

These Perilous Times
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“Are We Saved by Our Name or Heritage?”

When one studies ancient documents, {especially, the inspired words recorded in the Bible} it’s not surprising to find that there has always been war, and turmoil in the Middle East—involving Israel, and the surrounding nations.

Today while watching most international news media broadcasts, we can see for ourselves, the overwhelming evidence that conflicts in the Middle-East really haven’t changed all that much over the past millennia—especially concerning Israel and other Middle-Eastern nations.

“There was in heaven...”¹ and the devil continues the controversy here on earth because he knows his time is short.²

Why so much turmoil? Why is Israel always in the news? It began with a choice to heed God’s

¹ Rev. 12:7-9

² Rev. 12:12

voice, or not. It began with Abraham, Sarah, and an Egyptian hand maiden named Hagar, and a prophecy from God ignored!

It began with two sons, {half-brothers} one born to Hagar; one born to Sarah-Isaac and Ishmael—one, the seed of promise,³ the other the seed of presumption, prophesied by an angel to be a wild man.⁴

The name *Israel* is mentioned in the Bible over 2200 times. Today, there is much controversy over what constitutes the “Literal,” and “Spiritual” nation of *Israel*,” and the role it will play in the “final days,” before Jesus’ “second coming.”

The birth of a nation

Jacob, {the son of Isaac; the son of Abraham} had twelve sons, as most Bible students know. They became known as, “the twelve tribes of *Israel*,” God’s chosen people.⁵ Does the Bible state anywhere that one must be a member of one of the tribes of ‘literal *Israel*’ to be saved?

³ Gen. 13:14-18; 17:1-7; 15-22

⁴ Gen 16:1-16; especially verses 11, 12

⁵ See Genesis Chapter 49.

“So he said unto him, what is your name? He said Jacob. And he said, your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but *Israel*, for you have struggled with God, and with men, and have prevailed.”

Genesis 32:27, 28

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that of circumcision, which is out ward in the flesh. 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 2:28, 29

“For you are all children of God through *faith in Christ Jesus.* For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and *heirs according to the promise.*” Galatians 3:26-29

As Children of God, “His People,” are no longer divided by religious heritage, social status, or gender. *We have all become brothers and sisters through Christ’s atoning blood, and are heirs of Abraham’s seed.*

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

A little geography lesson

“The state, {Nation} of *Israel* is a republic in the Middle East encompassed by Lebanon on the east, Syria and Jordon on the south by the Gulf of Aqaba, on the southeast by the Arab republic, and on the west by the Mediterranean Sea.

The country is 265 miles long, 70 miles wide at its widest point, and 12 miles at its narrowest point.⁶

Not an exceptionally large piece of real-estate for a nation mentioned in the Bible so many times.

⁶ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 10. pp. 683-688.

Today, there are many sincere Christian theologians; that take portions of scripture and apply their own interpretation concerning Israel's role in Bible prophecy.

It's been said {a misinterpretation of "Spiritual Israel"} that before Christ's return that "literal *Israel*" will rebuild the temple of God, {In Israel} and all the literal Jews that are scattered throughout all the world will return to their native land, and be converted to Christianity. That's just one theory.

Literal Israel in Bible prophecy

The OT prophecies were a declaration of God's purpose for "literal Israel," and their fulfillment to literal *Israel* was strictly conditional upon *Israel's* cooperation with the divine purpose.⁷

"A probationary period of 490 years was allotted to Israel in which to measure up to God's purpose for them as a nation, {Dan. 9:24-27; Jer. 12:14-17}.

⁷ Duet. 4:1, 2; 5:32, 33; 6:1-3; 8:1, See SDA Encyclopedia, pp. 682-689.

This period of time was to culminate with the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of His Kingdom.⁸

The Old Testament covenant made with Israel was at Mt. Horeb, and was conditional, as stated in Ex. 19. The Lord said to them, “If you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.”⁹

There is no one saved by being part of “the heritage of literal Israel,” or any other nation, church, or creed. God’s kingdom is made up of “Spiritual Israel.” Please take time to re-read the afore mentioned text.

“Be it known unto you, and to all the people of Israel, by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him does this man stand before you whole. This is the stone that was set at naught of the builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for

⁸ SDA Encyclopedia, pp. 885, 886. See also Acts 7:48-60; 13:42-52.

⁹ J. H. Waggoner. Review & Herald, Jan. 8, 1857.

there is no other name under heaven given among
men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:10-12

