

Who is Israel?

The purpose of this study is to show who is Israel and to understand the joining of Israel and Judah in the last days (The two sticks).

Paul is lamenting the fact that his kinsmen (Israel) in the flesh, to whom were given the law, the covenants and who should have received the adoption as Sons on YHWH (God), did not obtain it through unbelief. The promise had been given to Israel to obtain this spiritual adoption, but Paul points out that all Israel is NOT Israel.

Rom. 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

They which are physical children of Israel in the flesh are NOT the children of YHWH, only the children of the promise, the ones who obtain the spiritual adoption, are counted as Israel.

Paul goes on to quote Isaiah concerning the children of Israel, that even though the number of them be as the sand of the sea, that only a remnant shall be saved. (Rom. 9:27)

The distinction is made between Physical and Spiritual Israel (The Elect).

Rom 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded {blinded: or, hardened}

The gentiles obtained what Israel sought because they accepted it by faith whereas Israel tried to establish their own righteousness. (Rom. 9:31).

Paul explains in the following verses that those of Israel that believed not, were broken off from their natural Olive tree and believing gentiles were grafted in.

Rom 11:17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; {among them: or, for them}

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own

conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.
{blindness: or, hardness}

- 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
27 For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

We see then that all of Israel will be saved, that is, the Elect which are called spiritual Israel. Those physical descendants of Israel, who are in unbelief, have been taken out of spiritual Israel. (All Israel is not Israel).

Paul speaks of the New Covenant that YHWH made with Israel which he referred to in Verse 27 above and explains in more detail below.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

- 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.
10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: {put: Gr. give} {in: or, upon}

We find the same Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

- 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: {although...: or, should I have continued an husband unto them?}
33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

This apparently includes Judah (Jews) after the Messiah has returned and they recognize him by the nail prints in his hands where he says he was wounded in the house of his friends. The above scriptures in Jeremiah are in the setting of the Millennium after the tribulation mentioned in Jer. 30:7. YHWH indicates He will regather the remnant of Israel at that time and bring them into their own land where he will feed them and keep them as a shepherd does his flock (Jer. 31:10). The bible indicates that there will be a great regathering of Israel at the beginning of the Millennium. Many will give their lives during the tribulation and the rest will be scattered. YHWH says He will fish them out of the holes of the rocks. (Jer. 16:16) and He will leave none of them behind. (Eze. 39:28). This is after the Battle of Armageddon of Ezekiel 38, so it is still a future event. The regathering of physical Israel that is going on now is NOT the final regathering that is prophesied in these chapters.

Eze. 34:12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep *that are* scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. {As...: Heb. According to the seeking}

The cloudy and dark day is usually a reference to the Day of YHWH.

- 13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.
- 14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.
- 15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.
- 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up *that which was broken*, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

I don't believe the following is a reference to the sheep and goat judgment, but is more likely the Bema judgment of Yahshua, our Messiah.

- 17 ¶ And *as for* you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats. {cattle: Heb.

So, I said all the above to get to the Prophecy of the Dry Bones, which I believe speaks of the Resurrection of spiritual Israel, not the physical nation of Israel as most believe.

- Ezek. 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
 - 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.
 - 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
 - 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.
 - 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. {wind: or, breath}

Note that it says they were slain.

- 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.
- 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
- 12 Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.
- 13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.
- 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

We know that the Spirit of YHWH is not now in physical Israel. This prophecy is about spiritual Israel which is resurrected at the return of the Messiah. It continues:

- 15 ¶ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,
- 16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of

- Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions:
- 17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.
- 18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these?
- 19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

Ephraim is the son of Joseph whom Jacob (Israel) blessed in Gen. 48: 14 and pronounced in Gen. 48:16, that his name (Israel) be named upon them (Ephraim and Manasseh). So, the gentile son's of Joseph were adopted into Israel. In verse 19 above, it says they will become one with Judah. This may be a reference to Judah (Jews) accepting the New Testament and the New Covenant, which we know will happen when Yahshua returns.

- 20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.
- 21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:
- 22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

There will be ONE king over them, Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

- 23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.
- 24 And David my servant *shall be* king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

Yahshua will sit upon the throne of David.

- 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, *even* they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever.

Yahshua will be their prince forever.

- 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.
- 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 28 And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

This can only take place after the return of the Messiah. And all of this transpires after the great and terrible Day of YHWH. The Millennium is the setting for the joining together of the two sticks because the Jews only recognize the Messiah (Jesus) when he returns and that happens at his second coming.

Comments are welcome.