

Who is Israel?

“...the just
shall live by
faith” -
Habakkuk 2:4



WHERE DID THE NAME ISRAEL COME FROM?

In all walks of life, Christian and non Christian alike, people have the assumed belief that the chosen people of God is still the physical nation of Israel located in the Middle East. The truth is, Israel is the name of God's chosen people.

The first time we hear of ISRAEL is when the name was given by God to Jacob in Genesis 32:28, where it says, "...Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." So we see here that Israel itself means "one who has power with God and with men and has prevailed." All throughout scripture we find that those who have faith in Jesus Christ are the ones that prevail. God's promises to the physical nation of Israel were based on the condition of her continued faith. It was long prophesied that others would inherit the promises. We find in Hosea 2:23 the Lord states, "...I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God."

Later in Acts 13:46 we see that regarding the Kingdom of God, it was taken from physical Israel "...It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

In Romans 2:28,29 we learn that, "...he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. "

A few chapters later in Romans 9:6-8 it says that, "...they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."

ARE YOU PART OF SPIRITUAL ISRAEL?

Galatians 3:29 says that "if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." What is this promise you ask? Galatians 3:14 says, "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

And finally, Galatians 3:26 says, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The Jews reject and deny Jesus as Saviour. Christ tells us in Matthew 10:33 "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

The true Israel are those who "have power with God and with men and prevail." It's those Christians that have faith in Jesus Christ and His redeeming power just like Jacob did.

Satan is using this falsehood as a smokescreen so people will not be ready for Jesus' return! All the prophecies that speak of Israel have been twisted out of context causing people to watch the nation of Israel for signs instead of watching the true Israel and how the prophecies are actually being fulfilled, those Christians that are scattered abroad being persecuted for their faith. In studying the prophecies regarding Israel in the last days, we should look at those who "keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus"-Revelation 14:12

One last thing for the believers in Christ, the children of Abraham, Christians, Israel....The Lord of all the earth tells us "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you."-Exodus 31:13

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