

The New Testament Israel

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According to the Bible, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were to take the light of God's Word to the ends of the earth; and to be a blessing to all the other races of the world. World Christian missions have been carried out primarily by the so-called Gentile races of Europe and North America. Is it possible that these people of Europe and of America are fulfilling other prophecies about Israel also?

I am going to demonstrate that the New Testament, which Christians accept as a divinely-inspired part of the Bible, is addressed to these same descendants of Abraham we've been reading about in the Old Testament (in the booklet ***"The Old Testament Christians"***). It is rather common today in theological circles to divide the Bible into two parts, and take the first part - that portion written before Christ - and say, "Oh, that was all written to the Jews"; and then take the second part - that portion written after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - and say, "That is addressed to Gentile Christians".

However, many ministers and most Bible students, do recognize that the writers of the New Testament continually refer to the Old Testament as the basis for their New Testament doctrines, and in fact quoted Old Testament prophecies scores of times in their explanations of Jesus Christ, and their own prophecies of events to come. The New Testament foundation is the Old Testament. The confusion lies, not so much in dividing the Bible into two books, but in totally separating them, and not making it plain to the people that the latter part is really a continuation of the first part, and that the New Testament is written to, and written about the same people: the people called Israel.

One gets little argument, when one points out that the Old Testament was written by Israelites, that it is a record of the history of Israel, that God made the covenants with Israel, that the law was given to Israel; and that when it speaks of future events, those events are things which were to come to pass in and to the Israel people. One still gets agreement when one points out that the New Testament was also written by Israelites; that it is a record of the history of Jesus Christ, as

He came to Israel; that it refers to a New Covenant to be made with the House of Israel and the House of Judah; and that there is much in the New Testament writings about the prophetic future of the Israel people. However, these same clergymen who will agree with you so far on that, will then proceed to enter their pulpits, or speak on the radio, and will speak over and over about the New Testament being for the Christians, and the Old Testament being for the Jews.

So I propose to point you to a number of passages in the New Testament which should make it plain that the New Testament is as much of an Israelitish book or message from God to Israel, as is the Old. And further, that you Christians may see that God IS actually identifying you as Israelites, children of Abraham, the inheritors of the Covenants and the promises written in the Old Testament.

When I first announced the availability of our movie ***“Heirs of The Promise”***, I read Galatians 3:29, an often quoted verse from the New Testament. *“...and if ye {be} Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* I said this then, and it bears repeating: Millions of people in Europe and America attend Christian churches and claim to be Christians. In effect they say they are Christ’s. But if you were to ask them, how that makes them Abraham’s seed, and what are the promises which they are to inherit, very few would be able to give you a cogent answer.

In our movie ***“Heirs of The Promise”*** (which I narrate), I read of the promises in the Bible that God made to Abraham, and I point out that we - *YES, we Christians* - have been blessed, as God kept those promises to us. Those promises have been kept in and among the Christian peoples of Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, usually, with most of our people not even realizing that God is blessing us, because of what He promised He would do with Abraham’s seed.

In my own city of Phoenix Arizona, I often hear ministers quote Isaiah 35:1 about how the desert of Israel would blossom as the rose. Then they refer to the Jews irrigating several hundred thousand acres of desert in Palestine. They apparently forgot - or never knew - that we have more land under irrigation in our county (in Maricopa County, Arizona) than do the Jews in all of Palestine. In addition, Christians in many lands, especially in North America, have irrigated millions of acres

of desert land. Christians from Europe have been the organizers and sponsors of great irrigation works in North Africa, the Middle East, Australia and the sub-continent of Asia. The desert blossomed as the rose under Christian hands, not in a few thousand acres, but in tens of millions of acres across the earth. Isaiah 35:1 seems to have had a greater fulfillment in those people claiming they are Christ's and therefore Abraham's seed, than in the people who claim to be Abraham's seed, but who reject Jesus Christ.

But I am getting ahead of my story. Take your Bible and follow with me, in the New Testament, a few of the many passages to prove the New Testament is an Israelite book. The very first verse in the New Testament, Matthew 1:1, identifies it as "*...the book of the generations of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*" So Matthew is writing a book about Jesus, who was descended in His humanity from father Abraham (Hebrews 2:17). Then His human ancestry is listed, every one of them an Israelite. Except of course, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; those three were not Israelites. They can be called Hebrews, since their ancestor was Heber, but only those following Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, can really be called Israelites.

I've heard some call Abraham a 'Jew', when in point of fact, Abraham was not even an Israelite! No one in the Bible is even called by the name 'Jew' until 2nd Kings 16:6, which was nine hundred years after Abraham had died. Anyway, the New Testament begins by tracing Jesus back to Abraham. In Matthew 2:6, the wise men told Herod that Jesus had come to rule over Israel. After Jesus began to preach, He chose twelve disciples, all of them Israelites, and in Matthew 10:6, He commanded them to go "*...to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*"

The gospel of Mark begins in chapter 1:1-2 by telling us that Jesus came "*...as it was written in the prophets*". Those prophets of course, were Israelites. Luke begins his narrative with some family background of John the Baptist and Jesus, and he records that the angel said of John: "*...and he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*" (Luke 1:17).

Who were the people that John would prepare for the Lord, or for Jesus Christ? Well, the verse just before this tells us: "*...and many of the children of*

Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.” (Luke 1:16). Taking that in the context of the rest of the New Testament, the angel certainly meant that many Israelites would believe in Jesus Christ and would become Christians. When? Sometime in the future? No! Back at the time when Jesus came to walk on the earth. That same chapter quotes a long prophecy by John’s father about Jesus Christ, why Jesus came, and what Jesus would accomplish.

All you folk who think that the New Testament is not addressed to Israel, listen to this. In Luke 1:67-73, it says: “...*Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed {be} the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people.*” (Who are God’s people? Well the Israelites, of course!) “...*and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us (remember that Zacharias was an Israelite, so that means for US ISRAELITES) in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy {promised} to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham.*” (Luke 1:69).

Notice that Zacharias, who was a priest in Israel, was saying that the coming of Jesus Christ was directly related to God’s promise to keep His covenant that He had sworn to father Abraham. If you believe that Galatians 3:29 makes you, as a Christian, an inheritor of those promises to Abraham, listen to what the promise or covenant Zacharias was referring to actually was: “...*that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*” (Luke 1:75)

How about that? This great prophecy of Jesus Christ says that He came to keep the promise of delivering Abraham’s seed from the hand of their enemies, that they might serve God. “Oh, I thought Jesus came so that when we died, we might go to heaven, and live happily ever after.” At least that is what the evangelicals and the theologians tell us all the time. And yet here, a priest in Israel connects the coming of Jesus Christ to God’s promises to Abraham, that Abraham’s descendants would be delivered from their enemies. It doesn’t say a thing about delivering any so-called ‘*gentiles*’ to heaven, only about delivering Israel from her enemies.

The last verse in Luke 1 verifies that John the

Baptist came to the Israelites, to prepare the way of Jesus Christ. *“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.”* (Luke 1:80). In Luke 2, after Jesus was born, he was taken by His parents to the temple to be dedicated according to the Mosaic Law, and while there, a man named Simeon appeared at the temple. *“And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name {was} Simeon; and the same man {was} just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”* (Luke 2:25-26).

Christ means ‘Messiah’ or ‘Redeemer’. In Luke 1:68, Zacharias said that God had visited and *redeemed* His people. Now here is Simeon identifying Jesus Christ as that Redeemer, Israel’s Christ. *“And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”* (Luke 2:27-32).

The word ‘gentiles’ in verse 32 comes from the Greek word ‘*ethnos*’ and it means ‘*nations*’. So Simeon was saying that Jesus was to be, through Israel, a light to lighten the nations. And down through history, it has been the Christians from Europe and North America, who have printed and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation. It is through them, these so-called ‘*gentile*’ Christians, that Jesus has been a light to lighten the nations. These Christians of Europe and America are Abraham’s seed, because of Galatians 3:29 where we read *“...if ye be Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”* If they are Abraham’s seed, then they are the Israel through whom it is fulfilled that Jesus was to be a light to the nations. That same verse in Luke 2:32, says that Jesus would be *“...the glory of thy people Israel.”* The fulfilment of that phrase is also found in Christendom. Jesus Christ is the glory of the Christian peoples of Europe, America, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. Another promise or prophecy to Israel fulfilled in Christians. Can they be Israel?

Let us go on in our study proving the New Testament is addressed to Israel. Jesus continually referred

to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in His teachings, often quoting passages from the Old Testament as He taught. In the last chapter of Luke, after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the men on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize Him. When He asked them why they were sad, they replied, telling Him about the Jesus whom they now thought to be dead. *“But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.”* (Luke 24:21).

Their statement is proof that they thought of Jesus as the redeemer of Israel, which of course He is called many times. After Jesus revealed Himself to the rest of the men, He made it plain to them that He, Jesus, was the fulfilment of prophecies made to Israel. *“And he said unto them, These {are} the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and {in} the prophets, and {in} the psalms, concerning me.”* (Luke 24:44).

Jesus then speaks of the future and of the mission His Israelite disciples were to accomplish: *“...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”* (Luke 24:47-49)

So in the little that we have read, the gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus Christ came to Israel; that He came as a result of prophecies to Israel; that He came to keep promises and covenants that God had made with Abraham and with Israel; that Jesus Christ would then be preached to all nations, through these Israelites who would believe in Him. In Acts 1, Jesus said to these same Israelite disciples: *“...but ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8).

In Mark 16:15, these Israelite disciples were told to, *“...go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* These prophecies have all come to pass. They have been accomplished, by Christian Europeans and Americans. They not only claimed the Bible, both the Old and the New Testament, as the book of their religious faith, they have translated it into almost every known tongue. They have printed tens of millions

of copies of it, and have taken it to all nations and tribes of the earth, even to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Yet we are told by the clergy, that these Europeans and Americans are not Israelites. Did God make a mistake in addressing these prophecies to Israel? Was Jesus Christ a failure in His mission to Israel? Did His commands get obeyed only by the inadvertent happenstance of another race doing what Jesus had instructed Israel to do?

OR...

Are these people exactly what Galatians 3:29 said they are? "*Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise*"!!

We are comparing the history of the Christian people of Europe, North America, Australia and South Africa with the Bible prophecies about the descendants of Abraham. God told Abraham in Genesis 17:4, "*...as for me, behold, my covenant {is} with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*" Is it possible that the nations of Christendom which worship Abraham's God, are actually those nations promised to come from father Abraham? We read Galatians 3:29 which states: "*...and if ye {be} Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*" This verse seems to make a direct connection between those who claim to be Christians and the inheritance of something called here "*the promise.*"

During this study we will be examining both Old and New Testament passages to find out what that promise is, but first I want to demonstrate from the New Testament (which is that portion of the Scripture claimed by most Christian churches as their special religious book) that the New Testament is addressed to the descendants of Abraham, called Israelites, or the house of Israel. And I will prove that, whether they know it or not, those nations where Christianity is the predominant religion, are fulfilling prophecies made to the seed of Abraham.

We read several passages earlier, including the long prophecy in Luke 1, (which was made by the priest Zachariah, father of John the Baptist) where he said Jesus had come "*...that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy {promised} to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham.*" (Luke 1:68-73). Now, if we as Christians, are heirs of these Abrahamic promises, and one of those promises is that we would be saved from

our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; then if God keeps promises, that would mean that the Christian peoples would be delivered from their enemies. Just consider the implications that has in relation to the present world situation. Christendom is now on the defensive.

You should also get a copy of the booklet ***“Study into the meaning of ‘Gentile’ as used in the Bible.”*** This is a basic study to understanding the New Testament. Millions of Christians are confused about many New Testament passages, because they have been taught the word ‘gentile’ means non-Israelite. Such is not the case. It is not an English word; it is a Latin word, which for some reason, the King James translators used for the Greek word ‘ethnos’ and also for the Greek word ‘hellen’. ‘Ethnos’ literally means ‘nations’, and in most cases, if one just reads ‘nations’ instead of ‘gentiles’ it makes a lot more sense. However, it’s a little more complicated than that, and you really should obtain the study booklet.

An example of the confusion is in John 7, where Jesus said to the Pharisees in verse 34, “...ye shall seek me, and shall not find {me}: and where I am, {thither} ye cannot come.” He was actually referring to His ascension into heaven, but they didn’t understand that, and we read in the next verse, 35: “Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?” The word here is ‘hellen’, the ancient name for Greece. It is a misfortune that it was translated into ‘gentile’, for what they were saying according to the original text is, “Will he go to the dispersed among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?”

We have religious groups in America which claim that Jesus came to the American Indians while He was here on the earth, and they quote this passage as part of their proof that Jesus went “to the gentiles”. No! The word is ‘hellen’ the ancient name for the land we today call Greece.

We read a few passages from the gospels of Mark and Luke which prove that Jesus Christ came to Israel. Now let’s have a look at the gospel of John. Chapter 1 begins by writing about Jesus and John the Baptist, and then in John 1:29-31 records the first meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist. “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is He of whom I said, After me cometh a man which

is preferred before me: for He was before me. And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.” Jesus was to be made manifest or made known to ISRAEL. Not made known to all the world, or to non-Israelites. John knew Jesus was to be known “...to Israel”. Now those who say that the Jews are Israel, tell us this has never come to pass; that the Jews simply have not accepted Jesus. But strangely enough, another race of people from Europe, if they have any religion at all, profess Christianity, or faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore Jesus has been made manifest, or made known, to this European race. So this is another prophecy about Israel which is fulfilled in these Europeans.

In John 1:45, we read of an Israelite by the name of Philip saying to another Israelite, Nathanael, “...we have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write.” In verse 49, Nathanael, upon meeting Jesus, says to Him, “...Thou art king of Israel.” The title “*King of Israel*” is used for Yahweh God in the Old Testament, so Nathanael equates Jesus Christ with Yahweh.

In John 3, John the Baptist is questioned about Jesus Christ, and he says, among other things, in verse 35, “...the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.” This would corroborate Jesus’ statement to His disciples in Matthew 28:18, “...and Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Then, tying in that doctrine that Jesus has all power, and that He is the King of Israel, with the doctrine that Jesus came to confirm the promises God had made to Abraham and to Israel, then we would naturally assume, that the keeping of God’s promises to Israel has to be by and through Jesus the Christ. So, it wouldn’t be too far-fetched to look to the people who believe in Jesus, to see if the Abrahamic promises are being fulfilled in them through Christ. Later, as we read the Abrahamic promises, we will see that this is what has happened.

In John 5, Jesus himself says the Old Scriptures are written about Him, but He also says, in effect, that one cannot understand and believe the New Scriptures unless one believes the Old! In verse 39, He says to the Jewish Pharisees: “...search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” Then He tells the Jews why they do not believe in Him, in verse 46- 47: “...for had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

Here Jesus states the vital importance of the Old Scripture, and refutes what many modern evangelists preach today. They say they can lead people to believe in Jesus Christ using only the New Testament. Jesus says NO! If ye believe not the writings of Moses you will not believe the words of Jesus. Jesus verifies and emphasises this same point, in His parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. Let's consider that for a moment. You know the story: the rich man is in hell, and he is speaking to father Abraham, to ask Abraham to send Lazarus to his five brethren, and Abraham refuses saying, in Luke 16:29 "*...they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*" The rich man says; "*...Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*" (Luke 16:30).

In effect, the rich man says, "No don't bother with the Old Scriptures, just send some man who has been resurrected from the dead to them and then they will repent." Abraham replies, and remember this is Jesus telling the story, so Jesus is putting these words in Abraham's mouth: "*...and he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*" (Luke 16:31)

Therefore we have Jesus teaching us twice. Once in John 5, and once in Luke 16, that men will not believe Jesus except that they first believe Moses and the prophets. Not only does this refute what the evangelists claim, that they can teach belief in Christ using only the New Testament, it also refutes the claim by the Jews, that they can believe the Old Testament while not believing Jesus Christ! Jesus said to them in John 5:46, "*...for had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.*" He is saying plainly, "The reason you Jews don't believe me, is that you don't believe Moses."

Now we are faced with a dilemma. If we believe Jesus' words in John 5 and Luke 16, then we must doubt the veracity of those who say they believe in Christ, but ignore the Old Scriptures. And if we believe Jesus' words in John 5 and Luke 16, then we cannot accept the claim of some that they can deny Christ, but believe the Old Testament. Jesus said that belief in one goes hand in hand with belief in the other. This confirms my statement made earlier, that the Old Testament and Jesus Christ are inexorably connected. When we add that to what I am now proving, that the New Testament is writ-

ten to and about Israel, then we find that we cannot separate Christendom from Israel. In the final analysis, Israel must be found in Christianity.

In John 4:34 Jesus says; *"...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."* John 6:38, *"...for I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."* In John 7:14 Jesus is teaching, and then we read in verse 15: *"...and the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"* They thought a man had to go to their seminary or college for many years before he could teach. Yet, here, Jesus, who as far as they knew had never attended any of their religious schools, was teaching the people. Jesus answered by saying: *"...My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me."* In John 8:28 Jesus repeats: *"...I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him."*

Let's summarise what we have read about Jesus so far:

1. Jesus came because of the holy covenant, the oath that God swore to father Abraham.
2. Jesus was to be made known in Israel.
3. Jesus was the king of Israel.
4. All power was given to Jesus in heaven and on earth.
5. Belief in the Old Scriptures and belief in Jesus Christ cannot be separated.
6. All things that Jesus taught, His doctrine, was the Father's doctrine.
7. Jesus came to do the will of the Father.
8. Jesus came to finish the work of the Father.

So it can be stated, without fear of contradiction, that whatever it was that Jehovah God promised, taught, or planned to do, in and to Israel, according to the Old Scriptures, should be exactly what Jesus the Christ, intended to carry out, teach, or complete in Israel with that total power that was given Him in heaven and on earth.

Now that doesn't fit very well with what we are taught in the modern church. The church teaches, in effect, "Well Jesus did come to Israel, but He just failed to convince them who He was, and He couldn't carry out that plan and purpose of God in those Israelites. In the end, He and His disciples gave up and they went off looking to see if some other people might believe in Jesus, and luckily they did find some gentiles, living

there around the Mediterranean, and in Europe, and they were able to convince some of them.”

God apparently settled for having His Bible taught by these ‘*gentiles*’, and being worshipped by them, instead of Israel. He just stopped His prophetic time-clock, quit causing any prophecies to come to pass, and has bided His time for the last two thousand years, waiting for these ‘*gentiles*’ to goof up, and then He’ll step in, straighten things out, and get back to His unfinished work among the Israelites.

Meanwhile of course, for two thousand years His chosen people, the Israelites, have carried on defying Him. So as each generation of Israelites dies, God snatches them on down to hell, where all of these Israelites will spend centuries of eternity, screaming and crying in pain and torture. It’s so sad. God did have a covenant with Abraham that would save these Israelite descendants of Abraham. But He just hasn’t been able to convince them, although He will try again, some time in the future, and may save a handful of them for the Kingdom.

I suppose Jesus didn’t really mean it when He said He had all power in heaven and on earth. What He must have meant was that He had some power in heaven, but not much on the earth. And that in a nutshell (perhaps I’m being a *little* facetious) is the Bible story as it is taught by most of Christendom today. Not very flattering to Jesus Christ, is it? And not very conducive to convincing our young people that Jesus Christ will do for them in the future, what we say He will, since in the past He seems to have been a total failure among the people He came to save. When we read Galatians 3:29 to our children, “...*if ye (be) Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*”, how can we ask them to believe that they will have any certain inheritance, when this God we ask them to trust has been so totally unable to perform His previous promises?

Has Jesus Christ really failed? Or is it possible that it is our ignorance of what these promises and prophecies about Israel were, and rather than having failed, Jesus has instead brought to pass exactly what He prophesied He would. Is it possible that the descendants of Abraham have been made into the many nations prophesied in Genesis 17? Is it possible that God has really blessed them, above all people upon the face of the earth, as He said he would do to Israel? Is it possible that we are looking at the wrong people for the fulfil-

ment of the Israel prophecies. And that Israel, far from rejecting Jesus Christ, and being an unbelieving people for two thousand years, have instead believed on him by untold millions, and that even today very few of them worship any other god, but Jesus Christ. That is true of course, only if the Anglo-Saxon - Germanic - Scandinavian - Celtic and kindred peoples of Europe, America, South Africa and Australia, ARE THOSE ISRAELITES! For it is among those people and in no others, that the religion called Christianity has flourished. They and they alone, believe the God of Israel. When we see that, then and only then, can we look across the earth and make sense out of history and Bible prophecy.

Let's go on in the New Testament to see how it tells us rather plainly that it was the descendants of Abraham, the Israelites, who would become Christians in this age. In John 8:39, Jesus said to the Jewish Pharisees, "*...if ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*" All church-goers should know what Abraham's works were - Faith. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness, which is both an Old and a New Testament doctrine. Abraham's children would be children of the faith. In John 10:14 Jesus said: "*...I am the good shepherd, and know my (sheep), and am known of mine.*" Verses 27-28: "*...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any (man) pluck them out of my hand.*"

Israel is called 'God's sheep' in the Old Testament. Since Jesus came to do the will of the Father, it would follow that the sheep here must be Israel. This makes sense with what follows in the next verse: "*...My Father, which gave (them) me. is greater than all; and no {man} is able to pluck {them} out of my Father's hand.*" (John 10:29). These sheep were in the Father's hand, they were then given into Jesus' hand, and no man can take them away from either Jesus or the Father. The people we know as Jews are NOT in Jesus' hand, as they are not Christians; they have not followed this Good Shepherd, and yet Jesus said the sheep the Father had were given to Him and they would follow Him. That must mean the Jews were not the sheep, and that the present Christian people are those sheep; those peoples that God had as His sheep prior to Christ and gave to Christ. Otherwise this too, has failed and Jesus was wrong.

The book of Acts is a study in itself of this ques-

tion as to which people became Christians. We know the disciples were Israelites, and it is certain that most, if not all, of Jesus' followers referred to in the Gospels were Israelites. In the beginning of the book of Acts, on the day of Pentecost, we hear Peter address that crowd in this manner; he calls them: "*Ye men of Israel.*" (Acts 2:22). And in verse 41 we read: "*...then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added {unto them} about three thousand souls.*" Before they were baptized and after Peter called them Israelites, he told them in verses 38-39: "*...then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off. {even} as many as the Lord our God shall call.*"

He said to these Israelites: "Become Christians, for the promise is unto you and to your children." This indicates the promise was racial. It was to that generation of Israelites, and to the generations of Israelites that followed. Then we read of three thousand of these Israelites becoming Christians. In later passages in the book of Acts we read of thousands more becoming Christians. In Acts 3:12 Peter again calls his listeners: "*Ye men of Israel*", and in verse 25 he says to them: "*...Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers.*" Following on in verse 26 he says: "*...Jesus, was sent to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*" They believed, they repented and they became Christians.

As we read on in the book of Acts, more Israelites are converted. Five thousand are numbered. Other groups are not numbered, so the total would be much more. That was two thousand years ago. Just the present day descendants of these few thousand Christian Israelites here, not counting the Christian Israelites in Rome, Galatia, Corinth, Ephesus, and so on, would easily number in the millions today. Are we to believe that these descendants all left the Christian faith and joined the religion of Judaism, and that today none of the progeny of these Israelites are still Christian? That is nonsense! It is obviously more probable that they ARE Christians, and that they just do not know that they are descended from these ancient Israelite Christians, since they have gone under the name Christians for so many centuries in Europe and America.

In Acts 6:7 we find that conversions of the Israelites to the Christian faith was so great, that *“...a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”* How many of us miss these passages and believe the ministers when they tell us, “Oh the Israelite priests and the Israelite people in Jerusalem and in Judea just didn’t accept Jesus and they turned away, and they are still not Christians today.” That is NOT true. Israelites were converted in great numbers in those first years, according to the book of Acts, and even men of the priesthood.

You should read all of the book of Acts with this in mind. In several places it is recorded that entire cities came to hear the stories of Jesus, and most if not all of them were converted and became Christians. By the time of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 70AD, most of the people of Judea and Samaria were divided into two religions: Christianity, and what was known as Phariseeism. I am convinced by history and by Bible prophecy that all of the Israelites became Christian, and it was the non-Israelites who retained the religion of Phariseeism. The persecution of the Israelite Christians was by the non-Israelite followers of Phariseeism who were then responsible for driving out the Israelites from Judea and Samaria in the years between 35-70AD.

As they left Palestine they took the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. We read of this as early as Acts 8:4: *“...therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.”* They scattered over the eastern end of the Mediterranean, into Greece, into Rome and other areas. That is why Paul and the other apostles could travel and find Christian communities wherever they went, and those communities were Israelites; not necessarily ‘gentile’ as we call so many Christians today. When we find that the word ‘gentile’ means ‘nation’ or ‘nations’, then we can see that when Paul said he was going to the ‘gentiles’, he meant he was going to the nations of Israel.

Paul went to the nations of Israel, who had been dispersed by the Assyrians in the centuries before Christ. At the same time, the converted Israelites from Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, were being driven out, so they also helped spread the gospel of Jesus Christ rapidly into the Mediterranean area of Europe. We can verify that these Christian groups were Israelites by reading the epistles in the New Testament to see to whom they

are addressed. The best known epistle for this, of course, is James, which begins: "*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.*" (James 1:1).

In Romans 1:6 Paul calls them "...*the called of Jesus Christ*", in verse 7 he calls them "*Saints*" and in chapter 7 he identifies them by his words as "*Israelites*". In Romans 7:1, he writes: "*Know ye not, brethren, [and then, here is a parenthesis] (for I speak to them that know the law)...*" Who of all the people of the earth would know the Law? "*He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and (as for his) judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord.*" (Psalms 147:20). Only Israelites! No one else had the law. This and other passages verify that the Roman Christians were Israelites. (See also Romans 9).

In the first chapters of 1st Corinthians, Paul addresses them as believers. "*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.*" (1 Corinthians 10:1). He is referring to the Red Sea and the cloud of Glory with which God overshadowed Israel as they came out of Egypt. So he is writing to believers at Corinth, that is in Greece, and he tells them it was THEIR fathers who passed through the Red Sea. That means the believers at Corinth had to be Israelites.

Let's turn to Galatians, which is a little confusing, partly because of the use of the word '*gentiles*', from the Greek '*ethnos*', where it actually means '*nations*'. In that letter we have evidence that the Galatian Christians were Israelites. "*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*" (Galatians 4:5). Who was under the law? Only Israel! Who therefore was redeemed? Israelites! To receive what? The adoption of sons, as Israelites! So the Galatian Christians were Israelites by race.

The next letter Ephesians is full of symbolic phrases which identify its subjects as Israelites. In chapter 1 they are called "*predestinated*", "*chosen*", the "*purchased possession*", and so on. In Ephesians 2:1 he says to them, speaking of Christ: "*...and you {hath he quickened}, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*" Again, the presence of the law identifies them as Israel-

ites for in 1 John 3:4 we read that “...*sin is transgression of the law.*” And in Romans 4:15, “...*for where no law is, {there is} no transgression.*” In order to be transgressors these Ephesians had to have the Law. Again, only Israel had the law.

Also in Ephesians 2 is the passage about these people being reconciled to the household of God, by the blood of Christ. You would not use the term reconciled to anyone who had not once been a part of the group, had been alienated, and now bought back again or reconciled. Remember that at other times I’ve shown how Israel became God’s wife at Mount Sinai, then because of her adultery and worshipping other gods, she was divorced and cast off. Now, Jesus, through His shed blood, has effected a reconciliation, between God and God’s divorced wife Israel. Israel is reconciled.

We do not use the term reconcile to describe a first time marriage between two parties. The term is used only to describe a re-uniting after a separation. Throughout the New Testament, therefore, whenever the term ‘reconcile’ or ‘reconciliation’ is used, it can refer only to divorced and cast off Israel being brought back, through the Christian faith. In addition, there is no prophecy that Christ in this age would convert a people or a nation of non-Israelites, But instead that He would convert the Israelites that is what was happening as the book of Acts and these letters testify.

The letters to the Philippians, Colossians, Thesalonians, Timothy and so on, do not have clearcut passages which can be pointed to, and say, “See these are Israelites”. But they follow the same pattern as the others, in using the names for Israel such as “*saints*”, “*brethren*”, “*sons of God*”, “*elect*”, “*peculiar people*”, and so on. The letter to the Hebrews, by its title and contents, is addressed to Israelites. Then follows James: “*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.*” (James 1:1). James not only identifies them as Israelites, but as scattered tribes, or the dispersed tribes. Since James’ letter was written years before the dispersion of the Jews in 70AD, it is also proof that the dispersion of Israel had taken place prior to the dispersion of the Jews.

I think that is enough for now to prove that the

New Testament is written to and about Israelites. I believe that you can see from what little we have covered here that the New Testament is a record of the conversion to Christianity of most of the Israelites who heard the Gospel. Then of their diligence in carrying that gospel on to other Israelites who were then converted. So that within a few decades of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, most of the Israelites in the eastern end of the Mediterranean had become Christians and were no longer called 'Israelites', 'Jews' or 'Judeans'. I believe that process continued.

However, most ministers today try to tell us that all of the world's Israelites are followers of a religion called 'Judaism', and that they number only a few millions of people. In order for that doctrine to be true, it would mean that in the centuries since the book of Acts and the New Testament were written, all of these Christian Israelites would have had to abandon Christianity, denounce Jesus Christ, turn back to the religion of Phariseism, and resist almost to a man a re-conversion back to Christianity.

In that case, their quick and seemingly almost spontaneous acceptance of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the first century, hardly makes sense, either from a rational or from a prophetic standpoint. No! The only thing that makes sense is that these Israelites did become Christian, and they now number in the tens and hundreds of millions, in Europe, North America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. And that although millions are not diligent in their obedience to the Christian gospel, still they have not turned to religions such as Judaism which are in opposition to Jesus Christ.

You should read in conjunction with this booklet, its companion, "***The Old Testament Christians***". You can read of the covenants God made with Abraham, with Isaac and with Israel, and compare the history of these people of Christian Europe and Christian America to see if we have been fulfilling these prophecies about Israel.

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The Old Testament Christians