

# ***Are The Jews God's Chosen People?***



***By  
John T. Polk II***

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## Are the Jews God's Chosen People?

**Question:** Are the modern-day Jews still God's chosen people?

**Answer:** No, and here's why. To claim that they are is a denial of the New Testament. For example, the Apostle Paul said by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

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).

Clearly, Paul was declaring that:

1. ***This thought was approved by the Holy Spirit;***
2. ***He was discussing physical Israelites' purpose in God's plan;***
3. ***He claimed he was, by birth and background, one of them;***

**4. *However, physical lineage to or through Abraham is not honored by God any longer!***

Everything God intended to use the Israelites for was on a "limited" basis, and God is the one who limited it!

1. ***The same Holy Spirit of God*** that inspired the record of physical nation of Israel in the making, was now guiding Paul in recording that that physical nation no longer was acceptable to God as His "chosen people." *The same Holy Spirit that wrote Scripture designating Israel as God's "chosen people," explained that God did not choose Israel because they were:*
  - a. *More numerous than other nations* (**Deuteronomy 7:6-9**);
  - b. *Special on their own*, but because their "fathers" were (**Deuteronomy 10:15**);
  - c. *Possessed of righteousness* (**Deuteronomy 9:1-5**);
  - d. *But because they were a stubborn and rebellious people* who could be used by God to accomplish His purposes (**Deuteronomy 9:6-24; 31:22-29**).

God was right, for till this day, they stubbornly reject God's refusal of them.

2. ***To make them a physical nation, Israel was given:***
  - a. Protected Lineage/genealogy *until* "the seed" promised to Abraham came:
    - i. So said God's promise to Abraham (**Genesis 22:16-18**);
    - ii. But the final goal was in Jesus Christ (**Galatians 3:15-16**)
    - iii. If not, then it denies Jesus as the Christ (**1 John 2:22**)

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- b. Preserved Law through Moses *until* Jesus died on the cross.
  - i. So said Moses (**Deuteronomy 18:18-22**);
  - ii. So said Jesus Christ after His resurrection (**Luke 24:44-47**);
  - iii. So said the Apostle Paul (**Galatians 3:13-19**).
  - iv. It denies Jesus Christ's priesthood if otherwise (**Hebrews 7:11-22**)
- c. Promised Land was given as promised *until* Jesus came.

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**)

- a) Because of their unfaithfulness, God removed Israel (and then Judah) from that land for 70 years (**2 Chronicles 36:11-21**), but they returned and rebuilt Jerusalem, the Temple, and their Land, according to God's prophets (**Ezekiel 9:9; Jeremiah 25:8-14; Jeremiah 29:8-14; 2 Chronicles 36:11-23; Jeremiah 30:3-4; Ezra 1-4; Nehemiah 1:1-11**).
- b) So said Moses and other prophets (**Deuteronomy 4:26-40; Jeremiah 25:1-14; Ezekiel 36:16-38**);
- c) So said Jesus Christ (**John 4:19-26**);

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- d) Paul taught there were no land boundaries in Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:1-2**).
3. ***Paul claimed he was once, by birth and background, one of them, Romans 9:1-5; Romans 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:22; Philippians 3:4-5.***
4. ***But that physical lineage to or through Abraham is not honored by God any longer!***
- a. Not birth, but re-birth makes children of God, **John 3:3-5; Galatians 3:23- 4:7;**
  - b. Circumcision of the heart, not flesh, **Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 6:15; Colossians 2:9-12;**
  - c. Spiritual family of God, **Luke 8:19-21; Galatians 4:21-31; Ephesians 2:14-22.**

Sadly, there are many who claim to follow Jesus Christ while believing that the physical Jews today are still God's chosen people who should be in their "promised land," but those very beliefs are ignoring all the New Testament says about Jesus Christ and His kingdom, and act as if Jesus the Christ had never come!

We must obey Jesus Christ and not Moses, for, as Paul said: "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain" (**Galatians 2:21**). *Paul's conclusion completely denies all who claim that the Jews today are still God's chosen people*, for he said, "those who

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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 9:8**).

Now, let us re-read **Romans 1:16-17**:

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. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'

**The church of Christ is the "Israel of God" (**Galatians 6:16**) for the following reasons:**

1. **Galatians 6:13-17:**

For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Paul was associated with the cross of "our Lord Jesus Christ," not circumcision of the flesh; being "a new creation," not born into fleshly Israel; walking with "this rule," not the Law of Moses; and being persecuted for following Christ, not being a Jew!

2. **Romans 4:9-13:**

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Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Christians are those who walk in the steps of the faith of uncircumcised Abraham, and includes all who follow Jesus Christ, whether physically circumcised or uncircumcised; this faith of Abraham is “the righteousness of faith” that lead to Jesus Christ as the promised “seed” (**Galatians 3:16**; and Abraham is “the father of all those who believe” and not to those who disbelieve in Jesus Christ!

### 3. **Galatians 3:6-14:**

Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ 9 So then those who



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are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.' 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for 'the just shall live by faith.' 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but 'the man who does them shall live by them.' 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

God's plan was never to involve the Israelites only as His people, but always intended to include Gentiles;

"only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham," but "the law [of Moses] is not of faith," thus keepers of the Law of Moses today have no special standing before God;

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law," thus His cross is the price for freeing all from the "curse of the law;"

only through Jesus' cross can "the blessing of Abraham" "come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus."

4. In **Acts 2**, "Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven" (**verse 5**), heard the Apostles preach Jesus Christ as the new prophet of God and the sacrifice for sins they never had under Moses' Law (**verses 22-36**), and realized their physical lineage no longer mattered.

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Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' 38 Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. **Acts 2:37-41**

Later, in **Acts 10**, Peter preached essentially the same message to the first Gentiles (**verses 34-48**). Only afterward did God call the disciples of Jesus Christ "Christians" (**Acts 11:26**). Whether Jews or Gentiles, "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (**Acts 2:47**). "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, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all" (**Romans 4:16**).

Anyone today who follows the faith of Abraham all the way to Jesus Christ may justly claim Abraham as their "father," for he is "the father of all those who believe" (**Romans 4:11**).

## Are the Jews God's Chosen People?

The church of Christ today emphasizes the same invitation that it did in the 1<sup>st</sup> century when it began:

But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. (**Romans 10:8-12**)

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (**Acts 22:16**).

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

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