

A HIGHER UNDERSTANDING:

Israelites, Jews, or Gentiles?

By Rhoda Foust

Because of the lack of time and space most of the scriptures used will be those the reader can go to themselves, in their own Bibles. This study is for persons who want to go to a higher level in understanding prophecy relating to Israelites, Jews and Gentiles. It will cover topics that I personally have never heard covered in any church service, and yet it is based on scriptures found in the Bible.

To begin with I am going to ask some questions that perhaps will arouse the readers curiosity: Did you ever wonder who exactly are Israelites, or who are Gentiles, am I a Gentile, Jew, or am I an Israelite? Are there other people beside Jews and Gentiles? Do all bad people go to hell at their death? Do good people go to heaven? What is the day of Judgment all about? Who is the bride of Jesus? Is there a rapture? What Bible prophecy is about our time period? What does "being saved" mean? What is the spirit in man? What is the "mystery" of God? Who are the "two witnesses"? What is the curse of the law? What part of the Bible is still binding? What is "idolatry"? Are there more ages than ours? Did Paul become an apostle to the Gentiles? We, at foust.info have answers to most of these questions in many studies on the web this page.

There are answers to most of the above questions in the Bible, but God wants us to "dig" for the answers, by so doing we will get to know him, otherwise we will never become acquainted, or know how to connect, with God. If we read and read the Bible and still can't understand it, is it because we aren't willing to believe what it says? The apostle Paul explains why in Rom. 11:25. Read the whole chapter. He says the Israelites are spiritually blinded. You might say, "yeah, but I'm not a Jew". But are you an Israelite? Now we can read the Bible in Gen. 49 and see where Jacob, renamed "Israel", had twelve sons and two grandsons that he adopted as his own. That made 13 tribes or families of Israelites, right? (Joseph's count goes to the two sons as his line extends through them). God speaks to Israel and promises him that he would have so many descendents, they would be as the stars of heaven in number. Read it in Gen 15:5. In Gen 17:4 God tells Israel he would be a father to "many" nations, not just one nation we call Israel today, which is from only one tribe, or son, named Judah. Where then are these nations? What will their futures be? Does it make sense that if Jacob's (Israel's) sons are to become "great nations" that they are not somewhere on this earth today? Look at how many years they have had to grow from the time of Israel's sons to now? Do you really think the little nation of Judah is fulfilling that promise of greatness from God?

Today some others, who may be parts of Israel, have joined the Jewish nation, who are indeed part of Israel. However when you read all about how they were separated into "The House of Israel" and "The House of Judah" you see they definitely are not all the same nation. It also is plain that the ten tribes have not vanished off the earth. 1Kings 11:26 1Kings 13:49, 14:15-16.

Eventually, because of their sins, for punishment, God allowed the House of Israel to be taken captive by Syria. For the same reason. Later, for the same reason, the House of Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon. 1King 13:49, 14:15-16

NOW, WHERE DO WE ALL FIT INTO THIS PICTURE?

Most of the Bible is about Israel, Judah, and Gentiles. Which of us are one or the other? Does it matter?

Only if you want to understand all God has preserved about Himself and what He is bringing to pass. First let's discuss the difference between an Israelite and a Jew. Gen 11:14 Was Abraham a Jew? No, he was a Hebrew. Was any of Abraham's children Jews? No, they were from their Hebrew father. Was Isaac a Jew? No, he was also a Hebrew. Was Jacob a Jew? No, He was still a Hebrew. However, God changed Jacob's name to Israel so his family would all be known as Israelites. Jacob was never a Jew, neither were any of his sons, except for Judah. Judah was the first Jew. To confirm these claims read Gen 17:5-8, 11:24-26, The very first time the word "Jew" was used is in "Es 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Benjamite, as a Jew." Because he was a citizen of Judea, Mordecai was considered a Jew when he actually was a Benjamite. To read more of the awesome promises God gave to Israel read Gen 27: 27-29., and to Amos 3:1 ¶ Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

The histories of how Israel became slaves in Egypt and was rescued by God through Moses is another topic. Under the rule of the kings Israel began to prosper. Go to 1Kng 11:26 and read about how Jeroboam, a descendant of one of the tribes of Joseph's sons, Ephraim, divided the house of Israel, taking as his subjects ten tribes from Judah . The people who stayed in Judah became known as Jews. 1Kings 12:19-20.

By the time Jesus appeared on the scene the ten tribes of the House of Israel were scattered, developing into individual nations. Judah (Jews), now in Judea, were under the rule of the Romans.

Of course so much has been left out due to space. Now, about the Gentiles. Jesus died to save the whole world from eternal death. The time has come when he is not dealing with Israel until after the millennium . The Whole House of Israel will be resurrected and then He will turn his attention back to them again. In the meantime God, by the power of His holy spirit worked through Paul to get the Gentiles started on their fulfillment. Did you notice in Rev. how many letters God has preserved that Paul writes are written to seven Gentile churches? God called him to build only Gentile churches (called out congregations). After the book of Acts very few other books have been preserved by God, or written by other apostles except John and Paul, God's apostles to the Gentiles. Paul started the Gentile churches and John recorded the message that God has preserved for the Gentiles, and any who are being called. It should be clear by now that anyone who is not descended from one of the sons of twelve sons of Israel are Gentiles - or other nations.

To read the rest of the story go to foust.info and read like studies in greater detail.