

Israel and The Church — Teaching Notes

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Part 1—Israel

A Holy Nation

- ⌘ ^{Deu 7:6} For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.
- ⌘ ^{Deu 7:7} The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;
- ⌘ ^{Exo 19:6} And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.
- God sovereignly chose the Jewish people, not because we were the largest, greatest or most powerful of the nations, but because we were the least of the nations.
 - Otherwise, we would have boasted and said that we were chosen because of our greatness.
 - The Jewish people are a holy and sacred people.
 - God has called us a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
 - We are holy because the Lord has set us apart (sanctified, dedicated, or consecrated us), from all the nations of the earth to do His holy work.
 - ^{Amo 3:2} You only have I known of all the families of the earth.

The New Covenant

- ⌘ ^{Jer 31:31} Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.
- ⌘ ^{Jer 31:32} not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.

- God is married to Israel, yet Israel broke His covenant. Therefore, God promised a New Covenant with us.
- The New Covenant was only made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
- It was not made with the gentile nations since the gentiles were not under the Old Covenant.
- For the gentile people, the New Covenant in Christ is extended through Israel to the nations and is called His everlasting covenant.
- ^{Isa 55:3} Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.

Except the Lost Sheep of Israel

- Ⲗ ^{Mat 15:24} But He (Jesus) answered and said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- Jesus did not come for any nation, except to the lost sheep of Israel.
 - So, what was God's plan for the gentile nations? We will explore that in a moment.
 - ^{Joh 3:16} For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Israel's Calling

- Ⲛ ^{Isa 42:6} I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You (Christ and His brethren, Israel) as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles.
- Jesus is the light of the world, and the nation of Israel, as partakers of His inheritance, was to carry His light and salvation to the gentiles, the nations of the earth.
 - This makes the nation of Israel a covenant, a promise from God to the nations, a gift and eternal calling to be a blessing and to fill the whole earth with fruit.
 - ^{Isa 27:6} Those who come (of the gentiles) He shall cause to take root in Jacob (Israel being the foundation of the church); Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.
 - Paul also understood this when he said:

- ^{Act 13:46} Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.
- ^{Act 13:47} For so the Lord has commanded us: I have set You as a light to the gentiles, that You should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.

God Also Calls the Gentiles

- But much of Israel missed her calling. For this reason, God has now also called and qualified from amongst the gentiles to carry His light and salvation to the nations (Rom 9:24).
- This makes the gentiles fellow heirs and co-laborers with the saved remnant of Israel.

Part 2—One New Man

Spirit of Adoption

- α ^{Rom 9:3} For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,
- α ^{Rom 9:4} who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises.
 - The promise of adoption and well as all His other promises were for the nation of Israel, Paul's own flesh and blood who he called Israelites.
 - We all were orphaned with the fall of Adam, but now through the blood of Christ we all, Jew and gentile have received the spirit of adoption.
 - For, there is no person, Jew or gentile who can enter the kingdom of heaven without God's spirit of adoption (Joh 3:3), and no person can receive the spirit of adoption apart from Christ, for He is the way, the truth, and the life of all men (Joh 14:6).
 - ^{Rom 8:15} For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.
 - How did this promise of adoption extend to the gentiles?
 - Did this extension violate God's covenant with Israel?
 - The answer is no because the covenant is extended through Israel, and does not replace Israel.

- Joh 4:22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

Israel's Divorce

- ⌘ Jer 3:8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.
- ⌘ Hos 1:9 Then God said: Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.

Israel's Remarriage to God

- ⌘ Isa 50:1 Thus says the Lord: Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce, whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, and for your transgressions your mother has been put away.
- ⌘ Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, you are not My people, there it shall be said to them, you are sons of the living God.
- God gave Israel a certificate of divorce to Israel for her idolatry, and He said to them: "You are not my people."
 - Judah on the other hand was never divorced from God because Christ came from the lineage of Judah, and God would not divorce his own Son's lineage, nor would He violate the covenant He made to King David (2 Sam 7:12-13).
 - God repented and said that He has put away Israel's certificate of divorce, and in its place Israel was to receive the promise of adoption and become sons of the living God, "My people."
 - God's mercy towards Israel far and exceeded the judgment they deserved due to their idolatry.

God Marries the Gentiles

- ❖ The verse in Hos 1:10 is also used by the Apostle Paul to speak to the gentiles, for if God was willing to show His mercy and retake Israel as His people through the blood of Christ, why would He distinguish her from the gentiles and not show mercy to them also?

- Rom 9:24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?
- Rom 9:25 As He says also in Hosea: I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.
- Rom 9:26 And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, You are not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God.
- Rom 11:30 For as you (gentiles) were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel's) disobedience,
- Rom 11:31 even so these (the gentile church) also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you (the gentile church) they (Israel) also may obtain mercy.
- Rom 11:32 For God has committed them all (Jews and gentiles) to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.
- Israel's disobedience opened the door for the gentiles to receive God's mercy and salvation.
- The disobedience of the gentile church in turn has opened the door for Israel to receive God's mercy and salvation, for He has committed all humanity to disobedience and has extended to all humanity His mercy through Christ Yeshua.

Provoked to Jealousy

⌘ Deu 32:21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

⌘ Rom 11:11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them (Israel) to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

- From these scriptures it is clear that the gentiles have also been called to provoke Israel to jealousy. God has never abandoned His people, Israel.

Fullness of the Gentiles

⌘ Rom 11:12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

⌘ Rom 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion (blinded by the pride of your own knowledge), that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

α ^{Rom 11:15} For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

- The Apostle Paul is saying that because of Israel's rejection of their Messiah and their rejection of their calling to bring His light and salvation to the nations, God has turned to the gentiles and given them His salvation and Holy Spirit to provoke Israel to jealousy.
- It appears that God has for a season entrusted the salvation of Israel, and for that part the salvation and reconciliation of the world to those gentiles who will faithfully bring fruit for the kingdom.
- ^{Mat 21:43} Therefore I (Jesus) say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.
- For this, the gentiles receive the riches of God's salvation and eternal blessings.
- As incredible and amazing as these blessings have been for the church, Paul says that when the gentiles or gentile church, awaken the Jewish people to their Messiah, that the fullness of God's blessings will flow not only to the church but to the whole earth. It will be like a resurrection from the dead.
- The gentiles and the church will never experience the fullness of what God has for them until Israel is restored.
- This fulfillment of God's word will surpass everything we have ever experienced or read about since the beginning of creation.
- So, what does the fullness of the gentiles actually look like?

The Cultivated Olive Tree

α ^{Rom 11:24} For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

- Notice that both the wild and natural branches are grafted into the same tree. They are not grafted into Israel, for Israel's symbol is the fig tree. They are both grafted into a cultivated Olive tree whose roots are the fathers, the foundation being Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- This foundation rests upon the covenant with Abraham for he is a father of many nations.
- ^{Gen 17:4} As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.
- ^{Gen 17:6} I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

- The natural branches are those of Israel who by faith have received Christ. To them was granted the promise as an inheritance by faith.
- For the gentiles, the wild Olive trees, they being grafted in contrary to nature were given an inheritance that was not naturally theirs to receive. But, because of Israel's transgression, by faith they have become fellow heirs with Israel in Christ to become One New Man.
- Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law (Israel), but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham (gentiles), who is the father of us all
- Rom 4:17 as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations.
- Notice that the Apostle Paul makes a distinction between the nation of Israel who he says are of the law, and the gentiles who are simply heirs by faith alone.
- He is not saying that Israel is under the law. He is saying they are of the law.
- Nonetheless he does make a distinction, for while we are all equal before the Lord in terms of our salvation, we are not all the same for the body of Christ has many parts.

One New Man

- α Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,
- α Eph 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,
- α Eph 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body (the Church) through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.
- α Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body (the Church), and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.
- α Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers (sharers) of the inheritance of the saints (Israel) in the light.
 - The fullness includes the gentile and Jewish believers coming together as One New Man in Christ, provoking Israel to jealousy so that "all Israel shall be saved" (Rom 11:26).

- There is no law required for one to be of the One New Man, except the law of Christ fulfilled on the cross through the Old Covenant (Rom 8:2).
- The remnant of the Jewish believers in Christ are to co-labor with their new gentile brothers and sisters in Christ, to bring His covenant and light to the nations, to the Jew first and then to the Greek.
- As the natural descendants of Abraham come to faith in their Messiah they will fulfill their calling to be light carriers to the gentiles, who in turn will further provoke the Jewish people to jealousy.
- All this until the fullness of the gentiles is complete and the gospel is preached to all the nations, at which time Christ will return and all Israel shall be saved and the kingdom of Israel restored as the governmental seat of authority upon the earth.
- ^{Mat 24:14} And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- ^{Mat 23:39} For I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, BLESSED is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Part 3—Israel and The Church

Hebraic Roots of the Church

- A church is, that which belongs to, or is appropriated to the Lord; to elect, choose out, therefore, corresponding to the Greek ecclesia meaning, an assembly called together (dictionary definition).
- In the Old Testament the ecclesia were called holy convocations.
- These convocations were given to Israel, and by inclusion allowed all those to participate who had circumcised their flesh and joined themselves to the nation of Israel, also called "the saints."
- These became part of natural Israel and had a right to inherit the land.
- ^{Exo 12:48} And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.
- God had always left a door open to any person who desired to join themselves to God's people, Israel.
- This made a gentile the same as one born of the land, and they became an Israelite by their being grafted into God's people.
- In addition, God had made provision for those of the gentiles who were uncircumcised to participate in these holy convocations.

- This place was called the court of the gentiles and was outside the main courtyard of the temple.
- ^{Isa 56:7} Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Israel and the Church

- α ^{Rev 5:9} And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- α ^{Rev 5:10} And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.
- α ^{1Pe 2:9} But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 - Israel is called a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, and here we see in 1Pe 2:9 these same names given to the ecclesia, the church? Do we have two kingdoms and two holy nations? The answer is no.

Israel

- Israel is God's covenant nation, and will always be at the center of God's kingdom through which He will administer His kingdom authority (Isa 60:12).
- Israel is God's first born of all the nations (Jer 31:9), and the nation of His inheritance (Isa 19:25).
- Israel's authority will eventually be extended over every nation of the earth, and they along with Christ will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Isa 41:14-15).
- Israel will inherit the promises of every covenant, from Abraham to Christ (Isa 61:7). Inherit implies a future promise that would be fulfilled in God's timing.
- These covenant promises are extended through Israel to the gentiles. This does not violate God's covenant with Israel because she still receives all of the covenant promises, and remains at the center of God's kingdom authority.
- The gentile nations are simply joined to Israel and partake, share in the covenant.
- Israel is to be a covenant and light to the nations. They are to ultimately bring every nation into covenant with God, and to bring His salvation to the ends of the earth (Isa 66:19).

- Israel is to be God's instrument and vessel in the earth, but because of their transgression God has also called the gentiles to co-labor with the saved remnant of Israel as One New Man in Christ, and to reconcile every nation unto God.
- This until the fullness of the gentiles has come in.
- God had always made a way for a stranger or sojourner to come under the bond of the Old Covenant and join themselves to the nation of Israel.
- However, under the New Covenant the gentiles are not required to be grafted into Israel, but are grafted into the cultivated Olive Tree, the Church, which is comprised of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
- These grafted relationships are different from each other. The Old Covenant required coming under the bond of the law, circumcision of the flesh, and obeying all of the statutes and ordinances called the Mosaic Law.
- The New Covenant requires only faith in Christ and obeying the seven laws of Noah.
- The gentiles are now simply joined with Israel by their relationship in Christ, but do not become part of the nation of Israel itself. They are part of the larger ecclesia called "the body or the church."
- If a gentile chooses to become part of the nation of Israel, in other words desires to become a Jew or an Israelite, they must circumcise their flesh (Eze 44:9), honor the Sabbath (Isa 56:6), and observe the feasts of the Lord (2Chr 2:4).

The Church

- The church was birthed out of the nation of Israel (Joh 4:22), and now includes those of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
- The gentiles are partakers, sharers of the inheritance that was originally for the nation of Israel (Eph 3:6).
- The church is the fulfillment of the promises given to the nation of Israel through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the fathers being the root and foundation of the church).
- The church is the culmination of Israel's co-labored efforts with their gentile brothers and sisters to reconcile all nations to God through the promise in Christ.
- The church is the larger gathering, ecclesia of God's people from the whole earth, and includes the nation of Israel at its center. It is comprised of kings and priests of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation.
- The church is the mystery hidden from the beginning of creation, the next phase of God's revelation of His promises to His covenant people, Israel.

- Notice that the church is never called Israel, nor was Israel every a mystery.
- Therefore, the church and Israel are not the same.
- Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
- Col 1:25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,
- Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.
- The promise they (Israel) would enter into sonship and become sons of the living God, His holy city, the New Jerusalem, and the place of His dwelling, a city not built with stone, but built on hearts of flesh by the spirit of God.
- Heb 11:10 For he (Abraham) waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- This next phase of God's revelation of His promises is now also extended through Israel to the gentiles.
- Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith.
- All these are called the descendants, the children of Abraham of whom by faith, Jew and gentile have received the promise of adoption as sons of God, not replacing the nation of Israel, but taken out of this world to be a larger ecclesia, the body of Christ, the Church that includes the natural branches, the Israelites, and those of the gentile nations who are now no longer called gentiles but called sons of Abraham.
- Gal 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.
- Once a gentile starts to follow Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah, they become a child of Abraham. They become fellow citizens with God's people , Israel, and members of God's household.

Part 4—Our Inheritance

Inheritance of the Nations

- ✠ Deu 32:8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.
- ✠ Zec 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst, says the LORD.
- ✠ Zec 2:11 Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.
- Every nation has their portion of God's inheritance tied to the nation of Israel. Even for those who attach themselves to Jacob and take root in him, their inheritance is also tied the tribe to which they have been joined.
 - Eze 47:23 And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance, says the Lord God.

The Nations Rebuild Israel

- ✠ Isa 61:4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.
- ✠ Isa 61:5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.
- ❖ The gentiles are called to rebuild Israel, both spiritually and physically. We see a picture of this in Isaiah 45, with Cyrus the gentile king of Persia:
- Isa 45:1 Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus (a gentile king, and picture of the gentiles within the church), whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:
 - Isa 45:2 I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.
 - Isa 45:3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.

- Isa 45:4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.
- Isa 45:13 I have raised him (Cyrus) up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways; He shall build My city (Jerusalem) And let My exiles (Israel) go free, Not for price nor reward, Says the Lord of hosts.

The Church and Israel Joined as One

✠ Mic 5:3 Therefore He shall give them (natural Israel) up, Until the time that she (the Church) who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren (natural Israel) Shall return to the children of Israel (true Israel).

- This prophesy is for a time at the end of the age when Christ returns to the earth with His bride, the Church, and we are joined with the saved remnant of the whole house of natural Israel to become One people of God.
- Then the kingdom of Israel will be fully restored, and the Church will rule and reign with Christ as kings and priests over the whole earth for all eternity.