

15 WHO ARE “GOD’S PEOPLE”?

1. The first century church was built primarily by ethnic Jews.

Jesus and the Apostles were Jews. Early converts to Christianity were predominately Jews. The synagogues were leading recruiting grounds for the first century church. (Acts 17:2f)
New Testament writers were overwhelmingly Jewish.
Ethnic Jews continue, to this day, to be added to the church.

2. In his letters, Paul used “Israel” and “Jew” in two distinctly different ways.

“For they are not all [spiritual] Israel, which are of [ethnic] Israel.” Rom. 9:6
“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly.” Rom. 2:28f

3. Racial identities are not relevant in the New Covenant.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek...” Gal 3:28
“There is no distinction between Jew and Greek...” Romans 10:12

4. Jesus is the true spiritual Israel. Israel after the flesh was the type/shadow.

[Referring to Jesus] “Out of Egypt I called my Son.” Mt. 2:15
“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed... which is Christ.” Gal 3:16

5. Being “in Christ” is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant. Being “in the land” was the “type”.

“If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to promise.” Gal. 3:29
Paul called believers in Christ, “The Israel of God.” Gal. 6:16

6. Those who are “in Christ” are the chosen people. Israel after the flesh was the type/shadow.

“Those who are of faith, the same are children of Abraham.” Gal. 3:7
“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:3
“He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart.” Rom. 2:29

7. Circumcision was a type/shadow of the repentant believing heart.

“For in Christ Jesus neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.” Gal.6:15.
“You were... circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ.” Col. 2:11
“He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit not in the letter; whose praise is not from men, but from God.” Rom. 2:29

8. Doesn't Romans 11:26 teach that “all [of ethnic] Israel will be saved”?

When we read the verse in context, we can see that when Paul says, “all Israel” he is speaking of “the remnant”.
“At this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” Rom 11:5
“If the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant who will be saved.” Rom. 9:27

9. Yahweh did not break His land promises to Israel. All the promises were fulfilled perfectly.

“So Yahweh gave to Israel all the land which he swore to give to their fathers. They possessed it, and lived in it. Yahweh gave them rest all around, according to all that he swore to their fathers. Not a man of all their enemies stood before them. Yahweh delivered all their enemies into their hand. Nothing failed of any good thing which Yahweh had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” Josh. 23:43-45

10. Isn't it significant that Israel returned to Palestine in 1948?

No. God promised and gave Israel a new and supremely better Covenant under Messiah Jesus. Physical land means nothing compared to Life in Christ.

“Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 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...But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jer. 31:31-34

Further study: [Israel 1948, Countdown to Nowhere](#) by [Don K. Preston](#), [Samuel G. Dawson](#), [William Bell Jr.](#) [Daniel Rogers](#), etc.