

REAL ISRAEL

There seems to be quite a controversy in the church about who, in fact, is Israel. Some think it is natural Israel, some think it is the church, while others say it is a combination of the two. The Bible makes it clear in several scriptures, although depending upon one's religious background, it may be difficult to hear the truth on this sometimes heated issue.

Romans 9:6-8

“But {it is} not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are {descended} from Israel;

neither are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: ‘through Isaac your descendants will be named.’

That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.”

This scripture appears to succinctly define the issue. God, in the New Testament, under the new covenant, is not referring to natural Israel, but to the children of promise. The question is then, who are the children of promise? Galatians chapter three speaks to this:

Galatians 3:28-29

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

As you can see the promises of Abraham go to his spiritual heirs, those who have accepted Jesus. It has nothing to do with race, nationality, gender, etc., because in Christ, we are new creatures. The new creature being the spiritual Jew, who may have been either a Jew or a Gentile in the natural, but is neither now that they are in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know {Him} {thus} no longer.

Therefore if any man is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

Galatians 3:7-9

“Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, {saying} ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you.’”

So then, those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.