

The Nations go to Jerusalem?

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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.

There are Scriptures which seem to indicate that during the Millennium the nations will eagerly go to Jerusalem to be taught by God and to worship Him. But isn't God's Church a spiritual organism or entity, small and invisible to the world, God's little flock? Will Jerusalem during the Millennium become the world's centre of true religion with the whole world being drawn to it?

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 (Phi 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 go 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?](#)

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It was taught in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) while led by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) that Jesus-Christ was coming back to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations of this world.

This belief was based on Scriptures which could lead us to believe that God's Church during the Millennium will be a visible organization located in Jerusalem and that the nations will go there in great number and in great haste to be taught God's truth and become converted.

However, in order to correctly understand the Bible and Scriptures which appear to be contradictory, we need to know and understand how God is proceeding to bring salvation to mankind. There is a overall plan which provides us with the contextual information we need to correctly interpret Scriptures which would lead us to think that God's plan of salvation from Pentecost to Christ's 2nd Coming is being administered one way and that during the Millennium it will be done differently.

The Bible does not contradict itself; if it does then it cannot be trusted as being the Word of the eternal God of the universe and as being the only physical point of contact between God and mankind.

One such Scripture is Jer 3:17 which says that “....all nations will be gathered unto Jerusalem....” Does this mean the nations of the world will eagerly want to go to Jerusalem to be converted after Christ's 2nd Coming?

In Jer 3:15-16 God says that those returned from their dispersion among the Gentile nations will be given true pastors that will give them knowledge and understanding and that it will be a time when Israel will no more talk about the ark of the covenant nor visit it.

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The only true pastors are the holy spirits God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word. Since the day of Pentecost, they are the ones who have been calling men to salvation (God the Father) and teaching men all things (God the Word). Understanding of the Scriptures is only possible by revelation and God the Word is the Spirit of truth to God the Father's NT spiritual nation of Israel. Men are unreliable and have a tendency to preach their own version of the truth which is not God's.

Jer 3:16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

Why will they say no more ".....the ark of the covenant of the Lord....."? Because Jer 3:16 is talking about the time when the members of the physical nation of Israel returned from the Gentile nations who will have entered the New Covenant; not all of them will. The ark of the covenant was lost when ancient Israel ceased to exist as a nation and in New Testament times, God's people are His Church and their worship of God is in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24) not through physical symbols.

In God's spiritual nation of Israel, His Church, there is no requirement for physical-material reminders. The converted individuals making up God's converted nation of spiritual Israel after Christ's 2nd Coming and the making of the New Covenant will not have any of the Old Testament physical-material items and symbols used by the Levitical priesthood.

Jer 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; [those individuals called and chosen from the nations of the world who constitute God's spiritual nation of Israel are the only one who have the spiritual knowledge to be able to call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord] and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, [all the nations will be called and the individuals from the nations who convert, regardless of their national origin, become part of the spiritual nation of Israel or of God's Zion. That is how all the nations

shall be gathered unto Jerusalem i.e., not the physical city but the spiritual Zion] to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they [the converted in Jerusalem and the converted in the nations around the world] walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. [because they have been called and chosen and as converted individuals, they are now trying to obey God to the best of their abilities.]

Jer 3:17 is not talking about all the nations of the world after Christ's 2nd Coming having an eager desire to physically travel to the physical city of Jerusalem to be taught the truth of God and become converted; God will not gather all nations to Jerusalem in a physical sense. The gathering is a spiritual one where those who become converted as the holy spirit God the Father calls all men to become part of God's spiritual Zion or Israel i.e., His Church.

God's nation though geographically dispersed will all be part of the spiritual nation of Israel or Zion and, in that sense, those among the nations that convert are gathered by God to Jerusalem not the physical one but the spiritual one, Zion. And, of course, it is a physical impossibility for all nations to be gathered in one single geographical location on the earth.

New Testament Israel is a spiritual nation made up of people from all over the world who do not all live in the same geographical area nor is there any requirement for them to do so; what they have in common is not their nationality or a specific physical country or city but that they have been called and chosen and that God is giving them knowledge and understanding of the truths of the Bible.

Though continuing to be flesh-and-blood individuals they are no longer citizens of the nations of this world but are citizens of a new country and city which will only exist when God creates the new heaven and the new earth.

Heb 11:10 For he [Abraham and all true Christians] looked for a city which hath foundations, [the New Jerusalem] whose builder and maker is God.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For they [Abraham and true Christians] that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful [had cared for] of that country from whence they came out, [Christians have come out of this world which God here calls a country and have no desire to return into it] they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. [the New Jerusalem]

Going up to the Mountain of the Lord

Now on to Micah 4:1-2 where it is stated that in the last days people will flow to the mountain of the house of the LORD and the nations will go up to the mountain of the Lord to be taught His ways and walk in His paths.

Again, this seems to be saying that in the last days, there will be a massive conversion of the nations of the world. Let's analyze these verses and see what is the result.

Mic 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

The time setting is when God's physical nation will be the supreme nation in the world; it will be higher or mightier than all other ones. God will greatly prosper the physical nation of Israel after His 2nd Coming and it will be a superpower during the Millennium. In Isaiah 60, you will find a detailed description of the great prosperity and power of Israel that God will give it when it is regathered into the land of Israel and I greatly encourage you to read it. The following study provides detailed information on Israel following its return to the land of Israel from the Gentile nations of the world: [When and Why will God Again Choose Israel?](#)

The critical point to understand about physical Israel returned from among the nations of the world is that God's nation will be both a physical nation of unconverted Israelites (not all of Israel will enter the New Covenant) and a spiritual nation made up of those Israelites who entered the New Covenant. They will also be convert from all nations, are spread all over the world. They will be God's Church during the Millennium, His holy mountain or nation, His temple, and His house. The simultaneous existence of a physical, unconverted nation of Israel and of

a spiritual converted Israel during the Millennium is explained at length in the following study: [Administration of God's Plan of Salvation During the Millennium](#)

This is also the case today where God's spiritual nation of Israel exists at the same time as the unconverted physical nation of Israel with some converted individuals living among them.

Spiritual Israel or Zion (God's Church) during the Millennium will exist and live among unconverted physical Israelites and among the Gentile nations in the very same way God's Church has always lived among the unconverted of the world as it does now.

Going back to Mic 4:1, in it is stated that there will come a time when people shall flow unto the mountain of the house of the Lord. A mountain in Bible symbology represents a nation and so this verse is talking about people flowing to the nation of the LORD. The nation of the Lord is His Church, spiritual Israel which is made up of all those flesh-and-blood human beings who have been called, chosen and who are remaining faithful no matter where they are located on the surface of the earth. People from all nations shall flow unto the mountain of the House of the Lord, God's Church, at the time of their calling and all will be called during the Millennium.

However, they will not do so physically.

There will not be, nor could there be, a massive physical migration of the nations to Israel because this is a physical impossibility as the nations of the world cannot be made to fit into a small corner of the planet. Also, God's Church which is God's nation or holy mountain is not a physical, visible organization that men can see; it is not now nor will it be in the future. The meaning is and can only be spiritual.

All nations will indeed flow to the mountain of the house of the LORD when the holy spirit God the Father calls all men during the Millennium but this will be spiritual. When we are called we are all flowing to God's spiritual Jerusalem and Zion. When called we are starting on the road to Zion and if we persist in our calling, we will eventually make it into God's Kingdom and become part of God's holy mountain and spiritual Jerusalem or Zion when the resurrection occurs.

All of mankind during the Millennium will be drawn to God (called) and brought to the crossroads where they will have to choose to follow their calling and become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or Zion which is His church or remain in the world. In this sense the nations of the

world will be made to flow to the house of the Lord which is His temple or Church; all will be called.

Mic 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and **he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

And this will be true for all those called and chosen by God the Father.

God Not Dwelling in Temples Made with Hands

We know that at the beginning of the Millennium following Christ's 2nd Coming that those members of the physical nation of Israel returned from the Gentile nations to the Promised Land who enter the New Covenant will become part of God's nation or church. However, God's church is not a physical organization located in a given city (Jerusalem) in a given country (Israel) which owns a large, luxurious building on a vast expanse of professionally landscaped and maintained grounds. God does not live in temples made with hands.

Act 7:48 Howbeit the most High **dwelleteth 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, **dwelleteth not in temples made with hands;**

2Co 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have **a building of God, an house not made with hands,** eternal in the heavens.

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by **a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands,** that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:24 For Christ is **not entered into the holy places made with hands,** which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

The mountain of the Lord and the house of the God of Jacob are different ways of saying that those who follow their calling and become converted during the Millennium and the Last Great Day, and basically, since the day of Pentecost, spiritually-speaking, are walking on the path

which if followed until the end of their lives will result in their becoming part of God's Kingdom. A mountain represents a nation and the mountain of the Lord is God's nation headed up by God the Father and the house of the God of Jacob is basically God's house.

When called and chosen, we are on our way to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob, spiritually-speaking. We will only reach it in the resurrection. The law and the word of the Lord, have always flowed from the mountain and house of the Lord which presently consist of God the Father and God the Word but which is to grow into a family, a nation and a kingdom at the time of the resurrection and glorification of the truly converted who remained faithful.

The law shall go forth of Zion (presently made up of God the Father and God the Word) and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. This cannot be talking about a physical location. God is not to be found in any man-made house or in any given physical location. The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman are the means used by God the Father to teach those He has called and who are following their calling (chosen). The law and the word of God flow from the glorified Christ, the Comforter and Spirit of truth who teaches all things to God's saints (John 14:17; 14:26; 16:13).

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 dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The Spirit of truth is clearly Christ who was with the disciples and who after His resurrection and glorification would be in them on the day of Pentecost. It would also be in all true Christians.

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.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

God's Truth and Righteousness Not Location Specific

A Christian has the righteousness of Christ in him not because he can or has to ascend into heaven and bring Christ down from above i.e., the righteousness that he has comes not from going to or being in a certain physical location where Christ is located and then, when finding Him, bringing Him down with us to have His righteousness.

Rom 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Rom 10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

In the same way, it is not necessary for men to go down into the deep and bring Christ up again from the dead for them to have Christ's righteousness. It is not by going to a certain location or place to find Christ or the Lord that men get Christ's or the Lord's righteousness.

Rom 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

The means of having Christ or the Lord's righteousness is hearing and believing (it is then in your heart or mind) the word of faith or truth of God, which was preached unto them by the apostles and those they then appointed to the ministry to assist them in doing so. And today, we have through God's Holy Bible access to the words of faith taught the apostles by Christ Himself. The Bible is the means used by God to speak to New Testament Christians (Heb 1:1-2). It is Christ, the Word in writing to us.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath **in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Salvation comes from believing the word of faith and that Christ was God's son whom God raised from the dead after having become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

Salvation or the righteousness of God or of the Lord does not come from going to a specific building in a specific town in a specific country. The righteousness of God is obtained by faith i.e., believing the truth or word of God when called not by traveling to a specific geographical location where we would find Christ. There are no such earthly location.

We are all saved by grace (Christ's righteousness freely imputed to us) through faith i.e., because we believe the word of God and seek to apply it in our lives.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Grace is a gift from God which we cannot earn for ourselves by our works of obedience to God. Faith, righteousness and salvation are by believing the word of God, the Holy Bible which is Christ, the Word of God and God's Spokesman, in writing.

God's truth is not in any geographical location or building nor does it go out to the world from a specific geographical location or building. It goes directly from the mind of the holy spirit God the Father to the mind of those He calls and once chosen, from the mind of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to the mind of the chosen ones. There is no need to go anywhere to get it.

Also, and as many of us already know, God's church does not proselytize; it does not go out into the world seeking to make converts or go on soul saving crusades. God's Church is not being built by men but by God (Zec 4:6; 1Co 1:26-27; 29) Christians are God's workmanship (Eph 2:10), not men's.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1Co 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things

of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The congregation of God's Church, at first, will be in Jerusalem at the beginning of the Millennium after Christ's 2nd Coming as it was at Christ's First Coming but Jerusalem never became the world's religious center. It is not now in our days and God's NT Church has been in existence since the day of Pentecost. There will be other true converts all over the world after Christ's 2nd Coming who will also become part of God's Church but there is no requirement for them to travel to Jerusalem to join the Jerusalem congregation even if it were to exist in a visible manner throughout the Millennium which is very unlikely.

If the Bible is the basis for understanding the manner of existence of God's Church, then the New Testament makes it clear that God's Church at its foundation and in the days of the apostles was not basically and exclusively located in Jerusalem in an imposing building of great architectural beauty high on a hill which was considered by all to be the headquarters congregation of God's Church.

The Jerusalem congregation of God's Church never (did I say "never") became and **is not now** nor will be in the future during the Millennium and the Last Great Day, a central headquarters Church of great visibility in the world to which all those being called during the Millennium and the Last Great Day will travel to be taught the truth of God and to worship Him.

Christ said the true church would never die out, would Jerusalem not have then become and still be the center of true religion in the world since the foundation of God's NT Church on the day of Pentecost?

There is no such organized body of believers required because salvation occurs through the holy spirit God the Father calling men and those chosen then being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. No man can effect the salvation of anyone. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant that will be made with the physical descendants of Israel at His 2nd Coming and that is being made with all those who have or are being called and chosen since the day of Pentecost.

Let's keep going to make this as clear as we possibly can.

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.

Only the converted can call Jerusalem the city of truth as God's truth is spiritual and knowable only by revelation from God (Matt 11:25; 16:17; 1Co 2;10; Eph 3:5).

Zec 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

Many are to be called during the Millennium and spiritually speaking they will go to Jerusalem, the spiritual one; God is not in one, specific physical location; His dwelling place; His holy temple, His nation, is His Church and wherever, we have a truly converted Christian we find God and Christ dwelling in them. (See John 14:23 quoted hereunder)

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.

There is no need to go to a specific geographical location to pray to God as He dwells within all true Christians. Those seeking God are those who are being called (Joh 6:44) and no man can decide to go to God on his own. All those called are going to Jerusalem (spiritually-speaking) and seeking the Lord of hosts there. They are not going to the physical city of Jerusalem but to the heavenly Jerusalem which is the new Jerusalem that will come down from heaven after the creation of the new heaven and the new earth.

It will then be the place from which “.....the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with

them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Please note that the men mentioned in Rev 21:3 are not flesh-and-blood men. The new heaven and the new earth are created only after the destruction of the current one (2 Pe 3:10;12) .

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

At that time all men who were not saved died the second death and at the time when the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven in there are only men who have become glorified spiritual beings left alive (Rev 20:15).

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Unconverted Keeping the Feast of Tabernacles

One of the points put forward in support of the belief that Jerusalem would become the center of true religion in the world during the Millennium was that the nations would be made to go to Jerusalem to keep the feast of Tabernacles

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

The unconverted gentile nations every year will be made to go to Jerusalem to worship the King. They are not converted as is made clear in the next verse as God has to punish them to get their obedience.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families [nations] of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

All will be called during the Millennium but not all will become converted. Here we have a clear indication (the unconverted forced to attend the feast of Tabernacles) that not everybody will become converted as was once thought. A converted person obeys God because this is what they have freely decided to do upon being called, not because they are being forced to do so as God will not force anyone to obey Him (Rom 8:14).

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

And, it is important to note that it is representatives of the unconverted nations that will be made to attend the feast of Tabernacles, not whole nations. And most noteworthy is the fact that there is not any mention made anywhere in the Bible that God would force the unconverted nations to attend any of the other feasts.

God's purpose is not to force them to convert.

So why will God force their attendance?

An important and interesting point to consider is that the feast of Tabernacles was the feast kept by the unconverted nation of Israel as a reminder of the 40 years they were made to live in the desert as punishment for not having trusted God to be able to bring them into the Promised Land.

This feast does not represent a step in God's plan of salvation for mankind but rather is a reminder of a historical event for ancient Israel, the 40 years of wandering in the desert without knowing where they were going, how long they were to stay where they stopped, how soon they would have to be on the move again and this until the generation that had refused to enter the Promised Land had died. It was not a happy time that one would like to remember or rejoice over.

God's spiritual nation of Israel is made up of believers from all nations most of whom are not physical descendants of the ancient unconverted nations of Israel and so, the historical message of this feast is irrelevant to them.

The feast that God's spiritual nation of Israel celebrates, and which is a major step in God's plan of salvation, is the feast of Ingathering which points to the time when God will begin the final gathering of all those of mankind who after their calling are chosen and faithful. It is the time when salvation will be opened to all mankind during the Millennium and the Last Great Day which itself is a separate feast day. Please see the following study for more information: [OT and NT Feast Celebration Differences](#)

The gentile nations will keep the feast of Tabernacles but their sojourn in Jerusalem will have no spiritual meaning to them and if they weren't forced to attend, they would not do so as God's feasts are meaningless and of no importance to them as they are today to the unconverted and will be to the unconverted during the Millennium.

The reason for God forcing them to do so is a physical one. It will be a yearly reminder of the fate of the nations that came up against Israel early on during the Millennium when Israel had again become a rich nation. Representatives from these gentile nations every year will see the mountain of the bones of Gog and Magog which came up against Jerusalem to conquer it. (Ez 39:11)

Eze 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.

This will serve to keep these events alive in their minds and this is why there will be no nation rising up against Jerusalem during the Millennium nor will there be any wars among the unconverted nations who will fear sudden destruction as occurred to the armies of Gog and Magog.

It is very important for us to realize that the nations of the world will not become converted and live at peace with each other because they are converted. God will have to keep them under control by yearly reminding them of the fate of Gog and Magog. Individuals within the nations of the world will come to conversion and in this sense will become part of God's holy mountain and be flowing to Israel but the many will not become converted as is the case today. The nations will continue to be administered by unconverted men and be made up to a large extent of unconverted individuals even though all will have been called. Being called is not the same thing as becoming converted.

God's Church will exist invisible among the nations as it does today. God's church is first and foremost a spiritual organism. For most of its existence God's Church has not been organized and visible to the world and when it has come to its attention, it was persecuted and had to flee into the wilderness to escape being put to death.

Why and to What Nation is Christ Coming?

In addition to the Scriptures we have examined there are others which if read without keeping in mind who and what is God's Church and how God

is proceeding to save mankind, can be easily interpreted to mean that Christ at His Second Coming along with His resurrected saints will take over the nations of the world.

Here are a few of them.

Mar 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

True Christ is coming back with great power and glory but what will He do?

Act 3:19 Repent ye [the physical nation of Israel returned from its scattering among the nations] therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Christ is returning to the descendants of the physical nations who will be alive at the time of His Second Coming as made clear in the following verse.

Act 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [Israel]

Christ at His Second Coming is coming to Israel.

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

At the time Peter spoke these things, Christ had ascended to His Father in heaven and was to remain there until the times of restitution of all things. What was to be restored to the physical descendants of ancient Israel at the time of Christ's Second Coming? Physical Israel has been living among the Gentile nations of the world as Gentiles. They had lost their national identity, their language, their customs and traditions and their religious beliefs. Christ will restore all these things to them as well as teach them spiritual truth which they never knew because they were never given ac-

cess to the holy spirits of the Godhead.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

This prophet that is to come to the end-time physical nation of Israel is Christ.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

At Christ's 2nd Coming all of Israel will be called and given their chance for salvation. Those who will submit to Christ will become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church. This will be the time of the making of the New Covenant with Israel.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

This will be the time when Christ will complete His 7 year ministry to Israel with was interrupted after 3 1/2 years when He died on the stake.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This is why Christ is coming back a second time to the physical nation of Israel.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to quickly explain why it is that Christ will not rule over the nations of this world at His Second Coming.

The main reason is that though all will be called during the Millennium, it is not everyone that will become converted.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

And of the few chosen, it is the few who remain faithful.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Therefore, during the Millennium, though all will be called it is only the few of the few that will remain faithful. This means that the great majority of the population will be unconverted and it will be impossible to teach them spiritual truth which can only be known by revelation.

God will not forcefully teach the unconverted against their will.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God will not rule by force over the unconverted nations of the world. His rulership is only possible over those who freely submit to Him when they are called and who keep on doing so until the end of their lives.

The reason for Christ's 2nd Coming is not to take over the nations of the world and rule by force over them. He is coming back to end-time Israel returned from its captivity and resettled in the original Promised Land. He will then spend 3 1/2 years making the New Covenant with them (Heb 8:8). It will be the time of the calling of Israel spoken of in Romans 11.

When reading the Bible we must always keep in mind how God is administering His plan of salvation for mankind to help us in not misinterpreting some Scriptures which seem to say that Christ will rule over the nations of the world after His Second Coming.

