

Israel

Paul describes two “Christian” views of Israel that are incomplete:

1. Judaizers
 - a. Coming of Christ created no change in Israel’s standing and covenants
 - b. Israel still elect
 - c. Gentile converts must join Israel by circumcision
 - d. Gentile converts must join church by baptism
2. Gentile Christians
 - a. Taught Israel had forfeited her special status
 - b. God had established in Christ a new Gentile order of salvation:
 - i. By Grace through faith
 - ii. No law, no works

Paul’s Response to false views of Israel by believers:

1. Christ is the center of God’s purpose. NOT a people group (Israel, etc.) at the center.
 - a. “For all the promises of God find their “Yes” in Him.” – 2 Corinthians 1:20
 - b. “Now the promises made to...”and to your offspring” who is Christ.” – Galatians 3:16 from Genesis 17:7-8
 - c. Matthew presents Christ as “Israel

	ISRAEL	CHRIST
Goes to Egypt	Ex. 4:22	Matthew 2:13
God’s Son brought out of Egypt	Ex. 4:22	Matthew 2:15
Passes through the water	Ex. 14:22	Mat. 3:13-17; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 – “For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
Tempted in Wilderness	Deuteronomy 8:3	Matthew 4:1-11
Gives Law or Instruction from Mountain top	Moses in Exodus 19:20-20:17	Jesus in Matthew 5:1-20: “Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven....Do not think that <u>I have come to abolish the Law</u> or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but <u>to fulfill</u> them.... <u>unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.</u> ”

2. God's people and the OT must be understood as centered in Christ:

- a. "If you are Christ's, **then you are Abraham's offspring**, heirs according to promise."
– Gal. 3:29
- b. Abraham is the father of ALL who believe." – Romans 4:11
- c. Faith of Centurion in Capernaum – Matthew 8:5-13:
*"When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6
"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."
7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."
8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but
only say the word, and my servant will be healed.
9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and
he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does
it."
10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell
you, with no one in Israel[d] have I found such faith.
11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,
12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And
the servant was healed at that very moment."*
- d. Israel refused to believe as Abraham believed, so they forfeit the right to claim Abraham as
their father and will not have membership in Israel:
 - i. Romans 9:6-8 – *"But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who
are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham
because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."
This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but
the children of the promise are counted as offspring."*
 - ii. John 8:39-44 – *"They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If
you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but
now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.
This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did." They said
to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God."
Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from
God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not
understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of
your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires."*
 - iii. Romans 2:28-29 – *"For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is
circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a
matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but
from God."*
- e. Israel of God:

- i. Galatians 6:15-16 – *“For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”*
- ii. Romans 11:17-24 – Grafted in;
“But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root[c] of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. 19 Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” 20 That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. 22 Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. 23 And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.”

f. Christ is key to understand the Old Testament:

- i. High Priest – Heb. 4:14
- ii. Davidic King – Luke 1:32-33
- iii. Prophecies
 - 1. Prophet like Moses:
 - a. Acts 3:22-23
 - b. John 5:46
 - 2. Servant of the Lord
 - a. Hebrews 8:6-13

iv. Law of Moses is fulfilled in Christ:

- 1. Romans 3:21-22 – *“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction.”*
- 2. Romans 10:3-4 – *“For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”*
- 3. Galatians 3:24-26 – *“So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”*

3. Judgment on Israel does not cancel Israel's Election:

- a. Luke 1:67-79 as said by Zechariah.
- b. Romans 9:6 – Paul says God's word still stands
- c. Romans 11:1 – God has NOT rejected his people

- d. Romans 11:25-26, 29 - Israel will be saved since the gifts and callings are irrevocable.
 - e. Israel will be saved through a judgment that removes dross and purifies Israel:
 - i. Romans 9:27-29 – *“And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” And as Isaiah predicted,*
“If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.” “
 - ii. Isaiah 1:24-26 – *“Therefore the Lord declares, the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:*
“Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes. I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy. And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.”
4. God’s dealing with Israel in the OT shines light on what God is doing with the Church:
- a. Exodus
 - i. John 6
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 10:1-11
 - b. True religion of the OT is found in the Gospel:
 - i. Romans 3:21-25 – *“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”*
 - ii. Hebrews – (the whole book)
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:18-19 – *“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”*
 - c. Images of Israel are applied to church:
 - i. Luke 12:32 – *“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*
 - ii. John 15:1 – *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”*
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:9-10 – *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*
5. The Gospel concerns the Jew first and also the Gentile:
- a. Romans 1:16 – *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

How to navigate the subject of “Israel” in the text:

1. Does “Israel” refer to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament as the nation?
2. Does “Israel” refer to a future nationalistic Israel that has been restored?
3. Does “Israel” refer to the “church”?

Errors:

1. Problem One – mistaken identity by confusing OT nation Israel, future restored Israel, and believers (Jews and Gentiles) in the Church.
2. Problem Two – the interpretation of the text (as in Galatians 6:16 – “*And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*”)

Clues:

1. Old Testament prophets spoke to:
 - a. Current, contemporary nation and people of Israel
 - b. Future generations of Israel yet unborn restored, regathered Israel:
 - i. Sometimes referring to the nation of Israel that was to return from Babylonian captivity
 - ii. Sometimes referring to the nation of Israel in the greater, distant future retuning from dispersion for scatological events

Ultimately the prophets did speak of a restored Israel in the distant future on earth in the kingdom age back in the land with temple services in a world transformed without sin, evil or violence under the rule of the Messiah.

- Ezekiel 37:26-28 – “*I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land[a] and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.*”
- Ezekiel 40-47 – the Kingdom Age temple
- Ezekiel 37:24-25 – David will return:
“*My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever.*”

