

**Articles and Sermons :: What Were Gentile Believers Grafted Into?****What Were Gentile Believers Grafted Into? , on: 2010/11/29 0:20**

The latest misconception spreading within the 'Messianic' and 'Hebrew Root' movements is that Gentile Christians are being grafted into an ethnically defined, and predominantly unbelieving, 'Israel' at the present time - rather than historically, into the faithful remnant described in Romans chapter eleven. YHVH spoke of Israel as an olive tree whose branches would be cut off and thrown into the fire (Jeremiah 11:16). In Romans eleven, Paul used the imagery of Jeremiah's prophecy to describe the reconstituted Israel under the New Covenant, on the criterion of faith in Messiah. Two processes took place concurrently:

Firstly, those Jews who rejected the Messiah (the Prophet like Moses) were cut off from Israel and ceased to be part of that nation. (The same were 'in danger of being burnt' unless they repented and were grafted in again.)

Secondly, Gentile believers were being joined in with the faithful remnant, and became part of Israel.

As under the Old Covenant, the Lord's faithful are instructed to keep themselves separate - for the same reason as given under the Law, namely to avoid the contaminating influence of the unbeliever. 'Do not be yoked together with unbelievers ... For what fellowship is there between light and darkness, and what harmony between Christ and the Devil?' (2 Cor. 6:14).

For a Christian to be yoked together with unconverted Jews is no less sinful than for a Jew under the Old Covenant to join himself with Moab. Nor is the contamination that enters the Camp of the Righteous through such an unholy union any less destructive!

Ironically, Paul warned Gentile believers that they were 'grafted in' on account of their faith in Messiah, but could just as readily lose their privileged position and be cut off again. Those who unbind themselves from the body of Messiah to stand in solidarity with unbelievers are clearly victims of such an apostasy.

Those of us moved by the love of God to labour for the salvation of the apostle Paul's 'brothers after the flesh,' must preserve our integrity and put forward a faithful witness of the hope that stems from our New Covenant faith. Those who think they can achieve Jewish salvation by participating in the religious observances of the Talmudic faith simply add credibility to that system, and can never - by the flattery of imitation - provoke anyone to jealousy. Only the new life by the Spirit of God, which manifests itself most profoundly through simple obedience, self-sacrifice, and by its fruits (Gal. 5:22), will produce such a result.

Kevin Daly

https://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1507&news_id=75357&cat_id=537

Re: What Were Gentile Believers Grafted Into? - posted by Earendel (), on: 2010/11/29 0:26

There is a difference between the 'Physical Israel' and the "Spiritual Israel"

It is the Spiritual Israel that Gentiles were grafted into.

I wrote about it here:

WHO IS ISRAEL?

There is a physical Israel consisting of Hebrews of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and there is also a spiritual Israel consisting of the same, but includes gentiles who "were grafted into the spiritual root" after the Lord Jesus ascended on high, and after the feast of Pentecost as per Acts 10. Not ALL references to Israel in the bible refers to the spiritual Israel, and NOT all references to Israel in the bible refers to the physical Israel either.

Not all Jews believe, and although they belong to the physical Israel, they do not belong to the spiritual Israel (because of their unbelief). National Israel lost the Spiritual heritage when they were cut off after the resurrection of God's only

Son - when they were dispersed during the diaspora - a judgement that lasted almost 2000 years. But God has, in these last days, has brought them back together in the land that He promised to their forefathers...and the day of restoration is at hand.

Believing Israel was the called church (or congregation) in the wilderness.

The Church/Israel is a spiritual body of called out ones (elected)...The Greek word *ekklesia*, literally "assembly, congregation, council", is the traditional term referring to the Christian Church, but we read in scripture this also referred to believing Israel as well.

I won't go too much into it in depth on how gentiles were grafted into the stock of Israel too much with this post as per (Romans 11) as the Apostle Paul wrote about.

...but

The "Congregation" aka "Church" aka "*ekklesia*" Is Israel of whom gentiles were grafted in (this is not national unbelieving Israel) but elected saints now consisting of both the Jew first and also the Gentile. And I am not talking about replacement theology, nobody is replacing national Israel unbelieving or otherwise. The Israelites have always been the Church...ALWAYS! The gentiles were grafted into this body, not made a Jew in the flesh, but of the Spirit who gives life to all, for there is no partiality with God.

The OT which says and makes reference to the CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS and how that church is called THE CALLED OUT ONES. Israel was called the Church, before the gentiles were grafted in - this is to say that the Church (the Spiritual Israel) did not start on Pentecost. The Church received power for Godly living and testimony on Pentecost - It is through the righteousness of God that the free gift of the Holy Spirit is given, even to us, who through obedience to the faith in Christ Jesus are made righteous by His shed blood...in that He took away our sins, and in the absence of sin the righteous requirements of the law are fulfilled; therefore, the Holy Spirit could come.

Where there is no sin, the Law of God cannot condemn, but is fulfilled. It was not until sin was removed (through the cross of Christ), and the righteous requirements of the law were fulfilled (absence of sin), that the Holy Spirit could come, who wrote the laws of God on our hearts rather than on stone.

For what the law could not do(written law), in that it was weak through the flesh (because we could not keep the law through the flesh), God (did) (by)sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh (took away the sins - so that power for holy living could be given):

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us (absence of sin through the blood of Christ), who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body (power for righteous living), you will live. Rom 8:13 (emphasis mine)

Paul stated in Romans 11 that the Gentiles have been GRAFTED INTO THIS BODY, thereby making BOTH in the SAME BODY AND SPIRITUAL ROOTS.

Paul went on to teach in Ephesians that there is NOW NO DIVIDING WALL between the Jew or the Gentile, FOR WE ARE NOW ALL ONE BODY.

For you who may be reading this post and are not familiar with Pauls writing in Ephesians, I challenge you to read Ephesians and NOTE IN PARTICULAR verses 2:11-22. You will find the following statements:

1. The Gentiles (at one time) were aliens from the commonweath of Israel.
2. The Gentiles (at one time) were called uncircumcision who had NO HOPE being, without Christ in this World.
3. The Gentiles were (at one time) strangers from the covenants of promise.
4. Jesus Christ brought us ALL NEAR BY HIS BLOOD and made peace.

5. Jesus ABOLISHED in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances in order to MAKE ONE NEW MAN

6. Jesus reconciled BOTH BY HIS CROSS....PUTING away the condemnation against all people.

7. ALL OF US, JEW AND GENTILE are according to the Apostle Paul,

FELLOW-CITIZENS IN THE.....HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.

The Apostle Paul now goes on in Chapter 3 to say some VERY IMPORTANT WORDS. He NOW MENTIONS THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD, and how this Mystery was the fact that the Gentiles should be FELLOW HEIRS, AND OF THE SAME BODY, AND PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST BY THE GOSPEL.

This fully sums it up....THERE IS ONLY ONE CHURCH/ISRAEL

...of whom the gentiles were grafted in.

National Israel today (unbelieving as they are), is not the church (spiritual Israel) or the called out ones, but if all Jews in Israel suddenly accepted the Lord Jesus they would be grafted back into their own branch (the spiritual Israel),

...And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

For if you (gentile) were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree? Romans 11:23-24

The book of Revelations is not about national Israel, but about believing Israel (of whom gentiles were grafted in). The Kingdom will be restored to national Israel when Jesus returns and rules as King over the nations from Jerusalem, but then there will not be an unbelieving Jew in Israel at that time. Imagine all of the Apostles and the 12 Patriarchs, Moses, Elijah, King David, Enoch...all walking the streets of Jerusalem together. Do you think there will be any unbelieving Jews in Israel in that day with these guys walking around?

NOW PAY ATTENTION

National Israel today, is a direct fulfillment of prophecy of Jews coming into their own land...but only a remnant will be saved. It is a prophecy marker and a timeline to us who believe, and to show us that we are in the very last of days...that this generation will see the coming of the Lord.

The nation of Israel today is as a sign of the end of this age, and that the Lord Jesus is about to return. (the full number of the gentiles (grafted into spiritual Israel/Church) is almost come in). There will be a great falling away of Adam's race and many in what is now supposedly called the church, but from the ruins of what was once a "Grand Old Mansion" will arise a new one much more glorious than the former, even as the Prophet Haggai has said: The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. "Â"

Antichrist will come first before the rebuilding of the "Grand Old Mansion" and deceive many, but not all. A great revival will occur on earth such as not have been since time began, so great will be this move of the Spirit of God. Time is so short now, and it is time for those who are sitting on the fence with their Christianity to sit up and take notice to what is coming, because the day of judgement is approaching...time to get ready. The days of the Great Tribulation will soon be upon us.

I believe there is a biblical purpose for (national Israel) today, and that is the direct fulfillment of Ezekiel 36-37
<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036-37&version=NKJV>

The full restoration national Israel is still pending, and will be completed AFTER the first resurrection and AFTER the battle of Armageddon when our Lord Jesus restores ALL things. Israel as a nation today is a sign of the end of the age of th

e time also known as "the time of the gentiles".

The Lord Jesus has said this and also reaffirmed by the Apostle Paul.

The time of the Gentiles is almost complete...that is to say "the fulness of the Gentiles is almost come in"

Did not our Lord Jesus even say:

"Jerusalem shall be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:24)

This is why Israel is a nation today, because the prophecy is fulfilled and this time has now come...we are at the gateway to the time known as the Great Tribulation and the day of the Lord...and time is running out.

The existence of the nation of Israel in this last hour, is a prophecy marker about the imminent return of the Lord Jesus the Messiah of Israel.

As the Apostle Paul has written:

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel (the Jews) until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

.....Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in....and then what?

Here's what:

“ The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”
Romans 11:25-27

...so the Jew will be grafted back into their own Branch (spiritual Israel) as a nation!

There is a remnant of Israel that will be saved:

1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 “LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. Rom 11:1-5

One day ALL Israel will say: "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"! How do I know this? This is how:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” Luke 13:34-35

See, they will say this, even the Lord Jesus has said this, and then they will seek Him and shall mourn for Him in anguish and deep repentance as a nation. God forgives them for all their sins and for their backsliding, and remembers them no more; He washes them in the Blood of the Lamb so that they will be clean. God allows the foundation of repentance, and allows a broken and contrite and humble spirit within them...so that they may repent, so that they may return to the G

od of their salvation fully, with a pure heart, and with clean and undefiled and holy hands - for the Lord will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one who mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. Is this not written in Zechariah the prophet?

Unbelief in Israel among the Jews will be cut off soon enough...a great and a terrible day - a time of Jacob's trouble...

Zechariah 13:8-9 (New King James Version)

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,Â”
Says the LORD,

Â” That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die,
But one-third shall be left in it:
9 I will bring the one-third through the fire,
Will refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them.
I will say, Â”This is My peopleÂ”;
And each one will say, Â”The LORD is my God.Â”

Seek of the Lord mercy for others in a gentle spirit, and consider yourself too, so that you are not ensnared by the wicked one. God has a purpose for the nation of Israel today, not to replace His spiritual Israel, which is His church, but to graft back into the Branch the unbelieving Jew, back into their own Branch (the Spiritual Israel)...and I believe this time will come during the Great Tribulation which is before us, even as the prophet Jeremiah has said: Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Re: , on: 2010/11/29 0:44

Yes, I read your post on another thread. I agree with you.

The latest misconception spreading within the 'Messianic' and 'Hebrew Root' movements is that Gentile Christians are being grafted into an ethnically defined, and predominantly unbelieving, 'Israel' at the present time - rather than historically, into the faithful remnant described in Romans chapter eleven. YHVH spoke of Israel as an olive tree whose branches would be cut off and thrown into the fire (Jeremiah 11:16). In Romans eleven, Paul used the imagery of Jeremiah's prophecy to describe the reconstituted Israel under the New Covenant, on the criterion of faith in Messiah.

I don't believe the Church has replaced Israel, either. I wrote about two weeks ago that Israel was also referred to as the Church (congregation) in the Wilderness.

The Church is the Lord's Body on earth and there will not be another entity on earth that He works through.

And everyone comes to God through Jesus Christ. There is no other way but faith in Messiah.

Re: What Were Gentile Believers Grafted Into? , on: 2010/11/29 7:04

Thank you for the article in the leading post. What a relief to hear another voice decrying the misinformation abroad amongst well-meaning Christians.

Quote:

-----I wrote about two weeks ago that Israel was also referred to as the Church (congregation) in the Wilderness.

The Church is the Lord's Body on earth and there will not be another entity on earth that He works through.

And everyone comes to God through Jesus Christ. There is no other way but faith in Messiah.

There is another word in the Old Testament, which refers to the company which left Egypt in the Exodus. In Greek, it is 'synagogue', which means 'mixed multitude'. Israel 'the church in the wilderness' were called out from among the mixed multitude.

In the recent thread A New Covenant, philologos broached the difference from the Old Covenant, in these terms, which I , personally, have never heard put quite this way.

Quote:
-----I have intentionally quoted from the old KJV here to make a link. Stephen refers to the 'church in the wilderness'; . More modern versions use the word 'congregation' which is a good modern equivalent. But we should not miss the link that Stephen who was a Greek speaking Jew and who was familiar with the Greek version of the Old Testament used the word 'ekklesia'. The Greek Old Testament known as the Septuagint (LXX) uses the word 'ekklesia' a hundred times. It refers, mostly, to the congregation or assembly of God's people. At Sinai they became the 'eklesia of Jehovah'. They were added to that 'church or congregation' through the ministry of Moses the mediator of the Old Covenant. Moses, and submission to his law, became the doorway through which others could become members of that 'church' or 'congregation'. There were some racial prohibitions but otherwise anyone could become a member of that 'church' as long as they submitted themselves to the Sinai Covenant.

All the post-Sinai saints of the Old Testament were members of the 'ekklesia of Jehovah'. This would have included the disciples of Jesus. It was a n axiom of their lives that they were part of the Covenant people and hence members of the 'ekklesia of God'. Imagine their surprise then when one day Christ said;

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matt 16:18 NKJV

Try to put yourselves in their shoes... you know you are a member of the church of God, as were your forefathers before you... how will you react to this statement that Jesus intends to build his own church? The tense is very clearly future. At the moment of him saying these words 'I will build my church' the words are a statement of future intention. Your ancestors have been part of the church of God, how will you respond to the possibility of becoming a member of a different church with a different mediator?

I think his statement helps us to understand how radically new the New Covenant was.

For me, certain prophecies come into focus, particularly Daniel's reference to Messiah being cut off, and this from Zechariah 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Anyone who is familiar with the New Testament has to be perturbed by the current plans in Israel, to rebuild the old Temple of the Old Covenant, seeing the epistle to Hebrews makes clear that Christ is the eternal Passover Lamb for them and for all who will believe.

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

{comfortably: Heb. to the heart} {warfare: or, appointed time}

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/11/29 7:29

Quote:
-----Anyone who is familiar with the New Testament has to be perturbed by the current plans in Israel, to rebuild the old Temple of the Old Covenant

Not terribly. Anyone who is familiar with the Bible in general has been expecting this for some time. Prophecy has to be fulfilled, and this is the means by which it will take place.

Re: , on: 2010/11/29 8:37

It is amazing how "Christians" support the rebuilding of the Temple.

Let me ask a simple questions.

Is God obligated to forgive the Jews if they reinstitute Temple sacrifice?

If not, why do Christian Zionists support it?

By the way, Christians that do not support it can still love the Jew, pray for the peace of Jerusalem and not be Anit-Semitic.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/11/29 9:12

I do not "support" the temple, or anything like that. But I do see it as necessary. It's one of the foundations for end time prophecy. I also believe that deception will increase, peoples faith will grow cold, there will be a falling away, there will be mass persecution, and that the Anti-Christ will come and be revealed. But I'm not in "support" of any of these things. Let s not have any confusion here. I simply acknowledge that these things must come. None of it should be of any surprise to anyone.

The rebuilding of the temple does not "perturb" me either. It shouldn't bother anyone anymore than anything else written in end times prophecy. It's a signal of the times we're in. That's all. As soon as they break ground, the clock will begin to tick again.

Re: , on: 2010/11/29 9:16

Quote:

-----If not, why do Christian Zionists support it?

Because they have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears and tell them sweet things by misinterpreted passages that "could" mean what they want it to mean.

Quote:

-----By the way, Christians that do not support it can still love the Jew, pray for the peace of Jerusalem and not be Anit-Semitic.

I completely agree!

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/11/29 10:58

Quote:

-----Prophecy has to be fulfilled, and this is the means by which it will take place.

I do wish people could understand that much of what the prophets wrote was in a realm of type and shadow.

The substance, the body that cast that shadow, is Christ (Col. 2.17).

"For the law, having a shadow of good things to come, and not THE VERY IMAGE..." (Heb. 10.1).

Read through Ezekiel's vision of the temple, and then compare it carefully with John's vision of the new Jerusalem.

And you see that what God gave Ezekiel is fulfilled in this Holy City that comes down out of Heaven from God.

For example, Ezekiel sees a river flowing from this temple. It's clear he is not talking about literal H2O. For John, obviously, is speaking of the same River, the River of the Spirit of God, and John sees it flowing out from the Throne of God and of the Lamb, reversing the curse wherever it flows.

How sad when we insist God is "duty-bound" to fulfill that prophecy literally. It is fulfilled spiritually.

At least, that's what John the Revelator shows us... if he can be trusted to have the right take on things.

Re: What Were Gentile Believers Grafted Into? , on: 2010/11/29 12:30

The word for 'temple' in 2 Thess 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

is this: please look carefully.

3485 naos {nah-os'}

from a primary naio (to dwell); TDNT - 4:880,625; n m

AV - temple 45, a shrine 1; 46

1) used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies (in classical Greek it is used of the sanctuary or cell of the temple, where the image of gold was placed which is distinguished from the whole enclosure)

2) any heathen temple or shrine

3) metaph. the spiritual temple consisting of the saints of all ages joined together by and in Christ

This is not the physical outer building, but the Holy of Holies to which appolus referred in a recent article, which behind the veil which was rent while Jesus was on the cross, there was NO Ark of the Covenant.

The same word is used in John 2:20, 21, along with this for His body:

4983 soma {so'-mah}

from 4982; TDNT - 7:1024,1140; n n

AV - body 144, bodily 1, slave 1; 146

1) the body both of men or animals

1a) a dead body or corpse

1b) the living body

1b1) of animals

2) the bodies of planets and of stars (heavenly bodies)

3) is used of a (large or small) number of men closely united into one society, or family as it were; a social, ethical, mystical body

3a) so in the NT of the church

4) that which casts a shadow as distinguished from the shadow itself

In Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord;

it is the same word, naos, meaning inner sanctuary.

So... in which 'temple' is

Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for , except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

I suggest, it could be the church visible, and nothing directly to do with Jerusalem. However, there may be a head of the visible church who finds himself holding some sort of 'power' in Jerusalem.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

What do we make of this description of physical Jerusalem?

Or this one?

Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Which scripture would you use (anyone) to show that this is where the 'son of perdition' is going to appear?