

The Church and Israel

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Introduction

The existence of the church - defined as the body of Christ - was always part of the Divine plan of God. God prophesied the existence of a new covenant or agreement with His people.

Jeremiah 31:31

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

The coming of Jesus is indeed the fulfillment of the prophesied covenant with Israel.

Luke 22:20

And in the same way [He took] the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Romans 11:27

"THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Jesus is explaining how *His Coming* is the establishment of God's new covenant WITH ISRAEL. He explains how the Old Testament holy days instituted by God are fulfilled in Jesus. The sacrificial system under Mosaic Law symbolized or more specifically foreshadowed His redemptive and atonement on the cross. The establishment of what we call the Lord's Supper or Communion occurred while celebrating the Passover celebration as required and defined under Mosaic Law. Jesus began to explain the meaning of the symbols or shall we say how He in His person is the fulfillment of the symbols of the Passover ... the slaying of a lamb without spot or blemish. The cross is the establishment and the fulfillment of the new covenant that God proclaimed He would do. The message of Jesus was for Israel first. Jesus was an Israelite, all the Apostles were Israelites ... an Israelite is a Jew ... from the lineage of Jacob whom God later renames Israel.

Genesis 32:28

He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

The new covenant established by the blood of Jesus fulfilled all ALL the law ... Jesus is the fulfillment of the ALL the Old Covenant. The death of Jesus freed one from the bondage of the Law much in the same way that the death of a spouse frees one to marry another.

Romans 7:6

But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

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Matthew 5:17

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

2 Corinthians 3:6

who also made us adequate [as] servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

This is the ministry of Jesus ... to fulfill the Old Covenant law and the prophets. But what does that fulfillment mean to us? What impact does this fulfillment have upon Israel? Is it Israel out ... Gentiles in? Hardly.

Romans 4, 9-11 begins to address these points as does, 2 Corinthians 3, the whole book of Galatians, but especially chapters 3-4, Ephesians 2-3, the entirety of the book of Hebrews, especially chapters 8-13. Space will not permit an exhaustive on these points but I will bring in the relevant scriptures that establish this fact: The Gentiles, those not of the house of Israel are "inheritors" of all of God's promises to Israel under the Old Covenant.

In Romans chapter 4, Paul establishes that Abraham was accounted as righteous not because of his works but because of his belief and faith. It is not due to circumcision, the seal of his ethnicity, the mark of a Jew. Abraham obeyed by faith and it was his faith the God accounted to him as righteousness. It is Abraham's faith and belief in God that "led" or "caused" him to obey. He believed God was faithful to His promise made of making him a father of many nations. Jacob is the descendant of Abraham, the son of Isaac who was the child of promise. It is this same Jacob who later became Israel.

Romans 4:13-14

13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

Paul is keying in on who are the heirs of Abraham and why they are heirs. It is not because of their birthright that they inherit the promises of God but because of their *faith* in God. Paul goes on to establish that it is God's children who are the heirs of the promise:

Romans 8:14-17

14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

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Galatians 3:29

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

Here's the conditional promise. IF we belong to Christ ... that's the condition, THEN we are Abraham's descendants ... that's the promise ... we become the an heir to Abraham and a recipient to all the promises.

Romans 9:7-8

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but:

"THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

8 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.

With Paul hammering his points, some may have been totally convinced that God has now rejected His people Israel to now bring the Gentiles in. Paul anticipates this and addresses it in chapter 11 of Romans.

Romans 11:1-2

1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

Paul goes on to explain how God, *for a time*, has placed scales over the eyes of Israel so they might not see. Why? Paul explains:

Romans 11:11-12

11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.

12 Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

Salvation has come to the Gentiles who are co-heirs of the promise to Israel! We - the body of Christ are the heirs of the promise to Israel. with Israel I needed to repeat this for emphasis.

Romans 11:17

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

We are grafted into the olive tree which is representative of Israel. The promises to Israel are promises to us - The Church!

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Romans 11:18-21

18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

That should be our attitude to the Israelites ... gratefulness ... not arrogance. There is no distinction. They are being removed for a time, but will return before it's all said and done.

God will indeed open the eyes of the branches that were broken off for our sakes so that those branches will once again be grafted in (v23)

This is also a mystery of the church.

Romans 11:25-27

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

God's people are God's elect. The elect includes both Israel and the church. Please see Appendice C of the study on pretribulation rapture for a detailed examination of God's elect.

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Appendice A: Covenant

Old Testament

Jeremiah 3:16

"It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land," declares the LORD, "they will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss *it*, nor will it be made again.

Jeremiah 11:2

"Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

Jeremiah 11:3

and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Cursed is the man who does not heed the words of this covenant

Jeremiah 11:6

And the LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, 'Hear the words of this covenant and do them.

Jeremiah 11:8

'Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked, each one, in the stubbornness of his evil heart; therefore I brought on them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded *them* to do, but they did not.'"

Jeremiah 11:10

"They have turned back to the iniquities of their ancestors who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers."

Jeremiah 14:21

Do not despise *us*, for Your own name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory; Remember *and* do not annul Your covenant with us.

Jeremiah 22:9

"Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD their God and bowed down to other gods and served them.'"

Jeremiah 31:31

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"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new [covenant](#) with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

Jeremiah 31:32

not like the [covenant](#) which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My [covenant](#) which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:33

"But this is the [covenant](#) which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 32:40

"I will make an everlasting [covenant](#) with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

Jeremiah 33:20-21

20 "Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My [covenant](#) for the day and My [covenant](#) for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time,
21 then My [covenant](#) may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

Jeremiah 33:25

"Thus says the LORD, 'If My [covenant](#) for day and night *stand* not, *and* the fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established,

Jeremiah 34:8

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah had made a [covenant](#) with all the people who were in Jerusalem to proclaim release to them:

Jeremiah 34:10

And all the officials and all the people obeyed who had entered into the [covenant](#) that each man should set free his male servant and each man his female servant, so that no one should keep them any longer in bondage; they obeyed, and set *them free*.

Jeremiah 34:13

"Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'I made a [covenant](#) with your forefathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, saying,

Jeremiah 34:15

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"Although recently you *had* turned and done what is right in My sight, each man proclaiming release to his neighbor, and you had made a [covenant](#) before Me in the house which is called by My name.

Jeremiah 34:18

'I will give the men who have transgressed My [covenant](#), who have not fulfilled the words of the [covenant](#) which they made before Me, *when* they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts—

Jeremiah 50:5

"They will ask for the way to Zion, *turning* their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the LORD *in* an everlasting [covenant](#) that will not be forgotten.

Ezekiel 16:8

"Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a [covenant](#) with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 16:59

For thus says the Lord GOD, "I will also do with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath by breaking the [covenant](#)."

Ezekiel 16:60-62

60 "Nevertheless, I will remember My [covenant](#) with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting [covenant](#) with you.

61 "Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, *both* your older and your younger; and I will give them to you as daughters, but not because of your [covenant](#).

62 "Thus I will establish My [covenant](#) with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD,

Ezekiel 17:13

'He took one of the royal family and made a [covenant](#) with him, putting him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land,

Ezekiel 17:14

that the kingdom might be in subjection, not exalting itself, *but* keeping his [covenant](#) that it might continue.

Ezekiel 17:15

'But he rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt that they might give him horses and many troops. Will he succeed? Will he who does such things escape? Can he indeed break the [covenant](#) and escape?

Ezekiel 17:16

'As I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'Surely in the country of the king who put him on the

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throne, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke, in Babylon he shall die.

Ezekiel 17:18

'Now he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and behold, he pledged his allegiance, yet did all these things; he shall not escape.'

Ezekiel 17:19

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "As I live, surely My oath which he despised and My covenant which he broke, I will inflict on his head.

Ezekiel 20:37

"I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;

Ezekiel 34:25

"I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

Ezekiel 37:26

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

Ezekiel 44:7

when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, *even* My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the blood; for they made My covenant void—*this* in addition to all your abominations.

Daniel 9:4

I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

Daniel 9:27

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Daniel 11:22

"The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.

Daniel 11:28

"Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be *set* against the holy covenant, and he will take action and *then* return to his *own* land.

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Daniel 11:30

"For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

Daniel 11:32

"By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

Hosea 2:18

"In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

Hosea 6:7

But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.

Hosea 8:1

Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle *the enemy comes* against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law.

Hosea 10:4

They speak *mere* words, With worthless oaths they make covenants; And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

Hosea 12:1

Ephraim feeds on wind, And pursues the east wind continually; He multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, And oil is carried to Egypt.

Amos 1:9

Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom And did not remember *the* covenant of brotherhood.

Zechariah 9:11

As for you also, because of the blood of *My* covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Zechariah 11:10

I took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

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Malachi 2:4

"Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:5

"My covenant with him was *one of life and peace*, and I gave them to him *as an object of reverence*; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name.

Malachi 2:8

"But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:10

"Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?

Malachi 2:14

"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

New Testament

Matthew 26:28

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Mark 14:24

And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

Luke 1:72

To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant,

Luke 22:20

And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Acts 3:25

"It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH

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SHALL BE BLESSED.'

Acts 7:8

"And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so *Abraham* became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac *became the father of Jacob*, and Jacob *of the twelve patriarchs*.

Romans 9:4

who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises,

Romans 11:27

"THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

2 Corinthians 3:6

who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:14

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

Galatians 3:15

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

Galatians 3:17

What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

Galatians 4:24

This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.

Ephesians 2:12

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

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Hebrews 7:22

so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

Hebrews 8:6

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Hebrews 8:7

For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

Hebrews 8:8

For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

Hebrews 8:9

NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

Hebrews 8:10

"FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9:1

Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:4

having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Hebrews 9:15

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

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Hebrews 9:16

For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

Hebrews 9:17

For a covenant is valid *only* when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

Hebrews 9:18

Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.

Hebrews 9:20

saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU."

Hebrews 10:16

"THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," *He then says,*

Hebrews 10:29

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 12:24

and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

Hebrews 13:20

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

Revelation 11:19

And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.