the Jewish converts to Christ, such as Saul of Tarsus (Paul) and Simon Peter, are especially eager to explain the real identity of a true Jew.

I have below isolated four astonishing ways that a true Jew can be identified from the pages of the Bible. The first and foremost of these is quite simply that

1. A True Jew is a Person of any Nation, Tribe or Tongue who has Faith in Christ

The covenant promises made to Abraham pointed forward to the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the one true Seed of Abraham in whom redemption under that covenant would find its consummation. In his letter to the disciples in Galatia, the apostle Paul states: “*The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, ‘and to seeds’, meaning many, but ‘and to your seed’, meaning One, who is Christ*”.⁷⁸ Here Paul goes to the heart of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Abraham is shown in Scripture as believing the promise of God that he would have numerous descendants. But wrapped up in that promise was the mighty fact that this blessing to all mankind would come through a special One of Abraham’s descendants. **Therefore unless the**

⁷⁷ Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 3, verse 15.

⁷⁸ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 16.

covenant community of Israelites receives the Messiah, who was the highest expression of the Seed of Abraham, it will not experience the bringing to fruition of the promises made to the fathers in that covenant. The Jews had centuries of preparation for their Messiah, and they also had the knowledge that He would be not only *their* Messiah but also “*a light to the Gentiles*”.⁷⁹ This was what lay behind Peter’s preaching to the Jews, when he said:

“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have proclaimed these days. And you are sons of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers when He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up His Servant, He sent Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways”.⁸⁰

The preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles and their being brought into the kingdom was not some kind of ‘Plan B’ enacted as an afterthought by God who was ‘taken by surprise’ when the Jews did not receive Him! Neither is the preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles some parenthetical ‘sideline’ before the Lord begins the supposed ‘real business’ of dealing again with the nation Israel. **The gathering in of converted Gentiles, along with that of converted Jews, is absolutely the main business of the Gospel until the second coming of Christ to effect the final judgement.**

Thus, we discover that the promise to Abraham finds its ultimate expression not in any Jews *on a physical basis* but instead in *all those* who have faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore we find Abraham described as “*the father of all who believe*”,⁸¹ of both Jews and Gentiles. “*There is one God who will justify the circumcised [Jews] by faith and the uncircumcised [Gentiles] through that same faith*”.⁸² So then, neither circumcision [being Jewish] nor uncircumcision [being a Gentile] makes any difference

⁷⁹ Book of Isaiah, chapter 49, verse 6.

⁸⁰ Book of Acts, chapter 3, verses 24-26.

⁸¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 4, verse 11.

⁸² Letter to the Romans, chapter, 3, verse 30.

whatsoever to the potential for salvation in this Gospel Age.⁸³ What counts instead is “*faith expressed through love*”,⁸⁴ and being “*a new creation*”,⁸⁵ which are the fruits of spiritual regeneration rather than genetic ancestry. As the apostle John says:

“He came to His own [the Jews], and His own did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name [whether Jews or Gentiles], He gave the right to become children of God — children born not of blood [i.e. by earthly ancestry], nor of the desire or will of man [i.e. through human decision], but **born of God**”.⁸⁶

After all, even Abraham himself was an uncircumcised Gentile when he believed! — about which Paul makes a great deal in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 4. In fact, in a very real sense, and with great amazement, **Abraham can more properly be called a ‘Christian’ rather than a Jew, as salvation in all ages has only ever been through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ,**⁸⁷ prospectively in the Old Testament, and retrospectively in the New! I think that the neo-Judaizers would be utterly shocked to see Abraham described there as “a Christian”, but **there is no doubt that Abraham’s faith was in the coming Christ.** As Christ emphatically said to the outraged Jews of His own day: “*Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad*”.⁸⁸ Imagine that, all those years ago!

Therefore we can say without any reservation that a true Jew today is not a person of any particular bloodline of descent who says “*next year in Jerusalem*” at every Passover Seder-night; but **a true Jew today is really a person from any nation, tribe or tongue who has faith in Christ, whether of Jewish or Gentile origin.**

⁸³ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 6a.

⁸⁴ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 6b.

⁸⁵ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 6, verse 15.

⁸⁶ Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 11-13.

⁸⁷ First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 10, verses 1-4; Letter to the Romans, chapter 4, verse 16.

⁸⁸ Gospel of John, chapter 8, verse 56.

So far as his former Jewish credentials were concerned — being “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness in the law, faultless” — Paul said that he counted them all as “dung” (AV), “rubbish” (NKJV), “garbage” (NIV), which are extremely euphemistic translations of the Greek word σκύβαλον, *skubalon*,⁸⁹ which would really be the equivalent of our word today, “bullshit” or the phrase “a load of crap”.⁹⁰ A Jew who comes to Christ has no further use for, or real interest in, these outmoded Jewish elements because they have found their fulfilment in the Messiah. To continue with them would literally be to indulge in ‘bullshit’.⁹¹ **This is why I say that a true Jew is a person of any nation, tribe or language who has faith in Christ.**

For this reason, Paul said: “*So then those who have faith [i.e. Jew or Gentile disciples] are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith*”.⁹² In other words, “*If you belong to Christ [i.e. a disciple of either Jewish or Gentile origin], then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*”.⁹³ Abraham’s “seed” (descendants) today are those who have faith in Christ, no matter what their background. **How we need spiritual eyesight to understand these things!** One of the great problems with the Jewish people has been their inability to understand things spiritually rather than corporeally, sensually or materially. That is what has always constituted the difference between the believing Jew and the

⁸⁹ See the Letter to the Philippians, chapter 3, verses 4-9.

⁹⁰ As the perceptive and honest note on this word says in the New English Translation of the Bible, “The word here translated ‘dung’ was often used in Greek as a *vulgar term for fecal matter*. As such it would most likely have had a certain shock value for the readers. This may well be Paul’s meaning here, especially since the context is about what the *flesh* produces”. That is a very perceptive analysis right there.

⁹¹ If you are enraged at my use of that word here, I can assure you that Paul’s use of the word, *skubalon*, would have been at least as shocking to his letter’s readers in Philippi (and intentionally so, see footnote #88). There is no room for bourgeois niceties when dissecting this subject. People need to be shocked out of the madness which exists surrounding this whole topic.

⁹² Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 9.

⁹³ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 29.

unbelieving Jew. The unbelieving Jew put his store in an earthly land as the ‘be-all and end-all’, and still does to this day! Whereas the believing Jew knew for certain that there was a spiritual reality which lay beyond the earthly elements. As the sacred text states:

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, without knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the promised land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God”.⁹⁴

And then...

“All these people died in faith, without having received the things they were promised. However, they saw them and welcomed them from afar. And they acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them”.⁹⁵

As we can see there, these Old Testament folks, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and many more) absolutely knew for sure that there was a spiritual reality which lay beyond the earthly elements. This was what underpinned their faith. **This is why I say that Judaism must be understood spiritually if it is to be understood at all.** A true Jew is therefore a person from **any** nation, tribe or tongue, whether of Jewish or Gentile origin, who has faith in Christ.

Our next hallmark of Judaism in the Bible is this...

⁹⁴ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 8-10.

⁹⁵ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 13-16.

2. A True Jew is a Person Who has been Inwardly Transformed by the Power of God

The great covenant sign of the Old Testament era was circumcision. All natural descendants of Abraham would be physically circumcised, but only those who had real spiritual vision (i.e. saved) would understand the full significance of the rite. As baptism in the new covenant signifies the washing clean from sin which comes through regeneration and spiritual transformation, so circumcision was symbolic of the cutting off of sin, moral failure, and the casting away of it. Behind the outward rite of circumcision there lay a deeper spiritual meaning known only to the truly saved. Regardless of the outward rite of circumcision, a Jew had to be spiritually transformed for that circumcision to have any spiritual meaning in his or her life. When Moses said to the children of Israel, *“when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey His voice with all your heart and all your soul...”*⁹⁶ he was referring to repentance and spiritual transformation, ultimately that in the Gospel Age. Even the Jewish rabbi, Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), understood that text to refer to the time of the Messiah.⁹⁷ However, rather than being a promise of release merely from *earthly* captivity (as Maimonides and the Jews would erroneously believe), the fruit of that spiritual transformation, which is given a few verses later in the Book of Deuteronomy, speaks of the fact that

“The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live”.⁹⁸

This is plainly referring to the spiritual work which takes place in the heart of one who is a Jew after the flesh who then comes to believe in the Messiah. And as a profound echo of this, the apostle Paul made an extraordinary statement which cuts right across standard Jewish teaching and that of a great many professing ‘Christians’ today, who seem to misunderstand the true meaning of Judaism. For Paul said:

⁹⁶ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30, verse 2.

⁹⁷ Hilchot Melachim, chap.11, §1.

⁹⁸ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30, verse 6.

“A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man’s praise does not come from men, but from God”.⁹⁹

So true circumcision is not a mere outward ordinance but a permanent putting away of lawlessness from the inner life and a deep inner change of heart which God brings to pass in a person through the new birth. This is a work which can only be done by God through Jesus Christ, the one intermediary between humans and God. This is yet another aspect of the fact that Judaism must be understood spiritually to be understood at all. The many misunderstandings about Judaism and Israel have arisen precisely because of a failure at this point.¹⁰⁰

So I reiterate this fundamental point that one of the great problems with the Jewish people has been their inability to understand things spiritually rather than physically or sensually. Their literalism obscures their spirituality and their only sojourn into spirituality involves the

⁹⁹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 2, verses 28-29.

¹⁰⁰ One can say the same thing in reference to the entire Bible and its interpretation by so many Christians. For many today seem to have inherited this Jewish inability to interpret Scripture spiritually. In fact, the more a Christian reveres Israel today, the more likely it is that he or she will have a literal rather than a spiritual understanding of those parts of Scripture which really need to be spiritually understood, especially the Book of Revelation.

Without understanding the Bible spiritually in those places where it needs to be understood in that way, one will be left high and dry with a two-dimensional prosaic interpretation which castrates the true meaning of the message of God. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the modern interpretations of the Bible’s teaching on the time of the end. Although fundamentalists claim that one must have a literal interpretation of the Bible in order to be orthodox, they have taken their literalism way too far and overlooked the need for a spiritual understanding of Scripture *where it is called for*. It is as if, like the Jews, they have not donned the right kind of spiritual spectacles necessary in order to perceive the sacred texts correctly. This is why one has to be most careful with whom one aligns oneself, as other people’s unfounded views of the sacred texts can soon become yours, too, if you draw close to them.

pathway of mysticism, which is a false spirituality. It is for this same reason that pious Jews wear phylacteries (little black boxes containing scrolls of Scripture) on their head and arm. But they are grossly misunderstanding a Bible text which refers to the exact opposite of an externalised placement of written Scripture on the human body: *“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads”*.¹⁰¹

This is referring to the *internalisation* of the spiritual truth in God’s word, as David well understood: *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”*,¹⁰² and Paul reiterated when he said: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... in all wisdom”*.¹⁰³ Ultimately, Paul’s dictum in his letter to the Romans, chapter 2, verses 28-29, means that a true Jew is a transformed person who, in the new covenant era would recognise Christ as his Saviour. **Therefore, since the advent of Christ we can say that a true Jew is a member of the Christian Church who is of either Jewish or Gentile background.** Such have been circumcised *in the heart* and now understand the true meaning of the outward rite. As Paul exclaims: *“we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”*.¹⁰⁴ The “we” to whom he is referring are *“all the saints in Christ Jesus”*, to whom he wrote in the first verse of his letter, obviously coupled with himself.

This is surely the essence of the Lord Jesus’s contention with the church at Smyrna: *“I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan”*.¹⁰⁵ Jesus graphically calls such false Jews a *“synagogue of Satan”*. What would the politically correct lobby make of that today? Was the Lord Himself an ‘antisemite’, or a ‘racist’, or a ‘spiritual Nazi’? Not at all! He was a Man of truth who spoke plainly the words which people needed to hear and was not intimidated by threats from Jewish people. And neither would he be intimidated by the immature politically correct autocrats of today who

¹⁰¹ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 11, verse 18.

¹⁰² Book of Psalms, 119, verse 11.

¹⁰³ Letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verse 16.

¹⁰⁴ Letter to the Philippians, chapter 3, verse 3.

¹⁰⁵ Book of Revelation, chapter 2, verse 9.

continually attempt to suppress any open discussion of important controversial issues.

Here is some reality: Disbelief in Christ is a work of Satan. In fact, it is a big part of the true Satanism in this World. For it is the God of this world (i.e. Satan) who has blinded the minds of unbelievers (which refers primarily to Jewish unbelievers).¹⁰⁶ Those who “*say they are Jews and are not*” and who are “*a synagogue of Satan*” are those Jews who claim that their Judaism lies in their physical line of descent, who therefore only have confidence in the flesh. These will have been Jewish people *outwardly* who were persecuting the Christians at Smyrna. However, although they would have identified themselves as Jews, in reality they were not true Jews who are inwardly changed — they were not new creations who would follow Christ as their Messiah now that He has come. They say they are Jews, but they cannot be so because they are not born again.

This was the rabbi Nicodemus’s problem. Look at his conversation with the Lord Jesus in the third chapter of John’s Gospel. Jesus told him that he must be “*born from above*”, reborn, if he was to be part of the kingdom of God.¹⁰⁷ Nicodemus, being at that time stuck in the earthly, sensual way of Jewish thinking, could only conceive of Jesus’s words as referring to another physical birth.¹⁰⁸ Jesus even had to rebuke him: “*Are you Israel’s teacher and you do not understand these things?*”¹⁰⁹ It is most likely that Nicodemus eventually fully came to Christ;¹¹⁰ but at this time he was merely a seeker who said he was a Jew but in reality was not — who only perceived spiritual truth as a religious husk, not having a circumcised heart of his own. **A real Jew perceives the spiritual truth behind God’s words and acts on them.**

That is what has always constituted the difference between the believing Jew and the unbelieving Jew: An inability to understand things spiritually rather than corporeally, sensually or materially. This

¹⁰⁶ Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 3-4.

¹⁰⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 3 & 5.

¹⁰⁸ See Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 4 & 9.

¹⁰⁹ See Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 10.

¹¹⁰ See Gospel of John, chapter 7, verse 50; chapter 19, verse 39.

is why we read that *“the Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, ‘How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?’”*¹¹¹ after Jesus had said that he was the living bread who had come down from heaven whom they must eat. **This pathological inability to see the spiritual meaning behind the words of the Lord — rather than indulging in a crass literalistic interpretation — has been the real Jewish problem to this very day.** *“He is not a Jew who is one outwardly...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly...in the Spirit”*.¹¹²

We must therefore conclude that genuine biblical Judaism involves spirituality which comes from within, from the heart, rather than being imposed from outside. That is the essence of true spirituality. A true Jew is a person who has been inwardly transformed by the power of God and thereby perceives the truth about Jesus Christ in the sacred texts.

A third hallmark of biblical Judaism is seen in the fact that...

3. A True Jew is, and Only Ever has been, one of a Relatively Small ‘Remnant’ out of the Nation of Israel

At the beginning of the section concerning Israel in his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul reveals that *“not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are Abraham’s descendants are they all his children.”*¹¹³ This statement needs to be properly understood as it is seminal to our comprehension of the true meaning of Judaism and Israel. What these verses tell us is that we have to differentiate between Israel as the nation-state and those who are genuine Jews. The nation-state of Israel was set up by God on the basis of the twelve tribes of Jacob and was intended to serve a singular divine purpose until Christ came.¹¹⁴ Once the promised “Seed” had come — referred to by Paul in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 19, and plainly meaning Christ, as prophesied in the Book of Genesis, chapter 3, verse 15 as *“the seed of the woman”* — the old covenant nation of Israel’s national and legal status no longer had any further purpose. **For the**

¹¹¹ Gospel of John, chapter 6, verse 52.

¹¹² Letter to the Romans, chapter 2, verses 28-29.

¹¹³ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 6-7.

¹¹⁴ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verses 19-29.

entire purpose of the old covenant was to prepare the way for the new covenant in Christ. His coming and the accomplishment of His work was the tipping point and axis upon which the entire cosmos hinges, whether past, present or future.

But always within the national body of Israel had been the ‘remnant’ of true Jews who were genuine believers, looking forward to the Messiah, who would be the “Consolation of Israel”. **The David/Saul contrast was a classic illustration of this dichotomy between the true Jewish believer in the heart and the worldly type who merely professed faith and sheltered under the covenant blessings but had no real spiritual interest in the heart.** Saul was primarily zealous for the glory of Israel and for himself, but David was zealous for the glory of the Lord.

Not every Jewish person by descent was part of the true Israel, which is the believing people of God. Plainly, there were the “*house of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel, who have descended from the line of Judah, who swear by the name of the LORD...*”.¹¹⁵ Yes, there was that national husk who were called “by the name of Israel” — i.e., it was nominally Israel. And it can certainly be said that they “*invoke the God of Israel*” with their mouths.¹¹⁶ But the problem was that in spite of all those external realities, their use of the name Israel and their mention of God was “*not in truth or in righteousness*”, as the prophet showed.¹¹⁷ They certainly “*call themselves after the holy city, and lean on the God of Israel*”,¹¹⁸ but **sheltering in external, earthly blessings was never going to be enough to save a soul or lead to a sanctified life.**¹¹⁹

However, among the external covenant people of God, there was always a small ‘remnant’ of believing people — true Jews, who knew the spiritual realities which lay behind the outer husk of Exodus deliverances, wilderness wanderings, the provision of manna, animal sacrifices, ritual washings, and promised lands. In the experience of

¹¹⁵ Book of Isaiah, chapter 48, verse 1.

¹¹⁶ Book of Isaiah, chapter 48, verse 1.

¹¹⁷ Book of Isaiah, chapter 48, verse 1.

¹¹⁸ Book of Isaiah, chapter 48, verse 2.

¹¹⁹ cf. Book of Psalms, 51, verses 16-17.

this ‘remnant’, the Mosaic law code drove them not into increasingly abstruse legalism but into the arms of their Saviour, the Rock of their Salvation, the Anointed One. But the rest of Israel — the unbelieving majority — was an abomination to the Lord. As Isaiah puts it:

“Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a few survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have resembled Gomorrah”.¹²⁰

That is a terribly damning indictment. **It was only those “survivors” — the godly ‘remnant’ — which ensured the continued preservation of Israel as a nation.** As the sacred text says, “*Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel*”.¹²¹ And neither have they ever been. Of course, even the unspiritual majority of the Israelites always imagined that they were also the true Israel. They based that solely on their family tree being traced back to Abraham and the fact that they practised outwardly what should be practised. But when John the Baptist “*saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism*”, he said to them:

“You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit, then, in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham”.¹²²

Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. The Lord Jesus clearly used this double-reference for Israel in a conversation with the Pharisees:

“I know you are Abraham’s descendants, but you are trying to kill Me because My word has no place within you. I speak of what I have seen in the presence of the Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” “Abraham is our father,” they replied. “If you were children of Abraham,” said Jesus, “you would do the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has

¹²⁰ Book of Isaiah, chapter 1, verses 9-10.

¹²¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 6.

¹²² Gospel of Matthew, chapter 3, verses 7-9.

told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. You are doing the works of your father” [i.e. the devil]”.¹²³

Do you see what the Lord is saying here? He first says that He knows that they are “*Abraham’s descendants*”. But he then says: “*If you were the children of Abraham, you would do the works of Abraham*”. Is He contradicting Himself? How can they be Abraham’s descendants and yet not be his children? The answer is that he is using the same term in different ways. Just as Paul uses the term “Israel” in two different ways to describe fleshly Israel and spiritual Israel,¹²⁴ so the Lord Jesus does the same here. He knows that they are Abraham’s descendants according to the flesh; but from a spiritual standpoint they are *not* Abraham’s children. **In fact, he went so astonishingly far as to say that they were Satan’s children!** *Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.*

We also find the Lord Jesus recognising that difference exemplified in Nathanael as he walked towards Him. He said: “*Behold, an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!*”.¹²⁵ An Israelite indeed! A REAL Israelite. A true Jew who is one inwardly and not just dependent on outward trappings.

This is the essence of the biblical understanding of Judaism. **A true Jew is, and only ever has been, one of a relatively small ‘remnant’ of elect believers out of the nation of Israel.** As Paul puts it: “*What Israel was seeking, it failed to obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened*”.¹²⁶ Therein lies the distinction which must be made. It makes no difference being circumcised, being of Israel according to the flesh or a descendant of a tribe of Israel. Jewishness must be grasped spiritually if it is to be understood at all. You may well be able to trace your genealogy back to Levi, Asher, Zebulun, Benjamin or Judah or whoever, but that is what Paul calls “*endless genealogies*” over which the Jews have always been so ready to dispute.¹²⁷ Such a genealogy is called “*endless*” by him because it goes nowhere of any importance today,

¹²³ Gospel of John, chapter 8, verses 37-41.

¹²⁴ e.g. Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 6.

¹²⁵ Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 47.

¹²⁶ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 7.

¹²⁷ First Letter to Timothy, chapter 1, verse 4.

having no real outcome. **The only meaningful physical genealogy now is the one traced at the beginning of the Gospels which leads to the Lord Jesus Christ, the epitome of the true Seed of Abraham.** *“For all the promises of God are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him, our “Amen” is spoken to the glory of God”.*¹²⁸ It is really in Jesus Christ that God fulfilled the promise to Abraham that in his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. All covenant promises and blessings converge in Him. **Without receiving Him, there can be no fulfilment of the spiritual promises made to the fathers in the covenant.**

If there is a lesson the neo-Judaizers need to learn it is that *“not all who are descended from Israel are Israel”.*¹²⁹ Even the psalmist, Asaph, knew this truth. When he said, *“Surely God is good to Israel”*, he immediately qualified that by saying *“to those who are pure in heart”.*¹³⁰ **Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.** A true Jew is, and only ever has been, one of a relatively small ‘remnant’ out of the nation of Israel.

Another hallmark of Judaism in the Bible is that

4. A True Jew is One who has Made the Transition from the Old Covenant with Old Testament Israel to the New Covenant in Christ

In spite of the fact that Israel broke the covenant which the Lord made with them, He promised a new covenant which would be on a completely different basis. We find all this clearly laid out in these verses:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt— a covenant they broke, though I was a husband to them,” *declares the LORD.* “But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after

¹²⁸ Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 20.

¹²⁹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 6.

¹³⁰ Book of Psalms, 73, verse 1.

those days, declares the LORD. I will put My law in their minds and inscribe it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will each man teach his neighbour or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquities and will remember their sins no more”.¹³¹

When the Lord says, “*after those days*” there (verse 33), He is referring to the time when the exile to Babylon is ended. He repeats this same promise in the following chapter:

“I will surely gather My people from all the lands to which I have banished them in My furious anger and great wrath, and I will return them to this place and make them dwell in safety. They will be My people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, so that they will always fear Me for their own good and for the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put My fear in their hearts, so that they will never turn away from Me”.¹³²

Now those who uphold the notion that Israel is still the chosen nation of God today claim that this “*new covenant*” mentioned in chapters 31 and 32 of Jeremiah has not yet been fulfilled. As one such publication puts it: “*Since such a revival has never occurred in Israel’s history, this event is yet to happen*”.¹³³ But this is to misunderstand the plain teaching of Scripture. **The revival which that writer believes “*has never occurred in Israel’s history*” most certainly did happen, but because it did not conform to the Jewish manner of thinking, both the Jews and the neo-Judaizers have missed it entirely.** It happened with the coming of Christ — initiated in the Jewish Apostles and the few others who at

¹³¹ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34.

¹³² Book of Jeremiah, chapter 32, verses 37-40.

¹³³ Keith Parker, *Is the Church the New Israel? A Biblical Analysis of the Teachings of ‘Replacement Theology’* (Prayer for Israel).

first believed, and was then compounded at Pentecost when three thousand souls were saved out of Israel, with many more to follow.¹³⁴ You see how these neo-Judaizers twist Scripture and are in complete denial about clear teachings within its pages. The mind boggles at the sheer arrogance and wilful ignorance. **It is as if Satan has got hold of their minds and spiritually tethered them to an immovable post.** In fact, I believe that to be true.

Moreover, the diligent student of the sacred texts will discover in the Letter to the Hebrews that this “*new covenant*” in Jeremiah — which is quoted in full in the eighth chapter of that letter — is the same as the one established through the blood of Christ.¹³⁵ **Please read the six texts in that last footnote reference, by which the myths and fables of the neo-Judaizers must surely be dissolved.** There is only one Mediator of the “*new covenant*” of which Jeremiah speaks, and that is Christ Himself, who has already come and announced that covenant to both Jews and Gentiles alike at His first coming.

Again, we see here how ‘Jewishness’ must be understood spiritually to be understood at all. **When the Word says that the Lord will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, this finds its fulfilment in God’s *true* people rather than simply anyone with a physical descent from the twelve tribes.** It is ratified in those who are God’s people spiritually, whose lawlessness has been covered by the blood of Christ, who have the indwelling Holy Spirit — who do not need mere external commands to know the Lord but who actually have God’s law inscribed in their minds and written on their hearts.

After quoting the new covenant text in the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34, the letter to the Hebrews states this:

“By speaking of a new covenant, [God] has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear”.¹³⁶

¹³⁴ e.g. Book of Acts, chapter 4, verse 4.

¹³⁵ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 7, verse 22; chapter 8, verses 7-13; chapter 10, verses 11-22; chapter 12, verse 24; chapter 13, verses 20-21; cf. Gospel of Matthew, chapter 26, verses 28.

¹³⁶ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 13.

The Letter to the Hebrews was written shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple in AD 70 — which was God’s way of demonstrating publicly that the old covenant had been brought to a shattering conclusion. In reality, that covenant had ceased the moment that Christ had cried out: Τετέλεσται, “*Tetelestai!*” (“*It has been accomplished!*”) on the cross,¹³⁷ and then yielded up His spirit with a loud voice into the Father’s hands.¹³⁸ With great symbolic significance, it is immediately written in the sacred text: “*At that moment the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom*”.¹³⁹ I cannot emphasise enough the significance of that mighty word from Christ on the Cross saying “*It has been accomplished!*” (or “*It is finished!*”, as some translations represent it), and then the veil of the temple being torn in two, down the middle, from top to bottom. For that curtain hid the Holy of Holies, the sacred place with the Divine presence where only the high priest could go once per year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and “*never without blood*”.¹⁴⁰ But Christ annulled all that concealment and separation through His death,¹⁴¹ and paved the way back to God through His mediation. That must certainly be the symbolism of the curtain being completely torn down the middle from top to bottom. **Jesus’ cry of accomplishment and finished business, then dying, and then the curtain in the temple being torn in two, is thus a most powerful demonstration and validation that the entire Mosaic economy was dissolved in order to make way for a better hope — the real ‘hope of Israel’ in the finished work of Christ, about which the Letter to the Hebrews is a supreme testament.** Is that not utterly breathtaking? Now you can see why Satan is so fiendishly intent on dragging the Church back under an obsolete covenant and getting it hung up on a now-redundant land promise in the Middle East!

And for another forty or so years after Christ’s death, resurrection and ascension, there was an understandably strange interim, transitional period during which temple worship continued and Jews who became

¹³⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 19, verse 30.

¹³⁸ Gospel of Luke, chapter 23, verse 46.

¹³⁹ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 27, verse 51.

¹⁴⁰ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 7.

¹⁴¹ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 9, verses 11-12.

Christ's disciples would still honour the Jewish Sabbath on the Saturday as well as assembling together on Sunday — the day of the Lord's resurrection. What happened in Jerusalem in AD 70 was therefore a very powerful way of the Lord *visibly* removing every last vestige of the old covenant in a welter of destruction. A "New Israel" based on a new covenant was in the process of being established. As Peter said to the Jews of Asia who had come to Christ:

"you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation**, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy".¹⁴²

This is virtually a restatement of this old covenant saying in the Book of Exodus, chapter 19, verses 5-6:

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**"

So there can be no purpose whatsoever in the Jews adhering today to what is an "*obsolete*" covenant (as we saw at the top of the previous page in the quotation from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 13). As was already stated earlier:

"it is in Jesus Christ that God fulfilled the promise to Abraham that in his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed — that all covenant promises and blessings converge in Him and that without receiving Him, there can be no fulfilment of the spiritual promises made to the fathers in the covenant".

This is why the Lord Jesus is referred to as "*the Messenger of the covenant*":

¹⁴² First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 9-10.

“Behold, I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple—the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight—see, He is coming,” says the LORD of Hosts”.¹⁴³

Throughout the entire Old Testament era, from the judgement delivered by the Lord after the Fall, the promise concerning the seed of the woman was the focus of godly expectation. And that godly expectation homed in on the Messiah when He came in the fullness of time. Genuinely pious Jews at the time of the Incarnation of Christ knew very well that He was the fulfilment of this promise of a new covenant. That is the significance of the words of John the Baptist’s father, Zacharias, when he prophesied:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and redeemed His people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke through His holy prophets, those of ages past, salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to show mercy to our fathers and **to remember His holy covenant, the oath He swore to our father Abraham**, to grant us deliverance from hostile hands, that we may serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our lives”.¹⁴⁴

That is why we say that a true Jew is one who has made the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant in Christ. The fleshly, unspiritual Jews who were looking for a crass earthly kingdom under a flashy earthly king rejected their Messiah when He came; and that rejection has continued to this day. But the true spiritual Jews recognised the Lord Jesus as the real “hope of Israel”, as the fulfilment of all these Old Testament prophecies concerning the covenant. The everlasting covenant to Abraham is still intact as it is through Isaac that his children shall be counted, i.e. the child of promise who is

¹⁴³ Book of Malachi, chapter 3, verse 1.

¹⁴⁴ Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 68-75.

Christ.¹⁴⁵ **And so we find that Israel's salvation lies not in any earthly restoration to the land but in the new covenant blood of Christ:**

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will remove godlessness from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins’.”¹⁴⁶

The “*all Israel*” who are “*saved*” (which will be dealt with in more detail in a later section below) is *spiritual* Israel rather than *fleshly*, and their salvation is effected through the first coming of Christ — ‘the Deliverer’ who comes out of Zion — and is based on the atonement in the blood of the new covenant rather than any restoration to the land. This is why the Scripture says elsewhere:

“Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as **the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises**”.¹⁴⁷

The children of Israel broke the old covenant, forfeited any rights to it, and instead the Lord graciously provided a new covenant which they should have accepted.¹⁴⁸ **Therefore, there is no covenant which can be claimed by Jews today other than this new covenant in Christ.** For He is the fulfilment of the promise at the heart of God's covenant: “*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen*”.¹⁴⁹ Therefore, the one who wishes to adhere to the Judaism of the Bible will abandon the external trappings of Judaism, the beggarly elements of the ceremonial law, and instead embrace the new covenant in the blood of Christ.

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¹⁴⁵ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 8; Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 7.

¹⁴⁶ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verses 26-27. I will be dealing with the eleventh chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans more fully later in this book.

¹⁴⁷ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 6.

¹⁴⁸ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verse 31; Gospel of Luke, chapter 22, verse 20; Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 8.

¹⁴⁹ Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 20.

Having examined modern Judaism and compared it with the spiritual understanding of Judaism in the Bible, **one can only come to the conclusion that if biblically understood, it is a false religion and should be treated as such.** By this I do not mean that its adherents should be treated with disparagement. Not at all! I merely wish to draw attention to the need for evangelism among the Jews, as among any other false religion — Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Jainism, Baha'i, Confucianism, Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, or the more modern religious additions: Wicca, New Age or neo-Paganism.

Those who continue to call themselves Jewish today but who do not follow the Lord Jesus Christ and thereby become part of His Church should not be treated as if they were part of some special class of human being who, despite their disobedience, are allegedly still under the favour of God. For that would be a travesty. Of all people, they need to hear and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All else is disobedience. The Gospel is not a polite request to “make a decision” (as is often said). **The Gospel is to be obeyed, to be responded to powerfully, or there are severe consequences.**¹⁵⁰

God neither ordained nor created modern Judaism, which must not be confused with the religious elements which were ordained and created by God as recorded in the Old Testament. Modern Judaism came into being after the return from exile in Babylon. It was the religion confronted head-on by the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry, and which also attacked Him. It is a false religion — a mark of apostasy from God's ordained way.

So modern Judaism is a false religion. But, you may say, “*what if a Jew today follows the Old Testament Scripture to the letter and is very orthodox?*” Technically, that is impossible, for the following reasons: **1)** There is no temple at which to sacrifice; **2)** The priesthood has been abolished; and, **3)** the entire ceremonial Levitical code was concluded on the Cross to which it pointed. In fact, we discover that all the constituents of the old covenant economy find their fullness and completion in Christ. If people were to read the Letter to the Romans, chapter 4 and chapters 9–11; the Letter to the Galatians, chapters 3 and 4; and the

¹⁵⁰ Second Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 1, verse 8; First Letter of Peter, chapter 4, verse 17; cf. Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 15 & 23.

Letter to the Hebrews, chapters 7–10 with the eyes of faith, none of these problems would arise. How important it is to understand these things in order that we evangelise in a God-honouring manner.

Therefore, the Jews having been scattered around the world as *“a ruin, an object of horror and contempt and cursing, as they are to this day”*,¹⁵¹ in fulfilment of the covenant curse in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28, verse 15 with verse 64 — which is precisely what they brought on their own heads in daring to say publicly as He was sentenced to death, *“His [Christ’s] blood be on us and on our children”*,¹⁵² which should absolutely give you the chills — **the real hope of salvation for any Jew today lies only in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no other way:**

“But not all of them welcomed the good news. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”.¹⁵³

Therefore, we must conclude that the only true Jew today is one who has made the transition to faith in Christ alone — who is the **only** “Hope of Israel”, as we shall discover in the next part of our survey. **And any Jew who *does* make that transition does not then become part of a ‘higher’ league of the faith, a kind of ‘celebrity trophy’ to be treated with more reverence than a ‘mere’ Gentile. It is “one flock under one Shepherd”, as we will see below.**

Having now considered Judaism at the personal, spiritual level — identifying what is a true Jew and contrasting this with what has come to be the Judaism of today — we now turn to look at Judaism on a corporate level, concentrating on the array of claims made by many professing Christians about the earthly nation of Israel.

Before opening this up, it is important to note that we should not be influenced by the fact that so many people adhere to the ideas about Judaism and Israel with which we are taking issue here. **The fact that vast multitudes of professing ‘Christians’ believe a certain teaching to**

¹⁵¹ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 25, verse 18.

¹⁵² Gospel of Matthew, chapter 27, verse 25.

¹⁵³ Letter to the Romans, chapter 10, verses 16-17.

be right — no matter how passionately they may believe it — does not prove that the teaching itself actually *is* true. Millions of sincere, devout people believe much of the hype about Israel and Judaism today, and these teachings have found their way into a broad section of respectable Bible commentaries, in spite of the wide range of written material which adequately refutes them (though these are usually denigrated). Does the widespread nature of such teachings give them authenticity? Not at all!. **The sheer number of professing Christians who believe a matter to be true is no pointer to its accuracy — in fact, quite the opposite is usually the case these days!**

In the early years of the Church, a gentle deacon from Alexandria, by the name of Athanasius, stood up against the prevailing Arianism which, among other things, denied the divinity of Christ. As a result of this he became known as *Athanasius Contra Mundum* (“Athanasius against the world”) — a reference to the fact that it was just one little man pitted against the multitudes — and was banished from his country five times while a ‘contract was put out on him’ for his assassination. But history eventually bore witness to the fact — as it has done so often — that the multitudes were wrong and Athanasius was right. It is fair to say (from a purely human standpoint) that if Athanasius had not resisted the beliefs of the majority of professing Christians at that time, there would be no Gospel to preach today. Christian truth would have perished (speaking purely on a human level). So much for the majority view at any time in the Christian Church! **Truth is never authenticated by the number of people who adhere to it.** Especially not today.

A mighty fact of divine sovereignty is that heresies and false belief systems regularly appear in the churches in order to spark the Body of Christ into life and to bring the truth sharply into focus, as the sacred texts reveal.¹⁵⁴ Then the Lord always raises up teachers who will successfully oppose those who bury this truth behind the alluring skirts of falsehood. **Do not forget that at virtually every stage in the history of the *Ekklesia* there have been far more professing ‘Christians’ who would rather adhere to the false, complex, man-made systems of**

¹⁵⁴ First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 19; cf. First Letter of John, chapter 2, verses 18-20.

their choice than those who hold to the simple truths of the sacred texts. This is a fact. As William of Ockham (1285-1347) put it:

“In matters of faith and science I am more impressed by one evident reason or by one authoritative passage of Holy Scripture correctly understood than by the chorus of mankind. I am not ashamed to be convinced of truth. In fact, to have truth victorious over me I consider the most useful thing for me. But I never want to be defeated by the multitude. It may, indeed, be read in the sacred utterances that the multitude, as a rule, errs, and that very often one solitary man may put all the rest to flight”.

An insatiable thirst for the truth has never had a very high premium in the Christian churches at large. Holding to truth is uncomfortable, and reaching it requires study beyond the superficial; but most professing ‘Christians’ want to be comfortable and seem to prefer superficiality to the deep things of God and ‘meaty’ teaching. When Paul spoke of the time that people in the churches would ‘heap up’ for themselves false teachers because they have ears which are just itching to hear them¹⁵⁵ — although he could have been referring to the prevailing situation in almost any era of the Church — surely the plethora of mad meanderings of the present day take some beating. **The awful fact is that most people simply prefer comforting lies to uncomfortable truth.**

So let us not be overawed by the sheer large numbers of people who believe something to be right. This is never any barometer of truth, as even the most false of religions and teachings have always had a massive following, while those who are the faithful tend to be referred to in Scripture as comparatively ‘few’ or some kind of ‘remnant’.

Having established how Scripture defines a true Jew, in comparison with, as Christ said to the *ekklesia* in Smyrna, “*those who falsely claim to be Jews, but are in fact a synagogue of Satan*”,¹⁵⁶ let us now examine the three main claims made by so many about the nation-state of Israel today.

¹⁵⁵ Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verse 3.

¹⁵⁶ Book of Revelation, chapter 2, verse 9.

PART III:

AN ANALYSIS OF SOME COMMON FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT ISRAEL AND JUDAISM

In this section, I am going to analyse and break down three of the classically popular false claims about Judaism in general and about the nation of Israel in particular. So here is the first:

FALSE CLAIM #1: “The Establishment of the Middle Eastern Nation State of Israel Today is a Fulfilment of Bible Prophecy”

This first claim is based especially on two erroneous ideas. **The first erroneous idea** is that the land promised to Abraham was never fulfilled in the Old Testament era and is therefore outstanding, awaiting its full accomplishment, of which the present Israeli state is claimed to be the ‘first instalment’. **The second erroneous idea** is that the Old Testament prophecies which appear to speak of the restoration of the nation Israel to a land inheritance still await fulfilment. To these claims, we respond with three rejoinders. The first of these is this:

1. The Land Promise was Clearly Fulfilled in the Old Testament Era

One of the principal claims made from certain quarters is that the land promise to Abraham was never fulfilled during the Old Testament period. But the sacred texts say otherwise. Two promises which God made to Abraham are a multiplicity of descendants and a portion of land which is described in clear terms. We see these clearly laid out in two Bible texts:

“I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your descendants like the stars in the sky and **the sand on the seashore**”.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁷ Book of Genesis, chapter 22, verse 17.

“On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land—from the river of Egypt to the great River Euphrates”.¹⁵⁸

The key words are in bold text. However, these are no longer awaiting fulfilment, for during the reign of King Solomon, we find a statement made which virtually mirrors the language used in Genesis concerning the fulfilment of both these promises. There, we read:

“Judah and Israel *were* as numerous **as the sand by the sea in multitude**, eating and drinking and rejoicing. So, Solomon reigned over all kingdoms **from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt**”.¹⁵⁹

This is precisely the same land territory referred to in God’s promise to Abraham. It is repeated elsewhere in the sacred texts: “*Solomon reigned over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt*”.¹⁶⁰ And after the return from exile, the Levites raised up a mighty prayer to the Lord in which they said:

“You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram, who brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before You, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites and Hittites, of the Amorites and Perizzites, of the Jebusites and Girgashites—to give it to his descendants”.¹⁶¹

But they were in no doubt about the outcome. Unlike the confused neo-Judaizers of today, they were not waiting for a future fulfilment of this land promise, for they immediately said: “*You have kept Your promise, because You are righteous*”.¹⁶² “*You have kept...*”. The deed was done! As the psalmist also exclaims:

¹⁵⁸ Book of Genesis, chapter 15, verse 18.

¹⁵⁹ First Book of Kings, chapter 4, verses 20-21.

¹⁶⁰ Second Book of Chronicles, chapter 9, verse 26.

¹⁶¹ Book of Nehemiah, chapter 9, verses 7-8.

¹⁶² Book of Nehemiah, chapter 9, verse 8.

“For He remembered His holy promise to Abraham His servant. He brought forth His people with rejoicing, His chosen with shouts of joy. He gave them the lands of the nations, that they might inherit the fruit of others’ labor”.¹⁶³

“*Gave them*”. Past tense. However, another aspect of this land promise is the fact that it is said to have been given to Israel “forever”. In support of this, the modern Judaizers often quote this text:

“After Lot had departed, the LORD said to Abram, “Now lift up your eyes from the place where you are, and look to the north and south and east and west, for all the land that you see, I will give to you and your offspring forever””.¹⁶⁴

They claim that because the text says “forever” therefore that must still apply today and should thus be forcibly taken back. They say that one must distinguish between the covenant made with Abraham and the Mosaic covenant. The Mosaic covenant, they say, was temporary and fulfilled in Christ; whereas (so they say) the covenant with Abraham involving the land was spoken of as an “everlasting covenant”,¹⁶⁵ thus it must still be in force.

However, once one understands the symbolic nature of so many of the old covenant promises, then the true nature of the “foreverness” or “eternality” of the land promise becomes extremely clear. Plainly, a patch of geographical territory cannot really be given *forever* because we know from elsewhere in Scripture that the earth will come under the fire of judgement and be destroyed.¹⁶⁶ Consequently, there will be no physical land left to own “forever”. However, the “forever” bit can be plainly understood when one sees that the Promised Land in the Old Testament was really only ever a ‘type’ — a symbol of heaven, which really is eternal. **Just as the physical nation Israel pointed to the church, so the physical promised land pointed forward to eternity.** To

¹⁶³ Book of Psalms, 105, verses 42-44.

¹⁶⁴ Book of Genesis, chapter 13, verses 14-15.

¹⁶⁵ Book of Genesis, chapter 13, verses 14-15; chapter 17, verses 7 & 19.

¹⁶⁶ Second Letter of Peter, chapter 3, verse 10.

enter the true Promised Land is to come into eternity. **When will professing ‘Christians’ today understand that God’s people have no geographical real estate on this earth!**

The Israelite patriarchs understood this symbolic aspect of the “foreverness” of the land very well. Unlike the neo-Judaizers, who see the literal fulfilment of the land promise as the be-all and end-all of spiritual life, the patriarchs *“acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth”*,¹⁶⁷ and instead of investing themselves in physical territory in a dumb literal manner they longed for *“a better country, a heavenly one”*.¹⁶⁸ They knew very well that the promise of the land “forever” was really the promise of a spiritual home in eternity, namely, in the ‘new heaven and new earth’.¹⁶⁹ Because of their faith, which Scripture neatly defines as *“the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see”*,¹⁷⁰ they understood this symbolic aspect of the “foreverness” of the land very well. In Abraham’s case, we read that he

“dwelt in the promised land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was **looking forward to the city with foundations**, whose architect and builder is God.” (Heb.11:9-10).

They were not hung up about the possession of physical territory. They were not materialists. They had a spiritual understanding. Actually, those of us who are the disciples of Christ are the continuation of the everlasting nature of the promise to Abraham. Paul makes it plain as a pikestaff that *“if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise”*.¹⁷¹ So when the Lord said, *“I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, to be your God and the God of your*

¹⁶⁷ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 13.

¹⁶⁸ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 16.

¹⁶⁹ Book of Revelation, chapter 21, verse 1.

¹⁷⁰ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 1.

¹⁷¹ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 29.

descendants after you”,¹⁷² it plainly transcends mere physical descent. As Matthew Henry puts it (in this place in the sacred texts):

“Here [in Gen.17], where it is promised for an everlasting possession, surely it must be looked upon as a type of heaven’s happiness, that everlasting rest which remains for the people of God”.

It is the inability to recognise the spiritual nature of so many of the Old Testament promises regarding Israel and its patriarchs, coupled with an obsession to force certain prophecies into a mythical endtime scenario, which has led to the deception which we have today, namely, **the impostor state of Israel**. The problem with Jewish people today, and so many who profess to be ‘Christians’ too, is that they will not accept that the promise of the *geographical* land was solely for fulfilment under the old covenant, which is now obsolete: “*By speaking of a new covenant, [God] has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear*”.¹⁷³ **The cold reality is that the land promise to Abraham was fulfilled a long time ago.** The entire concept of a geographical Israel today is based on a refusal to accept that reality. It is as if a veil of wilful ignorance has been pulled over the minds of so many. The origin of that veil is not difficult to discern.

Therefore I conclude that the Middle Eastern nation state of Israel today cannot possibly be a fulfilment of Bible prophecy but, on the contrary, is merely the product of outright terrorism and the dastardly conspiratorial work of international political cabals with a vested interest, coupled with a great many abhorrent acts which were every bit as bad as those of the Palestinian extremist groups that they are warring against today.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷² Book of Genesis, chapter 17, verse 7.

¹⁷³ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 13.

¹⁷⁴ To say that modern Israel is the product of terrorism is no exaggeration. Many of its leaders have been full-blown terrorists of the kind that they claim to disdain so much today and of the type which the USA incarcerated in Guantanamo Bay! For example, the former Israeli Prime Ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir were both terrorist extremists who fomented murder before Israel was founded as a state. Shamir, leader of the

A second rejoinder to the false claim that the Middle Eastern nation-state of Israel today is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy is to say that

2. The Restoration of Israel in the Old Testament has Only Ever been Based on a Number of Clear Conditions

The many Christians today who simply accept the notion that modern Israel is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy appear to overlook this extremely important fact. In the Book of Jeremiah, we are provided with a classic example of the conditions for the restoration of the people of Israel:

“In those days and at that time, declares the LORD, the children of Israel and the children of Judah will come together, weeping as they come, and will seek the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten”¹⁷⁵

This plainly refers to the restoring of Israel in the overarching purposes of God. **But note carefully that in that text there are preconditions attached. Never once do we find in Scripture that Israel is restored without these conditions having been fulfilled**, for that would be unthinkable. The first condition of this restoration which is shown in the above text from Jeremiah 50, verses 4-5, is this:

terrorist Lehi group — also known as the Stern Gang — ordered the murder of Lord Moyne who was gunned down in Cairo in 1944. In a 1998 interview with the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Shamir said that he “*would have been happy to kill Lord Moyne himself*” (Daily Telegraph, April 18th, 1998, p.20). These men literally bombed their way into office, relying on manipulated guilt about the Holocaust to generate feelings of sympathy for their cause. Shamir even gave himself the pseudonym “Michael”, inspired by the terrorist IRA leader, Michael Collins. The Israeli state is a terrorist state founded on murder and massacre. All the political correctness in the world cannot change that. This is not ‘racism’ or ‘antisemitism’ but cold facts. To read about this in much more detail, please see my article, entitled “*Israel: The Making of a Terrorist Nation-State*”, which you can find here: <https://diakrisis-project.com/2020/03/11/israel-the-making-of-a-terrorist-nation-state/>.

¹⁷⁵ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 50, verses 4-5.

i. Deep Repentance

We read above that they were “*weeping as they come*”. That is a clear precursor to restoration. **The desire for restoration should never be based on being restored to the land but being restored to the Lord.** And that involves deep repentance of heart. This is a fundamental law of restoration of any kind in the sacred texts — whether corporate or individual.

There are a great many occasions when we find Old Testament writers expressing the mind of God on the fact that He is not impressed by mere outward actions in worship but instead he desires a contrite heart, a penitent mind-set.¹⁷⁶ And that is the trigger for restoration. Other texts which plainly show the need for repentance as a precursor to restoration are in the Book of Daniel, chapter 9, verses 1-6 and the Book of Nehemiah, chapter 1, verses 4-11.

Is this the manner of repentance which led to the founding of the modern nation-state of Israel today? Surely not at all! Quite the opposite! There was only national pride, embitterment because of having been persecuted and a desire to claim ‘their right’ to a national homeland, all coupled with a bloodthirsty desire for a misplaced vengeance, and a willingness to kill anyone who got in their way.

The awful truth — and the elephant in the room which no one will admit or declare — is that until there is a repenting of having broken their covenant and killed their Messiah, Jewish people will perpetually be subject to trouble and devoid of a real relationship with the Lord. This is why they have been in so much difficulty during the last two thousand years. I know that this may seem to be a hard truth and that few will accept it. In some places it might even be illegal to speak in this way. But no matter how much censorship may be applied by interested parties, it is true, nevertheless; and if anyone wants to denounce it, they will have to outlaw the Bible, ban its publication and destroy all existing copies, because this is the message of Scripture.

A devout Jew would recognise all this, and there are ‘True Torah Jews’ who do so to this very day.¹⁷⁷ Although they do not accept that the

¹⁷⁶ Book of Psalms, 51, verse 17. Well, the whole psalm really.

¹⁷⁷ <https://www.truetorahjews.org/>

Messiah has come, these True Torah Jews reject the setting up of a nation state of Israel and even recognise that the “Holocaust” has been overdone as a money-spinning industry. Although their rejection of Christ is still extremely unfortunate, nevertheless at least their adherence to the Torah has some consistency in a purely Old Testament sense (though there is no tabernacle or temple in force today). In that way, I have some respect for their consistency, though I pray that their eyes will be opened and that they will not fall for the deception which will surround the revealing of the Antichrist, mistaking him for the true Christ, which I suspect will be the case for many Jews who will be alive at that time.

A second precondition for the restoration of Israel shown in our text from Jeremiah 50, verses 4-5, is this:

ii. Faithfulness to God

Note that in our text in the Book of Jeremiah above, it is said that the restored nation will “*seek the LORD their God*”. What does it mean to “seek God”. Surely it refers to the desire to be close to Him, to be discipled by Him, to be obedient to Him and to keep His ways. A seminal text in this respect is in the Book of Deuteronomy:

“When all these things come upon you—the blessings and curses I have set before you—and you call them to mind in all the nations to which the LORD your God has banished you, and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey His voice with all your heart and all your soul according to everything I am giving you today, then He will restore you from captivity and have compassion on you and gather you from all the nations to which the LORD your God has scattered you”.¹⁷⁸

Here we see that the compassion on Israel and its ingathering as a people of God is dependent on first returning to the Lord and “*obeying His voice*”. And that indeed is the spirit of faithfulness that was found at the return of the Jews from the exile in Babylon:

¹⁷⁸ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30, verses 1-3.

“[Ezra] had begun the journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was upon him. For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, to practice it, and to teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel”.¹⁷⁹

Where does that leave the Israeli state of today? For it was not founded on obedience to the commandment of the Lord which, in a post-Calvary world, finds its highest expression in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?¹⁸⁰ Surely, the ‘Israelites’ of today have not at all sought God, otherwise they would have realised that they are no longer under Moses but Christ!

A third precondition for the restoration of Israel shown in our text from Jeremiah 50, verses 4-5, is this:

iii. Being True Zionists (Rather than the False ‘Zionists’ of Today)

We read in our text in Jer.50 that an Israel which desires to be restored will be asking “*the way to Zion*”. The word Zion has become most misused by modern-day Israel (and by so-called ‘Christian Zionists’, also), mainly due to its exclusively earthly understanding of matters divine. To be a genuine ‘Zionist’ in Scripture is to desire to be where God especially manifests His presence: “*Arise, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God*”.¹⁸¹ Zion is representative of the ‘dwelling place’ of God in relation to His human creation: “*For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His home*”.¹⁸² “*For the LORD dwells in Zion*”.¹⁸³ This is always the case. But that is very far removed from the way it is used today.

First, we find this idea of Zion manifested in relation to the city of Jerusalem in Old Testament times, where the Temple existed, which was the heart of spiritual life in those days. Then, under the new covenant, we find Zion used to refer to the body of Christ, the Church,

¹⁷⁹ Book of Ezra, chapter 7, verses 9-10.

¹⁸⁰ cf. First Letter of Peter, chapter 4, verse 17.

¹⁸¹ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verse 6.

¹⁸² Book of Psalms, 132, verse 13.

¹⁸³ Book of Joel, chapter 3, verse 21.

the true *Ekklesia* — a spiritual entity as opposed to the physical or geographical elements in the old covenant. As the writer to the Hebrews asserts:

“You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom, and storm; to a trumpet blast or to a voice that made its hearers beg that no further word be spoken... Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to myriads of angels in joyful assembly, to the congregation of the firstborn, enrolled in heaven”.¹⁸⁴

The ultimate meaning of Zion is indeed heaven in the newly constituted cosmos after the restoration of all things, which will take place at the end of this age, as we see the heavenly Jerusalem portrayed in the closing couple of chapters of the Book of Revelation.

If Israelites today were truly serious about “asking the way to Zion”, and thereby being restored, they would be coming into the Church, which is the true *Ekklesia*, the body of Christ, where the Lord dwells according to His Spirit.¹⁸⁵ Make no mistake about it! **The body of Christ is Zion today; for in that is the dwelling-place of God rather than a fertile geographical strip of land in the Middle East!** The way that the word “Zionist” is used today is nothing short of a blasphemy.

A fourth precondition for the restoration of Israel shown in our text from Jeremiah 50, verses 4-5, is this:

iv. Engaging in Genuine Spirituality

Our text in Jeremiah says: “*They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it*”. With their faces towards it, that is, in deep sincerity of faith. In other words, there would be a real integrity. **How can there be any spiritual integrity in the Israel of today when it is not only seeking Zion in completely the wrong realm and manner, and was “originally**

¹⁸⁴ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 22-23.

¹⁸⁵ Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 22.

conceived of as a secular state”,¹⁸⁶ but it also has such a hatred toward the One who came to the Jews as their Messiah nearly two thousand years ago? This is the moot question. After all, *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”*.¹⁸⁷ Nothing further needs to be said on that.

A fifth precondition for the restoration of Israel shown in our text from Jeremiah 50, verses 4-5, is this:

v. The Desire to be in a Perpetual Covenant Relationship with God

An Israel which is desirous of restoration to God looks like this: *“The children of Israel and the children of Judah will come together... and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten”*.¹⁸⁸ But we have already shown above that Israel was disobedient to the old covenant and rejected the new covenant in the blood of Christ and still does to this day.

So where does all this leave the Israel of today in the Middle East? The picture we are given here regarding conditions for the restoration of Israel is one involving the deepest spirituality, profound penitence and desiring to be among the people of God and covenant obedience. Is that what we see in the ‘restored’ Israel of today in the Middle East?

Modern Israel does not enact Old Testament spirituality. It is proud and arrogant in its claims. **It regards Zion as a nationalist polity run by unspiritual human beings on a piece of earthly territory rather than the spiritual dwelling-place of God.** It oppresses helpless people in a manner which defies God’s laws in a most dramatic fashion. For example, we read in the Torah: *“You must not exploit or oppress a foreign resident, for you yourselves were foreigners in the land of Egypt”*.¹⁸⁹ Bear in mind that this particular command comes immediately after these other commands: *“You must not allow a sorceress to live. Whoever lies with an animal must surely be put to death. If anyone sacrifices to any god other than the LORD alone, he must be set apart for destruction”*.¹⁹⁰ To put the law about treating foreigners with compassion in this grave context is how

¹⁸⁶ See this article in Haaretz: <https://tinyurl.com/ydsbv7ee> .

¹⁸⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 11.

¹⁸⁸ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 50, verses 4-5.

¹⁸⁹ Book of Exodus, chapter 22, verse 21.

¹⁹⁰ Book of Exodus, chapter 22, verses 18-20.

seriously God means His people to aid the afflicted, the helpless and oppressed foreigners. After all, “*the fulfilment of the law is love*”.¹⁹¹ All this cuts entirely across one of the three signs of the presence of true religion designated by James in his letter: “*Pure and undefiled religiosity before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble*”.¹⁹² Helping the helpless and afflicted lies at the heart of the law of God, which God’s people are expected to enact naturally in their lives.¹⁹³ To say otherwise is to take the heart out of the Law and to give the edge to ‘Liberation Theologians’, who think that spirituality **only** consists of fighting injustice through revolutionary, even violent, action. The people who are in God’s covenant would not be brutal towards those under their care; nor would they want to be seen as such by the world.

Now compare the brutality of the Israelites against the Palestinians, and the violent audacity of the Israeli state security force, the *Mossad*, with these directives in the sacred texts. How then can the nation of Israel of today be living in covenant obedience even to the old covenant of the Mosaic era? **I believe that the modern nation-state of Israel is an evil regime, and I am utterly amazed that people who profess to be ‘Christians’ could give this corrupt, antichristian country their moral spiritual and financial support.** As the courageous Israeli commentator, Dr. Israel Shahak, dares to state:

“The extent of persecution and discrimination against non-Jews inflicted by the ‘Jewish state’ with the support of organised diaspora Jews is also enormously greater than the suffering inflicted on Jews by regimes hostile to them”.¹⁹⁴

However, not only is the nation of Israel today disobedient to the old covenant, but it is also utterly defiant towards the new covenant which

¹⁹¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 13, verse 10; Letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 14.

¹⁹² Letter of James, chapter 1, verse 27a.

¹⁹³ Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 10; Letter to Titus, chapter 2, verses 13-14.

¹⁹⁴ Dr. Israel Shahak, *Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years*, Pluto Press, 1997, p.103.

is now in force, having superseded the old, and which, as we have seen was prophesied for them to follow.¹⁹⁵

It is often stated by Christian supporters of Israel today that Israel is restored to the land initially in a state of unbelief. However, nowhere in Scripture is there sanctioned a “restoration in unbelief”, such as is often asserted. As we have shown, there are conditions attached to any restoration of Israel and those conditions have not been fulfilled. **Almost the entire world of Christianity takes it for granted that a vast endtime restoration of Israel has been prophesied in the Bible and that the modern state of Israel is preliminary evidence of the fulfillment of that prophecy. But this idea of the restoration of earthly Israel is just as false as the idea of the restoration of the apostolic gifts of the Spirit.**

Those twin-deceptions of alleged ‘restoration’ go together as the main platforms of deception in the Christian scene today. Not only that, but they claim that this ‘restoration’ will take place with the Jews who return to the land living in a state of unbelief to begin with. This goes hand-in-hand with the idea that when Christ returns He will set up His headquarters as an earthly king in Jerusalem with restored temple sacrifices and Old Testament style worship for a period of exactly one thousand years, based on an entirely false and crassly literalist understanding of chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation.¹⁹⁶ Apparently, so they say, when Christ returns, the inhabitants of earthly Israel will “*look on Him who they pierced and mourn*” and thus all Israel will be saved. They ignore entirely the fact that the Zechariah prophecy about looking on Him who they pierced, and mourning Him,¹⁹⁷ was primarily fulfilled when Christ was on the cross, as John’s record clearly shows.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁵ Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34.

¹⁹⁶ To help with plain, common-sense interpretations of the Book of Revelation, readers can download my 658-page commentary, entitled “*The Essential Apocalypse: Making Sense of the Book of Revelation*”, available free of charge on my website here: <https://diakrisis-project.com/2022/06/10/the-essential-apocalypse-making-sense-of-the-book-of-revelation-is-ready-for-download/>.

¹⁹⁷ Book of Zechariah, chapter 12, verse 10.

¹⁹⁸ Gospel of John, chapter 19, verses 34-37.

There is another sense in which the Jews will “*look on Him who they pierced and mourn*”, but it will not be out of any genuine repentance. “*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him*” (Rev.1:7). Along with the rest of the unbelieving world, they will stand aghast in horror at what is materialising before their eyes at the return of Christ. As Matthew Henry puts it:

“He shall come, to the terror of those who have pierced him and have not repented and of all who have wounded and crucified him afresh by their apostasy from him, and to the astonishment of the pagan world. For he comes to take vengeance on those who know not God, as well as on those that obey not the gospel of Christ”.

In that day, every knee will indeed bow and every tongue will indeed confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, not because they are saved or because they are penitent but simply because they will reluctantly have learned the awful truth of Christ’s reality and the hopelessness of their condition at that endpoint in history.¹⁹⁹

Here is the crux of the problem: Ignoring the plain fulfillment of prophecy as having already taken place and instead trying to make them fit into a future plan entirely of their own imaginings. This is the way that cults behave; and make no mistake about it, ‘Christian Zionism’ *is* a cult. How the neo-Judaizers deal with this is to say that Israel is restored initially in a state of unbelief although later they will believe after God allows the Antichrist to kill two-thirds of all Jews — the Talmudic and Illuminist element — and preserve the one-third ‘remnant’. This outright fantasy is supposedly based on a prophecy in Zechariah. Let us just take a look at this:

“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the man who is My Companion, declares the LORD of Hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn My hand against the little ones. And in all the land, declares the LORD,

¹⁹⁹ cf. Letter to the Philippians, chapter 2, verses 10-11.

two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God’”.²⁰⁰

The first part of this prophecy was shown to be fulfilled when Christ was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.²⁰¹ The rest of the prophecy was plainly fulfilled in the divine judgement which took place soon after that when the Romans ransacked Jerusalem in AD 70. The section about refining, as Matthew Henry rightly says, “*was fulfilled in the persecutions of the primitive church*”, which was the continuation of the Jewish nation under the new covenant. The apostle Peter virtually quotes this section in his letter “*To the exiles of the Dispersion*”, when he says “*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you*”.²⁰²

Another Scripture misused to prove that Israel is restored in unbelief is in Ezekiel, chapters 36-37:

“For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries, and I will bring you back into your own land. I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances. Then you will live in the land that I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God”.²⁰³

²⁰⁰ Book of Zechariah, chapter 13, verses 7-9.

²⁰¹ cf. Gospel of Matthew, chapter 26, verse 31.

²⁰² First Letter of Peter, chapter 4, verse 12.

²⁰³ Book of Ezekiel, chapter 36, verses 24-28.

But yet again, this has already been fulfilled. It was fulfilled in one sense when the Jews were restored to Israel out of captivity in Babylon, but surely it was fulfilled even more fully (and also more spiritually) when they turned to Christ in the new covenant. It is a parallel text to the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34, which speaks of the new covenant in Christ. Those texts are all about the Jewish 'remnant' becoming the foundation (and continuation) of the new people of God, the Body of Christ, into whom the Gentiles would be brought.

Similarly, the passage in the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, which speaks of the valley of dry bones and then the bones living again is plainly referring to the restoration of Israel after the captivity in Babylon. It can also be figuratively referred to spiritual regeneration in Christ and even to the resurrection from the dead. But there is no way that these prophecies in the Book of Ezekiel, chapters 36 and 37, can be used to justify the restoration of the theocratic state of Israel at this point in history after the Messiah has come.

How, therefore, can the nation-state of Israel on a plot of land in the Middle East today be a fulfilment of Bible prophecy? The fact is that Israel today is really a secular state with Jewish pretensions. It has nothing to do with the Israel of the Bible. In this sense it is just like any other country in the world and so are its inhabitants. There is absolutely no difference. Only that in this case the inhabitants falsely claim divine right to ownership, being God's chosen people, and that this particular patch of land has been re-named 'Israel' — all based on myths and mirages.

So far we have shown that the land promise was fulfilled in the Old Testament era and that the restoration of Israel in the Old Testament was only ever based on certain clear conditions. There is a third rejoinder to the false claim that the Middle Eastern nation-state of Israel today is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy. Here it is:

3. The Real hope for Israel is not a Restoration of Israel to the Land but to Jesus Christ at His First Coming

The Old Testament prophecies which appear to speak of the restoration of the nation Israel to a land inheritance were either fulfilled at the end of the exile in Babylon or are to be understood to refer figuratively to the ingathering of Jew and gentile under the

Messiah from His first coming, which in turn, points to the inheritance of the ‘land’ in the new creation. This is where the real point of resistance to Bible teaching occurs. **The failure, indeed, the refusal, to accept that the Lord can and does speak figuratively when uttering prophecies in the Old Testament about the future restoration of Israel is one of the principal causes of confusion concerning its proper inheritance.**

One of the main problems here is that it is assumed by so many professing ‘Christians’ today — especially those who believe that there is still a place for the theocratic nation Israel in God’s purposes today — that if one interprets an Old Testament prophecy figuratively rather than literally then it implies a liberal, even apostate, approach to the sacred texts. However, this is a false deduction. It is certainly true that liberal theologians allegorise the Word of God in the places at which it should be taken literally. But that does not mean that one should *never* understand any Scripture figuratively, for fear of being a liberal theologian! Such would be false logic. Let me give an illustrative example: When we read that an angel came down from heaven, “*having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand*”,²⁰⁴ are we expected to take that literally? Is it an actual material chain with metal links which is being spoken of here? And if one takes that chain figuratively does that make one apostate? Surely not! Is it not true that every single disciple of Christ (I hope!) has taken that chain to be figurative — interpreting it symbolically rather than literally?

A Model Example of Good Scripture Interpretation

However, when it comes to Old Testament prophecies about Israel, so many folk are suddenly overcome with a fit of hyper-literalism and denounce anyone who dares to allegorise a text in any way. While it is obviously true that there are dangers in allegorizing and that “*no prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own private interpretation*”,²⁰⁵ there are sound rules which we can follow which have even been laid down for us in the sacred texts. Let us demonstrate this with a classic example:

²⁰⁴ Book of Revelation, chapter 20, verse 1.

²⁰⁵ Second Letter of Peter, chapter 1, verse 20.

“In that day I will restore the fallen tent of David. I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear My name,” declares the LORD, who will do this “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the ploughman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes, the sower of seed. The mountains will drip with sweet wine, with which all the hills will flow. I will restore My people Israel from captivity; they will rebuild and inhabit the ruined cities. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will firmly plant them in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land that I have given them, says the LORD your God”.²⁰⁶

On the face of it, if one was to take this passage absolutely literally, it appears to be a prophecy of the rebuilding of the earthly temple in Jerusalem, and the restoration of God’s people Israel to the land. However, although that may be the way it looks to the casual reader, if we want to be true to God, we have to take into account the fact that this passage is interpreted for us very differently elsewhere in the sacred texts. There is no better way to interpret Scripture than for Scripture to do it for us! For when some Judaizers were causing problems in the early Church by saying that converted Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to be saved (there they go again with their failure to understand things spiritually), a council was called to make a ruling on the matter. After the debate had taken place, everyone present fell silent and James (who was actually the brother of Christ and a prominent leader in the early church in Jerusalem) issued his wisdom:

“Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is

²⁰⁶ Book of Amos, chapter 9, verses 11-15.

written: ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things’. Known to God from eternity are all His works”.²⁰⁷

Do you see what James is saying? He quotes here the precise text from the Book of Amos, chapter 9, which could have been taken literally as being a reference to a rebuilding of the physical temple and a future earthly restoration of the nation Israel to the land, if one is a Judaizer or a dyed-in-the-wool Jew. **However, we are here being furnished with a model of correct exegesis whenever we are confronted with Old Testament texts which seem to imply an earthly restoration of the Davidic kingdom and the bringing back under its dominion of the neighbouring non-Israelite nations over which David had once ruled.** Remember that James himself was actually one of the more ‘Jewish’ in his practices of the church leaders at the time; yet he still honestly interprets this text from Amos in a figurative (thus, primarily spiritual) rather than a literal manner. But so many today are so hellbent on having their own private interpretation that they refuse the plain evidence right there in the Bible. What is more, they just get angry with, or calumniate, anyone who dares to point this out to them, as has happened to me personally on a number of occasions. In fact, I have received more nastiness from ‘Christians’ about this subject than any other. I have even received threats of a more serious nature. That is surely cultic behaviour rather than the comportment of a genuine disciple of Christ.

When Jesus said, “*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again*”,²⁰⁸ he was not referring (as the Jews thought) to the literal temple (which was eventually destroyed) but to his own body which was killed then resurrected. His people are his body on earth today. It is vital for us to grapple with what is to be taken literally in the Bible

²⁰⁷ Book of Acts, chapter 15, verses 13-18.

²⁰⁸ Compare the Gospel of John, chapter 2, verse 19 with the Gospel of Mark, chapter 15, verse 29.

and what is allegorical or symbolic. It is easier than one may think; though one has to approach the sacred texts without a prior agenda.

The unbelieving Jewish person of today, with a veil over his eyes when he reads the Bible, will only see an earthly kingdom and an earthly dominion — just as unenlightened Jewry did at the time of Christ.²⁰⁹ And to their support will come the crassly literalistic fundamentalist ‘Christian Zionists’ of today who have failed to follow James’ lead in honest Bible interpretation. For what we discover here is that James is plainly revealing that the rebuilding of “*the tabernacle of David*” is a figurative reference to the building of the Church of the new covenant in Jesus Christ, into which would flow the Gentiles. **In fact, James is here showing that the Bible certainly teaches precisely what the Christian Zionists ignorantly and disparagingly call “replacement theology”.** The New Testament Church has replaced the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, which was the heart and soul of the theocratic nation of Israel.²¹⁰ If you do not like the word “replaced” or “replacement” in this context, then try “superseded” or “supersession”; they sound posher and they will not give you apoplexy! **Please just face up to it: The Church is Israel today, whether you like it or not!**

The Hope of Israel or its ‘Cheat’?

This is why I say — in answer to the claim that the Middle Eastern nation-state of Israel today is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy — **that the real hope for Israel is not a restoration to an earthly territory but to Jesus Christ at His first coming.** We can deduce further proof of this mighty fact from the words of the Apostles. For example, when Paul arrived in Rome, he called a meeting of the leaders of the Jews to present his case before them. During his discourse, Paul tells them why he was a prisoner: “*For this reason I have called to see you and speak with you. It is because of **the hope of Israel** that I am bound with this chain*”.²¹¹ What was this “*hope of Israel*” for which Paul had been indicted? What

²⁰⁹ See Gospel of John, chapter 6, verse 15; chapter 18, verse 36; Gospel of Luke, chapter 17, verses 20; Book of Acts, chapter 1, verse 6.

²¹⁰ cf. Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 16; Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 21.

²¹¹ Book of Acts, chapter 28, verse 20.

message of hope for Israel had Paul been preaching that was so offensive to the Jews? Was it a future restoration of Israel to the land under an earthly king like David? No, not at all, for that would have been perfectly acceptable to them. In his great commentary, Matthew Henry gives an illustrative paraphrase of Paul's words to the Jewish leaders here, which plainly reveals the identity of the true "hope of Israel":

"They would have you still expect a Messiah that would free you from the Roman yoke, and make you great and prosperous upon earth, and it is this that occupies their thoughts; and they are angry at me for directing their expectations to the great things of another world, and persuading them to embrace a Messiah who will secure those to them, and not external power and grandeur. I am for bringing you to the spiritual and eternal blessedness upon which our fathers by faith had their eye, and this is what they hate me for,— because I would take you away from that which is the cheat of Israel, and will be its shame and ruin, the notion of a temporal Messiah, and lead you to that which is the true and real hope of Israel, and the genuine sense of all the promises made to the fathers, a spiritual kingdom of holiness and love set up in the hearts of men, to be the pledge of, and preparative for, the joyful resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come".

What a masterly summary this is by Matthew Henry of the meaning behind Paul's words. **The "cheat of Israel", rather than its hope, has always been the continued notion of a temporal Messiah and an earthly kingdom in the land.** But the "*true and real hope of Israel*" is the spiritual kingdom which has its roots in the death and resurrection of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and which finds its only earthly expression in the Church, the true *Ekklesia*, which is the human body of people called out of the satanic world-system by His name. The true hope of Israel is "*The Deliverer*" who "*will come from Zion; He will remove godlessness from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them when I take*

away their sins".²¹² **Sins can only be taken away by the blood of Christ in His new covenant; and it is this which is the real hope of Israel.**

This is why we find that all the godly, pious Jews such as Simeon, who were alive around the time of the birth of Christ, were "*waiting for the Consolation of Israel*".²¹³ So for people like Simeon, Anna, Zacharias, Mary, Joseph and all the rest of the godly 'remnant' of Israel who were alive when the Son of God came in the flesh, the fulfilment of the Jewish kingdom centred on belief in and union with the Lord Jesus Christ as the "Hope of Israel" and the "Consolation of Israel". **There is never the remotest hint in the gospels — nor in the rest of the New Testament — that the hope of Israel lay or lies in a restoration to the land.** Indeed, we see clearly from the Scriptures that the eye of faith enabled even the godly believers of the Old Testament to focus on something well beyond a mere piece of real estate in the Middle East! For example, we are told that

"By faith he dwelt in the promised land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God".²¹⁴

Those Patriarchs knew that there was something beyond the promised territory on earth. Indeed, rather than revel in any territorial rights to earthly land,

"All these people died in faith, without having received the things they were promised. However, they saw them and welcomed them from afar. And they acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to

²¹² Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verses 25-26.

²¹³ Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verse 25.

²¹⁴ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 9-10.

return. **Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them”.²¹⁵

That was the knowledge that all the people of God held dear in the Old Testament times. **Their hope was in a heavenly country, a city prepared by God.** What city is that? The answer lies in the next chapter of this letter to former Jews who had become disciples of Christ:

“Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to **the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.** You have come to myriads of angels in joyful assembly, to the congregation of the firstborn, enrolled in heaven. You have come to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to **Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,** and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”.²¹⁶

The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, is none other than the Church of the new covenant mediated by Jesus Christ, the *Ekklesia*, the fulfilment of the promise to Abraham that in his descendants all nations of the earth would be blessed. And we find this heavenly Jerusalem referred to by Paul in his extraordinary allegory in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 4, verses 24-26, where he speaks of the difference between the old and new covenants. First there is “*the one from Mount Sinai which bears children into slavery...and corresponds to present-day Jerusalem [i.e. the earthly nation of Israel]*”, and then there is “*the Jerusalem above [the new covenant community]*” which “*is free, and she is our mother*”, that is, all of us who are the people of God in the Gospel Age. **Now you can understand the context of the title of this book: Abraham our father — Jerusalem our mother.**

So the “heavenly city” to which the patriarchs looked forward was the true Church of Jesus Christ made up of both Jews and Gentiles. This

²¹⁵ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 13-16.

²¹⁶ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 22-24.

is why the Lord Jesus said that Abraham “*rejoiced*” to see His day.²¹⁷ **A transition in redemptive history has occurred which any godly, faithful Jew would have expected: The transition from an earthly nation according to physical descent to a ‘new nation’ based on spiritual redemption and transformation;**²¹⁸ from a literally earthly Jerusalem to a kingdom truly ruled from heaven by a heavenly King — from incessant corporeal sacrifices of lambs, goats and bulls, to a once for all time sacrifice of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of Jews and also those from every nation of the world, if they truly believe and receive the truth in their souls.²¹⁹

Before the coming of Christ, for four hundred years there had been an awesome silence of divine revelation. Just as the whole cosmos is said to be “groaning” now, as it awaits the full revealing of those who are the children of God by adoption,²²⁰ so the world was then filled with pregnant longing for the appearance of the expected One who is the Son of God by nature. And as the time approached for Him to be born it must almost have been possible to cut the expectant air in Israel with a knife. At that time Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna and all the rest of the ‘remnant’ of Israel were waiting for their Hope, their Consolation.²²¹ They were not looking for an earthly king to lead a revolt against the Roman occupiers (although Judas Iscariot probably was). They were not waiting for a restoration to the land. Theirs was a different hope — a spiritual one. As Simeon said:

“Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel”.²²²

²¹⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 8, verse 56.

²¹⁸ Book of Exodus, chapter 19, verses 5-6, with First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 9-10.

²¹⁹ Gospel of John, chapter 10, verses 14-16; chapter 11, verses 49-52.

²²⁰ Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 19-22.

²²¹ Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verse 25.

²²² Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 29-32.

Plainly, faithful Jews just before the coming of Christ knew that the hope of Israel was also the hope of the Gentiles. And that hope did not rest on a mere patch of dusty old land in the Middle East. It was the hope of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ. And when the Incarnate Son of God grew and called out disciples from that godly ‘remnant’ of the Jews, these became the firstfruits of the new covenant people — a spiritually-transformed nation which would consist of both Jews and Gentiles together, as one. A nation with a new heart implanted by God Himself living among them.

Therefore, for all the above reasons we believe that the Middle Eastern nation-state of Israel today cannot possibly be a fulfilment of the Bible prophecies which speak of a restoration of Israel. Now we turn to the second claim of the new Judaizers...

FALSE CLAIM #2: “The Nation Israel is still God’s Chosen People Today”

We hear a great deal of complaining today from the Christian Zionists about what they call ‘replacement theology’, a disparaging nickname they have given to the teaching that Israel has been replaced/superseded by the true *Ekklesia* as the people of God (which is precisely what we are teaching in this little book). **However, it is rather bizarre to give a nickname to something which the Bible plainly teaches and then call it a heresy, thus pulling the wool over the eyes of so many young and gullible disciples of Christ!**

The reality is that a replacement has indeed taken place. **The old inadequate, obsolete covenant was replaced by a new one.**²²³ This replacement has happened on many levels. For example, the Holy Spirit was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. The beautiful significance of this can be seen in the fact that Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks) was actually a Jewish festival reaffirming the Sinaitic Covenant,²²⁴ and commemorating the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.²²⁵ We see here that the Holy Spirit, given to the Church at Pentecost in Jerusalem, was **a replacement** for the Law given to Israel

²²³ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 13.

²²⁴ Book of Exodus, chapter 34, verses 10 & 22.

²²⁵ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 16, verses 9-12.

on Sinai. **What the neo-Judaizers call “Replacement Theology” is precisely what is taught in the sacred texts and the refusal to accept that by a trendy movement today is to fly in the face of Divine teaching.** The Body of Christ — made up of transformed Jews and Gentiles — is the people of God today. It has replaced Old Testament Israel, which did not obtain what it sought. **That is a fact, not a heresy!**

The real division-making ‘replacementists’ (for division is the real work of ‘heresy’) are those who teach that Israel today represents the chosen people of God. This is the reality of the situation. The idea that corporate national Israel is still God’s chosen people is prevalent in the minds of many today. But we wonder if they have seriously considered the plain verdict of Scripture. **For the word of God instead shows that as a nation Israel has come under the wrath of God, who — although ever-willing to receive into the new covenant kingdom individual believing Jews — has finished with Israel as a national-religious theocratic entity. That is precisely why Jerusalem and its temple were ultimately destroyed.** Why would so many of those who profess to be disciples of Christ not accept that? I will answer that question in the conclusion of this book.

Israel repeatedly broke the old covenant and thereby forfeited their rights to it. Virtually all of them — except for a small ‘remnant’ — rejected the new covenant in the blood of Christ. They even then killed their long-awaited Messiah. Interestingly, a Pope (Benedict XVI) has decreed that Jews were not responsible for killing their Messiah. In order to foster good relations between Christians and Jews, this claim is being widely made today. But what do the sacred texts say? In the first place the Bible shows that Jesus was rejected by the Jews: *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”*.²²⁶ No one would argue with that. However, it does not stop there, for the guilt for that sin which then came upon Israel is almost beyond comprehension. First, the Lord Jesus Himself upbraided the rulers of the people with the charge:

“Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your fathers. You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape the sentence of hell? Because of this, I

²²⁶ Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 11.

am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute in town after town. And so upon you will come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar”.²²⁷

He saw His own rejection by the Jewish rulers as the culmination of a pathological, even psychopathic, pattern in the very rejection of the Divine which had plagued the children of Israel from the outset. When they rejected Him, He laid the punishment before them clearly:

“Therefore, I say to you, **the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it**”.²²⁸

That is a pure statement of so-called ‘replacement theology’! Anyone who says otherwise is a twister of Scripture and a false teacher. And the Lord Jesus predicted how that judgement for His rejection would begin when he told the following parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to call those he had invited to the banquet, but they refused to come. Again, he sent other servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ But they paid no attention and went away, one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged, and he sent his

²²⁷ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 23, verses 32-35.

²²⁸ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 21, verses 42-43.

troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city”.²²⁹

And this judgement on the Jews for all their continued rejection of God’s prophets and Christ Himself was fulfilled in a literal sense in AD 70 at the fall of Jerusalem under the Roman army commanded by Titus, which was given a literal prophecy by the Lord Jesus:

“If only you had known on this day what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will barricade you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will level you to the ground—you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God”.²³⁰

The fulfilment of this prophecy and the terrible extent of the ruins of Jerusalem after the Roman incursion was recorded by the contemporary historian, Josephus: *“It was so thoroughly laid down to the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was nothing left to make those that came there believe Jerusalem had ever been inhabited”*. What an dreadful indictment — yet also needed to demonstrate the end of the old covenant.

Then, piling up the judgement, the Jews even invited destruction upon themselves when they chose Barabbas rather than Jesus before Pontius Pilate:

“When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it’. And **all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children’**”.²³¹

²²⁹ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 22, verses 2-7.

²³⁰ Gospel of Luke, chapter 19, verses 42-44.

²³¹ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 27, verses 24-25.

“His blood be on us and on our children”. Wow! They were just raining down that judgement on themselves. It is a great mystery to us to know how anyone could imagine that the Jewish nation of Israel bore no guilt for the death of Christ. The Apostle Peter charged the Jews directly in his sermons in this manner:

“He was delivered up by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, and **you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross....** Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ”.²³²

“You rejected the Holy and Righteous One and **asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Author of life**, but God raised Him from the dead, and we are witnesses of the fact”.²³³

“Let this be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified** but whom God raised from the dead...”.²³⁴

And Stephen said to the Jews:

“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom **you now have become the betrayers and murderers...**”.²³⁵

And Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica:

“You suffered from your own countrymen the very things they suffered from the Jews, **who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets**, and drove us out as well. They are displeasing to God and hostile to all men, hindering us from telling the

²³² Book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 23 & 36.

²³³ Book of Acts, chapter 3, verses 14-15.

²³⁴ Book of Acts, chapter 4, verse 10.

²³⁵ Book of Acts, chapter 7, verse 52.

Gentiles how they may be saved. **As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them’.**²³⁶

“The utmost wrath has come upon them”. As anyone can testify, that ‘wrath’, which began at Jerusalem in AD 70 with the destruction of the city and the temple, has echoed down even to our own day on those who would claim to be Messiah-rejecting Jews. Here Paul is referring back to the curses for rejection of the covenant which are so dreadfully and graphically portrayed in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28, verses 15-68. Please read them. This is not being reiterated here as some kind of excuse to be nasty to Jewish people or to commit ‘antisemitism’, as some would claim, so as to create a smokescreen. For that is not the way of the genuine disciple. I am simply stating Bible facts which cannot be denied, no matter how politically correct one wants to be or what hermeneutical acrobatics are performed.

Surely it is plain to see that the nation of Israel can no longer be God’s chosen people. **The new covenant Church, made up of both converted former Jews and converted Gentiles, has now replaced/superseded the old covenant nation-state of Israel as the people of God today. This is simply basic New Testament teaching which any disciple of Christ should know. Sunday School stuff.** The Lord Jesus himself warned that Israel would be replaced when he said to those who sat in Moses’ seat: *“I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation who will produce its fruit”.*²³⁷ And the passing of that mantle to the nations was prophesied long ago by God to Abraham when He said, *“In you all nations of the earth will be blessed”.*²³⁸ When Jesus said, *“...given to a nation who will produce its fruit”*, he was speaking of the worldwide *Ekklesia, the true Church*. As Peter said to the churches in Asia: *“You are... a holy nation”.*²³⁹ Yet we are continually told that the Jews are still God’s chosen people. **How can God have two different covenant peoples today, when the new covenant has plainly replaced the old?** Which

²³⁶ First Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 2, verses 14-16.

²³⁷ Gospel of Matthew, chapter 21, verse 43.

²³⁸ Book of Genesis, chapter 22, verse 18, etc.

²³⁹ First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verse 9.

covenant could the Jews possibly be under, for the old covenant is “*obsolete*”?²⁴⁰ There is only one covenant and one covenant people.

It should be stressed here that the ‘replacement’ which has occurred is not a straight ‘one for one’ superimposition but is a kind of morphing process. For the new covenant people of God began among the godly Jewish ‘remnant’ who received their Messiah (initially the apostles). In that sense, salvation can indeed be spoken of as being “*of the Jews*”,²⁴¹ and the New Testament *Ekklesia* is an extension of the godly ‘remnant’ in Israel of old. So the new ‘Israel’, the *Ekklesia*, began with the Jews, grew out of the people of old Israel, its ‘remnant’, and was the very root of the new covenant people of God. But Jesus Himself said that as well as that ‘remnant’ of Jews who would believe, there are also

“other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd”.²⁴²

“*One flock and one Shepherd*”. There are NOT two covenant peoples of God — Israel and the Church, with one somehow held in abeyance for a time. The covenant people of God are one. This is a fundamental and vital teaching in the sacred texts:

“For He Himself is our peace, **who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility** by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and decrees. He did this to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace and reconciling both of them to God in **one body through the cross**, by which He extinguished their hostility. He came and preached peace to **you who were far away** [i.e. gentiles] and peace to **those who were near** [i.e. Jews]. For through Him we **both have access** to the Father by one Spirit. Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints

²⁴⁰ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 8, verse 13.

²⁴¹ Gospel of John, chapter 4, verse 22.

²⁴² Gospel of John, chapter 10, verse 16.

and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being **built together** into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit".²⁴³

So it is wrong to teach, as many do today, that God now deals differently with Jews and Gentiles, for that undoes the unity of the body of Christ and brings division — which, of course, is the satanic purpose in all this. Both Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.²⁴⁴ There is no difference between the two; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.²⁴⁵ As Paul emphasises:

"Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised **through that same faith**".²⁴⁶

Jews and Gentiles together. God now deals with them as one in a new covenant. As Paul says: "*So then those who have faith [whether Jew or Gentile] are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith*",²⁴⁷ and, "*If you belong to Christ [whether Jew or Gentile], then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise*".²⁴⁸ Believing Jews and Gentiles are **both** the true seed of Abraham today, understood spiritually:

"It is not as though God's word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are Abraham's descendants are they all his children. On the contrary, "Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned." **So it is not the**

²⁴³ Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 14-22.

²⁴⁴ Letter to the Romans, chapter 3, verse 9.

²⁴⁵ Letter to the Romans, chapter 3, verses 22-23.

²⁴⁶ Letter to the Romans, chapter 3, verses 29-30.

²⁴⁷ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 9.

²⁴⁸ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verse 29.

children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as offspring".²⁴⁹

Note that well! It is NOT the children of the flesh (bloodline) who are God's children, but the children of the promise — i.e. those who are of faith. Once the Seed (Christ) had come there was no further need for the theocratic nation of Israel under old covenant law. **The restoration of Israel and the salvation of the Gentiles are one and the same: namely, one in Christ, indivisibly united in one body, His chosen people, His *Ekklesia*, His Church.**

FALSE CLAIM #3: "The Establishment of the Israeli state in 1948 is the Beginning of a Process that Culminates in a Global Conversion of Living Jews after all the Gentiles have been Saved"

I have already dealt with the founding of the Israeli state in 1948 which, for the reasons given above, I do not believe can be the result of specific Bible prophecies about the restoration of Israel. The notion that the founding of the Israeli state will lead to a global conversion of Jews has, in the main, been grounded on the words of the Apostle Paul in chapter 11 of his letter to the Romans. However, this entire section of Paul's writings needs to be understood correctly. Many seem to regard Romans 11 as a kind of coded prophetic message for the end times — the prevailing idea being that Israel as a corporate theocratic nation, which has been out of God's favour since AD 70, will be restored to its former glory with a total global conversion and gathering of all Jews alive, once the parenthetic (as they see it) "*times of the Gentiles*" is over. However, I do not believe that such a teaching can be supported from the eleventh chapter of Romans, as I will now show.

The whole section in the Letter to the Romans, chapters 9 – 11 is primarily about the mystery of Divine election and the sovereign work of God in salvation. The fact of election in relation to Israel and the Jews is mentioned, both explicitly and implicitly, at least ten times. These chapters are not man-centred or even nation-centred but **God-centred**. It is because of a widespread wilful failure to accept the

²⁴⁹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 6-8.

Bible's teaching on election that Romans 11 has been so awfully misinterpreted; for a failure to receive the true teaching on election and the sovereignty of God goes hand in hand with this neo-Judaizing. Let us look at this section in more detail, for herein lies the key to all our thinking about national Israel.

Having dealt with the issue of righteousness, how to obtain it (justification) and its effects in the life of the believer (sanctification) in the first eight chapters, Paul begins to speak about how the Jews fit into the Divine plan of salvation in the wake of the Cross. The key to this whole section lies in these words:

“It is not as though God’s word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are Abraham’s descendants are they all his children”.²⁵⁰

Unless one understands the pivotal significance of this text, one will fail to grasp Paul’s (and the Holy Spirit’s) intentions throughout the three chapters of the Letter to the Romans, 9 – 11 and, in particular, in the climax of the eleventh chapter, verses 25-36. **For Paul is showing that in order to understand Israel’s situation in the scheme of the Divine plan, one must understand God’s purposes in election.** So when we look at Israel, we must realise that

“It is not the children of the flesh who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as the seed”.²⁵¹

Paul first demonstrates this with a historical example in Jacob and Esau.²⁵² Both of them are “*children of the flesh*”, that is, they are offspring of Abraham genetically speaking. But only Jacob is one of the elect children of God by spiritual adoption.²⁵³ Then, in the Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 14-24, Paul develops his teaching on election against those who would say that God is unjust: “*O man, who*

²⁵⁰ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 6-7.

²⁵¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 8.

²⁵² Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 9-13.

²⁵³ cf. Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verse 17; Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 12-13.

are you to reply against God?”. Here he is still preparing his readers for the climax of his argument. The jaw-dropping teaching of rejection by God (sometimes known as ‘reprobation’) is then set forth in Romans chapter 9, verses 21-22, in which it is seen that the glory of God through His elective will is always the objective.²⁵⁴

Then, in Romans, chapter 9, verses 27-29, we are introduced to a most important parallel concept to that of election in this passage, namely, “*the remnant*”, which Paul confirms in Romans, chapter 11, verse 5, as being “*according to the election of grace*”. And this ‘remnant’ theology runs right the way through the Old Testament, the grasping of which is vital; for a lack of understanding about election — or, most probably, a lack of acceptance of it — goes hand-in-hand with ‘bigging-up’ Israel as a geographical nation-state today. **Israel, according to the flesh, according to its bloodlines, does not consist wholly of saved people, even though they were certainly greatly favoured as a corporate body.** This has to be grasped aright. However, salvation is a Divine act of grace in a person. “*It is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship...*”.²⁵⁵ Therefore, in terms of salvation, only those Israelites who were elected by the mercy and grace of God are saved: “*Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden*”.²⁵⁶

Only a comparatively small number of Israelites were saved, and that was entirely on the basis of faith, which is the burden of Paul’s argument in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 4. This small number constitutes “*the remnant according to the election of grace*”. But the major problem with Israel, from start to finish, was that “*their pursuit [of righteousness] was not by faith, but as it were, by works*”.²⁵⁷ They sought “*to establish their own righteousness*” instead of taking hold of the righteousness provided by God through the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁵⁸

²⁵⁴ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verses 23-26.

²⁵⁵ Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 8-10.

²⁵⁶ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 18.

²⁵⁷ Letter to the Romans, chapter 9, verse 32.

²⁵⁸ Letter to the Romans, chapter 10, verses 3-4; cf. chapter 1, verse 17.

Paul then shows that salvation comes to the Jews by the same means as it does to the Gentiles, through hearing the word of God, and exercising faith.²⁵⁹ Then he quotes the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 32, verse 21 and the Book of Isaiah, chapter 65, verses 1-2, concluding the chapter with the words: *“All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people”*.²⁶⁰ Because at this point one may well conclude that the disobedience of the Jews has rendered them beyond salvation, Paul then begins chapter 11 of his Letter to the Romans with that begging question: *“I ask then, did God reject His people?”* The answer is immediately given: *“Certainly not!”*. But he doesn’t just leave it at that. This is where so many have come unstuck on the subject of Israel. For the assumption is here made that Paul is saying that Israel as a theocratic nation has not been cast away — that there is yet a purpose for the Jews as a nation in the plan of God. But Paul qualifies what he means by that exclamatory *“Certainly not!”*. He cites himself as an anecdotal example of the fact, as if he is saying: *“Look, I’ve been saved, so God cannot have cast away His people”*. But Paul is not using himself as a representative of the theocratic nation — merely as a member of the elect Jewish ‘remnant’. As he goes on to explain:

“What then? What Israel was seeking, it failed to obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened”.²⁶¹

Israel as a theocratic nation has not obtained righteousness, but the elect children of God have done so. The vast majority of the theocratic nation of Israel thought that they could become righteous solely through keeping the law by the letter. **But it failed to perceive that the purpose of the law was to drive them to realise that they could never keep it in the spirit and therefore they could only throw themselves on the mercy of God and trust in the Saviour whom God had promised that He would send.** All the Old Testament saints who obtained righteousness obtained it solely on that basis — a classic example of which was Abraham.²⁶² Right in the middle of the giving of

²⁵⁹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 10, verses 9-16.

²⁶⁰ Letter to the Romans, chapter 10, verse 21.

²⁶¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 7.

²⁶² cf. Gospel of John, chapter 8, verse 56.

the Old Testament law, that future Saviour to come was plainly shown to them by Moses:

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him. This is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God or see this great fire anymore, so that we will not die!” Then the LORD said to me, “They have spoken well. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. And I will hold accountable anyone who does not listen to My words that the prophet speaks in My name”.²⁶³

If you are thinking, “How can we know that Moses was there referring to Christ?”, I will reply that the apostle Peter actually quoted that sacred text in his sermon to the people in Solomon’s Colonnade, as recorded in the Book of Acts, when he said that Christ had been

“announced by God long ago through His holy prophets. For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He tells you. Everyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from among his people’”.²⁶⁴

The entire purpose of the law was therefore to point to Christ the Saviour as the *only* way to obtain righteousness.²⁶⁵ This is what he means when he says that “*God did not reject His people whom He foreknew*”.²⁶⁶ He has finished with Israel as a theocratic nation, which has *not* obtained what it sought, because it sought to obtain righteousness in the law (which was precisely the sin of the Pharisees),

²⁶³ Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verses 15-19.

²⁶⁴ Book of Acts, chapter 3, verses 21-23.

²⁶⁵ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, verses 19-25.

²⁶⁶ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 2.

but **He has *not* finished with those out of that nation whom He foreknew according to election** — for that is the meaning of the word “*foreknew*”, as we can see from this text: “*For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son*”.²⁶⁷ Peter uses this same word, ‘foreknowledge’, in relation to the elect Jewish ‘remnant’:

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **To the elect** who are exiles of the Dispersion throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen **according to the foreknowledge of God the Father** and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood”.²⁶⁸

So, in answer to the question “*Has God cast away His people*”, the answer is “*Certainly not!*”, so long as you understand the words, “His people”, in terms of the individual people among the Jews whom God foreknew, the elect, the ‘remnant’ who believed and knew where their salvation lay, rather than the entire people of Israel as a nation. Now do you see how important it is to see these three chapters as a grand lesson in the process of election in redemption? **A problem is that many of those who so avidly make belief in the modern nation-state of Israel into a virtual article of faith are virulently opposed to the Bible’s true teaching of election.** Their opposition to that teaching is one of the key points which has blinded them to understanding the true position of Israel in relation to the church today and the entire flow of history. **One sees here how one major failing in one’s understanding of teaching in the sacred texts can have a domino effect on so many other aspects of one’s understanding of truth.**

Therefore, in answer to the claim that there will be a global conversion of living Jews after all the Gentiles have been saved, it is vital that we grasp the context of the elect ‘remnant’ in the eleventh chapter of Paul’s Letter to the Romans. Yes, the nation is finished as a corporate theocratic nation, but God is still saving people out of those who have their physical and cultural roots in that nation.²⁶⁹ God has not cast away

²⁶⁷ Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verse 29.

²⁶⁸ First Letter of Peter, chapter 1, verses 1-2.

²⁶⁹ I say “*physical and cultural roots in relation to that nation*” because it would seem very difficult to ascertain who a true ethnic Jew would be these days.

those whom He foreknew, the elect, the ‘remnant’. If any Jews “*do not continue in unbelief, [they] will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again*”.²⁷⁰ If they believe, they will be brought back into the Covenant people of God, which today is *not* Israel but the body of Christ, the *Ekklesia*, made up of Jews and Gentiles.

Now Paul comes to the climax of his argument, the “mystery” concerning the salvation of the Jews. Just as there is a “mystery” concerning the salvation of the Gentiles, “*that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs [with the Jews], of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel*” (Eph.3:6), so there is also a “mystery” concerning the Jews, which is this: That the divinely appointed judicial blindness on Israel is set to last until the very last number of the elect Gentiles — “*the fullness of the Gentiles*” — has been brought into the people of God, which will herald the end of the age and the cataclysmic return of the Lord Jesus Christ. But that does not mean that there is no salvation for Israel. There is always a ‘remnant’ from Israel according to the election of grace. Israel as an earthly nation has not obtained what it seeks. But *not all who are descended from Israel are Israel*. At the end of the age, when all the elect Gentiles have been saved, all Israel WILL indeed have been saved, because “*all Israel*” here means all the remnants together, all elect Jews from the beginning to the end of time. Thus, God has not cast away His people **whom He foreknew**. Regardless of any confusion about Israel now, the end of the age will show that ALL Israel, that is all elect Jews, all those who are Jews inwardly (for they are the REAL Israel) will indeed have been saved!

Many have stumbled into a false understanding of the “*all Israel*” in the Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 26, because they read the phrase as “**Then** *all Israel will be saved*”. Whereas the text says, “*And so*”. The Greek word translated as “so” here is οὕτως, *houtós*, which means “thus” or “in this manner”. Paul is saying, “*and it is in this manner that all Israel will be saved*”. Which manner? How will all Israel be saved? In the manner in which he has been demonstrating throughout the three

See <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jun/12/what-does-it-mean-to-be-genetically-jewish> , and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_studies_on_Jews , and also see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1336798/>

²⁷⁰ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verses 23.

chapters of Romans 9 – 11, namely, through the process of the Divine election of a ‘remnant’ — all the remnants throughout the age adding up in total to the “all” of Israel which will be saved.

Now do you see why we say that this section of the Letter to the Romans cannot be understood outside of the context of divine election? *“Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel”*. But those who are of spiritual Israel — the elect remnants — are the *“all Israel”* who will be saved as part of the Church — the *Ekklesia* which has replaced Israel. What a mystery! Yet, a mystery rejected by so many today. Paul follows up his statement that all Israel will be saved by immediately saying *“as it is written”* and giving proof texts from the Book of Isaiah:

“The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will remove godlessness from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins”.²⁷¹

This is a prophecy of the coming of the Messiah who enters into a sin-bearing new covenant in His blood personally with all those who have faith — Jew and Gentile — throughout this Gospel age. This has nothing to do with any end-time restoration of national Israel. “All Israel” simply means the sum total of all believing Jews who will be saved through faith throughout the age in Christ, the ‘Deliverer who comes out of Zion’, the only ‘hope of Israel’, the only ‘Consolation of Israel’. **It is in the believing ‘remnant’ of Israel that the promises are fulfilled, not in an earthly nation settling down in a land in the Middle East to build an earthly kingdom, which is a complete travesty of truth.** The unbelieving mass of Israel always saw things in political/national land-based terms. Whereas the believing ‘remnant’ was always looking for something better, something beyond the land, something which really would be “forever”. A true Israelite is not interested in any Middle Eastern land-grab but in dedicating his or her life to God through their Saviour, Yeshua ben Yosef, who is Jesus the Christ.

Just as blindness in part will happen to Israel *“until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”*,²⁷² so the earthly city of Jerusalem will be *“trodden*

²⁷¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verses 26-27; Book of Isaiah, chapter 27, verse 9; chapter 59, verses 20-21.

²⁷² Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 25.

down by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled".²⁷³ And then the end will come. No restoration of the nation Israel to the land. Just the end of this age. The "*times of the Gentiles*" refers to the Gospel Age, the present age which has so far been in force for some two thousand years, and which will one day be brought to a conclusion with the Last Judgement when Christ returns to enact that judgement, to bring the history of this universe to a close and transform the cosmos into the new heaven and new earth. **The common assumption that there is something beyond the "times of the Gentiles" on the earth as it is currently constituted is a false one.** The word "until" does not imply 'then something else afterwards'. Jesus must remain in heaven "*until the times of the restoration of all things*";²⁷⁴ but there is nothing after that on this present earth! The "restoration of all things" refers to the restoring of the cosmos to a pristine state in a new creation, the new heaven and new earth. **The notion that Christ will return to create a global Jewish autocracy as that restoration on this present earth is just an old Jewish fable being placed before disciples of Christ as a decoy, diversion and distraction from truth. Truly, 'Christian Zionism' is a satanic, sectarian device and it must be soundly exposed and rejected.**

I do not close the door on the possibility that as the end draws near, there will be a mighty quickening of Jewish people to Christ — indeed, I would dearly love to see such a thing — but I do not believe that the sacred texts give any credence whatsoever to the idea of a future glory for Israel as an earthly nation. I am aware that many mistakenly say that 'God cannot be glorified unless His ancient covenant people are seen to be restored as a nation'. But that is to misunderstand and completely downplay the glory of the *Ekklesia* which is the fulfilment of Israel, the new Israel, the *true* Israel today. God's glory is in the Church of Jesus Christ comprised of faithful Jews and Gentiles,²⁷⁵ not in any earthly nation of Israel. It is "*in His saints*" of the new covenant that He is glorified,²⁷⁶ not in any reversion to an old covenant state of affairs on some real estate in the Middle East.

²⁷³ Gospel of Luke, chapter 21, verse 24.

²⁷⁴ Book of Acts, chapter 3, verse 21.

²⁷⁵ Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 18.

²⁷⁶ Second Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 1, verse 10; Gospel of John, chapter 17, verse 10; Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 3, verse 21.

PART IV:

WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE?

Having rejected their Messiah when He came at His first advent, it is surely not at all beyond the bounds of possibility that the unbelieving Jews will in some way be caught up in the deception of the Antichrist, when he is revealed. Many of the early Church ‘fathers’ assumed that the unbelieving Jews — far from being restored to a great earthly God-glorifying nation — would instead be engaged in mistakenly welcoming the Antichrist as their ‘messiah’. For he will be not only counterfeiting Christ and presenting himself as ‘god’ (while being a manipulative sorcerer),²⁷⁷ but he will be the one offering a global kingdom on this earth — the culmination of the satanic world-system that we see personified in the two beasts, one out of the sea (symbol of the nations) and the other out of the earth.²⁷⁸ Such a glitzy, earthly ‘messiah’ is precisely what the Jews are looking for. As church father, Cyril of Jerusalem stated:

“Since the true Christ is to come a second time, the adversary, taking occasion by the expectation of the simple, and especially of them of the circumcision, brings in a certain man who is a magician, and most expert in sorceries and enchantments of beguiling craftiness; who shall seize for himself the power of the Roman empire, and shall falsely style himself Christ, by this name deceiving the Jews, who are looking for the Anointed, and seducing those of the Gentiles by his magical illusions”.²⁷⁹

According to the genuine treatise of Hippolytus, *Christ and Antichrist*, the Antichrist was to restore the kingdom of the Jews, to collect the Jews out of every country of the Dispersion, making them his own, as

²⁷⁷ Second Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 2, verses 4 & 9.

²⁷⁸ Book of Revelation, chapter 13.

²⁷⁹ Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures*, Lecture XV.

though they were his own children, and promising to restore their country, and establish again their kingdom and nation, in order that he may be worshipped by them as God, and he will lead them on to persecute the saints, i.e. the disciples of Christ.²⁸⁰ And Ireneus of Lyons said that the Antichrist “*shall remove his kingdom into Jerusalem, and shall sit in the Temple of God, leading astray those who worship him as if he were Christ*”.²⁸¹ This is not at all as far-fetched as some may believe.

An interesting and significant fact is that this concept of a coming Christ-like figure, a World Teacher who sets up a Golden Age on earth, can be found in many world religious systems as well as in the literature of the occult, theosophy and the New Age Movement. At present, numerous religious groupings are living in such expectation.

For example, the Shi'ite Muslims believe that “*God has designated a line of the family of 'Ali' to act as sources of spiritual guidance to the community*”.²⁸² The various members of this family line are known as ‘Imams’. In the ninth century the twelfth of the line disappeared, and this led to a hiatus in the manifestation of the Imams. However, “*the Shi'is now await the return (raj'a) of the expected Imam, who will re-establish a reign of justice and peace on earth*”.²⁸³ The significance to world events of this expectation of the *Mahdi*, as he is called, should not be missed. For the Shi'ites believe that

“towards the end of the world, before the Last Day (Qiyama), a Mahdi, often identified with the returned Jesus, will establish a reign of justice on the earth. In Shi'ism, the Mahdi is a vital figure, identified with the Hidden Imam who will reappear and rule by divine prescription”.²⁸⁴

The Ayatollah Khomeini was a Shi'ite Muslim and his Iranian Revolution of 1978-9 was a Shi'ite-inspired event. It is worth noting

²⁸⁰ Hippolytus, *Of Christ and Antichrist*, § 25, 54, 56.

²⁸¹ Ireneus, *Against Heresies*, Book V, chap.25, § 4.

²⁸² John R. Hinnells (ed.), *The Penguin Dictionary of Religion* (Penguin, 1984), p.161.

²⁸³ Ibid., pp.162-164.

²⁸⁴ Ibid., p.198.

that after this Revolution, the Ayatollah Khomeini became recognised as ‘Vilayat Faqih’ or supreme temporal representative in Iran of the Hidden Imam or Mahdi who is still to come.²⁸⁵ The power of the Shi’ites worldwide is enormous. If a World Teacher was to appear who could fulfil their expectations, his powerbase would be immense. But it is not only the many millions of Shi’ite Muslims who are expecting a World Teacher to establish a reign of peace and justice on the earth. Classical Buddhism also speaks of the expectancy of a future World Teacher to follow in the line of its founder Shakyamuni Gautama Buddha, who was alive in the sixth century B.C. Establishing the link even more profoundly, the name of their expected teacher is Bodhisattva Maitreya, which corresponds precisely with the name of the ‘Ascended Master’ expected to come as the World Teacher of the Neo-Gnostics or New Agers. There is yet another interesting connection here: In neo-Gnostic ideology, the ‘etheric’ retreat where the so-called ‘Ascended Masters’ are reputed to live is referred to as *Shambhala*. In the religion of Tibetan Buddhism, the same name of *Shambhala* refers to

“a mystic kingdom ruled by the lineage holders of the Kalachakra Tantra (Wheel of Time Tantra). It is said that King Suchandra of Shambhala received this Tantra from Buddha in the latter’s eightieth year and entrusted it to his successors, the last of whom, Rigden Pema Karpo, is expected **to return and establish Shambhala as a universal kingdom**”.²⁸⁶

Once again, we discover in yet another religion this idea of a coming World Teacher who sets up a Golden Age on earth. Let us remember here that the Tibetan Buddhist Dalai Lama, who is so influential among the neo-Gnostics of today, occupies a similar role to that of the Ayatollah Khomeini in terms of being the “supreme temporal representative” of the Buddha, until the coming of the Maitreya to “*establish Shambhala as a universal kingdom*”.

Thus, the possibility of a great deception comes to the fore when we consider that the unbelieving Jews of the world (along with a whole

²⁸⁵ Ibid., p.58.

²⁸⁶ Ibid., p.294.

mass of ‘Christian Zionists’) are still awaiting their Messiah to bring a reign of peace and justice on this earth as it is presently constituted. This fact takes on sinister proportions when one considers that enigmatic statement of the Lord Jesus to the Jews that, although they would not accept Him as Messiah, *“if another comes in his own name, him you will receive”*.²⁸⁷ Here we begin to gain an insight into the true identity of this World Teacher expected by so many of the world’s religions, including Judaism. As Augustine of Hippo (A.D.354-430) rightly states, concerning those words of the Lord Jesus to the Jews: *“He intimated that they would receive Antichrist, who will seek the glory of his own name”*.²⁸⁸

Thus, what we believe on this issue is important. Millions of professing evangelicals are being swept into following the Jews and putting all their eggs in the basket of national Israel. But that is the pathway of apostasy. **The earthly Israel of today is an apostate antichristian nation and should never be followed by Christ’s disciples any more than they should follow Indonesia, Iran or Iraq.** The received teaching in so many church circles today is that after the Jews refused Christ, He turned away from them to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles, but, as they say, His dealing with the Gentiles is merely a temporary, parenthetical state of affairs, and that (as they claim) after a mysterious ‘rapture’ of the Church from off the earth, God will then revert to the ‘real business’ of dealing with the Jews again and subsequently will come back to earth with the saints from glory and establish an earthly kingdom reigning from a restored temple regime in Jerusalem for exactly one thousand years. This strange teaching, which has been cobbled together in a truly cavalier fashion from disparate texts in the Bible which have then been understood in a crassly literalistic manner, is based on what unbelieving Jews have been teaching for centuries, so it must be a matter of great bemusement to them that so many professing ‘Christians’ have come to believe exactly the same thing! However, the true timeline is crystal clear in the Scriptures, and it cuts across what so many are being taught today. To the Jews, Peter said that Jesus Christ was sent,

²⁸⁷ Gospel of John, chapter 5, verse 43.

²⁸⁸ Augustine of Hippo, Tractates on the Gospel According to St. John, Tractate XXIX, §8.

“whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”.²⁸⁹

What place is there here for any strange pre-tribulational raptures and carnal Jewish dreams about ‘one thousand year reigns’ of Christ in an earthly kingdom? Peter’s words are crystal clear: Jesus will remain in heaven until the “*times of the restoration of all things*”, i.e. the Final Day of Judgement, when He will bring about the resurrection from the dead, judge the world, and inaugurate the new heaven and the new earth in which only righteousness dwells, just as has been foretold by all the prophets from the beginning — the true restoration of all things. Peter presented much the same timeline in his second letter, when he showed that we are *not* looking for any strange pre-tribulational rapture or one thousand-year earthly reigns of Christ on earth — which are both just so bizarre and which must surely be counterfeits — but rather we should be looking for the Day of the return of the Lord, which will be contemporaneous with the Judgement and the renewing of the entire universe:

“But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with God’s promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells”.²⁹⁰

So, all true disciples of Christ are not looking for any Jewish myths such as an earthly reign of Christ or any earthly kingdom in His name. As Peter clearly said above, we are looking for the new heavens and

²⁸⁹ Book of Acts, chapter 3, verses 20-21.

²⁹⁰ Second Letter of Peter, chapter 3, verses 10-13.

new earth, which will involve a completely transformed cosmos, the likes of which Paul referred to when he spoke of how

“the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time”.²⁹¹

That is what the cosmos is longing for. There will be no Israeli earthly kingdom in between. The timeline is simple: increasing apostasy, ridicule, persecution and even assassination of the saints, the setting up of a one-world government, the revealing of the Antichrist, even more terrible persecution of, and all-out war against, the saints, followed not too long afterward by the cataclysmic return of Christ to judge the world and inaugurate a reconstituted cosmos. **That is the timeline; despite what any ‘Israelite’ may proclaim.**

So let us reject the teachings of the New Judaizers and the many Jewish myths they have put into circulation in these confusing days. As Paul put it nearly two thousand years ago:

“Rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth”.²⁹²

²⁹¹ Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 21-22.

²⁹² Letter to Titus, chapter 1, verses 13-14; cf. First Letter to Timothy, chapter 1, verse 4; chapter 2, verse 7; Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verse 4.

CONCLUSION: Why this is Not a ‘Secondary Issue’

Having covered all this ground, readers may question whether it matters what we believe about Israel today? Is it not merely a ‘secondary issue’? On the surface, it may not appear to matter. Christians have always had minor differences about things which do not affect the Gospel or the foundational associated truths. But there are some profound problems here:

Firstly, although the place of Israel is technically a secondary issue — that is, one’s eschatology would not normally be counted as a fundamental of the faith — the problem is that what one believes about Israel has been given the status of a primary issue in some circles today. For example, one well-known propagator of these Jewish Messianic teachings wrote to me personally when I was originally preparing the first version of these writings, warning:

“You are likely to lose many of the friends you made among Charismatic and Pentecostal moderates if you proceed on this ill-contrived course”.

Frankly, such a statement highlights the sinful schism which lies at the heart of the pro-Israel movement among evangelicals today. Why should a man lose friends simply because of what he believes the Scriptures teach about Israel? For this reason, we believe that this issue now matters very much, as it has become unnecessarily and harmfully divisive, not to mention inculcative of other false teachings, like a line of dominoes falling down.

Secondly, there is the question of our stewardship of funds. If Israel today is not God’s chosen people, and the cruel country in the Middle East is not the fulfilment of Bible prophecy, then is it right that we should be siphoning our treasury in the direction of such an antichristian earthly nation? Surely this is another reason why our beliefs on this subject do make a difference.

Thirdly, I have noticed that a fascination with Israel and Jewishness very often becomes progressively obsessive, leading to an almost cultish mentality, in which one shuns other Christians who do not share these beliefs. This regularly happens to a greater or lesser

degree. But where it becomes an obsession, there is spiritual damage in the pursuance of harmful delusions. I received a communication from someone complaining of people on a Jewish ‘Messianic’ style newsgroup on the internet asking

“if they should wear beards, where they can buy prayer shawls from, guidance on blowing the *shofar* (Jewish trumpet made of a ram’s horn) and so forth”.

Such redundant Judaizing has become increasingly widespread in recent years and has plainly come about because of a failure to understand the transition from the old covenant to the new. One could be forgiven for such confusion in the plainly transitory first half of the first century AD; but twenty centuries later there can be no excuse for such ignorance among those who call themselves ‘Christians’, and especially if they are genuine disciples of Christ.

Fourthly, the whole subject of Israel and the Jews has come to consume an inordinate amount of unnecessary prayer-time in the lives of many. There are a number of organisations today which are solely devoted to this issue, with many folk being drawn into wasting hours of valuable prayer-time about an obsolete situation. We would certainly advocate prayer that Jewish people will come to a saving knowledge of Christ; but not to waste time praying about the country Israel as if it is the answer to all the world’s spiritual problems. That must be the ultimate delusion.

Fifthly, we must always remember to distinguish Zionism from Judaism. Zionism is a crusading movement which believes that Jewish people have a divine right to the land of Israel and that they are still God’s chosen people. But not all Jewish people automatically believe that. Many Jews will have no truck with the Zionist movement. They await their Messiah patiently, as the diaspora, in whatever country they are living and will not recognise the state of Israel as having any divine permission to be the restoration of Old Testament Israel. One organisation with such a view is “True Torah Jews” (formerly “Jews against Zionism”), whose stated mission is “*to inform the world that the State of Israel does NOT represent Jews or Judaism*”, and it is well worth

reading their material.²⁹³ I salute those Jews. Although they are not really open to the truth about Christ, they are devout within the scope of their religious aspirations and will not be sidetracked into the setting up of an *impostor* nation-state; neither do they encourage disciples of Christ to do so. I have a strong feeling that, as the time of the end draws near, many such Jews as those will realise the truth and become true disciples — what some people call “completed Jews”.

Sixthly, let us be quite clear here: I am not saying that the present state of Israel has no legal right to exist as a nation at all. That would be to misunderstand the thrust of this book entirely. Let’s face it, most countries in the world have been arbitrarily drawn on a map or have been established through violent (and/or illegal) events and each has as much ‘right’ to existence as the other. **What I *am* saying is that although the earthly nation Israel now has a legal right to exist as a secular state, it never had the right to jettison unwanted peoples from the land and their homes, which action is the root of so many of the problems of today in the Middle East, especially regarding the Palestinians who were herded into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.**

How the country established itself amid so much bloodshed is one of the banes of modern history. The massacre of the inhabitants of the village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem on April 9, 1948, by a mixture of Jewish forces and militant Zionist groups spread terror among Palestinians as a result of which hundreds of thousands fled to Lebanon, Egypt and the area now known as the West Bank, where they became refugees. It is the treatment of the Palestinians as pariahs by the Zionists and the hate-filled legacy inside those refugee camps which has continued to fuel the conflict there to this day, for which I doubt there is any earthly solution.

Thus, although the earthly nation Israel has as much *right to exist* as any other country, it has no right to be championed as ‘God’s land’, as if it was the same as the Israel of the Old Testament of the Bible. In this sense and put simply: It is an impostor.

Finally, it is a real concern that so many have become grounded in a crassly over-literalistic form of biblical hermeneutics. For this naturally

²⁹³ See their website at <https://www.truetorahjews.org/>

colours one's general Bible interpretation and leads to erroneous hermeneutics in other aspects of Bible teaching. Furthermore, it has serious ramifications for the way that we understand modern politics and governance.

The blame for the proliferation of these over-literalistic ideas lies squarely at the feet of C.I. Schofield and his Study Bible. Since 1909, this tendentious work has been hugely influential in shaping the eschatology of generations of Christians, by placing its notes in the pages of the Bible to make them seem as much a part of the Bible as the word of God itself — especially the teaching about the restoration of Israel to the Middle Eastern land.

Make No Mistake: This is Part of a Wider Spiritual Battle

This false understanding of Israel by so many professing 'Christians' today has meant that millions all over the world have been completely hoodwinked by the emerging New World Order, which they mistakenly see as being a benign part of their prophetic plan centred on the restoration of earthly Israel. This has led to a massive deception involving the majority of evangelicals and fundamentalists. That is why so many of them backed the illegal, amoral and genocidal invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003. So intense is their deception that they will support any act of barbarism and cruelty so long as it is seen to be advantageous to their blessed Israel.

We must not see any of this as an earthly battle but as part of a wider spiritual one. We need to understand that so many have been deceived about the modern state of Israel because they have been the victims of spiritual deception. I believe this to be a satanic diversion. This is serious because it has caused a completely false hermeneutic to be applied to prophetic Scriptures such as the Book of Revelation. As an example of the way that this false hermeneutic works, consider the fact that countless millions of Christians believe that the "Armageddon" mentioned in the Book of Revelation refers to an actual geographical location on this planet (i.e. the actual Valley of Megiddo or Jezreel in Israel).²⁹⁴ To believe such a thing is to misunderstand the figurative nature of the term under the new covenant and also the

²⁹⁴ Book of Revelation, chapter 16, verse 16.

symbolic nature of the Book of Revelation. Surely, what we have in the term “Armageddon” is what Philip E. Hughes described as: “A *term of symbolical significance, denoting worldwide revolt rather than a particular territorial locality*”. Armageddon in the Book of Revelation is — as Leon Morris puts it — ultimately “*a symbol for the final overthrow of all the forces of evil by an almighty God*”.

If we believe that Armageddon refers to a geographical location, we are going to miss completely the significance of what lies at the heart of the Book of Revelation and which is the climax of a long process which has been active throughout history in the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’ and the ‘mystery of lawlessness’. If we believe that it refers to a geographical location, we are going to be completely swept away by a great many fallacies regarding the outworking of prophecy — as many already have. In fact, if we believe that it refers to a geographical location, we are going to be totally duped by a process leading to the debacle of ‘Armageddon’ which is being hatched by the emerging New World Order.²⁹⁵ For what we are witnessing in the world today is the gradual burgeoning of evil in the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’, of which Armageddon is the climax — the final spiritual showdown between Satan and Christ and of which there is only one victor.

This Watershed Time of History & Gathering Darkness

A rule that we constantly find in Scripture is that for evil to be ripe for Divine judgement it must fill up the cup of its iniquity. We saw it at the Flood and we saw it at Babel. And those alive at the end of this age will see it again — only that time it will be forever, with no going back. Armageddon is the climax of a process which has been at work throughout this age but which quickens as the end of the age and the return of Jesus Christ approaches. We are in the midst of a watershed time of history. But if we adhere to the prevailing false understanding of Israel today, we will fail to understand this properly and be open to

²⁹⁵ To gain a level-headed and common-sense understanding of the Book of Revelation, please read my commentary on this Book, entitled “The Essential Apocalypse: Making Sense of the Book of Revelation”, which can be obtained by free download here: <https://diakrisis-project.com/2022/06/10/the-essential-apocalypse-making-sense-of-the-book-of-revelation-is-ready-for-download/> .

extreme manipulation and deception which will put us on a path to eventual spiritual destruction.

The darkness is gathering for the ultimate battle. When the Scripture speaks of a battle against “*the camp of the saints and the beloved city*”,²⁹⁶ it is not a reference to some onslaught against a re-formed nation of Israel, as many evangelicals and most fundamentalists believe today. It is instead the battle by the forces of darkness against the New Jerusalem, the true church of Jesus Christ, the sum of all true disciples — also known as “*Mount Zion... the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven*”.²⁹⁷ The ‘camp of the saints’ today is not the literal city of Jerusalem in the earthly country of ‘Israel’. It is rather the *Ekklesia*, the true Church. **All the venom of Satan is directed towards Christ and therefore towards all faithful spiritual disciples of His rather than an earthly multifaith city in the Middle East.**²⁹⁸ The real battle is a spiritual one and its lines are being drawn up even now, for those with eyes to perceive it.

Thus, genuine disciples of Christ can expect to become increasingly suppressed and persecuted today — especially by the false visible church which unwittingly supports the emerging New World Order under one of its key advocates, the modern state of Israel. Israel is championed by many big names. People such as Pat Robertson, the founder of the ‘Christian Broadcasting Network’, go to Israel and give speeches to “the elite of Israel’s political and military establishment”, and to rapturous response:

“when he [Pat Robertson] wrapped up his give-no-ground speech to the elite of Israel’s political and military establishment with the ringing declaration ‘Be strong! Be strong!’ many of his listeners jumped to their feet to give him a boisterous round of applause... Just days later, about 16,000 U.S. churches, many of them in the South, participated in a one-day ‘Stand for Israel’ prayer campaign co-

²⁹⁶ Book of Revelation, chapter 20, verse 9.

²⁹⁷ Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 22-23.

²⁹⁸ See the Book of Revelation, chapter 12, verses 13-17.

chaired by Ralph Reed, who formerly headed the Christian Coalition and then became the Atlanta-based head of the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign in the South”.²⁹⁹

16,000 US churches! What a successful deception this is; and big money is involved. In 2003, the Chicago-based International Fellowship of Christians and Jews gave \$20 million to various Israeli causes. What we have here is a deception fit to deceive even the elect. As author and film-maker, Ted Pike, aptly put it:

“Just as Babylon the Great will deceive all nations in the end times, including, if possible, the “very elect,” so we see unparalleled deception right now... The Zionist descendants of the Pharisees, exactly as Christ described their forefathers, are, through control of their media, presenting a whitewashed façade to the Church and nations. Such window dressing, especially effective in hiding from the world Israel’s brutality in her occupied territories and persecution of Christians resulting from ADL-inspired “Anti-Hate Laws,” has never been more convincing. The fact that the Jewish lobby in the United States has literally deceived the very elect into an unquestioning support of its ambitions and atrocities in the Middle East is awesome evidence of how compelling will be the Jewish powers of thought manipulation as we draw even closer to the end. It reminds us that when Christ warned us that the delusions of the end time would be so convincing that “even the very elect” would be deceived, if that were possible, He was speaking to us not of a time in the grotesque future. He was describing our day. He was warning us that the closer we approach the time of anti-Christ, the less we should assume

²⁹⁹ See <http://www.patroberson.com/Speeches/speechreaction.asp>

that we have a perfect perception of any kind of reality”.³⁰⁰

This is why this deception is so effective and far-reaching. It completely deceives professing ‘Christians’ into supporting injustice and oppression and sets them up to be hoodwinked by a world process to come which will be even more devastating. Christian Zionism (or neo-Judaizing) is now a huge deception in the churches — even more far-reaching than the original Judaizing in Paul’s day, which sought to remould the church into a branch of Pharisaism. The real ones to blame are the leaders and big-names who publish and have the money for major publicity. Many of the deceived ones are simple disciples of Christ who have been conned into thinking that in order to be a genuine Christian one has to “love Israel” — that is, the nation-state of Israel — and resurrect Jewish practices which were superseded two-thousand years ago. Although the leaders’ hearts may well be hardened, as I believe they are, it is my solemn prayer that a little book such as this will open the eyes of both the leaders and the led in the ranks of the new Judaizers.

The Church is “the Israel of God”

Nevertheless, in spite of all that I have said above, however much the neo-Judaizers of today desire to fossilise the redemptive plan of God in an old covenant mould — however hard they try to make disparaging nicknames such as ‘replacement theology’ resonate and become vogue terms — the Bible is clear about the true place of ‘Israel’ today, and the nature of the real Jerusalem. **The Church is the Israel of God today**, as Paul confirmed with these words:

“Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ. For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world

³⁰⁰ <https://truthtellers.org/alerts/Israel-On-the-Way-to-Empire-in-the-Mideast.html>

has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God”.³⁰¹

The new Judaizers would say that “the Israel of God” here refers to the Israel of old. But that is to miss the point of this letter entirely, which was written by Paul to show (amongst other things) that the Judaizers of his time were completely redundant. Paul was plainly equating the *Ekklesia* with the Israel of God. As Charles Ellicott wisely wrote in his commentary about these verses:

“The benediction is addressed, not to two distinct sets of persons (“those who walk by this rule” *and* “the Israel of God”), but to the same set of persons described in different ways. “And” is therefore equivalent to “namely:” Yea, upon the Israel of God. By the “Israel of God” is here meant the “spiritual Israel;” not converts from Judaism alone, but all who prove their real affinity to Abraham by a faith like Abraham’s (compare Galatians 3:7-9; Galatians 3:14; Galatians 3:29; Romans 4:11-12; Romans 9:6-8)”.

This stamp, “the Israel of God”, is what the genuine disciple of Christ has indelibly written on his or her heart (spiritually-speaking), from a Gospel standpoint. As the Lord Jesus Christ Himself confirms:

“The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will never again leave it. Upon him I will write the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God), and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”.³⁰²

³⁰¹ Letter to the Galatians, chapter 6, verses 12-16.

³⁰² Book of Revelation, chapter 3, verses 12-13.

Only those with a *spiritual* understanding of such matters could see Paul's phrase, "the Israel of God", in its real sense. This is where the Judaizers, new or old, have come so badly unstuck. **They have failed to perceive these things spiritually and they thereby cling on to outmoded material physicality which is such a hallmark of Jewish thinking and always has been. This has always been the real difference between true disciples of the Lord and false ones — even in Old as well as New Testament times — just as it has been a chief difference between the *Ekklesia* and the world.** The true church is now the Israel of God, the New Jerusalem. The old Israel and the old Jerusalem are now redundant and are of no consequence to the genuine disciple of Christ. They are only of significance to those who are aligned with the 'spirit of the Antichrist'; and the old Jerusalem may well have its part to play in that 'spirit' (let the reader understand).

File this Book Under the Label of "Truth"

As you now know, the neo-Judaizers' defamatory smear for what I am teaching in this book is what they refer to as "Replacement Theology". This is so that they can more easily anathematize it, as if the basis for the replacement is wrong. But what I am teaching has no need of any theological label. For it is all simply filed under the label of "Truth". For that is what we are dealing with here. **If, for one moment, I doubted the veracity of what I have written throughout this book — and I have prayed about this muchly — I would retract it all in an instant.** Having written a detailed commentary on the Book of Revelation, I know the absolute folly and dreadful outcome of setting oneself up against God. But the reality is that the more I investigate the subject matter within these pages, the more certainly I am convinced that the visible Church, in large part, has been given over to lies, delusions, fanaticism, cultish comportment and clownlike idiocy — only too willing to have its ears tickled by fables and "*the doctrines of demons*".³⁰³ This is why this book now has its third edition.

However, despite this madness of the visible Church, the true *Ekklesia* buried within it keeps herself "*from being polluted by the world*",³⁰⁴ and doggedly carries on her prophetic business of forthtelling truth and

³⁰³ First Letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verse 1.

³⁰⁴ Letter of James, chapter 1, verses 27.

foretelling what the Bible clearly reveals as the future of this world and cosmos. That is surely the antidote to the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’ and the parallel ‘mystery of lawlessness’.

Israel and the Web of the Antichrist

This relation between the mystery of lawlessness/spirit of the Antichrist’ and old Israel/old Jerusalem today is the dark side of where the new Judaizing is leading. For it is no coincidence that there has been such a resurgence of this influence at this point in history, as the end of the age surely rapidly approaches. It is for this reason that this little book has been written. It is not just a question of a few immature Christians naively celebrating a few Jewish festivals, having been convinced that Judaism is cool. **It is far more sinister than that.** For if the leaders of neo-Judaizing get their way, countless people who profess to be disciples of Christ, even among evangelicals, will be unwittingly drawn into the web of the Antichrist, when he is revealed, along with a great many Jews, who will think that their Messiah has come at last. **For this reason, I put it to you that the new Judaizing is ultimately satanic in its outreach, as is all false teaching.**

Why would so many of those who profess to be disciples of Christ not accept the truths clearly shown in the Bible about Israel? Why would they rather accept the teachings of those who teach otherwise? It is as if a pall of deception has fallen over people’s minds blinding them in exactly the same way that the Jews are said by Paul to have been hardened (blinded) in their hearts.³⁰⁵ It seems that not only “*the minds of the unbelieving are being blinded by the god of this age*” (i.e. Satan),³⁰⁶ but also the minds of plenty of those who claim to believe! What a bizarre situation.

Now maybe readers will understand the importance of this issue and why it has been so necessary to devote this many pages to refuting it. It is not just a ‘matter of doctrine’ or ‘mere doctrinal differences’. **We are dealing with a global crusade which misses completely the necessary development of spiritual history from Old Testament/Covenant to New.** It seeks to align the *Ekklesia* with a

³⁰⁵ Letter to the Romans, chapter 11, verse 25.

³⁰⁶

totally redundant religious ceremonial system and outmoded geographical location, while at the same time subtly bewitching her into abandoning a reliance on the cross of Christ alone. Some even teach that Jews do not need to be ‘born again’, ludicrously known as “Dual Covenant Theology”.

This is the main difference between discipleship to Christ and the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’. Discipleship to Christ involves the knowledge and affirmation of Christ as the only necessity for faith and spirituality; whereas the ‘spirit of the Antichrist’ denies that Christ has come in the flesh,³⁰⁷ and celebrates the idiosyncrasies of the self and follows fashionable trends — which *effectively* is what happens in the churches through adding alien things in which one must *also* believe with fervour alongside the simplicity which is in Christ. **Any teacher who brings more than Christ into your space as elements which you should equally believe, practise, follow or love is a false one.** This is precisely why Paul was at great pains to say: “*I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified*”.³⁰⁸ This should be our resolution too. Then we will no longer

“be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head”.³⁰⁹

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³⁰⁷ cf. First Letter of John, chapter 4, verses 1-3

³⁰⁸ First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 2, verse 2.

³⁰⁹ Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 14-15.

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING: 1) Oswald T. Alliss, *"Prophecy and the Church"* (P. & R., 1955), 339pp; 2) John L. Bray, *"Israel in Bible Prophecy"* (available from the author, P.O. Box 90129, Lakeland, Florida 33804, U.S.A.), 80pp; 3) Louis A. DeCaro, *"Israel Today: Fulfillment of Prophecy?"* (P. & R., 1976), 241pp; 4) William Hendriksen, *"Israel in Prophecy"* (Baker Book House, 1968), 63pp; 5) Philip Mauro, *"The Hope of Israel"* (Grace Abounding Ministries, Sterling, Virginia, 1988), 261pp; 6) Israel Shahak, *Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years* (Pluto Press, 1997), 127pp; 7) Ted Pike, *"Israel: Our Duty... Our Dilemma"* (National Prayer Network, 2002).

ABRAHAM OUR FATHER JERUSALEM OUR MOTHER

In many 'Christian' circles today, a common interpretation of the words in the Bible, *"And so all Israel shall be saved"*, is that shortly before the end of this age there will be a global mass conversion of all living Jews. The "Israel" there is taken to mean the earthly nation of Israel. The existence since 1948 of that nation, Israel, in the Middle East, is therefore seen by many as part of the necessary build-up to this mass-conversion phenomenon. Correspondingly, there is an enormous interest throughout the Church in the modern state of Israel and in Jewishness in general. We seem to be witnessing today a massive revival of the kind of Judaizing which the early Church was at pains to reject definitively, such as we see in the Letter to the Galatians.

How has all this come about? How has Judaism managed to inveigle so many of those who profess to be 'Christians' to give their allegiance to modern-day Israel as if it was a replica of the Israel which existed during Old Testament times? It is Alan's belief that the failure to *"accurately handle the word of truth"* has led to an erroneous division of the people of God, who are called to be *"one flock with one Shepherd"*. In this little book, these ideas are examined against the clear teaching of the Bible when understood in its context and with spiritual eyesight.



Alan Morrison is a poet, writer, songwriter, and teacher. Describing himself as *"a cosmic warrior for Christ with nothing left to lose"*, he has been a disciple of Christ for many decades, including several years as a pastor, which gave him a steep learning curve in both his knowledge of the sacred texts and the fascinating vagaries of human nature. Originally from the UK, Alan has lived and worked in several European locations. He currently sojourns in Mexico.

