

# #23

## Who Are The Jews

As we shall see from the word of God, there is a physical Israel and a spiritual Israel. Physical Israel are those people who are blood descendants of Abraham. Spiritual Israel are those who are heirs according to the promise gave to Abraham. Jesus Christ was the promised seed of Abraham. Those who are Christ's, are heirs according to the promise and make up the body of spiritual Israel.

### The Promise Given To Abraham

**Genesis 12:1-3** – <sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

**Genesis 17:1-7** – <sup>1</sup> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. <sup>3</sup> And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, <sup>4</sup> As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. <sup>6</sup> And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

**Genesis 17:20-21** – <sup>20</sup> And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup> But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

### Isaac Father of Jacob and Esau

**Genesis 25:19-26** – <sup>19</sup> And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: <sup>20</sup> And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. <sup>21</sup> And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. <sup>24</sup> And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and

they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

**Hebrews 12:15-17** – <sup>16</sup> Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. <sup>17</sup> For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

## Israel And His Twelve Sons – The Twelve tribes

**Genesis 32:28** – <sup>28</sup> And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

**1 Chronicles 2:1-2** – <sup>1</sup> These are the sons of Israel; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, <sup>2</sup> Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

**Genesis 35:22-26** – <sup>22</sup> ...Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: <sup>23</sup> The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: <sup>24</sup> The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin: <sup>25</sup> And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: <sup>26</sup> And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.

## A Nation Divided

**2 Samuel 2:4** – <sup>4</sup> And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah....

**2 Samuel 2:8-11** – <sup>8</sup> But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; <sup>9</sup> And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. <sup>10</sup> Ishbosheth Saul's son *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. <sup>11</sup> And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

## A Civil War

**2 Samuel 3:1** – <sup>1</sup> Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

**2 Samuel 4:5-7** – <sup>5</sup> And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. <sup>6</sup> And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. <sup>7</sup> For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

## A Nation United

**2 Samuel 5:1-4** – <sup>1</sup> Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. <sup>2</sup> Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. <sup>3</sup> So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

## A Nation Re-Divided

**1 Kings 11:43** – And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

**1 Kings 12** – <sup>1</sup> And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) <sup>3</sup> That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, <sup>4</sup> Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. <sup>5</sup> And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. <sup>6</sup> And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? <sup>7</sup> And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. <sup>8</sup> But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: <sup>9</sup> And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? <sup>10</sup> And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. <sup>11</sup> And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. <sup>12</sup> So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. <sup>13</sup> And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; <sup>14</sup> And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. <sup>15</sup> Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

<sup>16</sup> So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. <sup>17</sup> But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. <sup>18</sup> Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died.

Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> So Israel rebelled<sup>b</sup> against the house of David unto this day. <sup>20</sup> And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. <sup>21</sup> And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. <sup>22</sup> But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, <sup>23</sup> Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, <sup>24</sup> Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. <sup>26</sup> And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: <sup>27</sup> If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. <sup>28</sup> Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. <sup>29</sup> And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. <sup>30</sup> And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. <sup>31</sup> And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. <sup>32</sup> And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. <sup>33</sup> So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

## **The Northern Ten Tribes Carried Into Captivity**

**2 Kings 17:1-23** – <sup>1</sup> In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. <sup>2</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him. <sup>3</sup> Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. <sup>4</sup> And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. <sup>5</sup> Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. <sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

<sup>7</sup> For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, <sup>8</sup> And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before

the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. <sup>9</sup> And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. <sup>10</sup> And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: <sup>11</sup> And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: <sup>12</sup> For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. <sup>13</sup> Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. <sup>14</sup> Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. <sup>15</sup> And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. <sup>16</sup> And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. <sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. <sup>19</sup> Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. <sup>21</sup> For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. <sup>22</sup> For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; <sup>23</sup> Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

## **Judah and Benjamin Carried Away Captive to Babylon**

**2 Kings 24** – <sup>1</sup> In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets. <sup>3</sup> Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; <sup>4</sup> And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon. <sup>5</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? <sup>6</sup> So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead. <sup>7</sup> And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> And he did

that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. <sup>10</sup> At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. <sup>11</sup> And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. <sup>12</sup> And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers<sup>c</sup>: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. <sup>13</sup> And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. <sup>14</sup> And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. <sup>15</sup> And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. <sup>16</sup> And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. <sup>17</sup> And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah. <sup>18</sup> Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. <sup>19</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. <sup>20</sup> For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

## The Return To Jerusalem

Ezra 11:1-5 – <sup>1</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, <sup>2</sup> Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

## Jesus Was A Jew

**Matthew 1:1** – <sup>1</sup> The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Luke 1:26-33** – <sup>26</sup> And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. <sup>29</sup> And when she saw him, she

was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

## The Destruction of Jerusalem

**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16** – <sup>14</sup> For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: <sup>15</sup> Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: <sup>16</sup> Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

**Luke 21:20-24** - <sup>20</sup> And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. <sup>21</sup> Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. <sup>22</sup> For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. <sup>24</sup> And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

## A Jewish Remnant

**Romans 11:1-5** – <sup>1</sup> I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, <sup>3</sup> Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. <sup>4</sup> But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. <sup>5</sup> Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

## Spiritual Israel

**Romans 2:28-29** – <sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: <sup>29</sup> But **he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter**; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Romans 4:16-17** – <sup>16</sup> Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,)

before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**Romans 9:23-24** – <sup>23</sup> And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, <sup>24</sup> Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

**Galatians 3:13-14** - <sup>13</sup> Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: <sup>14</sup> **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ**; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Galatians 3:16** - <sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

**Galatians 3:27-29** – <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

**Romans 11:16-29** – <sup>16</sup> For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. <sup>17</sup> And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; <sup>18</sup> Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. <sup>19</sup> Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. <sup>20</sup> Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: <sup>21</sup> For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. <sup>22</sup> Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? <sup>25</sup> For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: <sup>27</sup> For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

## The Mantle of Israel Passed To A New Nation

**Matthew 21:43** – <sup>43</sup> Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

## Additional Jewish History

Beginning as a nation in Egypt (Exodus 1:12, 20).

Afflicted in Egypt (Exodus1:12-22).  
Moses becomes their leader (Exodus 3:1-22).  
Saved from plagues (Exodus 9:4, 6, 26).  
Leave Egypt (Exodus12:29-26).  
Pass through the Red Sea (Exodus14:1-31).  
Receive the Law at Mount Sinai (Exodus19:1-25).  
Wander in the wilderness 40 years (Numbers 14:26-39).  
Cross the Jordan into the Promised Land (Joshua 4:1-24).  
Conquer the land of Canaan (Joshua 12:1-24).  
Ruled by the judges of Israel (Judges 2:1-23).  
Samuel The Prophet leads Israel (1 Samuel 7:1-17).  
Israel seeks to have a king (1 Samuel 8:1-22).  
Saul becomes the first king (1 Samuel 10:18-27).

## Summary

Israelites, commonly referred to as Jews, are the descendants of Jacob. Jacob was Abraham's grandson. Jacob had twelve sons that each represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Christians are members of spiritual Israel. They are heirs to the promise given to Abraham by God. Jesus was the promised seed of Abraham and Christians are heirs through Jesus Christ.

While Christians are heirs to the promise God gave Abraham, many forget the Christian church includes physical members of Israel. These include all the original members of the Christian church.

Israel was continually judged by God because of their wickedness. During the reign of King Hoshea, the ten northern tribes were taken captive. They were relocated never to return. Only recently, some claiming to be members of the ten lost tribes have returned to Israel. The Christian church most certainly includes many Israelites who have lost track of their heritage through thousands of years.

During the time of Jesus, Israel was made up of the two southern tribes which included Judah and Benjamin. The Israelites have been called Jews since this time. The vast majority of the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah. For this reason God judged Israel and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.

God needed a nation to fulfill the role of Israel. He needed a nation that would serve Him and Jesus Christ. God needed a nation that would be an example to all the world, a nation whom he could bless for their faithfulness. He also needed a nation who would spread the gospel to the world.

Jesus told the Jews: "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (Matthew 21:43) The only nation fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus is the United States of America. But like Israel, the USA has abandoned God. Because of God's love for America, he must eventually judge it for its wickedness.