

# ***EDGEWOOD BIBLE CHURCH***

**Bible Conference**

**Session 4**

**May, 2009**

# THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

- **Covenant Theology defines the church differently: as “the elect of all ages.” This means that all believers from the OT, as well as the NT, are part of the Church.**
- **For the most part Covenant Theologians hold to “Replacement Theology”; that is, the Church has replaced national Israel.**
- **CT emphasizes the continuity of God’s dealings with the saved.**
- **But being saved based on Christ’s work does not necessarily mean that all people (such as Abraham and the Ninevites) are part of the Church of Jesus Christ.**

# REASONS WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

## **(1) The covenants God made with Israel.**

- ❖ **These covenants were made with a specific people, the nation of Israel.**
- ❖ **The covenants were UNCONDITIONAL.**
- ❖ **The covenants were EVERLASTING.**
- ❖ **The covenants are UNFULFILLED.**
- ❖ ***God keeps His promises and He must fulfill His covenant commitments to the people (Israel); THE SAME ONES that He made them with.***

# THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

**“God’s people were known in the O.T. as ‘Israel’. The same people, in the N.T., are known as ‘the church’. **As a matter of scriptural fact, these terms are used interchangeably;** the church is referred to as ‘Israel’ (Gal. 6:16) while the O.T. remnant is referred to as ‘the church’.”**  
**(Acts 7:38) “Amillennialism Today”**  
**William Cox, p.46.**

# REASONS WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

## (2) THE TWO TERMS “ISRAEL” AND “CHURCH” ARE NOT USED INTERCHANGEABLY.

-“Israel” used over 2000x in the O.T. and 73x in the N.T.

-In the O.T. always used of national Israel.

-70x in the NT clearly refers to national Israel.

-Some C.T. use Romans 9:6; 11:26 and all use Galatians 6:16.

### ❖ **Romans 9:6**

- 9:1-5---Paul’s witnesses; his grief; his kinsmen according to the flesh.
- 8 privileges and prerogatives given National Israel
- God’s Word (promises) has not “fallen off its straight course”.
- In 9:6, Paul is not distinguishing between Jews/Gentiles or between Israel/Church. He is distinguishing between BELIEVING JEWS and UNBELIEVING JEWS.

### ❖ **Romans 11:26**

- “OLIVE TREE” = the place of blessing. “ROOT” = Abe. Cov.
- Natural branches (national Israel) were broken off but these will be restored (the same ones broken off).

## **GALATIANS 6:15-16**

**6:15-16 – Religious externals are empty but faith is crucial.**

**“RULE” = Justification/sanctification by faith.**

**A blessing on those of faith both “them” (believing gentiles) and “the Israel of God” (believing Jews).**

**blessings on BELIEVING GENTILES and  
on BELIEVING JEWS who are THE ISRAEL  
OF GOD**

# THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL

**(3) THE STARTING POINT IS NOT THE SAME.**

❖ **THE CHURCH COULD NOT EXIST BEFORE THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST. Eph. 1:20-22**



❖ **THE CHURCH COULD NOT BEGIN WITHOUT SPIRIT BAPTISM. 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 1:5**

YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED W/ THE H.S. NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW

CHURCH began at Pentecost; ISRAEL began with Abraham or with Moses.

# **THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL**

## **(4) THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH. IT IS....**

### **❖ A “MYSTERY” – Ephesians 3:1-6**

**-A truth that was not previously revealed.**

**-The truth is not that Gentiles would be saved, but that believing Jews and Gentiles are equal in the “body of the Messiah”.**

### **❖ “ONE NEW MAN” – Ephesians 2:15**

**-Not gentiles; not Israel; something that is NEW. The Church is not a continuation of national Israel.**

## **(5) THE TEACHING OF ROMANS 9-11**

# **THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL**

**CHAPTER 9 – ISRAEL’S PAST  
ELECTED BY GOD**

**CHAPTER 10 – ISRAEL’S PRESENT  
REJECTED**

**CHAPTER 11 – ISRAEL’S FUTURE  
RESTORED**

# **GOD AND ISRAEL (11)**

## **Their future restoration.**

❖ **11:1-10 – THEIR REJECTION IS NOT TOTAL.**

❖ **QUESTION: Has God cast Israel aside?**

❖ **ANSWER: Absolutely not!**

**Paul, an Israelite, is saved.**

**The analogy of Elijah.**

**The PRESENT situation is that there is a remnant, but most are hardened.**

# **GOD AND ISRAEL (11)**

## **Their future restoration.**

❖ **11:11-32 – THEIR REJECTION IS TEMPORARY.**

❖ **QUESTION: Has Israel fallen never to rise up again?**

❖ **ANSWER: Absolutely not!**

**Gentile salvation will affect Israel.**

**Israel's fall brought blessing and their restoration will bring even greater blessing to mankind.**

# GOD AND ISRAEL (11)

## The OLIVE TREE

- **NATURAL BRANCHES** = Israel. These were broken off and these will also be grafted back in (v.24)
- **ROOT** = The Abrahamic Covenant.
- **WILD BRANCHES** = The Gentiles.
- Israel's blindness is limited in EXTENT and DURATION ("partial"-“until”-vs. 25).
- **ALL** Israel shall be saved when the Deliverer comes. Based on the Covenant.

# **THE CHURCH IS NOT ISRAEL**

## **(6) EXTERNAL DIFFERENCES**

**Such as, Israel had an army; required the payment of taxes; and had national boundaries.**

## **(7) INTERNAL DIFFERENCES**

**Such as, only some were priests; not everyone a true believer and Israel operated under a very different covenant (the “old”, “first” Mosaic covenant).**

**NOTE: The distinction between Israel and the church is even seen in the eternal kingdom of God. Revelation 21**