

# The Israel Of God

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On the Trinity Broadcasting Network (03-13-06) John Hagee stated that to suggest that the promises of God to Israel have carried over to the church today is false doctrine. For twenty-five years the church where he preaches in San Antonio, Texas has celebrated an "appreciation for national Israel" month. He said, "We need to cease emphasizing respect for dead Jews like Abraham and David and honor living Israel today, the Jewish people." As proof, Hagee offered the explanation from Genesis 22:17 to the approving nods of his wife, another couple, and two Jewish rabbis that multiplying Abraham's descendants "as the stars of heaven" meant the heavenly Jerusalem or the church and "as the sand which is upon the sea shore" meant physical, national Israel since sand and sea shores are on earth. He stated that if he had a 28-foot chart and a piece of chalk he could explain it all. Well, it won't take me the space the size of a post card to list all the scriptures that expose his strained effort to make unbelieving Israel acceptable to God today.

## **There Is No Salvation Outside Of Christ**

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6).

## **There Is No Special Favor For Physical Israel**

John the Baptizer said to the Jews of his day, "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Lk. 3:8). The apostle Paul wrote, "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" (Rom. 2:28-29). Paul made a very clear statement about the status of the Jews outside of Christ in the next chapter, "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:9-10). Later in Romans Paul argues that the same gospel that saves the Gentiles also saves the Jews (Rom. 11:26).

## **Jews And Gentiles Are In One Body**

The Ephesian letter places reconciled Jews and Gentiles into one body, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Eph. 2:16). Obedient Jews and Gentiles alike partake of the benefits of the same body today, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Eph. 3:6). And, whether John Hagee and others like it or not, that one body is spiritual Israel, the church (Gal. 1:2). And, this arrangement which began in the first century was designed to continue in perpetuity, "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16). The church of Christ is the one body of Christ (Rom. 16:16; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4).

## **In Christ All Are One**

Paul wrote, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. . . . For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:22, 26-29).

## Conclusion

When the Jews crucified Christ they forever lost their "favored-nation" status. A discussion between the Jews and Christ himself during his personal ministry proves this truth beyond all possibility of question. Jesus said, "Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet" (Mt. 21:33-46).