

# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



What is the relationship between Israel and the Church?  
Did the Church replace Israel in the program of God, or does  
God have a future plan for them distinct from the Church?



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Premillennialism, and its theological sister, dispensationalism, argue that in connection with the second coming of Christ, God intends to reestablish a Jewish kingdom in Palestine. The doctrine contends that there is yet a purpose to be served by physical Israel.





“Contrary to replacement theology, dispensationalism teaches that, after the rapture ([1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#)), God will restore Israel as the primary focus of His plan.

The first event at this time is the tribulation (Revelation chapters 6–19).

The world will be judged for rejecting Christ, while Israel is prepared through the trials of the great tribulation for the second coming of the Messiah. Then, when Christ does return to the earth at the end of the tribulation, Israel will be ready to receive Him. The remnant of Israel who survive the tribulation will be saved, and the Lord will establish His

kingdom on this earth with Jerusalem as its capital. With Christ reigning as King, Israel will be the leading nation, and representatives from all nations will come to Jerusalem to honor and worship the King — Jesus Christ. The church will return with Christ and will reign with Him for a literal thousand years ([Revelation 20:1–5](#)).”





**Supersessionism**, also called **replacement theology** or **fulfillment theology**,<sup>[1]</sup> is a **Christian theological doctrine** which describes the theological conviction that the Christian Church has superseded the **nation of Israel** assuming **their role as God's covenanted people**,<sup>[2]</sup> thus asserting that the **New Covenant** through **Jesus Christ** has superseded or replaced the **Mosaic covenant** exclusive to **Jews**. Supersessionist theology also holds that the universal Christian Church has replaced **ancient Israel** as **God's true Israel** and that Christians (including gentiles) have replaced the biological bloodline of ancient **Israelites** as the **people of God**.

For most of Christian history, supersessionism has been the mainstream interpretation of the New Testament of all three major historical traditions within Christianity – **Orthodox**, **Roman Catholic** and **Protestant**.<sup>[19]</sup>



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



**DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY?**

**REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY?**

**COVENANT THEOLOGY?**

**FULFILLMENT THEOLOGY?**

**INCLUSION THEOLOGY?**



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



The connection between Ecclesiology and Eschatology.

Our understanding of the covenants and promises of God.

What are some consequences of misunderstanding these Biblical doctrines?



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



It was declared that through Abraham a seed would come by whom all peoples of the earth would be blessed (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; 22:17-18).



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



## **Genesis 12:2–3 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

God promised Abraham that he would give the land of Canaan to his descendants (Gen. 13:15; 15:18)

430 years after God made this promise to Abraham, his descendants were given a special law and ritualistic system of worship which were designed to separate them from the other nations of the world (Ex. 19:5-6; cf. Eph. 2:14).

All of this, of course, was in view of the coming Messiah (cf. Gal. 3:24-25; Heb. 9:1-10).



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Psalm 105:5–12 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, <sup>6</sup> O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! <sup>7</sup> He *is* the Lord our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth. <sup>8</sup> He remembers His covenant forever, The word *which* He commanded, for a thousand generations, <sup>9</sup> *The covenant* which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, <sup>10</sup> And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel *as* an everlasting covenant, <sup>11</sup> Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,” <sup>12</sup> When they were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.



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KINGDOM / LAND / BLESSING

Flesh / Restricted / Temporal

**Physical body / life /  
relationships?**

**Material possessions /  
treasures?**

**Types? Shadows?**

KINGDOM / LAND / BLESSING

Spirit / Unrestricted / Eternal

**SPIRITUAL body / life /  
relationships!**

**SPIRITUAL possessions /  
treasures!**

**SPIRITUAL REALITIES!**

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE / DURABLE / REAL?



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

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KINGDOM / LAND / BLESSING  
Flesh / Restricted / Temporary

I Corinthians 15:46  
(NKJV)

DOM / LAND / BLESSING  
Unrestricted / Eternal

**Physical body / life / relationships?**  
**Material possessions / treasures?**  
**Types? Shadow**

<sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.


**SPIRITUAL body / life / relationships!**  
**SPIRITUAL possessions / treasures!**  
**SPIRITUAL REALITIES!**

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE / DURABLE / REAL?



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

## **The axe lieth at the root (Mt. 3:10)**

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- ▶ Like modern millennialists, there were Jews of old who felt that there was intrinsic virtue in being a physical descendant of Abraham and of the nation of Israel (cf. Jn. 8:39).
  - ▶ John the Baptizer informed them, however, that God was able to use stones in raising up seed to the patriarch. He then warned: “And even now the axe lieth at the root of the trees” (Mt. 3:10).



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

## **The axe lieth at the root (Mt. 3:10)**

- ▶ The “wrath to come” (Mt. 3:7), would find its application in the destruction of the Jewish nation by the Romans in A.D. 70.
- ▶ When a tree is cut down, there is hope that it will sprout again, provided its stump or roots remain (cf. Job 14:7, 8; Isa. 11:1). But when the axe is laid at the root, where is the hope of restoration? There simply is none!



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

## The cursed fig tree (Mt. 21:19)

- ▶ Christ once pronounced a curse upon a barren fig tree near Jerusalem: “Let there be no fruit from thee henceforth for ever” (Mt. 21:19). The tree served as an apt illustration of fruitless national Israel.
- ▶ The Lord announced to the Jews: “The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Mt. 21:43; cf. 1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 6:16).



HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

# **JESUS'** *PROPHECY OF THE* **FALL** *OF JERUSALEM*

- ▶ Matthew 23:37-38; 24:1-35; Luke 13:35; 19:43, 44; 21:6, 20, 24.
- ▶ TEMPLE DESTROYED AD 70
- ▶ GENEALOGICAL RECORDS DESTROYED.
- ▶ IMPOSSIBLE FOR JEWS TO KEEP THE LAW.



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

## **Romans 9:1-11:36**

What was the purpose of Israel? (Rom. 9:1-5)

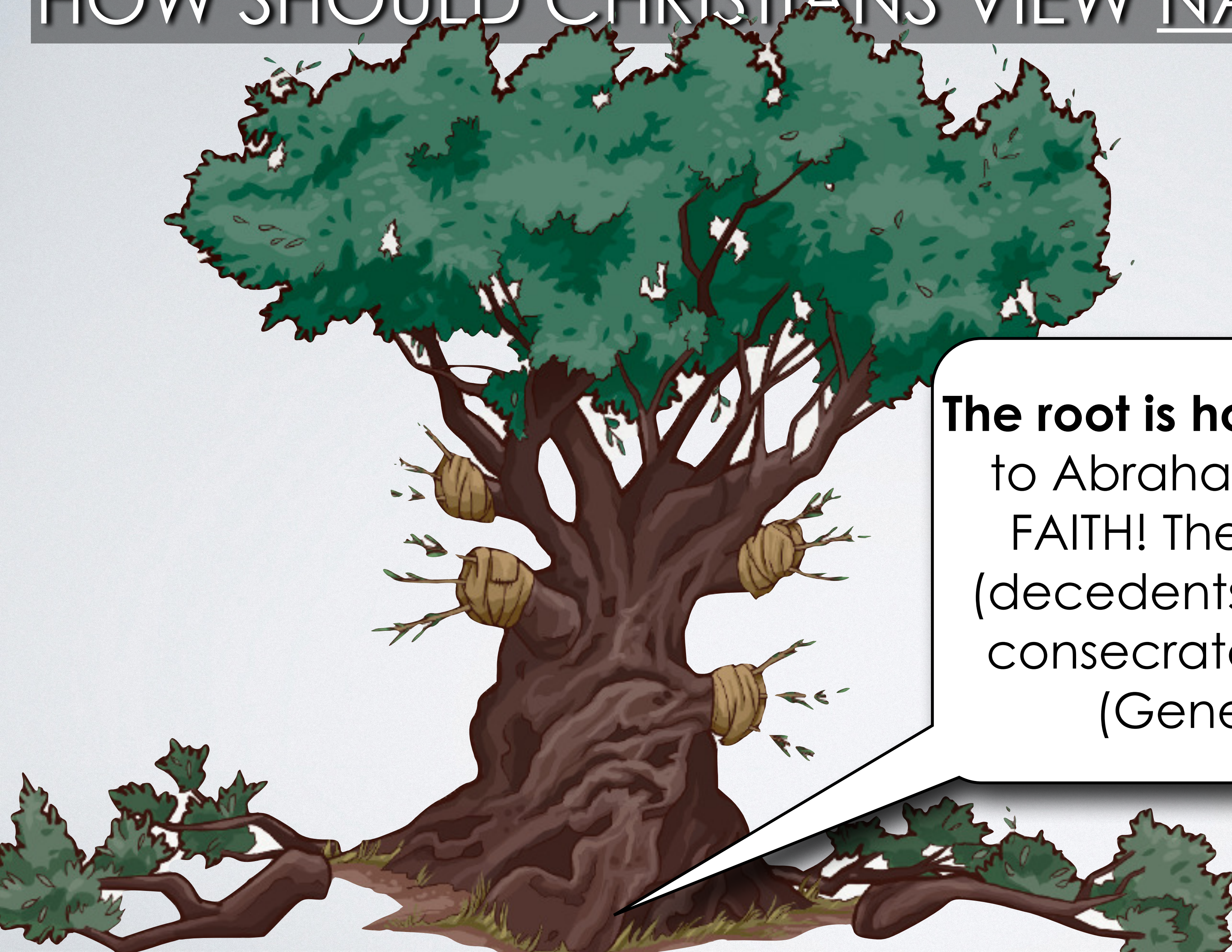
Who are the REAL sons of Abraham? (Rom. 9:6-13, 22-29)

What promises to Israel were left unfilled? (9:6,14; cf. Joshua 21:43; 1 Kings 8:56; Deut. 30:4)

What were the consequences of national Israel's rejection of Jesus? (Rom. 9:14-33; 11:1-36)



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



**The root is holy** - (16) –The root refers to Abraham and the fathers OF FAITH! Therefore the branches, (decedents) are also holy – that is consecrated to God for His use - (Genesis 17:7; Jer. 2:21)



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



Some branches of the original olive tree were broken off - (17-21) – Broken off because of unbelief - (vs. 20; Jer. 11:16; John 15:6; Acts 13:46)



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



Wild branches grafted in to the original olive tree - (17-22) –by faith – to partake of the blessings of the root – the promise God gave to Abraham – could be cut off - (Genesis 17:7; Eph. 2:11-13)



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



Jews can be grafted in again if they turn to God in faith - (23-24) –  
Easier to graft in the natural branches than the unnatural - (cf. Rom 3:1-3; Zec. 12:10; 2 Cor. 3:16)



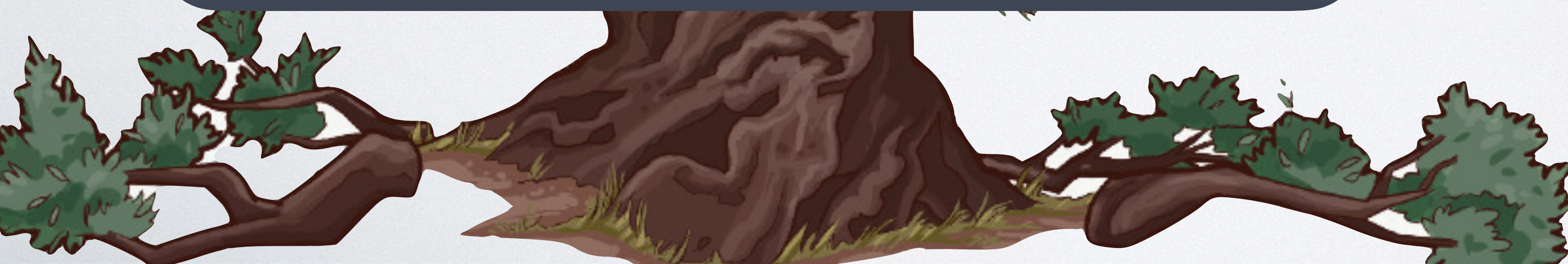
# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



## **Romans 11:26–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> 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;*” <sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

SO ALL ISRAEL = “In this manner, i.e., through the gospel (1:16) - = Those who believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 15:11)





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## **Galatians 3:15-29**

What distinctions should we make between the first Covenant, (w/ Israel), and the second Covenant in Christ?

What was the purpose of the Law?

Were the promises of God fully fulfilled through the first Covenant?

Who are the REAL sons of Abraham?





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## **Romans 2:25–29 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; <sup>29</sup> but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.



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## **Galatians 6:15–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. <sup>16</sup> And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?

## **Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW NATIONAL ISRAEL?



ARE YOU IN CHRIST?

ARE YOU FAITHFUL?

ARE WE ATTEMPTING TO SHARE THE  
GOSPEL WITH AL THE WORLD?







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