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The Future of Israel

By Bill Lockwood

The premillennial preoccupation with physical Israel is completely misguided. The New Testament clearly shows that the church is the Israel of God today (Galatians 6:16). Consider these six points as outlined by Foy E. Wallace, Jr. in his monumental *God's Prophetic Word*.

1. **The Last State of the Jews is Worse than the First.** Jesus, referring to the nation of Israel, in Matthew 12:43-45 declared in the story of the unclean spirit that the *"last state of man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."* Remarkable it is that premillennial theory would have us believe that the future state of Israel is better than the former!
2. **The Kingdom of God was Taken from the Jews and Given unto Another "Nation."** (Matthew 21:33-46). Because of the Jewish murder of Jesus Christ our Lord announced, *"Therefore I say unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof."*
3. **Abraham's Seed No Longer With the Jews.** Paul encourages all who are *"baptized into Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 3:27) that *"in Christ"* there is *"neither Jew nor Greek, bond or free, male or female; but ye are all one man in Christ Jesus, and if ye are Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise."* One who is Abraham's seed, in the sense in which it counts with God, is one who has been baptized into Jesus Christ.
4. **God's Jew is No Longer of Abraham's Flesh, but of his Faith.** Paul's very point in Romans 4:14-16 demonstrates that if those "of the law" are heirs, faith is made void. That is to say, heirs to God's promises *always included* "not only that which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham"—that is, Gentiles. What a misreading of the Old Testament to conclude that God's promises were only for physical Israel.
5. **Christian Gentiles Are God's Jews.** In the same epistle, Paul tells us that it is not the circumcision which is "of the flesh" which is counted by God, but that of "the heart." *"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly."* Could any passage be clearer than this to say that the physical relationship as a Jew is worthless before God?
6. **Circumcision of the Flesh Gives Place to Circumcision of the Heart.** Colossians 2:11-12 gives us a picture of the circumcision which God today requires. It is that of the heart, and it occurs at baptism. It is a spiritual action that God does in heaven when one is baptized into Christ. Thus, physical Israel has no future place in the plan of God. The Church is the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16).