

Part 1: The Origin of Israel

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Introduction

Pastor and Author Blake White:

The Relationship between Israel and the Church is nothing if not controversial. Entire systems of theology divide over it, and the passion is often white hot. Sharp and godly Christians come to very different conclusions. The temptation is to simply leave a controversial subject alone, but this topic is foundational to understanding our place in the story of God's grand redemptive purposes. It is not unimportant. Furthermore, I think this is a great "test case" for one's theology because it exposes whether or not we are truly committed to Scripture alone rather than to our theological presuppositions. (White, God's Chosen People, p1)

Author Brent Parker wrote:

The relationship between Israel and the church is of paramount importance for all theological systems. Covenant and dispensational theology, while both...still have sharp differences on this hotly debated and contentious subject. (Parker, Progressive Covenantalism, p39)

Theologian and Author Stephen Wellum wrote:

...a crucial difference between dispensational and covenant theology centers on the Israel-church relationship, which has direct implications for ecclesiology and eschatology....A major difference between dispensational and covenant theology involves their view of the nature of the church. This difference in turn is rooted in each system's conception of the Israel-church relationship...(Wellum, KTC, p799)

Biblical Theology

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Path we are taking in 4 parts (5 or 6 classes)

1. Part 1: Origin of Israel
2. Part 2: The Nation of Israel
3. Part 3: The True Israel
4. Part 4: The Eternal People of Israel

The Origin of Israel

Gen. 32:24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **27** And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." **28** Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." **31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Motyer also wrote: "Israel" is always inclined to be "Jacob", the deceiver, and idolater, who, instead of submitting to God, tries to obtain power over him. (NDBT, Israel, p582)

The Origin of Israel...Looking back at Adam

Adam, Son of God

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Theologian Steven Dempster wrote:

If the terms 'image' and 'likeness' stress the unique relationship humanity has to its Creator, they also indicate the exalted, regal role (Dempster, Dominion and Dynasty, P59)

Ex. 4:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. **22** Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, **23** and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

Hos. 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Jer. 31:9for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Promised Offspring

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Origin of Israel...Looking back at Abraham

Gen. 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gen. 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Gen. 13:15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **16** I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. **17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

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Gen. 15:3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” **4** And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” **5** And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6** And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Gen. 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Gen. 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, **2** that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” **3** Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, **4** “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. **5** No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. **7** And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. **8** And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” **9** And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. **10** This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. **11** You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

Gen. 17:19 God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Gen. 22:15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

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Gen. 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!”

Gen. 25:22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. **23** And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

Gen. 26:2 And the LORD appeared to him (Isaac) and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. **3** Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. 4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

Gen. 26:24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

Ex. 3:6 And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Gen. 28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. **2** Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. **3** God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4 May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!”

Gen. 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. **14** Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

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Gen. 35:9 God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. **10** And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. **11** And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. **12** The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.”

The Covenant & 4 promises to Abraham & his offspring frame our early understanding of Israel

- 1 – The land
- 2 – Making him a great nation (through the offspring/son)
- 3 – Blessing him (being with him always...fruitful & multiplying, victory)
- 4 – Blessing all others thru him

The Origin of Israel...the 12 Sons of Jacob

Ex. 1:1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, **3** Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, **4** Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. **5** All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. **6** Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. **7** But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.