



THE WORD ISRAEL

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The Holy Bible tells the human story beginning with the creation of the earth and of man. Genesis, chapters 1-12. From the twelfth chapter begins the history of Abraham and of Israel. The entire old testament, even to the first chapters of the Acts, deals chiefly with Israel, its promises, and how the Lord kept the oath which he had sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Compare Deuteronomy 7. 7-9. V. 10 also warns them of what would happen to such who hate Him by serving other gods, that He would not be slack in bringing judgment against them. It is to be remembered that Israel lived in the midst of universal Idolatry, and that Israel's appointed mission was to abstain from serving strange gods, namely the gods of the people which were round about them. Deut. 6. 14. In V. 15 they were warned that the Lord, their God, is a jealous God among them and would destroy them if they served Idols. Abraham had not only to leave his country, but also his kindred and even his fathers house, because Abraham's ancestors worshipped also, other gods. Joshua 24. 2., Genesis 35. 9-15 tells us when and where the name Israel originated. Here also did God renew the promise made unto Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In V. 2-4 we see how, even at that late date, from the time of the calling of Abraham from his Idolatrous ancestors, that some had strange gods with them. Genesis 31. V. 30-32 tells us that these secret superstitions still existed and that Rachel even trusted in them, (in strange gods), this must have moved her to steal the images from her father's house in their flight even tho' they were so small that Jacob did not notice

them on their journey, and that Rachel was able to hide them under the camels furniture (saddles) in her tent. V. 34,35. Many times Israel failed in its calling in which it was to illustrate to the nations, the heathen, the great blessedness in serving the one true God. Instead they sought help from strange gods. (Deut. 32. 26-29) thereby thrusting behind them their confidence in the only true God who had redeemed them to be his own people. I. Chronicles 17. 20-27. All of this for the purpose that they should receive and preserve the divine revelations. Instead of seeking after God and having his understanding, they were under sin as well as the gentiles, they had become unprofitable, (Rom. 3. 10.) even tho' the oracles of God had been committed unto them. Rom. 3. 1, 2. Yet with all their apostasy (falling away) which resulted in the carrying away of the ten tribes, God was able to retain a remnant so that Christ, the Savior of the World, could be produced from them in whom all nations might be blessed (as many as obeyed his word). This promise unto Israel was fulfilled. Written Genesis 26. 1-4 & 5. For from them, concerning the flesh, Christ came. Compare Rom. 9. 4. 5. This was, of all promises given to Israel, the greatest which was fulfilled in truth and verity. Many other promises could be cited which God fulfilled unto Israel, too numerous to be mentioned here.

Now let us take to heart that it was prophesied to them by Joshua, that if they fall away to serve strange gods, then the Lord would turn and do them hurt and consume them after he had done them good. Joshua 24. 20.

Verily, all of these prophesies of hurt came to pass as a result of their abominable idolatry among which also, were the burning of their infant children to Moloch, an Idol of the children of Amon.

Even Solomon gave support to this abomination of the children of Amon. I. Kings 11. 7. Compare Jeremiah 32. 34. 35.

Read now that for such abominations Stephen reminded them of the carrying away beyond Babylon. Acts 7. 43. Of each impending captivity, Israel was always forewarned by the prophets of God, that they might prevent the calamity by timely repentance, which advice they thrust behind them. The Bible also tells of the period of the captivities, and also foretells the restoration of the commonwealth of Judah from the Babylonian captivity. This Holy Bible finally records from the lips of Jesus the utter destruction of the beautiful temple which took 46 years in building. Jesus foretells this so minutely that not one stone should be left upon another which should not be thrown down. Math. 24. 1, 2. Read also Mark 13. 1, 2, and Luke 21, 1-6. Luke records in this same chapter, V. 20-23 of the great distress to come over the land of the Jews and the wrath upon its people and in V. 24 foretells their falling by the edge of the sword and that they should be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the time for the Gentiles be fulfilled. Read how Jesus wept when he saw the city and foretold its coming plight, because they rejected the things which would have belonged to their peace. Luke 19. 41, 42. Adding thereto in V. 43, 44, for the days shall come upon thee that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee and compass thee round and keep thee in on every side and shall lay thee even with the ground and thy children within thee and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knowest not the time of thy visitation. This was fulfilled A.D.70.

In all this time, to the resurrection of Christ, Israel is in the

foreground. Namely from the call of Abraham to the resurrection of Christ.

Christ is the theme of the Bible, unto this all that was written before him leads, and from this time all following scriptures proceed. The gospel was preached and also explained in the letters of the apostles as well as in the Acts. All this is a chain of testimony supporting the fulfillment of the promise given Eve of that Son who would bruise the head of the serpent. Christ, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of Abraham, Son of David. The book of Revelation given to St. John is a consummation of all the foregoing which we read in the Bible and in full harmony of all the Holy Bible proclaims.

It was also thru' the scriptures of the old covenant that Paul was able to prove to many Jews that Jesus is the Son of God. Paul also wrote, "while God spoke at sundry times and in divers manners to the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son". Heb. 1. 1, 2.

The very fact that Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed as prophesied and the further fact that the Jews as a part of Israel, a nation of great numbers, and endless wealth, are left without a land of their own, but are scattered among every civilized state and nation, without a government of their own, unable to keep the law, as also prophesied. For the keeping of the law requires the Holy Land together with those utensils of worship that God had prescribed to Moses together with the Ark of the Covenant; all of which were destroyed by the permission of God, all of this the Holy Bible forewarned. This is a further and indisputable evidence that God kept his word of good and hurt as told in the Bible.

Further the presence of the Jews among the nations in this their

plight, in which no Jew can keep the law, is a living and indisputable evidence that the Bible is truly of Divine origin. The Jew as he thus roams among the nations is beyond dispute such a testimony unto all of us which God will hold us responsible for if we fail to accept the Bible teachings as the only Divine truth in existence helpful to our salvation. For this reason Paul says of this eternal gospel in Gal. 1, 8., "but though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed". This was a matter of such importance that Paul repeated in V. 9 this curse upon any who would preach any other gospel to them than that which they had received. This fearful condemnation is repeated in the last verses of the Holy Bible. Rev. 22. 18, 19. These sentences should make us shudder from teaching or even accepting any doctrine conflicting with the Holy Bible.

Just as God fulfilled every prophesy of evil against Israel; spoken of in the Holy Bible, He will verily also fulfill that great and good promise which is also given in the Bible to them, that they will once say, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord". Matthew 23:39. This time may be dawning now. The Jews, within the last two years, begin to recognize Christ as their Messiah and Redeemer, even some of the rabbis begin to awaken.

May such Jews who now accept Christ receive from Him the same power which He gave to those Jews who became His disciples as we read in John 1, 11-13., viz.. "But as many as receive Him to them gave He power to become the Sons of God." Note in particular V. 13.

It may be God is turning His grace to Israel again and gradually withdrawing it from the Gentiles and from so-called Christendom, as He once withdrew it from the Jews and gave it to the Gentiles, for the grace unto true repentance among people of the world and the willing-

ness to come out of so-called Christianity (babylon) is remarkably on the wane.

Men despise the riches of God's goodness - being unwilling to be lead to repentance. The closing of the door of grace is being hastened for so-called Christianity the same as it was for Israel when they rejected Christ. Compare Luke 13: 24, 25, 26, 27.

So-called Christianity has departed from the way of truth for they assert that the new covenant which is established on the Holy blood of Christ can make no better men than the old covenant was able to produce. They do not recognize that the old covenant was merely the shadow of the good things promised in the new covenant and forget or do not want to know that the old testament was established only on the blood of animals. Thus they confuse the requirements of the saints of the old testament with the requirements of the saints of the new testament, hence they are in babylonian confusion and from this confusion God wants His people to depart. In this confusion these babylonians comfort themselves with the fall of David, who indeed was a man after the heart of God, but they forget or do not want to know that David was such a one (after the heart of God) only under the dispensation of the old covenant, he had not yet been endowed with the powers of Christ's blood; hence yet unredeemed from the power of sin because redemption was only possible by the blood of Christ. The blood of animals could not redeem. Heb. 10: 4-8. This is important. They also cite Peter's denial of Christ when he was confronted with suffering for acknowledging Christ, again not wanting to know that Peter was then yet lacking the power of the Holy Spirit which was only given after the shedding of the Holy blood of Jesus the Son of God and His resurrection from the dead. Compare Acts 1: 4, 5. Now read

verse 8 which states that instead of denying Him as Peter had done before he had received the Holy Spirit they would now be His witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Likewise they even claim that the 7th chapter to the Romans describes the man under the dispensation of the covenant of Grace when indeed such interpretation is in direct contradiction with the spirit of the new covenant. Paul speaks here not of himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ but of the man under the law who is yearning and praying for deliverance from the conditions under the law. This is fully proven by what Paul writes in the preceding chapter (6th) and continues to point out in the 8th. Compare the 7th chapter in Romans with the 6th and the 8th chapters for this is very important.

We should not forget that Peter writes that some men wrest the scriptures to their own destruction and also to the deception of others. 2 Peter 3: 14-16. In verse 17 God's people are warned lest they be lead away with error of the wicked. These wicked are none other than those who change the conditions of salvation by adding to or taking away from the prophecies of the Bible. Compare Rev. 22; 18, 19.

It is therefore my sincere wish for myself and for all who would receive the promise of eternal bliss and happiness that we honor and revere this Holy Bible as our only guide unto that goal.

Sincerely,

S. J. Braun

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