

Jeremiah 31:31-35 – God promises to make New Covenant with House of Israel & House of Judah

→ This promise is fulfilled in the Church – 1) Lk 22:20, 2) 1 Cor 11:35, 3) 2 Cor 3:6, 4) Heb 8:8, 5) Heb 8:13, 6) Heb 9:15, 7) Heb 12:24

In OT, Gentiles become Israelites (Rahab, Ruth) and a greater Gentile inclusion is promised (Isa 2, 19, 60)

The “mystery” of Gentile inclusion is not completely unknown in the OT but rather more dimly revealed (Eph 3:4-6; Rom 16:25-27)

In OT, God cuts off ethnic Jews for unrepentant idolatry (Korah, Dathan, Abiram, Jeroboam, Ahab, etc.)

Being a true Jew is not about ethnicity but faith; a Gentile with faith is a Jew inwardly (Rom 2:28-29; 9:6-7; 9:27; 10:12; 11:1, 5, 16-22)

The cultivated Olive Tree is a symbol for Israel in the OT (Jer 11:16-17; Hosea 14:4-7)

Paul asserts that ethnic Gentiles are grafted into the cultivated Olive Tree by faith, ethnic Jews are cut off through unbelief and re-grafted in through faith (Rom 11:16-22)

In this way (the fullness of the elect Gentiles being grafted into Israel) “all Israel will be saved” (Rom 11:25-26)

Paul uses the term “all” in the same way in Romans 4:13 & 16

→ The Old Testament saints were made “perfect” (complete, whole) by the church (Heb 11:25-26)

Promises made to OT Israel are regarded as fulfilled to Jesus (Gal 3:16, 2 Cor 1:20)

The church is a Jewish institution with an entirely Jewish founding (Jesus is Jewish, His apostles are all Jewish, the 3,000 original church members were all Jewish from every nation according to Acts 2)

Paul can tell ethnic Gentile members of the church in Ephesus not to act like Gentiles because he considered them Jews (Eph 4:17) since they were believers; he used “Gentiles” to refer to unbelievers (regardless of ethnicity)

Jesus asserted that unbelieving ethnic Jews were not children of Abraham but rather children of Satan (Jn 8:39-42)

If you are Christ’s then you are true children of Abraham (Gal 3:29)

Paul refers to the entire church made up of both Jew and Gentile as “the Israel of God” (Gal 6:15-16)

Believing Gentiles are fellow-citizens with the Jewish saints in the commonwealth of Israel (Eph 2:11-19)

The church is God’s one “chosen race,” “royal priesthood” and “holy nation,” i.e. Israel (1 Pet 2:9-10)

# Romans 11

Cultivated Olive Tree = ISRAEL

