

YOU ARE NOT SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

AN EXPLANATION OF ROMANS 2

*“But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly;
and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter”*

~ Romans 2:29

1. Defining the Issue

- a. Undisputed Bible events:
 - i. OT = God creates and gives promises to the nation of Israel.
 - ii. NT = Promises fulfilled through the Spirit. *True* Israel = Spiritual Israel
- b. *Who is spiritual Israel?* ... Most churches make it you.
 - i. Roman Catholic, Church of Christ, Reformed, all who fail to rightly divide.
- c. Replacement theology = The church replaces national Israel in all covenant promises
 - i. NT epistles speak to the fulfillment of Israel's promises. (Acts 3:25, Hebrews)
 - ii. The church partakes of Israel's spiritual things. (Rom 15:27)
 - iii. The church receives what was promised to Israel. (Gal 3:29, Eph 2:13)
 - iv. NT is spiritual, circumcision, Israel, establishes the law, kingdom.
- d. The real issue behind 'right division' & 'dispensational' → **You are not spiritual Israel**

2. What Makes Israel?

- a. A chosen people → Who? from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - Gen 28:13, 35:10; Exo 4:22
- b. A promise of blessing → How? Covenants, circumcision, laws. Rom 9:4
- c. An inheritance → What? A land and kingdom over all the earth. Isa 2:2-3, Deu 7:6
- d. If it were only a people, blessing, and inheritance then Israel could be anything, but ...
- e. Israel is a nation. Gen 12:1-3 → land, nation, blessing.
 - i. What makes a nation? Boundaries (separation), laws (blessing), birthright.
 - ii. Nations are inextricably tied to lands, laws and lineage in the flesh.
 - iii. See national Israel is in Eph 2:11-12, 1 Pet 2:9, and Rev 21:9-24
- f. Israel is set above all people as priests w/access to physical & spiritual blessings Isa 61:6
- g. Israel had to be born again to receive this inheritance - John 1:13, 3:3-8
- h. But you have access to God's blessings & promise in Christ by grace w/o Israel - Eph 3:6

3. Romans 2 → *True* Israel = Spiritual Israel ... Not You!

- a. Romans 2:29 is used to teach the church is spiritual Israel.
 - i. *Why?* True Israel is spiritual. The church is spiritual. We must be true Israel.
- b. Who is he speaking to? Romans 2:17 - "Thou art called a Jew..." ← OT Jew
 - i. OT Israel was disobedient and failed to do the law. Rom 2:23-24
 - ii. Their circumcision (a token of the covenant) became worthless - Rom 2:25-27
 - iii. True Israel (a Jew of God) is not outward, but of Deu 10:16
- c. Paul describes removing dead branches in Israel, not replacing with Gentiles. Rom 9:6-11
 - i. Guess who were the doers of the law → Not Gentiles, not church Rom 3:19-21
 - ii. Spiritual Israel = NT Israel; **You are NOT Spiritual Israel** - Heb 8:8-12
 - iii. NT replaces OT. OT Israel replaced by NT Israel → Matt 21:43
- d. Answer: There are not just 2 things in the Bible, but three. OT, NT, Mystery.
 - i. Romans 2:29 is not speaking about the church, the body of Christ.