

When and Why
Will God
Choose Again Israel?

When and Why Will God Again Choose Israel?

By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

God chose then rejected Old Testament Israel but He will choose it again. When and why will Israel be chosen again? Is it because, it is no longer a stiffnecked nation who now wants to obey God? Let's see if this question can be answered from the Scriptures.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

NOTE: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (**bolded** and/or in **blue**) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon

The Bible is a book about only one nation, the nation of Israel; other countries are mentioned only as they come into contact with it. Israel is the focal point of the Bible and, as a physical, flesh-and-blood nation in Old Testament times, it represents the unconverted nations of the world and their inability to obey God. It allows us to know how God deals with the unconverted when He sets His hand to intervening directly in the world as depicted by how He punished ancient Israel when its misbehavior reached a level that He could no longer tolerate. God does not often act directly in the affairs of this world but when He does it is usually on a significant scale resulting in much death and destruction: the Deluge, Sodom and Gomorrah, the events of the Day of the Lord, the third resurrection.

The descendants of Jacob (he had 12 sons but he also adopted the 2 sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh which gave him 13 sons; together they became the 13 tribes of Israel) were chosen by God. They became the nation Israel which occupied the Promised Land and whose capital city was Jerusalem.

Originally, Israel was a single kingdom but after the death of Solomon Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the southern kingdom which kept the name Israel was the first to go into captivity under the Chaldeans. The northern kingdom which became known as the Jews which was made up of the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah had not heeded God's warning provided by Israel's captivity and sinned worst than Israel, so some 100 years after Israel's conquest, Judah also went into captivity.

Israel (the northern kingdom) became known in history as the lost ten tribes and their presence in the world continues to be unknown to most historians. The Jews (some of them) came back from their Babylonian captivity to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. Their (the southern kingdom) final rejection came after the passage of Christ and the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem by the Roman armies.

Ancient Israel was chosen by God for a special mission which it never accomplished as but for exceptional circumstances, the holy spirit God the Word did not dwell in men's minds opening them up to understand spiritual truth. Israel under the Old Covenant remained a carnal-minded nation unable to obey God in the same way the Gentile nations of the world cannot obey God. Israel rejected God's rule over them and became a nation like the Gentile nations of the world with human kings ruling over them. For its disobedience, mostly idolatry and Sabbath breaking (Ez 20) Israel went into captivity.

In Old Testament times Israel was a physical nation of which one became a part of by being born into it; in New Testament times Israel is a spiritual nation made up of flesh-and-blood individuals from all nations of the world who have been called, chosen, and are remaining faithful. These individuals are sometimes small groups but for most of the Church's history true Christians have been scattered all over the world and have largely remained unknown to each other and invisible to the world. This is a truth much disputed by the large, visible mainstream Christians religions of this world who consider themselves despite their irreconcilable doctrinal differences and their all excluding one another as being "the" church founded by Christ at His First Coming. Christ said He would build His church not churches (Matt 16:18) and that "**the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**", not against "them."

Spiritual Israel or God's Church started on the day of Pentecost with the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman becoming available to those that the holy spirit God the Father would call. Before Pentecost, God the Father had not been calling men to salvation. The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman only worked exceptionally with men specially chosen to be prophets to ancient Israel and to write the books of the Old Testament. On the day of the first New Testament (NT) Pentecost, God the Father began calling men to become part of His NT spiritual nation of Israel. Following Pentecost, congregations of true followers were raised up by the apostles and soon thereafter heresy, apostasy and persecution befell the congregations of the true Church and truly converted Christians had to flee into the wilderness to save their physical lives.

In recent history, with the start of the Philadelphia Era of God's Church, congregations of God's Church were raised up under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong but soon after his death, they were destroyed by false teachers arising from within the ministry in much the same way that occurred in the congregations of the First Century Church after Paul's death. The true Christians that were part of these congregations simply refused to go along with their new, false teachings and were either expelled or left on their own. They would rather stay alone if necessary and maintain their faith than to remain with a group which once had the truth but had departed from it.

However, as Christ said, God's Church was never to die out and it has continued to exist without interruption despite the destruction of the visible, organized corporate body of the Church during the Philadelphia Era of God's Church. The Church is first and foremost a spiritual organism made up of only those individuals in which dwell the holy spirits of the God family because of their continued and sincere desire to obey God in all things. For most of its existence it has not been organized and has been invisible to the world.

This is the state of God's Church or of spiritual Israel today since the death of Mr. Armstrong.

God chose ancient Israel for a special purpose (Ex 19:6) but they were never able to fulfill their mission. Israel sinned repeatedly and God ultimately rejected Israel and they went into captivity under the Gentile nations.

But God's rejection of Israel is not final, there is a time coming when God will again choose Israel.

In the end-time, Israel are the physical descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's two sons which Jacob adopted as his own and to whom were given the promises of national wealth and greatness. These are principally the modern-day nations of Great Britain and the United States of America. (See the book « The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy » which you can download here: [http://herbert-w-armstrong.com/books/books_pdf_web/United%20States%20and%20Britain%20in%20Prophecy%20\(1980\)_b.pdf](http://herbert-w-armstrong.com/books/books_pdf_web/United%20States%20and%20Britain%20in%20Prophecy%20(1980)_b.pdf) . It contains very detailed explanations of who are the modern-day nations who are end-time Israel and was the most widely distributed book in the days of the Worldwide Church of God.

There is a time yet in our future where the end-time nations constituting Israel will go off into captivity and be brought back to the originally

Promised Land in the same way God had freed ancient Israel from its Egyptian slavery, brought it to the Promised Land and made a covenant with them. The Old Covenant did not include the holy spirits of the God family working in the minds of ancient Israelites revealing to them spiritual truth. A new and better covenant is to be made with end-time Israel (the previously mentioned modern-day nations) at a time yet in our future which will also be reunited with the Jewish nation living in modern-day Israel. They are the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah who collectively came to be known as the Jews.

The story of Israel gives us understanding of the minds of men, the mind of God, of God's master plan of salvation for mankind and of its ultimate realization.

In our days, the Jews following the holocaust and the end of the Second World War have gone back to the land originally promised by God to Israel and constitute the modern-day Jewish nation of Israel but these Jews' return to Palestine is not the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy that Israel would be restored to the Promised Land. Remember the Jews are only 3 of the 13 tribes constituting Israel. The reunification of the southern and northern kingdoms will occur following the 2nd Coming of Christ and, after the end of the Great Tribulation and of the events of the Day of the Lord.

When God restores the nations making up end-time Israel (Ephraim (Great Britain); Manasseh (United States), New Zealand, Australia and the northwestern democracies of Europe), and the New Covenant is made with the remnant of end-time Israel (10% come back from captivity; the others will have perished as a result of war, famine, pestilence and the deprivations and harsh treatment they will have suffered while in captivity) and are brought back to the Promised Land, is the time when God will again choose Israel. When that occurs for the first time since the kingdom of Israel divided into two different kingdoms will the Jews (the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) and the northern Kingdom (the 10 lost tribes of Israel) be back together to form a single kingdom

The overview to keep in mind is that God chose Israel, then rejected Israel because of its disobedience and will again, some time in our future, choose Israel.

Why This Study Topic?

This study should be considered as a lead-in to another study posted on this site ([And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth](#)) and which has to do with an explanation of Revela-

tion 5:6-10 which is a mystery to most people.

If you want to understand and know that you understand Rev. 5:6-10 you need to understand who and what is Israel, the different stages and manner of its existence, of what spiritual nation it is to become part of. Without this knowledge, it is not possible to correctly understand Rev. 5:10.

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests:
and we shall reign on the earth.

Understanding Rev 5:10 is a great and wonderful truth only available to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are knocking and who are seeking and who like the Bereans in Paul's days are keeping an open mind and doing the work of verifying new information coming their ways with their Bible rather than immediately rejecting it. If you have never had a great interest in understanding the Bible and have been in the habit of believing what was taught you because you had confidence in the man who taught it to you, then you will be unable to benefit from this study because the Bible remains a mystery to you which you have yet to understand. Unless some man tells you what the words of the Bible mean, on your own, you really don't know what they mean. You have not grown in spiritual maturity through constant and attentive study of the Bible; you have not learned how to prove things out for yourself; you are still a babe-in-Christ only capable of absorbing the milk of the Word; you are still not drawn from the breast and God clearly tells you that He cannot teach you knowledge. Please note, it is God that teaches true Christians not men by revealing spiritual truth to true Christians as they study the Bible.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he [God] teach knowledge? and whom shall he [God] make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

If you are still a babe-in-Christ not drawn from the breast then you are unskillful in the word of righteousness. You are unable to read through and study the Bible and get understanding from it on your own nor are you able to verify with your Bible any new information coming your way or to verify those things you have accepted as truth simply by taking another man's word for it; God cannot teach you knowledge.

Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

When there existed a true ministry of God during the First Century Church, its role was to teach newcomers to the faith the fundamental truths given by Christ to His disciples who became apostles on the day of Pentecost. The disciples had been personally trained by Christ and, they and the men they trained, had these truths fresh in their minds. Their teachings were authoritative; they were not their personal interpretations of the Scriptures. These truths, which Christians must prove for themselves using their Bible, will allow them to then study their Bible on their own and find knowledge and truth not forming part of the original and fundamental truth given the Church by Christ which Paul, calls as we have just read in Heb 5:13 “**strong meat.**”

A word of caution is required here and that is that because of the persecutions that came upon God's Church and its eventual scattering, much of the truths given the early church was lost. The great persecution lasted 1,260 years. Some 1,900 years or more since the passage of Christ, there is no one who can honestly say they know what these truths were. The link between the First Century Church and the future members of God's church was broken. The result was that only a few outstanding truths remained such as the requirements to keep the Sabbath and the 10 commandments. And, most importantly for us to know and understand, since the occurrence of the great scattering, it is no longer possible for a true ministry to exist as no one had the truth given the First Century Church of God and the most that can be done by any man is be a student of the Bible. No man has absolute truth that all are to unquestioningly follow. I would refer you to the following study which provides a more important information on the state of God's Church nowadays: **God's Church After its Scattering**

Now let's go back to examining the responsibilities God places on all true Christians

God in many verses commands Christians to grow; having growth means you are a live spiritual embryo feeding on the Word of God and maturing to be able to be born again at Christ's Second Coming. Having no growth is the sign of a spiritual embryo that is dying or dead and which cannot be born again.

It is never too late to change but the choice is entirely up to you and no one can force you to do the right thing. As the old saying goes, you can take a horse to water, but the horse has to want to drink; otherwise,

there is nothing that you can do to make him drink. You can give out a warning but if the person is unwilling to heed it, there is nothing anyone can do to force him to do so.

Your salvation is as it has been from the beginning; it is entirely up to you and what you decide to do. The only man Mr. Armstrong could ever save was himself. Salvation is not a spectator sport or a matter of belonging to the right group headed up by someone you trust. Salvation is an individual and personal process between you and God not between you, some middleman and God. God expects you to have growth and if you have no growth because you decided to hide in a corner with your talent from fear of losing it, then in Matthew 25: 24 – 30 you can read how pleased God will be with you.

The responsibility for your salvation is fully yours and yours alone; it does not and has never depended on men but God sometimes works through men. Christ nor angels will appear to you to teach you. You must be able to check out with your Bible what men write and say and hold on to what is good.

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Hold on to what is good and reject what isn't. This means that of all you are hearing and reading from men, whether they be men whose writings and sermons you trust must be evaluated against the Scriptures. You are not to implicitly trust any man and if many of their writings and or teachings are found not to be true you must not continue following and associating with them even if it means leaving dear friends and family behind and having to be by yourself if necessary to stay with the truth.

This is why I tell all my readers to always check out with their Bible everything I write and if anything is in error, DON'T believe it or follow it.

Paul, a man, was rejected by the Jews; Mr. Armstrong was rejected by Sardis; they all lost out on receiving the truth God was making available to them because they thought they already had it all and that nothing could be added to it. This will be the main problem with the members of God's Laodicean Era Church which will arise after the events of the sixth seal of the book of Revelation. For more detailed information about God's Laodicean Era Church I refer you to the following study: [Who are the Laodiceans and When Does the Laodicean Era Start?](#)

God Chose Israel

After the Great Flood where the whole of humanity then in existence perished but Noah and his family, the world was replenished with the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth. It was a second beginning for the human family.

God chose Noah because he was a just man, perfect in his generations and walked with God.

Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Noah and his wife and children were racially pure; they were perfect in their generations. They and their past generations had not interbred with the other races created by God. It was God's desire that the races remain as He had created them as they were created perfect and the different races as created by God are beautiful. But in the days before the great flood, all flesh had corrupted itself through intermarrying with each other.

Gen 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair [beautiful]; and they took them wives [married women from other races] of all which they chose.

They were to marry within their own race but they freely married into other races and the result was as described in the verse below.

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

The corruption here is not spiritual but physical i.e., God's perfect creation of the individual races was changed through the races intermarrying.

The descendants of Noah filled the earth and the Bible traces the genealogy of the sons of Shem down to Abram (Gen 11:10 – 26).

In Genesis 17 we read of the covenant God made with Abraham. It is a covenant that would be passed on from one generation to another; it would be an everlasting covenant.

Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Gen 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and [will multiply thee exceedingly](#).

Gen 17:3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

Gen 17:4 As for me, behold, [my covenant is with thee](#), and thou shalt be [a father of many nations](#).

Gen 17:5 Neither shall thy name any more be called [Abram](#), but thy name shall be [Abraham](#); for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Gen 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, [\[there will be many children in his lineage\]](#) and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

Abraham's descendants would be so numerous that they would become nations and some of his descendants would be kings.

Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

As part of God's covenant with Abraham was the requirement that all male children had to be circumcised. It was a physical sign of their being God's people of the covenant made with Abraham. In New Testament times, circumcision for God's covenant nation would be of the heart (mind) and not in the flesh.

Gen 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Abraham and Sarah while both advanced in age would have a son, Isaac.

Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

The covenant promises made to Abraham would be passed down to Isaac and after him, to his son Jacob. God would rename Jacob, (Gen 35:10) Israel so the covenant promises made to Abraham would be inherited

by Isaac and through Isaac to Jacob (Israel) whose descendants would become the nation of Israel. Israel's descendants were to become many nations and be very fruitful (have a very great number of descendants) (Gen 17:1-6).

Then of particular importance for us to know are the blessings Israel gave to Jacob and Esau. They were fraternal twins and Esau was first born and then Jacob. Accordingly, Esau was to have the greater inheritance and Jacob the lesser but Rebekah, their mother wanted Jacob to be the first inheritor. So she devised a plan to deceive Isaac who eyesight was failing him that Jacob was Esau. The story is found in the following verses: Gen 27: 5-18). Then, in the following verses we have Jacob coming in to his father pretending to be Esau so that Isaac will give him Esau's blessings as the first born. The ruse worked and Isaac thinking he is talking to Esau, gives him Esau's blessings.

Gen 27:26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.

Gen 27:27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

Gen 27:28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

Gen 27:29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

God changes Jacob's name to Israel

Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

Jacob adopts Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh and they inherit God's blessings to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Gen 48:8 And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these?

Gen 48:9 And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.

Gen 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

Gen 48:11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.

Gen 48:12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

Gen 48:13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him.

Gen 48:14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Gen 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

Gen 48:16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Gen 48:17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

Gen 48:18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

Gen 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he [Manasseh] also shall become a people, [the United States] and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. [Great Britain and empire on which the sun never set; it was worldwide.]

Gen 48:20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Gen 48:21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.

Gen 49:1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Gen 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Gen 49:22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

Gen 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

The sons of Jacob would become the 13-tribe nation of ancient Israel. Jacob had 12 sons but the tribe of Joseph was doubled by him adopting Joseph's 2 sons; this is why the 12 tribes are sometimes mentioned as being 13 tribes.

God Rejects Israel

God, initially ruled over Israel through Moses and after Moses' death, through Joshua. After the death of Joshua, God's rule was exercised through judges but even that was unsatisfactory to the people and they requested to be ruled by a human king like other nations. God granted them their request and kings ruled over them until they were taken away captive because of their continued disobedience.

In Ezekiel, we see God describing how Israel acted after having been liberated from their Egyptian slavery and brought into the Promised Land.

Eze 20:28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured

out there their drink offerings. [Israel kept on worshiping their idols.]

Eze 20:29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Eze 20:30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom [idol worship] after their abominations?

Eze 20:31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

God tells Israel that He will not respond to their enquiries (requests for blessings) because of their idol worshiping. And, in Hosea God clearly says that He will reject Israel for not having wanted to learn His ways.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

But God will not remain forever angry with Israel. There is a time coming yet in our future where Israel will again be chosen by God.

God Chooses Again Israel

God will again choose Israel which to a large extent will be made up of the physical descendants of the original tribes of Israel. In Old Testament times we had ancient Israel who were the physical descendants of Jacob (the 12 sons who became the 12 tribes with Joseph's tribe being doubled by Jacob adopting Joseph's 2 sons) So, all told, there were 13 tribes who grew to become the nation of Israel.

Ancient Israel as a flesh-and-blood nation went off into captivity and was scattered among the nations because, as previously mentioned, of its continuing disobedience to God.

Eze 20:18 But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their

judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:

Eze 20:19 I *am* the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

Eze 20:20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

Eze 20:21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them; **they polluted my sabbaths**: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

Eze 20:22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

Eze 20:23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

Eze 20:24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and **had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols**.

Eze 20:25 Wherefore I gave them also statutes *that were* not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

Eze 20:26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through *the fire* all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I *am* the LORD.

Eze 20:27 Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

Eze 20:28 *For* when I had brought them into the land, *for* the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

Eze 20:29 Then I said unto them, What *is* the high place where-unto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Eze 20:30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

Eze 20:31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Christ at His First Coming came among those captives of Judah who had returned with Zerubbabel to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and to build the second temple. The original temple had been destroyed when Judah was taken into captivity under the Medo-Persian Empire. When Christ came the first time, it was to prepare a few select individuals to become the foundation of God's New Testament Church which would be composed of individuals from all nations that had been spiritually begotten by God the Father. At first its membership was mostly Jewish but as the Church grew, God also called Gentiles and they became part of it. In New Testament times, physical circumcision which had been commanded by God for Israel became circumcision of the heart as explained by Paul in the verses below.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 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.

In other words, regardless of nationality, one becomes part of Israel through becoming a follower of the truth of God. This is spiritual Israel where the condition of admission is believing and following the truth; not being born into a specific nation i.e., the nation of Israel. The Gentiles and the descendants of ancient Israel can all now upon repentance and belief become part of God's spiritual Israel or Zion.

So, we have ancient Israel in Old Testament times that was a physical nation in which one had to be born to become an Israelite and with the First Coming of Christ we have the creation of God's Church or spiritual Israel which extends salvation to individuals from all nations upon belief and repentance.

But, there is still another Israel which is to exist in the end-time and which is composed of those modern-day nations who are the descendants of Ephraim (Great Britain) and Manasseh (United States of America). This is the Israel in which are fulfilled the promises of national greatness and wealth made to Abraham and inherited by Isaac and Jacob. This end-time Israel is prophetic Israel. Its creation is the result of the promises or prophecy given Jacob of what was to happen to the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh. These prophecies were never fulfilled until the coming into being of Great Britain and later of the United States which started off with 13 colonies and which is the greatest single nation to ever have existed in the history of mankind.

They are the ones who at a time yet ahead of us are to go off into captivity and which are to go back to the Promised Land in a 2nd Exodus. The end-time nations constituting prophetic Israel will be made up of people from the many nations of the world who have immigrated to the US and Great Britain and become citizens. You will recall that at the time before Christ's 2nd Coming it will be as in the days of Noah i.e., there will be intermixing of the races and the different races will have left the lands originally allotted them; the nations of the west will have received and are receiving a great influx of immigrants from all over the world because of the ease of travel in the jet age and the great attraction of living in countries of individual freedom and great prosperity.

In Ezekiel 11 (quoted below) we read that God will gather Israel from the countries where they had been scattered and He will resettle them in the Promised Land. The Israelites come back from captivity in a 2nd Exodus will undergo a conversion process (Dan 9:27) and, with those that commit themselves to obeying God, the New Covenant will be made.

This will then be a group of formerly captive Israelites who upon conversion become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church who are all those who have been called and chosen for the purpose of demonstrating to God their willingness to endure in the truth they have been given to know at the time of their calling and that will be given them as they study their Bible and this, until the end of their natural lives.

Eze 11:16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Eze 11:17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Eze 11:18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things [idols] thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

Eze 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: [They will all be called.]

Eze 11:20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. [Those who follow their calling and remain faithful]

In Ezekiel 36 we see a similar message being given with God explaining why He will bring end-time Israel back from its end-time captivity among the Gentiles. **It is not because Israel has had a massive change of heart and now desperately wants to obey God.**

Eze 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake**, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

Eze 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Eze 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you **[make it possible; God will not force obedience]** to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Eze 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Those of Israel who convert will become part of God's spiritual nation or God's Church and those who do not, will constitute the unconverted nation of Israel that will exist throughout the Millennium and during the Last Great Day.

In Zechariah we are given more information as to why God will bring Israel back from its captivity in the end time with some explanation of how life will be in Israel once that has occurred.

Zec 8:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

God was jealous i.e., He didn't want to share Israel with idols whose worship spiritually speaking is whoredom. Israel was affianced or betrothed to God and the marriage was to occur at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming.

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

God's marriage covenant with Israel was the Old Covenant which was that if Israel would obey Him He would their God and they would be His people. Obedience of the bride to the bridegroom is what makes a relationship a marriage in God's eyes.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

The order or hierarchy of authority given in Eph 5: 22-33 allows us to understand the functioning of God's Kingdom. Everyone will be under God's authority and in God's kingdom there will be a vast authority structure covering all members of God's Kingdom where some, as determined by God, will be in authority over others and others will be under authority.

Christ is under the authority of the Father, wives are to be under the authority of their husbands, children are to be under the authority of the parents, etc. And, as Paul says,

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Christ is the head of the Church and all its members are to be under His authority. Government presupposes an authority structure; without it, we have chaos. An appropriate authority structure which is agreed to by those who are covered by it is what binds marriages, families, villages, towns, nations and kingdoms together.

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

God's intent is to marry Israel, not the physical nation but the spiritual one, that is, those who when called will follow their calling and remain faithful whether part of the physical nation of Israel or from the Gentile nations of the world. God is a spirit being and can only engage in a marriage relationship with another spirit being. First resurrection saints at Christ's 2nd Coming are to become the Bride of Christ.

Let's continue our reading of Zechariah 8.

Zec 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain [nation] of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain [nation].

Zec 8:4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.

Zec 8:5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

Zec 8:6 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.

Zec 8:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;

Zec 8:8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

The remnant of Israel resettled in the original Promised Land will be both God's physical and unconverted nation and those who come to conversion among them at the making of the New Covenant will be God's spiritual nation of Israel. This is the duality that will exist during the Millennium and the during the Last Great Day after the making of the New Covenant.

Summary

As we have seen, Israel is both a physical and a spiritual nation. It started off as a physical nation which God rejected because of its unrelenting sinfulness then at Christ's First Coming, Christ trained men who became the foundation of God's Church which occurred on the day of Pentecost. And, we learn from Paul that God's Church is spiritual Israel and that it is the Israel of which one must become a member to inherit salvation.

We also understand that there is an end-time Israel which is the accomplishment of the promises or prophecies made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and inherited by Ephraim and Manasseh. The fulfillment of these prophecies is the coming into being of the British empire on which the sun never set as it went around the globe and later, the arising of the United States from 13 colonies immigrating from Britain and which became the single, greatest most powerful and richest nation known in the history of mankind.

This prophetic Israel, in the end time, is to go off into captivity under the Gentiles and be returned in a Second Exodus to the Promised Land and a New Covenant is to be made with those that repent and believe following the finalization of Christ's 3 1/2-year ministry to them. Remember that Christ has a 3 1/2-year ministry to complete with Israel. His first ministry at His First Coming was cut off after 3 1/2 years but it was to last 7 years (Dan 9:27); upon His 2nd Coming to Israel (not to the world) He will complete His ministry.

This is how God will again choose Israel. Those of Israel returned from captivity and that enter the New Covenant (not all will; many won't (Mat 22:14) become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo i.e., begotten but not yet born. All those converted in the past, those currently converted and those that will convert during the Millennium and the Last Great Day are God's begotten and yet to be born family, nation, and kingdom. The physical descendants of ancient Israel, at Christ's 2nd Coming will be called as well as all those that will be born

during the Millennium including all the Gentiles that will live during the Millennium. In the Last Great Day, all those of ancient Israel and of the Gentile nations who died without having been called, will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence and be given their first and only opportunity for salvation. All those following their calling and remaining faithful, both of the Gentiles and of the physical nation of Israel, will become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo whose actual birth will be by a resurrection from the dead to glorified spirit life as part of the sheep of the Great White Throne Judgment which takes place at the end of the Last Great Day which brings to a close God's 7,000 year plan of salvation for man.

God's Church during the Millennium and the Last Great Day will be composed of those from end-time Israel that make the New Covenant and of those from the Gentile nations of the world that become converted (not all will; many won't, see Mat 22:14) as God calls all men to salvation.

A Few Important Points

There is a very important principle that needs to be kept in mind regarding all that God does with respect to mankind.

We should understand that it is impossible for human beings to satisfy the requirements of God's law. The perfect fulfillment of God's spiritual law is only possible by a God being but men are carnal i.e., they are flesh-and-blood beings who do not have the ability despite their greatest desire to do so, to fulfill in their own strength, the requirements of God's law. It takes a God being to satisfy a God level law and God makes it possible for human beings to do so by imputing Christ's righteousness to truly converted Christians conditional to their remaining faithful in their desire to obey God in all things. Please see the following study which explains this process: [Salvation by Imputation](#)

But the main point that I wish to highlight is that God keeps His promises because He wants to keep them; not because of anything we can do to merit receiving them individually or on a national basis. If we go back to Ez 36: 22 we see God plainly saying the following:

Eze 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake,** which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

God will bring Israel back from its end-time captivity, resettle them in the Promised Land, make a New Covenant with those Israelites that will re-

pent and believe during Christ's 3 ½ year ministry to them and will prosper the physical nation of Israel that will then exist as He had originally done with Old Testament Israel

Jer 33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, **as at the first**.

You will recall that Solomon was so rich that kings and queens from other countries visited him to see for themselves if it was true.

1Ki 10:7 Howbeit I [the queen of Sheba] believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

Israel upon its return from its end-time captivity will again become as rich and powerful as in the days of Solomon. It will all be God's doing because of the promises made to Abraham that Israel would become a great nation whose existence would be greatly beneficial to the other nations of the world.

And most importantly, God will restore Israel in the end-time **after** it has been punished for its sinfulness by going off into captivity under the Gentile nations and there, being reduced to 10% of its original numbers. Isaiah asks God how long will Israel's blindness last.

Isa 6:10 Make the heart of this people [Israel] fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isa 6:11 Then said I, Lord, **how long**? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Isa 6:12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Isa 6:13 But yet in it **shall be a tenth**, and *it* shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance *is* in them, when they cast *their leaves*: so the holy seed **shall be** the substance thereof.

Amo 5:3 For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out *by* a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth *by* an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

God will restore Israel despite its sinfulness because in doing so He is keeping the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Mal 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; [I keep My promises] therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed [exterminated].

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: [the prophecies and promises that I make] it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

Eze 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not *this* for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

Israel was to become unto God a holy nation and a kingdom of priests (Ex 19:6) and despite its sinfulness God will have it become His holy nation and kingdom of priests but He will not leave them altogether unpunished.

The modern-day nations constituting end-time Israel will go off into captivity and there be reduced to a tenth of itself but God will free them from their captivity and resettle them in the Promised Land, prosper them as at the first (Jer 33:7) and have them be His holy nation and kingdom of priests (Ex 19:6) in embryo.

Exo 19:6 And ye [Israel] shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Jer 30:11 For I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Jer 33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

As truly converted individuals scattered all over the nations of the world and speaking different languages they have God's holiness in them and they constitute to God, a kingdom of priests. They are priests in that they are daily putting to death their old man which is the sacrifice they offer to God.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Those of ancient Israel who convert either during the Millennium or the Last Great Day will become part of God's Church or His holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo to be born in God's Kingdom by a resurrection from the dead.

God Chooses Again Israel

If we go back to the original question posed in the title of this study i.e., "When and why will God choose again Israel? We are now able to provide the answer.

God through the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses bound Himself to have Israel become his holy nation and kingdom of priests (Ex 19:6) or in other words, they would eventually be offered the opportunity to become part of His spiritual nation. And, as has been highlighted in this study, God's NT nation is a spiritual one, spiritual Israel. Ancient Israel and their descendants have to become spiritual Israelites to become part of God's Church and inherit salvation as must also the Gentiles.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

God keeps the promises made to the fathers and, to Moses who pleaded earnestly with God to not destroy Israel because of its steadfast refusal to obey God.

Deu 9:24 Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

Deu 9:25 Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down *at the first*; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

Deu 9:26 I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Deu 9:27 Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

Deu 9:28 Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say,
Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land
which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath
brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.,

Deu 9:29 Yet they *are* thy people and thine inheritance, which
thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched
out arm.

God chose Israel for the purpose of it eventually becoming part of His Church (Ex 19:6) or spiritual Israel which is a nation that includes the truly converted from Israel and from the Gentile nations.

However, under the Old Covenant which God made with ancient Israel it was impossible for them to do so as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman had not yet become a man for the purpose of living a perfect sinless life, suffering, and dying on the stake for the remission of the sins of mankind and being resurrected to His former glory by God the Father.

It is only after his resurrection and glorification that the Word could assume His role as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who works in the minds of those called to salvation by the holy spirit God the Father.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for **the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**)

The resurrected Christ returned to His former glory is the holy spirit being whose role it is to teach all things (John 14:26) to truly converted Christians and until there was a sacrifice that forgave sin, it was not possible for the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to dwell with men.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

In New Testament times, God's nation is composed of spiritual Israelites who are men from all nations who have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. God's spiritual nation of Israel is God's Church.

Those who are part of God's Church are a holy priesthood i.e., every member is a priest. Altogether they are God's kingdom of priests (see 1Pe 2:5 below). For now, they are only begotten and they are not to be part of this

world or its governments let alone rule over them. Their birth as glorified spirit beings will occur by a resurrection from the dead at either Christ's 2nd Coming or, for those called during the Millennium and the Last Great Day, at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment when the sheep become glorified spirit beings and the goats die in the Lake of Fire which is the second death.

1Pe 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but **are now the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy

Just a brief comment about this verse. God is calling people from the nations of the world. These individuals though not knowing one another for the greatest part, speaking different languages, having different cultural backgrounds, living in different countries, etc. once called and chosen, they become God's spiritual nation. If we were to take all these individuals and put them together in a given geographical location, they would not be a people. They would all still be citizens and people of their own countries and nations. But, once called and chosen, despite all their significant physical differences and national origins, they become a new nation, a spiritual one, God's nation.

Psa 51:16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

God's NT priesthood no longer offers burnt offerings or engages in physical ordinances, ceremonial washings, and other types of physical rituals specifically commanded for the carnal-minded OT nation of Israel.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for **the Father seeketh such to worship him.**

The hour that was coming when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth is the Day of Pentecost when God founded His NT spirit-begotten Church. All those becoming members of this church are to worship God the Father in spirit and in truth i.e., by seeking to obey Him in all things according to the truth of the Bible God reveals to them.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

And now, let's continue with our review of 1Pe 2:5 and determine what are the spiritual sacrifices rather than the physical sacrifices (animal, drink and food offerings, etc.) that God's holy priesthood are to offer?

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isa 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

God's holy nation is His spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church who are all those that have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. The sacrifices that they offer to God is their dying to their old sinful ways and living in newness of life according to the truth of God revealed to them. They are putting their old man to death as best they can and are striving to obey God in all things as well as they can. They worship God not through physical rituals, ceremonial washings, symbolic offerings of food and drinks but by themselves being living sacrifices to God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: [creation in Christ] old things are passed away; [his old man has been put to death] behold, all things are become new.

The holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwell in all truly converted Christians.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Christians are the house or temple in which the 2 holy spirits (John 1:1) of the Godhead live.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Act 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

Act 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

The nation of Israel, initially as a physical nation but especially as a spiritual nation, is the focal point of the whole Bible and Israel is to become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests which is simply another way of saying God's Church which is also spiritual Israel which in its full expansion will include people from all nations upon their repenting and believing and becoming truly converted Christians.

The time when God will again choose Israel is when end-time Israel returned from captivity will be offered the opportunity to enter the New Covenant with God at the end of Christ's 3 ½ year ministry.

Christ is coming back a second time to God's chosen nation to restore to them the truth they had lost since going off into captivity (Act 3:21; Dan 9: 26-27) under the Chaldeans and the Medo-Persians. They had lost their religion, their language and their national identity and think of themselves as being Gentiles (except for Judah). Those among them who follow their calling — God will then call Israelites to become part of His holy nation

and kingdom of priests (Ex 19:6) — are those with whom the New Covenant will be made.

The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and the holy spirit God the Father will dwell in those Israelites who follow their calling and remain faithful. They then become God's holy nation; God's holiness will be in them. God does not change (Heb 3:8) nor does His plan of salvation change; God the Father has been saving and will continue to save the world in the same way He has been saving it since the foundation of His New Testament Spirit-begotten Church i.e., by working in a personal and individual way in the minds of those He is calling and by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaching them all things.

The Millennium and the Last Great Day are no exception. All will then be called but to be chosen, it will be necessary for them to repent, believe and remain faithful until the end of their lives. The Scriptures are very clear that not everybody will be saved except a few hard headed individuals who will refuse to submit to God's rule in their lives (See [Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#) for a full and detailed explanation.)

Individuals from the nations of the world that come to conversion during the Millennium and the Last Great Day become part of spiritual Israel or God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo. As God's Church they are to be separate from the world. They are not to rule over the governments of this world now or during the Millennium.

Conclusion

God will indeed again choose Israel but it will be chosen in the same way that the Gentiles and all true Christians are chosen. It will be by the holy spirit God the Father calling them on an individual basis and revealing sufficient truth to them that they have to make the decision to obey Him or to remain in the world. Those that commit themselves to obeying God to the best of their abilities then become chosen and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman then becomes responsible for teaching them all things as they study God's Holy Bible.

All of God the Father's called and chosen ones who remain faithful are God's spiritual nation of Israel, which is also God's Church. They are God's begotten but still to be born Kingdom of God by a resurrection from the dead. Until the end of God's plan of salvation at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, God's church is to remain separate from the world and not take part in its governments and even less rule over the governments of this world (Rom 12:2; John 17:14-16; 1John 2:15-16; Gal 1:4)).

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

God's spiritual nation of Israel which becomes God's Kingdom composed of glorified holy spirit beings is also a nation in which there will be kings and lords. They are the kings and lords over which Christ will be the King of kings and Lord of lords. As Christ has told us:

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

The mansions Christ was speaking of are offices or positions of responsibilities with different levels of authority that will exist in God's Kingdom. The saved are to hold different offices of responsibility according to how much in this life they have grown in knowledge and understanding of God's truth and in the grace of Christ which is the message of the parable of the pounds.

Luk 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luk 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Luk 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Luk 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

The message of the parable is not that God's saints in their glorified state will rule over the cities of men during the Millennium. A parable is always spoken in such a way as to not be understood by those to whom it is not given to know the truth of God (Matt 13:10-11). The message of the parable of the pounds is that God's saints will be rewarded by being given positions of greater or lesser authority in God's Kingdom not over the cities of flesh-and-blood men. Once God's Kingdom is established, there will be no flesh-and-blood men left alive.

God first chose Israel as a physical, carnal-minded nation which He rejected because of its sinfulness. God in New Testament times has a spiritual nation of Israel that the members of the OT nation of Israel upon repentance and belief at the time of their calling can become a part of. This is how OT Israel will be chosen again. It will become part of the spiritual nation of Israel and, upon remaining faithful, will become part of God's Kingdom.

