

WHO ARE
ISRAELITES ?

PASTOR E. VALVERDE, SR.

truth. Their respective messages impress upon the very root of the Jewish people's existence as a chosen nation. Their prophetic declarations are of particular importance as we approach the State of Israel's 40th Anniversary and inasmuch as the struggle with the Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza continues escalating.

“Can the Land of Israel exist without the Jews? Can the Jews exist without Judaism? Impossible!

“In like manner, Christianity could not exist without the Jews and Judaism. Figuratively, the branches of a tree could not exist without the trunk, and the trunk could not exist without the root. In this case, Christianity is the branches of this tree, Judaism is the trunk, and the God of Israel is the Root. And, this tree is very much alive!

“In order for true Christians to spiritually endure, we need Israel and the Jewish people. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself declared that *“salvation is of the Jews”* (John 4:22). If a great majority of Christianity is unwilling to confess this fundamental truth, there is a small minority that feels honored to declare it.”

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Introductory Note:

The following commentary was written by Pastor E. Valverde, Sr. and sent to the editors of the former Jewish publication, *B'nai B'rith Messenger*, of Los Angeles, California. This commentary was included in the publication's issue of January 29, 1988.

On account of the prevalent anti-Semitic attitude amid Gentile Christianity, it is seemingly uncommon for a Jewish publication to display Christian articles in their issues. Therefore, we consider it a very special honor that the editors of the *B'nai B'rith Messenger* were convincingly satisfied to include Pastor Valverde's commentary in their publication.

This commentary serves as a corroborating testimony to the subject of this book. We trust in the Lord that those who love the Jewish people will rejoice with its contents.

This modest publication is primarily dedicated to the Supreme Author and Maker of all things, my beloved God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. I also dedicate this book to God's chosen people, the Jewish people, inasmuch as they have paid a price of suffering for the sake of the world and they are the people from where our salvation comes (John 4:22). Finally, I dedicate this book to my beloved wife and family, my dear brethren in Christ, and my precious children in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who—near or far and in one form or another—have contributed toward the realization of this book.

A Christian Commentary

“Dear Editors of the *B'nai B'rith Messenger*,

“In a previous issue of your publication, the illustrated idea presented in the cartoon ‘Steve’ really impressed me. It read: ‘It is pointless to read a newspaper if we do not retain what we have read.’ Honestly, this does not happen to me when I read the *B'nai B'rith Messenger*. God knows how much I enjoy reading your articles and commentaries.

“In your issue of December 25, 1987, I read two articles that brought tears to my eyes. Through their contents I perceived two prophets speaking to God's chosen people. One spoke to the Jews living in Israel and the other to the Jews of the Diaspora.

“The articles ‘Point of View’ by Prof. Emmanuel Rackman and ‘Graffiti for Intellectuals’ by Si Frumken are the absolute

Godly fear in this book. I trust that the Lord will use these explanations to help and bless my brethren in Christ who are interested in understanding the truths and mysteries of God's Word. My prayer to the God of Israel is that the contents of this book provide my Gentile Christian brethren a clearer understanding of the Jewish people's role in God's plan of salvation. And, that through this understanding, they may be delivered from the impetuous wave of anti-Semitism.

I trust that those who truly have the Holy Spirit in their lives will receive affirmation from God in favor of this book. They will feel my burden of love for the Jewish people on one hand and my burden of pain on the other. They will receive confirmation from God to understand the vital importance of the following questions: Who are Israelites? Who are the Jews?

On the contrary, if any Gentile Christian maintains an anti-Semitic mentality after reading the contents of this book, then they will be held accountable before ***“the judgement seat of Christ”*** (2 Corinthians 5:10). Because, before God, it is incorrect and unacceptable for Ruth (the Gentile Church) to hate and despise Naomi (the Jewish people) (read Ruth 1:1-18).

The voice of the Lord continues declaring, ***“Israel, chosen people of the Eternal God, ‘cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee’”*** (Genesis 27:29). •

Conclusion

It is not possible for Israel to be the same as all the other nations of the world. The special place that the Jewish people and the modern State of Israel hold before God makes them unlike any other race and nation. Whether the Gentile nations accept this fact or not, it is certain. Furthermore, the majority of secular Jews in Israel have been obligated to accept this fact.

A high percentage of Israel's population does not observe the Law of Moses. There are those among this secular majority who entirely deny the existence of God and who regard the Bible as merely an interesting work of literature and history. Therefore, it has not been possible for a deep religious conviction to exist in Israel at a national level.

For this reason, true Gentile Christians should not now expect to see the Jewish people in its entirety living with total devotion and obedience toward God. This time has not yet arrived inasmuch as the "partial blindness" still remains upon God's chosen people. However, that glorious day is soon coming. After "*the fullness of the Gentiles be come in,*" then "*all Israel shall be saved.*" As it is written, "*There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer (the Lord Jesus, Israel's long awaited Messiah) and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob*" (Romans 11:25-26).

As I conclude this book, I seriously invite the reader to carefully examine his or her attitude toward the Jewish people. Consider if you have given the necessary importance to the modern State of Israel. Examine to see if you gratefully regard the price the Jews have paid so that God's salvation could be extended to the Gentiles.

The subject of Israel is so extensive that it continues on into eternity. I realize that the brief explanations provided in this book cannot sufficiently cover the magnitude of this "*mystery.*" However, I trust that the Lord Jesus Christ—the God of Israel—will use the brief explanations I have expressed with reverence and

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“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

(Romans 9:4-5)

“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. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew.”

(Romans 11:1-2)

Still, the subject of Israel has caused great confusion in both the minds of Gentiles—Christians and non-Christians—and Jews. However, this confusion will soon come to an end. Because, according to the Almighty God’s promises, the King of Glory will soon manifest Himself to the world. Then the Lord will be the joy and glory of His people, from both Israel and His Church. On that glorious day God’s people will no longer be two *“folds.”* On that day *“there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd”* (John 10:16). Then Simeon’s prophetic exclamation concerning the Lord Jesus Christ will have its complete fulfillment: *“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel”* (Luke 2:32).

Amid the difficult agitations presently facing the Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora, God’s spiritual awakening among His people continues. The secular population in the State of Israel has looked on with consternation as the religious population steadily increases. In the Israeli government (the *Knesset*), the religious political parties continue gaining recognition and strength. Their influence is broadening to every facet of the Jewish State’s existence.

Also, the number of observant Jews in Israel’s military has grown considerably. Their religious influence is being felt throughout every branch of the Israeli Defense Force. This factor has motivated the younger generations of observant Jews to enlist in the military. God is awakening the understanding of many Israeli youths to realize that if there is an army that has an objective worth fighting for and defending, it is the Israeli Defense Force. The mission of the Israeli army, *“the armies of the living God”* (1 Samuel 17:26), is to defend the people of the Bible and the Promised Land. Their objective is to protect the land promised by God to their forefathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. All of the aforementioned is taking place as the coming of Israel’s Messiah draws closer.

and my God” (John 20:28). In like manner as Joseph revealed himself to his brothers in Egypt, the Lord Jesus will declare Himself to His beloved people (Genesis 45:1-15). The Jewish people will then recognize that the blessed Christ of the Church is the same glorious Messiah of Israel. And then, *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Romans 11:26).

If Judaism were a false and dead religion as anti-Semitism claims, then the Jewish people would have ceased to exist long ago. If this were so, the God of Israel would simply be a mythological figure like the gods of Ancient Greece and Pagan Rome. If the people of the Bible no longer existed, then the Old Testament would have no veracity and it would be senseless for Christians to use it. Without the Jews, Christianity would be like Buddhism, Hinduism, and all the other false religions of the world. In this case, we would be wasting our time foolishly as Christians.

To say that Judaism is a false and dead religion is an outright lie of the devil. The marvelous truth of God remains firm and all the anti-Semites of the world cannot change it. The Creator of the universe identifies Himself as the God of Israel, and the covenant that He made with His people cannot and will not be removed. The existence of the Jewish people and their presence in the Land of Israel hinges on their observance of the Law of Moses and the remaining Scriptures of the Old Testament. And, what God has promised to do with His chosen people will come to pass.

If all of God’s people would be figuratively compared to a fruit tree, then the Old Testament and the Jewish people would be the trunk of the tree. The Gentile Church would be the branches, foliage, blossoms and fruit of the tree. And the God of Israel, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, would be the root of this marvelous tree (read Isaiah 11:1 and 53:2). Based on this comparison, the Church (the branches, foliage, blossoms, and fruit of the tree) would never exist without Israel (the trunk of the tree).

Foreword

There are few individuals on whose behalf I would write a foreword without having first read the manuscript to which it would be affixed. However, in the case of Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., I do it with absolutely no reservation. The love that Pastor Valverde has demonstrated toward Israel is based on Biblical knowledge. This love goes beyond an emotional fascination that has been in vogue in Christianity since the Six-Day War of 1967. Since then, numerous Christians have declared their support for Israel as they march with banners through the streets of Jerusalem. Yet, from the perspective of a Jew who was born in Jerusalem, I feel that the contributions Pastor Valverde has made through his teachings have a far greater and lasting impact in favor of Israel.

I have been amazed by Pastor Valverde’s ability to separate traditional Christian thinking from what the Scriptures reveal concerning Israel and the Jewish people. I have discovered in him an understanding regarding God’s eternal covenant with Israel, an understanding I have noted in few Christian ministers in the past thirty years. He has conferred a place of honor and respect to Jews without the slightest compromise to his own beliefs. And in the same manner as others who have walked this same path, his contact with “living Judaism” has only expanded his own faith.

It would be difficult to gauge the positive impact Pastor Valverde has had in other ministries in favor of Israel. A book could be compiled in mentioning all the religious organizations, fellowships, and ministries he has impacted. God has used him as a vessel to awaken the conscience of many believers concerning the debt and obligation Christianity has with Israel and the Jewish people. Only eternity will reveal all the prayers that have been made for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem as a result of his inspiration.

The late Pastor Leo Lopez of Nogales, Arizona, is an example of the effect Pastor Valverde’s teachings have had amid Christi-

anity concerning Israel. Although Pastor Lopez has gone on to receive his reward with the Lord, the church where he ministered continues praying and expressing their love and support for Israel and the Jewish people in effectual manner.

In addition to teaching about what the Scriptures say concerning God's eternal promises for Israel, Pastor Valverde has also brought other pastors to the land of Israel. Some of our most memorable moments at our Biblical Center on the Mount of Olives have been when Pastor Valverde and the groups he has headed have sung the songs of Zion.

Pastor Valverde is a man of God who is much ahead of his time. There are many religious environments to which I could not bring a Jewish scholar or an Ultra-Orthodox rabbi. In turn, I have been completely confident to bring such individuals to Pastor Valverde's home church in Salinas, California. On every occasion, these guests have demonstrated a desire to return, because they have experienced a genuine love for Israel and the Jewish people in Salinas not existing in many Christian environments.

My desire and prayer are that the contents of this book may bring a blessing to the reader as they open new grounds of revelation in God's Word never seen before. In conclusion, I would like to thank Pastor Valverde for conferring upon me the honor of writing the foreword of this book.

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The widely accepted, albeit false, doctrine of the Trinity has largely contributed to the prevailing negative attitude in Christianity toward the Jew. This doctrine has provided many Gentile Christians a basis to absurdly assume that “the God worshipped by the Jews is not the same God worshipped by the Christians.” This false concept has allowed anti-Semitism to continue flourishing in Christianity.

Only by divine revelation can a Christian understand that God is One (Deuteronomy 6:4). Only by divine revelation can we understand that the Church of the Lord is one (Matthew 16:18). And, only from God can a Christian obtain revelation to understand the “*mystery*” of Israel's place in God's plan of salvation. Those of us who, through God's mercy, have received revelation of these marvelous truths rejoice to see the spiritual awakening God is presently doing with Israel.

The “Movement of Repentance” is a preparatory work that God is doing in the hearts of the Jewish people before His glorious appearance. Each Jew changed by this spiritual awakening has felt a renewed desire to study the Torah (the first five books of the Bible recognized as The Law) and the remaining books of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). They have felt an urgency to pray and fast for the coming of the Messiah. After a long and terrible history of sufferings, persecutions, and death, God has returned His people to the Promised Land. And presently, God is using this spiritual awakening to return their hearts unto Him. God is preparing the hearts of His people so that they can recognize Him at His coming.

We know the Jewish people do not believe that the Lord Jesus is Israel's Messiah. Yet, if we have received revelation to understand that the God of Israel is the same God of the Church, that the Lord Almighty of the Old Testament is the same Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament, then we understand that the Lord will reveal Himself to His people at His coming. When the Jewish people see the Lord Jesus Christ then they will believe in Him. They will say to Him as the Apostle Thomas did, “*My Lord*”

among God's people, particularly among those living in the Land of Israel. This movement has been named, "The Movement of Repentance," or *Torah V' Emunah* in the Hebrew language.

This operation of the Holy Spirit has had widespread repercussions in Israel as it has reached all levels of Israeli society. From the simple laborers in the *kibbutzim* (Israeli collective farms) to the celebrated figures of cinema and music, this spiritual movement has changed the lives of many Jews. The effects of this movement have been reported in religious Jewish broadcasts and publications and also by the Israeli secular media. Particularly, when the life of a distinguished personality has been changed, his or her spiritual experience is widely publicized. From Israel, this movement has extended to other parts of the world. The testimonies of Jews whose lives God has transformed through this movement are remarkably similar to the "new birth" experience in the Christian.

Naturally, the secular international media has ignored this spiritual movement among the Jews. But ironically, Christian broadcasts and publications have also generally ignored this spiritual awakening. If there have been any commentaries, they are usually negative in manner. As I have persistently pointed out in this book, the reason for this is that the great majority of Gentile Christians have been deceived by the twisted interpretation of the Scriptures that deal with God's eternal covenant with Israel.

Christian anti-Semites cannot and do not want to accept the fact that God loves the Jewish people. This negative dogmatism does not allow them to see or accept the marvelous things that God is doing with His chosen people. This same Christianity ignores the miraculous return of the Jews to the Land of Israel and the miracle that is the modern Jewish State. It refuses to accept that these marvelous events are the fulfillment of ancient Biblical prophecies. Yet, whether the Gentile Christians accept it or not, the Jews are back in the Land of Israel after nearly two thousand years of being "*scattered*" and "*led away captive to all the nations of the world*" (Daniel 12:7 and Luke 21:24).

Introduction

There are many biblical subjects that require explanation. Upon considering our spiritual priorities, it would be difficult to point out which of these bears greater importance. Certainly, all of God's truths are marvelous and it is necessary to inform the world—particularly God's people—of each one of them.

God's eternal covenant with Israel is one of these marvelous truths. This truth is the subject of this book. It is imperative that each and every Christian understands it. The knowledge of this subject has been of vital importance throughout the centuries of the time of Grace (the period in which God's salvation has been extended to the Gentiles). If this could be said about the centuries that have passed, with all the more reason the acknowledgement of this truth is critical in these the last days. For, it is this generation that has been chosen to live in a period that the Lord referred to as the time of "*the end*" (Matthew 24:14).

It is vital for each Christian Gentile to understand "Who are Israelites" as we strive to survive spiritually during the days that are ahead. The understanding of this "*mystery*" (Romans 11:25) contains a special blessing from the Lord, a blessing that every true believer needs. My prayer to the God of Israel is that He uses this book so that many of my brethren in Christ may receive this blessing.

The Editor

Speaking God's Word with Authority

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward 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).

Are these declarations by the Apostle Paul proof that he was an anti-Semite? Absolutely not! Yet, in these and other similar expressions made by the apostle we find *“some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction”* (2 Peter 3:16). On account of the prevalence the false interpretations concerning God's eternal covenant with Israel have had amid Christianity, I have felt the inspiration of the Lord to write something positive in this respect.

We are presently living in the last days, a time in which the Second Coming of the Lord is at hand. Therefore, it is imperative for us to declare—with authority from the Holy Spirit—the truths God has revealed to us in His Word. The Author of the Word lives and is present to confirm His truths to us, and to verify what His ministers say and do within what is just and true.

The Lord has given me authority in the interpretation and teaching of His Holy Word. He has supported this testimony in me for over fifty years. It is with this assurance that I proceed to discuss the truth concerning the question entitling this book: Who are Israelites?

Additionally, the purpose of this book is to “stop the mouths” of those who teach contrary to God's truth. For in the same manner as it occurred during the time of the apostles, there are presently *“many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers (now they are from the ‘uncircumcision’), whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not...”* (Titus 1:10-11).

Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved. As it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief. Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:25-36).

A Spiritual Awakening in Israel

For the benefit of the true Gentile Christians who love the people of the Bible, I point out in this chapter several occurrences of spiritual nature presently taking place in Israel and in the Diaspora.

Previously, I briefly explained about the Orthodox movement in Judaism and the profound devotion its followers have for the God of Israel. Throughout the centuries, Orthodox Judaism has been the vessel God has used to preserve the existence of the Jewish people. The secular Jews in Israel, as well as the assimilated Jews in both the United States and the remaining countries of the Free World, recognize this fact.

Among the various branches of Orthodox Judaism, there is one recognized as Ultra-Orthodox. The Ultra-Orthodox Jew is the strictest observer of the Law. Recently, the religious fervor of the Ultra-Orthodox has caused a movement of spiritual awakening

Jews because “they killed Christ.” Yet, regardless of how absurd these and other similar declarations are, the great majority of Gentile Christians readily accept them.

The Jewish people have suffered greatly for such a long time. Therefore, it is difficult for them to believe that anyone could truly love them. Amid a world that hates and despises them, who will love the people of the Bible? The true Gentile Christians will love the Jews. These are the same Christians who have always loved God’s chosen people. They are the ones truly filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Besides loving the Jewish people, the true Christian will also feel their suffering. The true Gentile Christian can also say with the Apostle Paul, “*I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart for Israel,*” and, “*Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*” (Romans 9:2 and 10:1).

Who is going to resolve all the troubling issues confronting Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora? Only the God of Israel can and will do this. Although Israel has not yet received God’s salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God has reserved it for them. And in the fullness of time, the God of Israel will bestow it upon them.

“I say then, have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?” (Romans 11:11-12).

“For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” (Romans 11:15).

“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 fullness of the

The subject concerning God’s eternal covenant with Israel is critical. It is not just an interesting subject. The very existence of the Jewish people depends on it, as well as the spiritual life or death of the Gentile Christian. This subject cannot be discussed in a superficial manner; it is imperative to do it with Godly authority, deep conviction, and unshakable assurance.

The Demon of Anti-Semitism

Through the enlightenment of God’s Word and the guidance of His Holy Spirit, let us proceed to consider what anti-Semitism consists of, where it resides, and how to counterattack this satanic spirit.

There is no greater proof that assists me in pointing out the importance of this subject than the macabre and horrible Holocaust, an event that occurred in my generation. The twisted interpretations of the Scriptures concerning the Jewish people have been used by the devil to plant the destructive seed of anti-Semitism throughout the existence of Christianity. This satanic operation culminated in the horrendous massacre and systematic annihilation of six million Jews by Nazi Germany—a land that cradled the Protestant Reformation.

Without a doubt, it was the diabolical spirit of anti-Semitism that produced the Holocaust. Yet, this horrible event is not the only product of anti-Semitism. This operation of hatred against the Jewish people has existed throughout the world from the onset of Christianity unto the present.

The devil and all of his demons know who God is and who His people are (James 2:19). And anti-Semitism is one of the most notorious and extreme operations of the antichrist against God’s people. The antichrist is Satan, “*the god of this world*” (1 John 4:3 and 2 Corinthians 4:4). Therefore, it is crucial for the children of God to speak the truth with divine authority as we identify Satan’s persistence in promoting the evil seed of anti-Semitism through the distorted interpretation of the Scriptures.

Using twisted interpretations of the Scriptures, the evil spirit of anti-Semitism has poisoned the minds of many sincere, albeit unlearned believers. This satanic attitude has produced common expressions among Gentile Christians, such as: “The Jews are accursed because they killed Christ,” and “God no longer has anything to do with Israel, because we, the Gentile Church, are now the people of God.”

The satanic mindset of anti-Semitism insinuates that several of the apostles and even the Lord Jesus were anti-Semites. Were the Lord Jesus and His apostles anti-Semites? Absolutely not! Could it be possible for the Righteous Father to hate His own children? Could it be possible for the righteous brethren to hate their own brothers? Never!

Furthermore, there is a demonic attitude covered with a façade of innocence that is twin to the spirit of anti-Semitism. This attitude consists of many Christians who think it is correct to ignore Israel and the Jewish people as long as they do not despise them. However, this indifference cannot be justified before God. This attitude is simply the initial part of anti-Semitism’s total message, as it begins producing “*conceit*” in the Gentile Christian who ignores the “*mystery*” of Israel.

Many Christian ministers and laity have ignorantly participated in the negative operation of anti-Semitism, while others are fully conscious of the evil they are committing. However, the resulting curse not only applies to those who consciously despise the Jewish people, but also to those who “ignore” God’s eternal covenant with Israel. Concerning this “ignorance,” the Apostle Paul stated to the Gentile believers: “*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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in*” (Romans 11:25).

the earth,” the Jews have been expelled and exiled from one country to the next. By all conceivable means, they have tried to be accepted of the Gentiles for who they are, but to no avail. Yet, in spite of all the persecutions, martyrdom, and death suffered by the Jews at the hands of the Gentiles, the faithful remnant among God’s people continues to wait for the coming of the Messiah.

The price the Jewish people have paid to be God’s chosen people has proven to be a costly price of pain and bloodshed. Although many Jews have tried, they cannot remove this calling that comes from God. In spite of every possible opposition, the Jewish people have prevailed and are alive today. This has been a miracle for the ages. The true Gentile Christian recognizes this miracle and gives thanks to God for it.

During the twentieth century, the tremendous prophecy of the ages was fulfilled. Once more, Israel became a sovereign state among the nations of the world. This marvelous occurrence is of great importance to the Jewish people. It has been difficult for Gentiles—including Christians—to fully comprehend the significance of this prophetic event for the Jewish people. The reason why the State of Israel is so important to the Jew, is because the modern Jewish State provides a refuge for God’s chosen people from the hatred and persecution of the Gentile nations which have lasted for over nineteen centuries.

The State of Israel is continually faced on all sides with the threat of attack from its surrounding enemies. Another problem is the polarization of ideas from its citizenry, which is creating a dangerous predicament for the Jewish State. In addition to the aforementioned dilemmas, Satan—the antichrist—continues spreading his anti-Semitic message throughout Christianity. He continues using the “*unlearned and unstable*” in the Christian clergy to deceive multitudes of Christians. By twisting the Scriptures, the “*unlearned and unstable*” continue misleading Christians to believe that God has forsaken the Jews, that the Jewish State of Israel is meaningless because Gentile Christians are now the true Israel of God, and that it is correct to hate and despise the

the Jewish people. Furthermore, this genuine demonstration of the Lord Jesus' love from true Gentile Christians is what the Jews have always desired.

The Great Jewish Dilemma

The Jews did not choose their calling. God chose it for them. Among God's people, there are those who understand this truth and react correspondingly. Others do not recognize their special calling as God's chosen people, and this is why they attempt to hide or deny their origin.

Through their sufferings and persecutions, the Jews have proven that the satanic spirit of anti-Semitism makes no distinction among them. Anti-Semitism despises and curses both the religious Jew and secular Jew. It persecutes the devout Jew as well as the assimilated Jew. The devil knows perfectly well who the Jewish people are. He knows they are the people of The Book. He also knows that the Jews have a special place before the Almighty God. This is why the devil hates the Jews and why he has incited multitudes of Gentiles—including many Christians—to hate, despise, persecute, and kill them.

For centuries, the prevailing spirit of anti-Semitism in the world has tormented the Jews. By reason of their anguish, the Jewish people live in a state of apprehension towards the Gentiles. This mindset is often too difficult for the Gentile Christian to comprehend. In Israel and in the Diaspora, the Jew longs to be accepted by the Gentile population and the nations of the world. The Jew desires comprehension and love. But as much as he pursues them, he cannot obtain them. On the contrary, the Jew continues to receive an incessant cycle of reproach and defamation from Gentile individuals as well as nations.

The satanic operation of anti-Semitism has existed for twenty centuries and shows no signs of diminishing. The numerous sufferings and persecutions of the Jewish people are recorded throughout the chronicles of history. Identified as "the curse of

Certainly, the Scriptures used by the anti-Semites are found in the pages of the Holy Book. However, the difference between the positive and negative operation consists of the interpretation of these Scriptures. In the explanation of the Scriptures, I make use of the authority it has pleased God to give me in His Word. Therefore, the following interpretation of Scripture is not a mere Biblical commentary, but also a doctrinal declaration authorized by the Holy Spirit.

The Misinterpreted Scriptures

“*N*ot as though the Word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed”
(Romans 9:6-8).

The aforementioned Scripture has been used throughout the Christian era to emphasize a marvelous truth. Its central idea is that salvation for any human—Jew or Gentile—can only be obtained by the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. No one can refute this truth. All of the Scriptures in the New Testament and all of the prophecies of the Old Testament bear witness of this truth. For this reason, the following Scripture declares: **“*For if righteousness comes by the Law, then Christ is dead in vain*”** (Galatians 2:21 and Romans 4:13-14).

The Eternal God established His First Covenant solely with the people of Israel. When the time came for God to manifest His Grace, the First Covenant was used as a **“*schoolmaster*”** to establish the Second Covenant (read Galatians 3:24-25). It is an undeniable truth that the Jewish people can only be saved by Grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those of us who have learned from God to fervently love and support Israel and the Jewish people understand that nothing can change or alter this truth.

The Scriptural declaration that the children of God are not determined according to the flesh is correct (Romans 2:28-29). Yet, the problem consists of the manner in which this Scripture is interpreted and the spirit with which it is applied. When the Gentile Christian communicates this truth in the correct spirit required of God, it produces a blessing for Israel and the Jewish people. Contrariwise, when it is applied with an incorrect spirit, the declaration of this truth is transformed into a curse for the individual that **“wrests”** the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:16).

The twisted interpretation of yet another controversial Scripture has been used by Satan to sow the evil spirit of anti-Semitism. The Apostle Paul directed this Scripture to the Gentile church in Thessalonica: **“For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus. For ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: 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: forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins always: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost”** (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16).

In particular, the aforementioned Scripture is used by Christian anti-Semites to make the notorious and venomous declaration: “The Jews killed Christ.” Incited by the devil, many deceitful ministers have falsely used this Scripture to poison the consciousness of multitudes of Christians. Many of these sincere, albeit unwary believers have no idea why their perception of the Jewish people is negative. Yet, in their ignorance they heap the curse of God upon their lives as they curse and despise a people that has been blessed of God (read Genesis 12:3).

As with all the other New Testament Scriptures that appear negative with regards to the Jewish people, the Apostle Paul’s declaration to the Gentile believers in Thessalonica was not a general reference to all Jews. He directly alluded to the **“princes”** among his people during that time (1 Corinthians 2:8). These

them is because the Lord Jesus—whom they have not yet recognized—lives in me.

Of the numerous experiences I have had with God’s chosen people, there is one in particular that stands out in my memory. Years ago, I was in the beloved city of Jerusalem on the morning of the Jewish Passover. In the lobby of the hotel where my wife and I were lodged, I met a middle-aged married couple. They were both Israeli Jews. The husband was the cantor of a synagogue in Israel. As in the aforementioned manner, I shared with them my love and support for Israel and the Jewish people. At the conclusion of our conversation, the wife began to cry. In her broken English, she expressed the following to me:

“Pastor, in all of my life I have never heard a Gentile Christian speak the words that you have shared with us. You have no idea how much joy I feel to know that there are many Christians in America who love us in the manner you have explained. I want to confess something to you. In all my life I have always asked myself why I was born into a race that all the rest of the world hates and despises. On occasions, this thought has made me consider taking my own life. For this reason, I tell you once again, that what you have shared with us is something that I appreciate and value greatly.”

It is quite possible that I will never see that couple again. However, I will never forget the words of that Jewish woman. This opportunity to share the love of the Lord Jesus with this couple has been one of many similar experiences I have had with the Jewish people. I am certain that each one of God’s people who has received my words and demonstration of love will retain in his or her life the testimony of **“JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS”**. (Matthew 27:37). The reason for this is that the Lord Jesus lives in me.

This testimony is what the Lord Jesus wants the Gentile Christian to give to His people. And, this is the manner in which He wants the Gentile Christian to convey the message of Grace to

God has not called the Gentile Christians to “convert” the Jews. Throughout the centuries of Christianity, few Jewish people have received the Lord Jesus as their Messiah. This is the Lord’s doing and not man’s. The Gentile Church has not been commissioned by God to take the message of repentance and baptism to the Jews, and much less to the Orthodox Jews. We have not been commissioned to tell them “they must accept God.” Moreover, God definitely has not commissioned Gentile Christians to curse and heap judgement upon His people. Yet, this is exactly what the demon of anti-Semitism has incited many Gentile Christians to do.

The true Gentile Christians have been commissioned by God to demonstrate genuine love for the people of the Bible. Concerning the Jewish people, this is the true calling of the Gentile Church. If we understand that God loves Israel in a special way, then we must also love Israel in a special way. If we do this, then the blessing of the God of Israel offered to Abraham—father of the faithful (Galatians 3:7)—will also be ours: “***And I will bless them that bless thee***” (Genesis 12:3).

The Appropriate Testimony for the Jew

I have personally communicated my convictions to many Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora. They have come to know who I am and what I believe. They have not rejected me, but on the contrary, I have been accepted as a friend and in some cases as a brother. Why have I received this acceptance among the Jews? Because of the testimony I have demonstrated to them. It is a testimony of a sincere and deep love for Israel and the Jewish people. Stirred with emotion, some have even shed tears through the genuineness of my love.

This is the appropriate and effective testimony that I have individually communicated to that Jewish man, Jewish woman and rabbi in the synagogue. I have not conveyed this testimony with fixed or prearranged declarations. I have made them feel and understand through my actions that the love I demonstrate to

“***princes***” had become bitter enemies of the Gospel of Christ and of Paul, “***the apostle of the Gentiles***” (Romans 11:13).

During Paul’s lifetime, the great majority of Jews knew nothing about the Lord Jesus or of His crucifixion. These Jews had no idea who Paul was or of the persecution he was suffering. Could these Jews be rightly blamed for something they knew nothing about or for circumstances completely out of their control? Absolutely not! Now, if this applied for that past generation, what can be said of the ensuing generations of Jews yet to come?

The true Christian can clearly see how absurd and diabolic the twisted interpretation is which falsely states that “the Jews killed Christ.” Yet, in spite of this, the demons of anti-Semitism have used Christianity’s ignorance concerning God’s eternal covenant with Israel to continue sowing their evil seed.

Anti-Semitism has brought physical harm to Israel for the past nineteen centuries. Still, the negative effects of this curse are more harmful to those who provoke it. For, the promise of God to Abraham and his natural seed stands firm: “***I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...***” (Genesis 12:3). It has been approximately four thousand years since the Eternal God made this declaration to Abraham. World history gives account of what has happened to the Gentile nations that have cursed Israel and the Jewish people at one time or another. In this case, the greatest irony is that this curse has been more prominent during the centuries of the Christian Church. The negative seed of anti-Semitism has been cultivated in superlative fashion in the Gentile Church. As a result, Christianity has heaped upon itself anti-Semitism’s harmful consequences.

By twisting and isolating the Scriptures in Romans 2:28-29 and 9:6-8, many Christians have falsely believed that the Gentile Church is the true Israel of God. They have believed that the Gentile Church is spiritual Israel and that physical Israel has been forgotten of God. This deceived Christianity has believed that the Jewish people have been forsaken and rejected by God and the

divine blessings of the Old and New Testament apply only to the Church. Conversely, this deception teaches that all the curses in both Testaments do apply to the Jewish people because “they rejected and killed Christ.”

Twisting the Scriptures to produce a hatred for Israel and the Jewish people is evil, and it will invariably produce harmful effects. Like all the other demonic operations, we understand that anti-Semitism will persist until the day of the Lord. Nevertheless, this is our time to do everything possible to counterattack what is contrary to the truth of God’s Word.

As I previously asserted, false interpretations concerning this “*mystery*” abound in Christianity and ignorance is predominant. Therefore, there is an urgent need to clarify God’s truth concerning this subject. We must distinguish between right and wrong, between ignorance and understanding, and do so with authority in God’s Word. For it is God’s purpose to bless the Jewish people, and true Christians together with them.

The Accurate Rule of Interpretation

Like all other Biblical subjects, the understanding of God’s eternal plan for Israel is based on the accurate interpretation of the Scriptures. The science and methodology of interpretation of the Bible—hermeneutics—consist of the basic rule that the Holy Scripture should interpret itself. Whenever a Scriptural portion is isolated and used without taking into account its context or additional Scriptures connected with its subject, then contradictions and false teachings result.

Throughout the centuries the inaccurate method of Biblical interpretation has produced many erroneous doctrines as well as sects that promote them. To illustrate this fact, there is a popular doctrine teaching that the human soul is mortal and that man’s death is similar to that of animals. This false doctrine was founded on two isolated Scriptures. One is in the Old Testament and the other in the New Testament: “*Behold, all souls are mine;*

and futile attempts to forcibly convert the Jews. By intolerance, threats, and curses inappropriately taken from the Bible, this deceived Christianity is convinced it can convert the Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora.

It is despairing to see that a great majority of Christians ignore the “*veil*” that has remained upon the people of the Bible for twenty centuries (2 Corinthians 3:14-16). They cannot comprehend that the Lord, who placed this “*veil*” upon His people for our sake, is the only one who can remove it. After all of these centuries, it is distressing to see that many Gentile Christians cannot understand that we must love and bless the Jews instead of judging and cursing them.

By reason of the negative attitude from so-called Christians, it is understandable that the Jews have been given a negative impression of the Lord Jesus. This anti-Semitic Christianity has presented the Jews a “christ” of hatred and a “christ” who has provoked a false Christianity to despise, persecute, and kill God’s chosen people. The “christ” that has done this is not the true Christ. He is the antichrist. The true Gentile Christian in whom the Lord Jesus Christ truly lives cannot despise or curse the people from where our salvation comes (read John 4:22).

Regardless of the Jew’s attitude or situation, the true Gentile Christian will always bless him. And if the opportunity presents itself, the true Gentile Christian will share his convictions with deep love and strong emotion. In spite of whatever circumstances, the true Gentile Christian will always esteem the Jew as a living proof of the veracity of the Holy Bible. Whether the world accepts it or not, the Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—is a Jewish Book. Concerning the ownership of the Holy Book, the derisive protest of a Gentile was accurate when he said, “I would be able to deny that book they call the Bible. The only thing that prevents me is the existence of those cursed Jews.” Contrariwise, the true Gentile Christian can exclaim, “Thank God for those blessed Jews!”

It is a fact that the majority of the Jewish people in the world are secular or assimilated. And, it is a fact that the small minority of Orthodox Jews in the world continues to reject the Lord Jesus as Israel's Messiah. Nevertheless, this does not justify the false doctrine of the *"unlearned and unstable,"* who twist the Scriptures to teach that the Jewish people are forsaken by God and are no longer the Israel of God.

The Correct Attitude of the Gentile Christian

It is extremely important for Gentile Christian to understand what attitude toward the Jewish people is the correct one. To obtain this understanding, we must first recognize the significant difference between the Jew and the Gentile Christian. The difference is that a Christian is a Christian by choice, and a Jew is a Jew by birth.

God formed Israel. God made Israel into a nation and a race. A Jew is born a Jew. He does not choose to be a Jew, but rather he is chosen by God to be a Jew. In turn, the Gentile Christian who has received understanding from God's Word realizes that he was not born a Christian. He understands that he chooses to be or not to be a Christian out of his own will.

The Jews are a race and they are a nation. Christianity is a universal group composed of individuals from every race, tribe, nation, and tongue who have independently chosen to be members of the Church. In order to demonstrate the correct attitude toward the Jew, it is necessary for the true Christian to understand this aforementioned difference. This understanding is particularly important when the Christian encounters Jews who are non-believers, secular, assimilated, or even holding extreme views within the religious groups.

The prevailing consensus in Christianity expects the Jews to conduct themselves as Christians. They ignorantly expect this from the individual Jew, the Jewish community and the modern State of Israel. This mentality is linked to Christianity's absurd

as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

There are many Scriptures throughout the length of the Holy Book that speak of the immortality of the human soul. However, when the aforementioned Scriptures are isolated, they have been used to persuade a great number of unwary Christians to falsely accept that since the human soul is mortal, then eternity is irrelevant.

As the Apostle Peter spoke in favor of the Apostle Paul's ministry and commented on the difficulty of understanding his brother's epistles, he denounced those who *"wrested"* the Scriptures *"unto their own destruction"* (2 Peter 3:15-17). The utilization of isolated Scriptures is an effective device of the *"unlearned and unstable."* This ploy has been used to invent a "Trinity" in the Godhead. It has been used to deny the power of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins in water baptism. It has been used to invent "the mass" to supplant the Lord's Supper (the Christian Passover). By *"wresting"* the Scriptures, the *"unlearned and unstable"* have invented numerous false doctrines and teachings *"unto their own destruction."* And in their deviation, they have lured multitudes of Christians into deception.

The ploy of isolating single Scriptures to form a doctrine has been used by the devil to sow anti-Semitism in Christianity. In this case, Romans chapter 9 verses 6 through 8 are isolated from the context of all the remaining verses in the chapter. Additionally, this Scripture is isolated from the context of the two subsequent chapters (10 and 11) that deal with the same subject. Contrariwise, when accurate interpretation is utilized and the context of all three chapters is taken into account, then the perception obtained is completely positive. This explanation offers absolutely no support to ignore and reject Israel, much less despise God's chosen people.

Having this positive perception, we can accurately understand the following Scriptures:

“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen” (Romans 9:4-5).

“God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew” (Romans 11:2).

“I say then, have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?” (Romans 11:11-12).

“For if the casting away of them (the Jews) be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” (Romans 11:15).

The aforementioned verses assist in recognizing the mistake of using isolated portions of Scripture to say that God has forsaken Israel. These verses point out the error in claiming that the Gentile Church is “spiritual Israel” and the exclusive heir of all of God’s promises. In spite of this, ***“unlearned and unstable”*** Christians exclude Israel from all of God’s promises in the Bible. And not being satisfied, they also heap all the curses in both the Old and New Testament upon the Jewish people.

The subjects that occupy the Apostle Paul in Romans chapters 2, 9, 10, and 11 are each one profound in meaning. The apostle expounds upon these subjects in order to clarify God’s positive intention towards Israel in His plan of salvation, a plan that also includes the Gentiles. Other Scriptures from both the Old and New Testament support the apostle’s declarations in these chap-

contrary to Orthodox Judaism idea where assimilation is strictly prohibited.

Inasmuch as secular and assimilated Jews make up the great majority of the Jewish population in the United States and the remaining nations of the Free World, these are the Jews who Christians customarily encounter. The secular lifestyle of these Jews has given many Gentile Christians a negative impression. As a result, this unfavorable perspective has caused many Christians to falsely conclude that God has forsaken the Jews and that they are no longer the Israel of God. If these Christians were given the opportunity of observing the lifestyle of the Orthodox Jew, in witnessing his ceremonies, and understanding the profound devotion he has for God and His Law, then their opinion would change favorably. Then they would have to acknowledge that ***“God hath not cast away His people.”*** Being among this faithful remnant in Israel and in the Diaspora, I have personally witnessed and experienced the Orthodox Jews’ intense passion to serve the God of Israel.

Surprisingly, the situation is entirely different with the Jews in Russia, those detained in Muslim nations, and those in countries with oppressive regimes. These Jews are not assimilated by reason of choice. They are forcibly obligated to assimilate. Nevertheless, this negative operation has produced a positive desire in these persecuted Jews to identify with their Jewishness. It has provoked them to learn about their history, to learn the Hebrew language, to practice the traditions of their forefathers, and above all, to study the Holy Bible.

In these last days, many Jews have managed to come out of Russia and other oppressive nations where they have been persecuted. Many of these Jews have disapprovingly looked upon the spiritual indifference of secular Jews in Israel. They also hold an unfavorable opinion towards the assimilated lifestyle of the majority of Jews in the United States and all the other nations of the Free World.

effect of assimilation among God's people has been most harmful in times of material prosperity. Conversely, trial, suffering, persecution, and even martyrdom have been the instruments God has used to deliver His people from the snare of assimilation. This Godly intervention applies to both Israel and the Church. Therefore, it is imperative that true Christians identify assimilation's evil influence and resist it by all possible means.

Statistical numbers and percentages point out the effects of assimilation upon Israel. Presently, there are approximately fourteen million Jews in the world. Five million of them live in Israel, six million in the United States, two million in Russia, and the rest are spread out in the other nations of the world. In Israel, the religious Jews identified as Orthodox are a minority. These strict observers of the Law approximately make up twenty-five percent of the population. The remainder of the Jewish population in Israel consider themselves secular.

Of this secular population, about half moderately respect the memory of God and the importance of the Hebrew Bible in the existence of the Jewish people. Some of them observe festivals, Sabbaths, and other ordinances of Judaism. They do not participate in these Jewish rituals out of conviction or love for the God of their forefathers, but simply as participants in the culture of their people. Even in this superficial acceptance, a great portion of this secular population recognizes the unique role of the Jewish people in world history as well as the modern State of Israel's prominence in international affairs.

The Orthodox Jews make up about ten percent of the approximately six million Jews residing in the United States. The remaining religious Jews living in the United States pertain to two separate branches of Judaism known as Conservative and Reform. Of these two branches, Reform Judaism accounts for the greater number. Reform Jews believe assimilation to be permissible by God. By assimilating into the surrounding Gentile cultures, they believe they have the right to demand acceptance as ordinary citizens who are able to maintain their Jewishness. This belief is

ters. To illustrate the point of this book, I have only mentioned several verses from the aforementioned chapters. I do this because numerous books could be written if elaboration were made upon each word and verse.

The Veil Upon Israel

“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by that which is called circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:11-13).

“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).

The profound and mysterious truth of God is that in His **“unsearchable”** judgements (Romans 11:33), He blinded Israel in unbelief to have mercy upon the Gentiles. **“For God hath concluded them all (the Jews) in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all (the Gentiles)”** (Romans 11:32). I reemphasize that salvation for both the Jew and Gentile comes only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And although a **“veil”** (2 Corinthians 3:14-16) of unbelief remains upon the Jewish people not allowing them to accept the Lord Jesus as the Messiah, they are not and will never be forsaken nor forgotten by God. This can never happen, because Israel will never cease to be God's chosen people.

Through Jeremiah the prophet, God declared the indestructibility of Israel: **“Thus saith the Lord which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of host is His Name: If those ordinances depart from before Me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall**

cease from being a nation before Me for ever. Thus saith the Lord: If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

The Eternal God, in His awesome and sovereign purpose, placed partial blindness (Romans 11:25) upon His chosen people in order to have mercy upon the “*wild olive trees*” (Romans 11:17). For a duration of time, it pleased God to partly withhold the food of everlasting life from His children (Israel). This was done in order to offer the “*dogs*” (Gentiles) the divine food that solely belonged to God’s children (read Matthew 15:21-28).

It was necessary that “*His own received Him not*” (John 1:11), “*for had they known (Him), they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*” (1 Corinthians 2:8). And, if the Lord had not been crucified, then the Gentiles would still be hungering “*dogs*,” having “*no hope, and without God in the world*” (Ephesians 2:12).

Therefore, as Gentile Christians, we should always be deeply grateful that for our sake Israel has not been allowed to recognize the Lord Jesus Christ. We should always be mindful that Israel has paid a price of suffering for our sake. If we understand this, we will love them instead of despising them for not accepting the Lord Jesus as their Messiah. “*As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sake*” (Romans 11:28).

The Absurdity of Christian Anti-Semites

The “*unlearned and unstable*” will continue to teach that the Jewish people do not believe, know, nor serve God. Additionally, it is taught that the God of the Jews is not the God of the Christian Church. Regardless of the absurdity of these declarations, many Christians still accept them.

forsaken of God as the recipients of numerous persecutions and killings at the hands of the Gentile nations.

Israel and the Jewish People Today

Presently, the great majority of Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora (dispersion) live in unbelief. This situation exists in spite of the fact that God has miraculously restored the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. Strong contributing factors allow this condition to exist among the Jewish people.

The most contributing factor is the tremendous disillusion that prevails in the minds of so many Jews due to the horrors perpetrated by Nazi Germany in the Holocaust. This disillusion not only exists in the Jews that survived this horrible occurrence but also in their subsequent generations. These Jews repeatedly ask the question, “If the God of the Bible exists, why did He allow six million of our people to be massacred in the Holocaust?” The answer to this question is difficult. However, I briefly point out that it was necessary for the Jewish people—depicted by “*the woman*” in Revelation chapter 12:1-2 and 5-6—to suffer “*birth pains*” in order to give birth to the modern State of Israel.

The anti-Semitism that has existed in Christianity is another factor contributing to unbelief among the Jewish people. Throughout the centuries of the Christian Church, the Jews have endured mistreatment and persecution at the hands of Christian anti-Semites who profess to believe the same Bible entrusted by God to the Jews. Not only does this negative attitude cause many of God’s people to deny the writings of the New Testament, but also those of the Old Testament.

Assimilation has also caused many Jews to live in unbelief. A Jew invokes this attitude as he hides his Jewishness by assimilating to the culture and traditions of the Gentiles. To avoid being discriminated and despised as Jews, they distance themselves from their Jewish identity. As Israel and the Gentile Church, God’s people have always had to face this obstacle. The adverse

It would give many anti-Semites (Christians, Muslims, pagans, and atheists) no greater satisfaction than to see the extinction of the Jewish people. Additionally, the destruction of the modern State of Israel would bring them great joy. However, after four thousand years, Israel and the Jewish people continue to exist in spite of exiles, numerous persecutions, and indescribable sufferings. The people of the Bible are alive and will remain alive until the end of time. This is a marvelous and undeniable truth, and the true Gentile Christians give thanks to God for this truth.

Israel's continual existence has been the greatest disappointment of anti-Semitism. Vexed by this immutable truth, the evil spirit of anti-Semitism continues utilizing its numerous devices to twist the Scriptures. As a result, unwary Christians have been deceived in believing that the Jewish people are no longer the people of God and that the modern State of Israel is not the true Israel of God.

It is understandable for someone to maintain that the Gentile Christians of the early Church accepted the erroneous interpretations concerning the Jewish people. At that time, the prevailing opinion was that a great majority of the Jewish people would willingly convert to Christianity. This opinion is also evident in the writings of the Apostle Paul. However, this perception was changed through the determination of the Jewish people to continue observing the Law of Moses. Historical record gives accounts of how Christianity then attempted to forcibly convert the Jews in the ensuing centuries. Consequently, the message of anti-Semitism had a wide acceptance during that time.

However, after twenty centuries, it is an absolute absurdity for Christian anti-Semites to continue sustaining that Israel does not exist and that the Jewish people are not the people of God. Nevertheless, the distressing actuality is that ***“the god of this world has blinded the minds”*** (2 Corinthians 4:4) of many unwary Christians to deny the reality of the Jewish people. This blindness does not allow them to accept the obvious fact that the Jewish people would have ceased a long time ago had they been

Is not the God of the Old Testament the same God of the New Testament? Does not Ruth the Moabite (a figure of the Gentile Church) say to Naomi (a figure of the Jewish people): ***“Your people shall be my people, and your God my God?”*** (Ruth 1:16). Absolutely yes! The fundamental truth of God remains firm and unmovable: ***“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord”*** (Deuteronomy 6:4). God is neither a Trinity nor a Duality. **GOD IS ONE.** ***“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever”*** (Hebrews 13:8).

In the same manner that all in the Christian Church are not all Christians, also ***“they are not all Israel which are of Israel”*** (Romans 9:6). Nevertheless, the miraculous work of God has continued throughout the ages among the Jewish people. A faithful remnant has remained in spite of the tremendous persecutions suffered at the hands of Christians. Till this day, this faithful remnant has been identified as the Orthodox Jew. To say that this faithful remnant does not know or worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a blasphemy. The individual who maintains this mindset does not realize the danger of his ignorance.

Nonetheless, the ***“unlearned and unstable”*** continue to ***“wrest the Scriptures”*** (2 Peter 3:15-16). They do this not only ***“unto their own destruction,”*** but also for the spiritual ruin of many unwary Christians who are swept away by their erroneous interpretations. For this reason, I insist that it is a gross injustice for those who are aware of the truth to remain silent. The Lord will hold us accountable if we do not speak out in defense of ***“the least of our brethren”*** (Matthew 25:40, 45). With the unbelievers, pagans, and atheists there is little if anything we can do concerning the infernal demon of anti-Semitism. However, we have a sacred responsibility to do everything possible to deliver our fellow brethren from the doctrines of error.

The Old and New Covenants

When the appointed time arrived for God to manifest His Grace to all the world, God annulled His Old Covenant to establish His New Covenant. As Gentile Christians, it is significantly important for us to understand that God's original covenant with Israel was not literally discarded or invalidated. God placed the Old Covenant as a supporting foundation for the New Covenant. As Christians, have we been instructed by God to disregard and reject the Old Testament? Is not the Holy Bible in its entirety comprised of two Testaments, the Old and New Testaments?

One of the most absurd ironies contrived by Christian anti-Semitism is to categorize Judaism with all the other false religions of the world. The irony resides in that the *“unlearned and unstable”* use an accumulation of Scriptures in the Old Testament—the Jewish Scriptures—to prove the truths of Christian faith. Although this application of Old Testament Scriptures is entirely correct, a contradiction exists in their negative perception of Judaism and the people of The Book. This insolence confirms the error of the *“unlearned and unstable.”* The reason for this is that Christianity could never exist without Judaism.

Judaism cannot and should not be categorized with all the false religions of the world. The simple yet powerful reason is that Judaism was originated by God. Although many traditions have been incorporated into Judaism throughout the centuries, no true Christian can deny that “The Torah” (The Law) was given directly to Israel by God through His servant Moses. This also applies to the writings of the prophets, the Psalms, and the remaining books of the Old Testament known as the Hebrew Bible.

From the calling of Abraham until the first advent of the Lord Jesus Christ (nearly two thousand years), Israel solely occupied the special privilege of being God's chosen people. During this period, Israel was the only nation that possessed the covenant—the only covenant at that time—made by the Eternal God with His people. Yet, when *“the fullness of time was come”*

unbelief: even so much have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy” (Romans 11:30-31).

As Paul continued to firmly repeat the message of salvation by Grace, he was moved through a spirit of compassion and love for the Jewish people. This is the mindset that should exist in each and every Gentile Christian. This proper attitude was illustrated when Paul declared, *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth”* (Romans 10:1-4).

A positive combination of truth and attitude has been non-existent in a Christianity troubled by the spirit of anti-Semitism. Instead of using the Gospel of the Lord Jesus for a blessing, the *“unlearned and unstable”* have produced a curse when they have presented the Gospel without love or compassion. Through this action, the Gentile Christian is unconsciously deceived to advocate exactly what he reproves in the Jewish people. This reproof is based on the Jews acceptance of the Law, which produces judgement and death through the knowledge of sin. And although the deceived Christian understands that Grace produces spiritual liberty and life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gospel produces spiritual death when it is presented with a negative mindset.

The Indestructible Jew

The subject of Israel is extensive. It encompasses the four thousand years of the Jewish people's existence. Entire libraries would be filled through both the writings of learned Jewish rabbis and scholarly Gentile writers.

(Romans 11:29). God cannot contradict or deny Himself. As recorded throughout the length of the Holy Bible, God's covenant and promises with Israel are eternal and cannot be ignored or denied.

A large portion of the world's population is blinded by the demon of anti-Semitism. From among this number, there are individuals professing themselves to be "Christians." Enticed by this evil spirit, the latter declares that the Jewish people have been forsaken and are no longer the Israel of God. Regardless of its popularity, this erroneous message cannot and will not change the truth of God's Word. This truth is that the Jewish people are the people of God, and that they will remain in existence in spite of anti-Semitism. Israel will always be the chosen people of God, and they will continue being used of God. No one or nothing can change this fact.

Certainly, the Jewish people have been blinded "*in part*" during the manifestation of God's Grace to the Gentiles. Nevertheless, a faithful remnant has served and been faithful to God throughout the history of the Jewish people. The partial blindness in Israel refers to understanding and not quantity. Concerning the remnant among the Jewish people who have never ceased to believe in the God of Israel, the partial blindness consists of a "*veil*" placed by God upon their understanding not allowing them to recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord (2 Corinthians 3:13-16). Unto this day, this "*blindness*" remains upon the Jewish people for the sake of the Gentiles. For those of us who understand the true relationship between the message of the Law and the message of Grace, by His mercy God has given us His revelation completely and not "*in part.*"

Regardless of its absurdity, multitudes of Christians believe that the Jewish people deny God because they do not believe in the Lord Jesus. This gross ignorance provokes these unwary Christians to despise and curse the people of The Book. They ignore principal truths, such as the following declaration of the Apostle Paul: "*For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God; yet have now obtained mercy through their (Jews)*

(Galatians 4:4), God manifested His Grace (the New Covenant) unto the Gentiles by Jesus Christ our Lord.

As Gentile Christians, we must understand that it is impossible for the Jewish people to accept the idea of being "replaced" by the Gentiles in God's plan of salvation. It is impossible for them to accept that they have been "replaced" by the "uncircumcised." For nearly twenty centuries, it has been inconceivable for them to accept that the Gentiles, who knew nothing of God's Law, could be considered part of God's people. They cannot accept that "*the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained righteousness*" (Romans 9:30). The Jews cannot accept that "*having obtained a good report through faith, they received not the promise.*" Why? Because, "*God having provided some better thing for us (the Gentiles), that they (the Jews) without us should not be made perfect*" (Hebrews 11:39-40). Except the truth of God is that the Gentile Christians have not "replaced" the Jewish people. We have been "added" to them by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This point is at the very heart of our subject.

It was difficult for the great part of the Jewish people to accept Christianity during the time of the early Church, and presently it is all the more difficult. The reason for this is because from the fourth century until today the "official" position of the "Christian Church" has been to despise, curse, persecute and kill the Jewish people. This false Christianity has used the same controversial Scriptures that initiate this study (Romans 2:28-29 and Romans 9:6-8) to distort the truth of God's Word.

Regardless of the aforementioned, we must never forget that everything is in the powerful hand of the Almighty. God has not forsaken or forgotten His people (Romans 11:2). God has kept the Jewish people alive and has returned them to the Land of Israel. The God of Israel is using His people for the fulfillment of the prophecies of the last days before His Second Coming.

How, then, is it possible for a great number of Christians throughout the centuries to believe that the Jewish people are not the Israel of God? It is possible when the natural mind lacks the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Without God's guidance, the human mind is susceptible to believe lies regardless of how absurd and illogical they are. However, with divine revelation we can understand and believe the truths of God's Word.

The Apostle Paul was not an Anti-Semite

Throughout the Christian era there have always been those who have alleged that the Apostles Paul and John, and even the Lord Jesus Christ, were anti-Semites. These individuals have based their allegations on the strong declarations the Lord and His apostles directed to the Jews of their time. I assuredly affirm that these allegations are blasphemous.

Once again I ask. Could it be possible for the Heavenly Father to despise his children? Could it be possible for God's servants to despise their brethren? This disdain could possibly happen amid a world that denies God. However, with God and His true children this could never occur. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully examine—with the proper spirit—the reasoning that caused the Lord and His apostles to direct their strong declarations to the Jews.

Together with His apostles, the Lord Jesus Christ repeatedly quoted the Scriptures of the Old Testament to confirm His teachings and to use them as a foundation of His message (John 5:39 and Romans 15:4). The Lord Jesus Christ stated, ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill”*** (Matthew 5:17). In accordance to the words of Israel's prophets, the Lord Jesus sacrificed His Body to ***“fulfill”*** the Law as an ***“offering”*** in which He ***“perfected forever them that are sanctified”*** (Hebrews 10:14). In doing this, He shook the very foundations of the Jewish people. With the Lord's sacrifice, ***“the casting away”*** of the Jewish people was initiated as a temporary estrangement that consequently brought ***“the reconciling of the world”*** (Romans 11:15).

the giving of the Law, and the service of God, and the promises” (Romans 9:4).

In order for the branches from ***“the wild olive tree”*** to be grafted into ***“the good olive tree,”*** Paul understood that it was necessary for ***“natural branches”*** to be cut off from ***“the good olive tree”*** (Romans 11:16-24). However, the apostle emphatically exhorts the Gentile Christians in the aforementioned Scriptures neither to ***“boast”*** nor to be ***“high-minded”*** against the natural branches. Notwithstanding, an arrogant Christianity has gone against Paul's warning throughout the centuries.

As the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul sustained himself as an unshakable pillar. He declared the supreme message of God's salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As the testimony in the sacred pages of the Holy Book affirms, Paul did not declare this message with spite, contempt, or judgement at the expense of the Jewish people. He did so with loving-kindness.

The Apostle Paul and his fellow apostles never taught the early Christians that God had cast away the Jewish people. Throughout the centuries of the Church, the true ministers of the Lord have never taught such a false and cursed doctrine. It has been taught by the ***“unlearned and unstable”*** who have been blinded by the evil spirit of anti-Semitism. God's truth holds that salvation for the Jew and the Gentile comes only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, the difference between spiritual life and death is the mindset in which this message is presented. This truth applies especially to God's chosen people.

Partial Blindness in Israel

Concerning the revelation of the Lord Jesus, it pleased the Eternal God to place ***“blindness”*** upon His people (Romans 11:25). This ***“blindness”*** is only ***“in part.”*** It is not complete blindness as falsely interpreted by the spirit of anti-Semitism. Paul knew that God ***“hath not cast away His people”*** (Romans 11:1-2) because ***“the calling of God is without repentance”***.

Paul's testimony as an ardent observer of the Law contributed when he spoke of the superiority of the redeeming Grace of Jesus Christ over the Law of Moses. Because he clearly understood the mindset of his brethren "*according to the flesh,*" Paul's testimony persuaded him to declare this truth with "*great heaviness and continual sorrow.*" Paul understood that his kinsmen rejected the Lord Jesus as the Messiah with the same mindset and zeal that he once maintained. Paul understood that "*blindness in part (had) happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in*" (Romans 11:25). Therefore, he presented this message with "*great heaviness and continual sorrow,*" desiring that he "*were accursed from Christ*" for his brethren.

In his understanding, Paul preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with Godly authority. In a clear and definitive manner, he pointed out God's immutable truths foretold by the prophets of Israel that were fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus as Israel's Messiah. Throughout his ministry, he never once ignored God's eternal covenant with Israel. In several of his epistles, Paul directly explained the role occupied by the Law in God's plan of salvation and its replacement by the message of Grace. However, he never implied that Israel would ever cease from being God's chosen people or that the Jewish people would ever cease from being a nation.

The Apostle Paul taught that Gentile Christians could become "*fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God*" (Ephesians 2:19) through faith in the Lord Jesus. He taught that by God's Grace "*the Gentiles should be fellow heirs—with the Jews (God's original people)—and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel*" (Ephesians 3:6). Paul taught that the Gentiles were at one time "*without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world*" (Ephesians 2:12). He taught that if the Gentiles would believe in the Lord Jesus, then they could become fellow heirs with the people of Israel, of whom "*pertaineth (presently) the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and*

It was during the inception of this estrangement that the Apostle Paul was called of God to be "*the apostle of the Gentiles,*" the apostle of the uncircumcision. If the apostleship of Peter, the apostle of the circumcision (Galatians 2:7-8), was difficult among the Jewish Christians, then Paul's apostleship among the Gentile pagans was more difficult. To "*reconcile both (Jews and Gentiles) unto God in one body by the cross*" (Ephesians 2:16) was not an easy task then, nor has it eased after twenty centuries.

The Apostle Paul was called of God to fulfill a significantly unique ministry. Beside the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul was the special vessel mostly used of God to definitively establish the redeeming message of Grace among the Gentiles. He was uniquely chosen to shake up the foundations of the Jewish people. Since the time of the Apostle Paul unto the present, the message of salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has been like an earthquake that has shaken the foundations of Judaism (the First Covenant).

It was not possible for Paul to accomplish his special ministry utilizing ordinary methods or through a weak message. It was necessary for his message to bear a special demonstration of power from God. The authority of his message needed to surpass the power God Himself had established in the giving of the Law. Paul fully understood this. This is why he directed such strong and piercing words to the Jews of his time. And because of this, there have been those who have branded him an anti-Semite.

The Apostle Paul was not an anti-Semite. He disproves any such allegation when he declared, "*I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin*" (Romans 11:1). The reason the apostle spoke strongly in his epistles concerning Israel's place in the time of Grace is because it was necessary for him to declare with clarity and authority the differences between the message of the Law and the message of Grace.

It was not only necessary for Paul's message to be strong and piercing in order to shake Israel's foundations, but also necessary to establish a firm and sure foundation for the sake of the Gentile

Christians. The logical reaction of the Jewish people—who in great majority have been blinded not to recognize *“the Lord of glory”* (1 Corinthians 2:8)—has been to renounce the message of the Lord Jesus Christ and to reject His followers. In the early Church, there was even a problem that arose between the Jews who had accepted the Lord Jesus and their relationship with Gentile Christians. An ample explanation of this problem is presented in Acts 15:1-29. Many of these Jewish believers taught that in order for Gentiles to obtain salvation it was necessary for them to be circumcised and observe all the rituals of the Law.

In order to assure the Gentile believers of their own *“adoption”* as sons (Galatians 4:5), Paul’s message needed to be powerful. The powerfully anointed ministry of Paul came into action as he made the following declarations: *“For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth”* (Romans 10:4), and *“For if righteousness came by the Law, then Christ is dead in vain”* (Galatians 2:21).

Another factor that provoked Paul to speak so strongly was on account of the negative reaction he received from the *“princes”* among the Jewish people. Their reaction was a result of the shake up Paul’s message created. Consequently, their actions became so drastic that it resulted in the persecution of Paul and his fellow servants. Howbeit, this persecution came directly from God as it obligated Paul to speak in a manner he probably would not have spoken had he never been persecuted. In spite of all he suffered at the hands of his own people, Paul never agrees in his writings with the anti-Semitic idea that Israel is no longer the chosen people of God. On the contrary, he agrees throughout his epistles that *“God hath not cast away His people”* (Romans 11:2).

There are two contrasting approaches to reading the Word of God. One is with the natural mind and the other is with the *“the mind of Christ”* (1 Corinthians 2:14, 16). The exact same Scriptures can be used positively or negatively. Satan did this when he tempted the Lord in the wilderness as he quoted the Scriptures in a twisted manner (read Matthew 4:5-6). This is exactly what the

devil and his disciples have continued to do for the last twenty centuries. They interpret the Holy Scriptures in distorted fashion in order to teach the opposite of God’s truth. This satanic device has produced the evil spirit of anti-Semitism. However, we are determined to reprove this demon through the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority in God’s Word.

The Correct Attitude of the Apostle Paul

Another important factor dealing with the proper interpretation of Scripture is the mindset in which it is done. When the Apostle Paul addresses the subject of Israel in his epistle to the Romans (chapters 9, 10, and 11), he begins by making the sorrowful declaration, *“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh”* (Romans 9:1-3). In this declaration, Paul establishes an important precedent as he presents his explanation on the subject of Israel. He approaches this subject with a broken spirit. And without this mindset, it would be impossible to correctly elaborate on this vital subject.

Paul felt *“great heaviness and continual sorrow”* in his heart for his kinsmen who rejected the Lord Jesus as Israel’s Messiah. He did not speak of this subject impassively or superficially. Neither was it spoken with spite or contempt. He spoke of this subject with *“great heaviness and continual sorrow”* because of his personal experiences which were continually on his mind. Paul’s testimony was that of a zealous and distinguished Pharisee known as Saul of Tarsus. Previous to his encounter with the Lord Jesus, Paul was the notable *“Hebrew of Hebrews”* (Philippians 3:5) to whom there was nothing more important or excellent as Judaism and the traditions of his people. No one and nothing could have separated Saul of Tarsus from his religious fervor or dissuade him from persecuting the Jewish Christians. The supernatural experience of this Jewish zealot with the Lord Jesus was the only thing able to transform him (read Acts 9:1-19).