**Is the Church True Israel Today?**

**Introduction:**

We hear so much today about the nation of Israel. Many believe that God has special plans made to the nation in the Old Testament. But what is the truth of the matter? Has the church supplanted physical Israel as God’s special people? Is the church true Israel today?

**Body:**

1. **The Parable of the Vineyard**

* Matthew 21:33-46 “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir, Come. Let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken, but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’ 45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that he was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.” NKJV Tenants are Jews. Matthew 21:45 The Jews [nation of Israel] killed God’s son; thus the kingdom of God would be taken from them. So God took the blessings away from fleshly Israel and gave them to the Gentile believers. The Jews as a nation were going to be replaced by something new, the church. The “wretched end,” the destruction of Jerusalem came in 70 A.D. (Matthew 3:7-10) “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’ ” NKJV

1. **Israel in the Book of Acts**

* Acts 13:44-47 “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, They opposed the things spoken by Paul. 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. 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.’ ” NKJV The Jews as a nation rejected Jesus the Messiah. (Acts 18:5-6) “When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them. ‘Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’ ” NKJV
* Acts 15:14-19 “Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 16 ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the Lord who does all these things.’” NKJV Cites: Amos 9:11-12 in Verse 16 This is a prophecy that the rebuilt tent or tabernacle of David is the Lord’s church where both Jew and Gentile can find salvation.

1. **Israel in the Book of Romans**

* Romans 9:6-8 “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.” NKJV Being in the bloodline of Abraham doesn’t save. Children of the flesh are not the children of God.
* Romans 11:1,5 “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” NKJV Some Jews were accepted [a remnant] because they became a part of the elect of God in the church. (Romans 9:27) “Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved.” NKJV
* Romans 11:25-27 “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’” NKJV The Deliverer is Jesus Christ. Jews have not been discarded. They can be saved like the Gentiles. (Romans 11:23-24) “And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 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?” NKJV

1. **Israel in the Book of Galatians**

* Galatians 3:23-29 “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 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.” NKJV The Law of Moses, which was for the nation of Israel, was only to last until the Seed [Jesus] should come. All one in Christ, we become descendants of Abraham by an obedient faith, not by physical lineage.
* Galatians 4:21-31 “Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: ‘Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.’ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.’ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond woman but of the free.” NKJV Physical Israel [present Jerusalem] was cast out and replaced by spiritual Israel [the church].
* Galatians 6:15-16 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.” NKJV The Israel of God cannot be fleshly Israel because the Israel of God walks according to Christ. (Philippians 3:3) “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.” NKJV (Colossians 2:11-12) “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

We have seen the Jews [fleshly Israel] are not God’s chosen people today. Rather, the church [spiritual Israel] is God’s special people. All who place their faith in the risen Savior, repent, confess, and are baptized become a part of spiritual Israel.

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