

# Why All Nations Will Be Grafted into Israel

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In the 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> chapters of Romans, the apostle Paul instructed Gentile converts about the process that led to their being grafted into Israel. He explained that the nation of Israel had been given ample time to live according to God's law and commandments, but ultimately they refused.

But to Israel he says: "*All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people*" (Rom. 10:21; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Because the majority of people in the nation of Israel preferred to follow the pagan customs of Gentile nations, they were cast away as an adulterous wife.

The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot." <sup>7</sup>And I said, after she had done all these things, "Return to Me." But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah (separate nation from Israel; cf. 2Chr. 25:17) saw it. <sup>8</sup>Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding **Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce**; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also (Jer. 3:6-8; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Israel and Judah's persistent rebellion against God opened the door for many Gentiles to be grafted into the "olive tree" that Paul used as a metaphor for Jesus Christ. Paul also used

"branches" to describe those who have been removed from their relationship with Christ and replaced by Gentiles who repent of their sins and begin living in accordance with God's law and commandments (Rom. 6:4b).

And if some of the branches were broken off (representing rebellious Israelites), and **you** (Gentiles), being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them **became a partaker of the root and richness of the olive tree** (Rom. 11:17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

You (Gentiles) will say then, "Branches were broken off (so) that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup>Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith (trust in God's word) ... (Rom. 11:19-20a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

God's ultimate goal is for everyone to be grafted into the olive tree that represents Christ.

As He says also in Hosea: "*I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved who was (previously) not beloved (the Gentiles)*". <sup>26</sup>*And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them (ancient nation of Israel), 'You are not My people,' There they will be called sons of the living God.*" (Rom. 9:25-26; Ed. notes in parentheses).

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:27-28; cf. Col. 3:11; emphasis added).

In the last scripture above, Paul mentions that after baptism each person "puts on Christ." In other words, Christ's name is placed upon them through the marriage covenant they made during their baptism, as well as progressively becoming

more like him (Php. 2:5). Later, we will examine scriptures that identify one of the personal names that Almighty God gave to Christ because it is the same name that obedient servants of God are identified by. In the meantime, we will continue to examine the symbolism associated with the marriage between Christ and his church.

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For **I have betrothed you to one husband**, that I may present you as a chaste virgin **to Christ** (2Cor. 11:2; emphasis added).

Paul continues this analogy by confirming that Christ is the husband of the church, and therefore responsible for her well-being.



**NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY.**

1 Corinthians 12:27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her <sup>26</sup>that He might set her apart and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (of God), <sup>27</sup>that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:25-27; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Therefore, all the true servants of God become members of Christ's body.

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup>For **we are members of His body** (Eph. 5:29-30; emphasis added).

Paul continued this analogy in discussions with members of the church in Corinth.

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup>For by

one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>For in fact the body is not one member but many (1Cor. 12:12-14).

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually (1Cor. 12:27).

Just as someone leaves their father and mother in order to be married to their spouse; so God's true servants must be prepared to leave those who are closest to them, if necessary, in order to fulfill their responsibility within Christ's body.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me (Mt. 10:37).

This reality is described by Paul as one of God's "mysteries".

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. <sup>32</sup>**This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church** (Eph. 5:31-32; emphasis added).

This "mystery" was really about the spirit being, who later became known as Jesus Christ, leaving his heavenly Father in order remove every spot and wrinkle (sin) from his future bride.

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot (sin). <sup>20</sup>**He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for you (1Pet. 1:18-20; cf. Heb. 9:24-26; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world** (Rev. 13:8; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ was also prepared to leave his mother in heaven in order to cleanse his future wife of sin through his shed blood (Heb. 9:22).

But the **Jerusalem above** (spiritual temple of God) is free, **which is the mother of us all** (Gal. 4:26; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Teaching that Christ did not preexist in heaven, as some do, denies that he fulfilled the requirements for marriage to his future bride. Specifically, that he would have to leave his Father and mother in heaven so that he could be married to his wife.

Going back now to the name of Christ's bride, we will examine some scriptures that reveal one of the names given to Christ by his heavenly Father. This name will identify Christ's bride because, as his wife, she will have the same name.

Now when they (the wise men) had departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young child (Christ) and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "**Out of Egypt I called My Son.**" (Mt. 2:13-15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This prophecy that God the Father would call His Son out of Egypt was given by Hosea, who

identifies Christ by the name "Israel", which means "He will rule as God" from SHD 8280 and 410. As no physical person or nation is qualified to "rule as God", it can only refer to the spirit being now known as Jesus Christ.

**When Israel was a child**, I loved him, and **out of Egypt I called My son** (Hos. 11:1; emphasis added).

The prophet Isaiah also knew that "Israel" was one of the names given to the son of Almighty God, who was faithful enough to fulfill his Father's will (Heb. 10:5-7).

Listen, O coastlands, to me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord (Almighty) has called me from the womb; from the matrix of my mother **He has made mention of my name** (Isa. 7:14; cf. Mt. 1:23). <sup>2</sup>And He has made my mouth like a sharp sword (Rev. 1:16; 2:12); in the shadow of His hand He has hidden me, and made me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden me (Isa. 49:1-2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Before continuing in the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, it is important to state that Christ was given many names and descriptive titles because he was the representative of Almighty God (Isa. 9:6-7). Therefore, it would be an error to say that Christ can only be identified by one name, and this position contradicts many Biblical examples of individuals who have more than one name or descriptive title (Rev. 12:9; cf. Isa. 14:12; 27:1; 1Tim. 5:14b).

Going back now to Isaiah 49:1-2, the individual being described in these two verses was known by name before his birth, both in prophecies pertaining to his appearance as a human being, and by his heavenly Father's foreknowledge. This individual is identified as having the ability to use God's word correctly and effectively, which is

compared to a sharp sword (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:13-16; 19:11-15). He is also ready and willing to take action against the enemies of his heavenly Father, who is described as the "King" in the following scripture.

Your (Christ's) arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; the peoples fall under you (Ps. 45:5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Christ is now hidden until he returns to deal with the enemies of "The King" (Isa. 49:2). Even the apostles of Christ were told that they would not see him until he returns to rule this planet.

...two men stood by them (Christ's apostles) in white apparel, <sup>11</sup>who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven." (Ac. 1:10b-11; Ed. note in parenthesis; cf. Jn. 13:33).

Next, Almighty God reveals that by His Son's words and actions, He will be glorified; meaning properly respected and honored.

And He (Almighty God) said to me (Christ), "You are My servant, **O Israel, in whom I will be glorified** (Isa. 49:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

During his earthly ministry, Christ confirmed that it was part of his responsibility to "glorify" his heavenly Father. Only Christ could do this because he did not commit sin (Heb. 4:15), and he successfully finished the work his Father gave him, which included shedding his blood to cover the sins of everyone who repents, either in this life or during the second resurrection.

**I have glorified You on the earth, I have finished the work which You have given me to do** (Jn. 17:4; emphasis added).

To take the position that Isaiah 49:3 is describing anyone other than Jesus Christ is foolish and insulting to Christ's work, which included the suffering he endured in order to cover the sins of those who repent. This suffering was both physical and emotional as summarized in the next verse.

Then I (Christ) said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely my just reward (justice) is with the Lord (Almighty), and my work (recompense) with my God." (Isa. 49:5; cf. **Isa. 52:13-15; 53:1-12**; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Christ, who also has the name Israel, was once the husband of an ancient nation, that nation took its husband's name and became known as the house of Israel.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with **the house of Israel** and with the house of Judah – <sup>32</sup>not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though **I was a husband to them, says the Lord** (Jer. 31:31-32; emphasis added).

"The Lord" mentioned in the scripture above, confirmed a number of times that the house of Israel was named after him.

If **My people who are called by My name** will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2Chr. 7:14; cf. Nu. 6:27; Dt. 28:10; emphasis added).

In contrast, the Gentiles were never identified by the name Israel.

We have become like those of old, over whom You never ruled, **those who were never called by Your name** (Isa. 63:19; emphasis added).

I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," **to a nation that was not called by My name** (Isa. 65:1; emphasis added).

Moving forward in time, Jesus Christ is now the husband of a new nation, which is willingly obedient to the law and commandments of Almighty God (2Cor. 11:2).

You (those who repented of their sins) also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (Almighty) through Jesus Christ (1Pet. 2:5; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of **Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light** (1Pet. 2:9; emphasis added).

By coming into "His marvelous light", those within this "holy nation" have embraced God's law and commandments, unlike the ancient nation that was identified by the name Israel.

For **the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light...** (Prov. 6:23a; cf. Ps. 19:8; 119:105; Mt. 5:16-18).

Even though the ancient nation, identified by its husband's name "Israel", was divorced because it refused to obey the "household rules", it will have an opportunity in a future resurrection to be restored in its relationship with God. This will occur because of Christ's ongoing work.

And now the Lord (Almighty) says, **who formed me** (Christ) from the womb to be His Servant, **to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him...** (Isa. 49:5a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Not only will the ancient nation of Israel be gathered to God, but also the Gentile nations that refused to obey God or were ignorant of Him.

Indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that you (Christ) should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles**, that you should be My salvation **to the ends of the earth.**" (Isa. 49:6; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).



**FOR THE COMMANDMENT IS A LAMP, AND THE LAW IS LIGHT...**

Proverbs 6:23a; cf. Psalms 19:8; 119:105; Matthew 5:16-18

When Christ was still a child, Simeon was able to see him shortly before his death. This is important because it was Simeon who confirmed that Christ was the "light to the Gentiles" as prophesied in Isaiah 49:6.

He (Simeon) took him (the Christ-child) up in his arms and blessed God (Almighty) and said: <sup>29</sup>Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen Your salvation <sup>31</sup>which You have prepared **before the face of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles**, and the glory of Your people Israel (Lk. 2:28-32; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This is why all Gentiles have the potential to be grafted into Israel, or Jesus Christ, because Israel is one of the names that Almighty God gave to His Son. Therefore, Israel is a name that can be

associated with everyone who repents of their sins and becomes baptized, regardless of their gender, race, or position in society.

Then Peter said to them (repentant individuals), "Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Ac. 2:38; emphasis added).

When the ancient nation of Israel repents of their sins in a future resurrection, they will be grafted back into their husband, whose name is more familiarly known as Jesus Christ today in the English-speaking countries.

And they also (ancient nation of Israel), if they do not continue in unbelief, **will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again** (Rom. 11:23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The plan of God is both simple and yet well hidden in scripture because He intends that the majority of people remain in the darkness created "by the Adversary" until the time appointed for everyone to see the error of their ways and repent (Ac. 3:19-21; cf. 2Pet. 3:9).

Finally, it is no coincidence that the writer of Hebrews said that Christ is the same yesterday, when he was a husband to the ancient house of Israel, and today, as he is a husband to the spiritual house of Israel, and in the future, when he will be a husband to every repentant sinner (Heb. 13:8; cf. Iscor. 15:28; Eph. 1:22-23).

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