

*Ministries of New Life*  
Revelation - Lesson 3  
**ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH**

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Revelation - Lesson 3  
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3.4/8.14 Israel & Ch

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15 NIV)

## **I. ISRAEL & THE CHURCH**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, teacher and author of *Systematic Theology*, points out that Israel occupies nearly four-fifths of Biblical revelation while the Church reflects only about one-fifth.
2. Since the Spirit gave such a large portion of Scripture in reference to the people of Israel they are of major importance and have great prominence in the Father's over-all plan.
3. Yet today, throughout the Christian world, only a small percentage of denominations or church leaders give recognition to the eminent role of Israel, the LORD'S Covenant People.
4. To embark upon the book of Revelation, the consummation of the preceding 65 books, without addressing the distinguished place Israel occupies in the whole of Scripture, would further the present injustice of the Church toward the Chosen nation. It would also be presumptuous to assume the interested seeker has had exposure to Israel's prominence in the Biblical Text.
5. Not only does Israel have a distinguished place in Scripture but a distinct role.
6. It is important to see that Israel's Biblical position and role in eschatology are unique and separate from that of the Church.
7. To understand the importance and difference between Law and Grace (discussed in the previous lesson) and Israel and the Church will help prepare the believer for this present study of Revelation.
8. Before looking at commonalities and distinctions between Israel and the Church, the term "Israel" must be defined.

### **B. THE NAME ISRAEL**

1. Jacob was given the name Israel in Genesis 32:28. Scripture also uses this name when speaking of Jacob's descendants collectively as the twelve tribes of Israel. (Ex 4:22)
2. Following Solomon's reign, the United Kingdom divided; the ten northern tribes are called "Israel." The term applied to them is the "kingdom of Israel." (I Kings 12:19; Hos 1:1)
3. Dr. Charles Feinberg's states in his book, *Millennialism*, "It is proper to speak of believing Jews and believing Gentiles as Abraham's spiritual seed (as Paul designates them in Galatians 3:8, 9), but spiritual Israelites are believing Jews only." Concerning the term "Israel of God," (Gal 6:16) Dr. Feinberg states, "The Scriptures never use the term Israel to refer to any but the *natural descendants* of Jacob."
4. The Prophet Isaiah reveals the Messiah's name as "Israel." "And he said to Me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified' " (Isa 49:3).

## C. SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

- Both have covenant relationships with the LORD.
- Both are related to the LORD by blood redemption that is centered in Christ the Messiah.
- Both are witnesses for the LORD to the world.
- Both originate as a miracle, one on the womb of Sarah and one on the womb of Mary.
- Both are of the physical and spiritual seedline of Abraham.
- Both are to be glorified.
- Both are called to a walk of separation.
- Both have one Shepherd.
- Both are called the elect of God.
- Both are dearly beloved of the LORD.
- Both are vitally related to God as illustrated by the figure of marriage.
- Both are the recipients of eternal life.

## II. DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

A. Dr. Feinberg comments concerning differences between Israel and the Church. "It is the poorest of logic to contend that because two groups have several points in common they are identically the same. As a matter of fact, Israel and the Church have more differences between them than they have similarities."

B. Dr. Chafer contrasts 22 differences between Israel and the Church. The following include portions of his presentation:

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| • The headship of the nation of Israel resides in Abraham.   | • The headship of the Church resides in Christ the Messiah.   |
| • Two covenants, Adamic and Noahic were given to all mankind. To Abraham's descendants, Israel, <b>seven</b> covenants were given. | • The Church is given the Adamic and Noahic covenants. The Abrahamic and New Covenant are given through Christ the Messiah. |
| • Israel is revealed as the wife of Yahveh at Mt. Sinai, presently estranged but to be restored.                                   | • The Church is seen in Scripture as the Bride of Christ the Messiah.   |
| • Yahveh's dealings with Israel have been individual and national.   | • The Lord deals individually with the Church.  |
| • Israel is found in the Old and New Testaments.   | • The Church is found only in the New Testament.  |
| • Israel is saved by faith (through their Messiah's blood sacrifice, yet to be seen and understood).                               | • The Church is saved by faith in the Blood sacrifice of Christ the Messiah.  |
| • Israel is looking for their Messiah, Immanuel, Prince of Peace Who will restore Israel's Kingdom on earth.                       | • To the Church, Christ the Messiah is the Head, Bridegroom and Lord Who will come and take her to be with Him in heaven.   |

- Israel is the son of God through national covenant relationship.
- The Spirit of the LORD came upon some in Israel.
- Members of the Church are sons of God by a personal salvation experience in Christ Messiah.
- The Spirit takes up permanent abode in every member of the Body of Christ the Messiah.

Dr. Chafer points out, "At the end of the ministry of Christ on earth, He gave two farewell addresses. The one on the Mount of Olives concerned Israel and looked to the completion of the Jewish age; the other in the Upper Room concerned the church and looked upon the cross as an accomplished fact" (Matt 24, 25; Mark 13; Luke 21 with John 14-17).

- To Israel He promised that He would return in power and glory to set up the kingdom.
- Israel is spoken of as the servant of the LORD.
- The Church has His word that He will come again to receive her to Himself that where He is, there she may be also.
- Each member of the Church is in Christ the Messiah in a vital relationship serving Him as His Body and Bride.

Dr. Feinberg interprets Genesis 22:17, "God had promised Abraham a seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand that is upon the seashore, speaking of an earthly and a heavenly seed."

- Israel is an earthly people; the promises, hopes and blessings are all related to the earth.
- The church is a heavenly people; the promises and hopes are heavenly.

### III. SUMMARY ON ISRAEL & THE CHURCH

- Dr. Feinberg sums up the above distinctions between Israel and the Church, "The Church and Israel did not come into existence at the same time nor are they coterminous upon the earth. Israel had its beginning from the call of Abram from Ur of the Chaldees and will be found on the earth in all ages. The Church, however, had its inception at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to abide with believers after having baptized them into the Body of Christ. Her pilgrimage on earth will be terminated by the rapture. The distinction is clear: Israel in all dispensations from that of promise, the Church in the dispensation of grace only."

ELIJAH'S PROPHETIC TIMELINE

The Rabinnic Teaching of God's Timeline For the Earth Is Based On Genesis 1:1 - 2:2; Psalm 90:4

- All dates are figured from the creation of Adam
- Everyman's Talmud, Abraham Cohen - p.356  
*"It was taught in the School of Elijah, the world will endure six thousand years - two thousand years in chaos, two thousand with Torah, and two thousand years will be the Days of Messiah"* (Sanhedrin 97a)
- 2000 years - called *Tohu - Desolation* = Days 1 and 2 / A
- 2000 years - *Torah* = Days 3 and 4 / B
- 2000 years - *Y'Mot HaMashiach - Days of Messiah* = Days 5 and 6 / C
- 1000 years - *Athid Lavo* - Messianic Age = Day 7 / D
- *Olam Haba* - The World to Come = Day 8 / E - *I Corinthians 15:26-28*

