

Are the Jews God's Chosen People Today? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Are the Jews God's chosen people today? Why not ask one of them, the Apostle Paul?

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed (**Romans 9:1-8**).

Paul was an "Israelite," the national name of God's chosen people (**Genesis 35:9-12; Nehemiah 9:1-3; 13:1-3**). To those who falsely proclaim that the Northern Kingdom, called "Israel," dissolved into oblivion, the New Testament identifies Nathanael (**John 1:47**) and Paul (**Romans 9:3-4**) each as an "Israelite!" Specifically, according to tribe, Paul was "a Jew" (**Acts 22:3**), as was Jesus (**Hebrews 7:14**). By the time of the New Testament, "Jew" was a commonly accepted name for God's people living under Moses' Law (**John 4:9**).

Paul gave triple assurance of the truth he was about to assert: his own honesty, his educated conscience, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit (**verse 1**). The truth hurts, that our "countrymen" (whether family, neighbors, state, or nation) will not all be saved unless they relent and obey Jesus Christ (**verses 2-3**). Paul was offering himself as sacrifice for his people, as Moses had done (**Exodus 32:30-33**), and neither offer was accepted.

The Israelites (Jews included!) were part of God's Plan to save believers, but not that entire plan! Paul outlined their part by using the phrases: **(1) "to whom," (2) "of whom," (3) "from whom."**

(1) They were the people **"to whom"** (**verse 4**) God had given:

- a. "the adoption," which occurred when the Israelites were delivered by God out of Egypt (**Exodus 3:9-10; 4:21-23; 19:1-6**). **But today**, God's people are adopted by obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ: "But when the fullness of the

time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" (**Galatians 4:4-6**);

- b. "the glory," which filled the tabernacle in the wilderness (**Exodus 40:34-38**), and then Solomon's temple (**1 Kings 8:10-11**). **But today**, the church of Christ began on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection with the Holy Spirit overpowering both the message and language of the Apostles (**Acts 2:1-4**), which, when followed (**Acts 2:38-47**), continues to transform a Christian into the "image" of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 4:18**).
- c. "the covenants," one of which gave blessing through Abram (**Genesis 12:1-3**), then Isaac (**Genesis 26:1-6**), then Jacob (**Genesis 28:10-19**) whose name was changed to "Israel" (**Genesis 32:28**). The other covenant that Isaac gave to Esau (**Genesis 27:34-40**) left Edomites (or Gentiles "in the flesh") as "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (**Ephesians 2:11-12**). **But today**, only submission to the cross of Jesus Christ can bring them together (**Ephesians 2:13-22**), for Jesus said, "this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (**Matthew 26:28**).
- d. "the giving of the law," on Mount Sinai (**Deuteronomy 5:1-5**) and they were to do "as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses" (**Joshua 23:6**). **But today**, though "the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (**John 1:17**). To people who are "buried with Him in baptism" to be forgiven of all trespasses, Jesus' death "wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (**Colossians 2:12-14**).
- e. "the service of God," pointed out the work of the priesthood who ministered to "the earthly sanctuary" (**Hebrews 9:1-9**), offering "the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins" (**Hebrews 10:11**). **But today**, Christians, "as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 2:5**).
- f. "the promises," which God had made to Abraham.
 - 1) "The seed" God promised (**Genesis 22:18**) was only Jesus Christ, for "to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ" (**Galatians 3:16**). God knew what He meant when He made the promise, and He explained it to us through Paul's letter.
 - 2) "The land" which Abraham could see (**Genesis 13:15**), God described (**Genesis 15:18-21**) and God entirely gave. After the Promised Land's conquest, Joshua wrote:

So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass (**Joshua 21:43-45**).

Because of their unfaithfulness, God took them out of that land 70 years (**2 Chronicles 36:15-21, 22-23**), but every prophecy that said they

would return to that land was completely fulfilled as recorded in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah! God has no unfulfilled promise that Jews should have that same land today! **But today**, Jesus has said:

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen" (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

(2) They were the people "**of whom are the fathers**" (**verse 5**), the lineage through whom Jesus Christ would come. Paul had written,

Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (**Romans 1:3-4**).

All the genealogies of the Old Testament, including **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**, were to provide the unbroken physical line from Adam, Abraham, and David to Jesus Christ! After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, no one can prove a physical relationship to Abraham! The Mideast Wars are fought by Muslims who claim Abraham through Ishmael, and Jews who claim Abraham through Isaac, and neither are right! Jesus said, "whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (**Matthew 12:46-50**).

(3) They were the people "**from whom**" (**verse 5**) Christ would separate Himself as the Son of God, "who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God." In Christ "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (**Colossians 2:9**), for "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (**2 Corinthians 5:19**). The church of Christ (**Matthew 16:18**; **Ephesians 1:22-23**) is not Judeo-Christian, but Christian (**Acts 11:26**)!

Paul's conclusion is inescapable:

They are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God." Physical descendants of Abraham "are not the children of God!" Not everyone who claims kinship with Abraham really has it, but "the children of the promise are counted as the seed." "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (**Galatians 3:26-29**).

Since God has fulfilled and finished His use of the physical Jewish people, they, like "Gentiles," must obey Jesus Christ to be saved. Paul wrote,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the

Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith' (**Romans 1:16-17**).

No physical lineage to Abraham matters any more, nor is there a "holy land" on earth, for Christ is on David's throne in heaven (**Acts 2:29-32**), ruling over His spiritual kingdom of souls (**1 Corinthians 15:24-26**) until He comes again (**Acts 17:30-31**).

According to **Romans 9:1-8**, if the Jews are God's chosen people today, then: every prophecy of the Old Testament that was fulfilled in Jesus Christ was false; all "certainty" of the Gospel and "infallible proofs" (**Acts 1:3**) of Christ are frail and foolish; and "the gospel" which should be unchanging (**Galatians 1:8-12**) has changed! It is a complete denial of the entire New Testament Gospel if Jews are still (and will be in the future) God's chosen people!

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