

Has Israel been Replaced?

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The Irrevocable Promise: Understanding Romans 11:25–29

This infographic outlines Dr. Michael Brown's exegetical defense of a future for national Israel, focusing on the distinction between the "believing remnant" and the "nation as a whole," arguing God's covenantal promises remain active for ethnic Israel despite their current rejection of the Messiah.

The Mystery of the National Turning (Rom 11:25–27)

The "Partial Hardening" is Temporary.

Israel's spiritual blindness is partial and only lasts "until" the fullness of Gentiles enters.

"All Israel" Refers to the Ethnic Nation.

Contextually, Paul contrasts "Israel" with "Gentiles," identifying the hardened nation as the one saved.

Provocation to Jealousy.

The salvation of Gentiles is designed to provoke Israel to repentance and national turning.

The Irrevocable Calling (Rom 11:28–29)



Enemies for the Gospel, Beloved for Election.

Non-believing Jews are "enemies" regarding the message but "beloved" regarding God's choice of the Patriarchs.



Gifts and Callings are Irrevocable.

God does not take back the land promises or the national calling given to Israel.

Restoration Based on God's Mercy.

National salvation occurs through God's faithfulness to His Word, not based on Israel's merit.



THE FOUNDATION: THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISES

THE DIVINE PROMISES OF GALATIANS: FAITH VS. LAW

THE FULFILLMENT: THE SPIRIT AND INHERITANCE



The Universal Blessing (The Gospel)

God promised Abraham that
"In thee shall all nations be
blessed" (Galatians 3:8).



The Singular "Seed"

The promises were made to
Abraham and his seed, specifically
identified as Christ (Galatians 2:16).



Priority Over the Law

The promise given to
Abraham predates the Law by 430
years and remains unalterable
(Galatians 3:17-18).

THE PROMISE VS. THE LAW

THE PROMISE (FAITH)



Origin:
God's unconditional
covenant



Medium:
Faith / Grace



Result:
Liberty and
Inheritance

THE LAW (WORKS)



Origin:
Added because of
transgressions



Medium:
Works / "Doing"



Result:
Bondage
and Curse

The Promise of the Spirit

Relievers receive the promised
Holy Spirit through the hearing
of faith (Galatians 3:2, 3:14).



Righteousness by Faith

The promise of righteousness is
given to them that believe
through the faith of Jesus Christ
(Galatians 3:21-22).



Heirs According to the Promise

Those who are Christ's are
considered Abraham's seed
and heirs of the inheritance
(Galatians 3:29, 4:28).



Addressing Replacement Theology

Gal 3: 16

- KJV Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.
- TBT Galatians 3:16 τῷ δὲ Ἀβραὰμ ἐρρήθησαν αἱ ἐπαγγελίαι, **καὶ τῷ σπέρματι αὐτοῦ**. οὐ λέγει, **Καὶ τοῖς σπέρμασιν**, ὡς ἐπὶ πολλῶν, ἀλλ' ὡς ἐφ' ἑνός, **Καὶ τῷ σπέρματί σου**, ὅς ἐστι Χριστός.

The Linguistic Fallacy of "Seed" in Galatians 3:16

- **Collective Singular Noun:** In Hebrew (*zera*), Greek (*sperma*), and English ("offspring"), the word "seed" is a collective noun. In biblical Hebrew, the plural *zera'im* is **only** used when speaking of agricultural seeds planted in the ground. It is never used to speak of multiple human descendants.
- **The Old Testament Usage:** Throughout Genesis, when God promises Abraham that his "seed" (*zera*) would be as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore, or that his "seed" would be enslaved in Egypt for 400 years and inherit the physical land of Canaan, the word is always singular in form but collective and plural in meaning (e.g., Gen 13:15–16; 15:5, 13; 17:7–9; 22:17–18; 26:3–4; 28:13–14).

The Linguistic Fallacy of "Seed" in Galatians 3:16 (cont.)

- **Paul's Plural Usage in Galatians 3:29:** Paul was a master of Hebrew and Greek and knew this full well. In fact, just thirteen verses later, Paul uses the word collectively for many people: *“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed [plural collective], and heirs according to the promise”* (Gal 3:29).
- **The Homiletical Point:** Paul is not making a grammatical argument that the Old Testament never spoke of physical descendants; he is making a homiletical, rabbinic argument pointing to the **preeminent Seed *par excellence***—the Messiah—through whom the nations can receive the spiritual blessing of Abraham (the Holy Spirit and justification by faith) without converting to Judaism. Emphasizing the primary role of Jesus does not cancel the promises given to Abraham's collective offspring.

Confirmation, Not Cancellation

- Paul explicitly refutes the idea that the coming of Christ or the giving of the law negated God's earlier covenantal pledges:
- **The Unconditional Covenant:** In Galatians 3:17, Paul argues that the Mosaic law, which came 430 years later, **cannot annul** the covenant previously confirmed by God to Abraham.
- **Christ Confirms the Promises:** In Romans 15:8, Paul directly states: "*Messiah has become a servant to the circumcised for the sake of God's truth, in order to **confirm the promises given to the patriarchs***". Jesus did not come to abolish or cancel the promises made to the fathers regarding physical Israel; He came to establish and confirm them.

The Unconditional Promise: Genesis 15 & Galatians 3

THE GENESIS 15 COVENANT OF PROMISE

UNCONDITIONAL DIVINE COMMITMENT



God bound Himself to fulfill His pledge regarding Abraham's seed and land boundaries.

INDEPENDENT OF HUMAN WORK

Abraham was put to sleep, ensuring human performance could not invalidate the covenant.

THE GALATIANS 3 DEFENSE OF THE PROMISE

THE LAW CANNOT VOID THE PROMISE



430 YEARS LATER

Introduced 430 years later, the Mosaic Law cannot disannul God's prior confirmed covenant.

INHERITANCE GRANTED BY GRACE



God gave the inheritance as a free gift of promise, not through law-keeping.

"WE" / "US" – The Jewish Background Under the Law

Pronouns of Identity: How Paul Uses "We" and "You"

"YOU" / "YE" – The Gentile Believers' Standing



Identifies Paul and those of Jewish Heritage

Refers to those historically bound under the Mosaic covenant and its regulations.

"We" Were Kept Under the Law as a Schoolmaster

Describes Israel's prior guardianship under the Law before faith came (Galatians 3:23-25).



In his epistles to Gentile audiences (such as Romans, Galatians), Paul carefully chooses pronouns. He uses "we" when referencing his and his companions' historical Jewish background under the Mosaic Law, while using "you" when directly addressing Gentile believers and their unique background.

FAITH

Addresses Gentile Converts Directly

Refers to believers who came to God directly without Mosaic legal obligations.



"Ye" Were Aliens to Israel's Covenants

Highlights Gentiles' past status as uncircumcised and far off from God (Ephesians 2:11-12).



"Ye" Are All Sons of God Through Faith

Declares Gentiles full heirs without needing the yoke of the Law (Galatians 3:26).



"We" Were Delivered From the Law

Refers to Jewish believers who died to the Law's bondage through Christ (Romans 7:6).



“We” in Ephesians

15 verses

**Eph. 1:4, 7, 11-12; 2:3, 5, 10, 18; 3:12, 20;
4:13-14, 25; 5:30; 6:12**

“Ye”, “You” in Ephesians

50 verses 63 hits

Eph. 1:2, 13, 16-18; 2:1-2, 5, 8, 11-13, 17, 19, 22; 3:1-2, 4, 13, 16-17, 19; 4:1, 4, 6, 17, 20-22, 24, 26, 30-32; 5:1, 3, 5-8, 15, 17, 33; 6:4, 9, 11, 13, 16, 21-22

Three Distinct Spheres of Blessing:

- The Earthly Sphere: The literal land and earthly kingdom promised to Israel according to the flesh (Deut. 28; Matt. 5:5).
- The Heavenly City (New Jerusalem): The inheritance of Abraham's spiritual seed and the overcomers of faith (detailed in Galatians 4:26: "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all", and Hebrews 11:10, 16).
- Far Above All (The Super-Heavenlies): The Church of the One Body (Ephesians and Colossians, Eph 1:3).

Today with our “special” calling:

- Believers are not "spiritual Israel," nor are they heirs of Abraham.
- Paul explicitly states that by nature, these Gentiles were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise" (Eph. 2:12).
- Rather than grafting them into Abraham's covenants, God "created in Himself of twain ONE NEW MAN" (Eph. 2:15).
- Their sphere of blessing is neither the earthly land nor the descending New Jerusalem, but "in heavenly places... far above all principality and power" where Christ is enthroned (Eph. 1:3, 20–21).
- In Paul's Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 2 Timothy), Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the covenants are conspicuous by their absence.

Summary

- Supersessionism makes a double error: it **drags the heavenly Church down** into earthly or intermediate covenants that never belonged to it, and it **robs national Israel** of the unconditional promises that God swore would stand as long as the sun, moon, and stars endure (Jer. 31:35–37).
- Under right division, both callings are preserved in their divine integrity: literal Israel will be converted and inherit their promised earthly land under the New Covenant when the Deliverer returns, while the Church of the One Body enjoys its distinct, heavenly inheritance chosen before the world began.

DECODING THE DISTORTION:

Reclaiming the Jewish Context of the New Testament

To clarify the historical and theological context of New Testament passages often misused to promote anti-Jewish polemics.

PROPHETIC REBUKE, NOT NATIONAL CONDEMNATION

(Matthew 23)

Inner-Jewish Prophetic Polemic:
Jesus' "woes" are identical to rebukes
in the Hebrew Tanakh.

**Targeting Corrupt
Leadership:** Rebukes
specific hypocritical
leaders of that generation,
not the entire Jewish race.



**The "Zechariah"
Connection:** Frames the
conflict as a culmination
of historical rejection of
God's messengers.

THE LOCAL "JUDEAN" CONFLICT

(1 Thessalonians 2:14-16)

Defining the "Judeans":
Ioudaioi here refers to specific
local leaders in Judea who
opposed the apostles.

**Historical Opposition,
Not Sternal Curse:** Paul
describes a specific group
hindering the Gospel message
during his own lifetime.

Paul's Personal Identity: As
a proud Jew, Paul confirms
God's gifts and calling to
Israel are irrevocable.



DEBUNKING THE "CHRIST-KILLER" NARRATIVE



DISTORTION:
"Blood on us" cry from
all Jews (Matt 27:25).

TRUTH:
Specific local crowd,
not all Jews.



BIBLICAL REALITY:
Salvation is
From the Jews.

God's love for the Jewish
people remains for
all time.

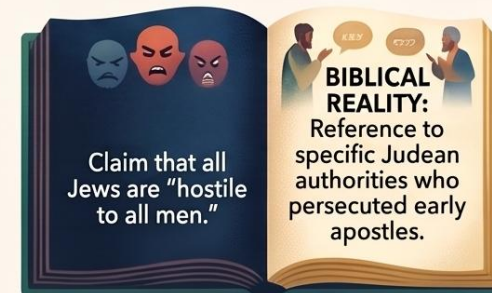
CONTRASTING THE DISTORTION WITH THE BIBLICAL REALITY



**ANTI-SEMITIC
DISTORTION:**
Proof that
Jews are "vipers"
by nature.

**BIBLICAL
REALITY:**
Prophetic
rebuke of specific
first-century
corrupt leaders.

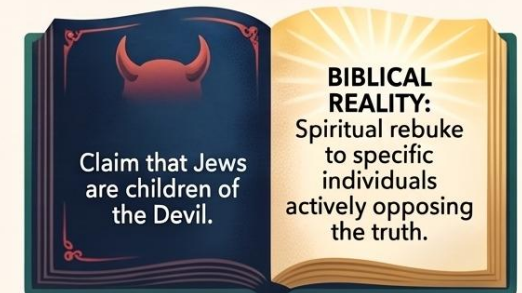
Matthew 23



Claim that all
Jews are "hostile
to all men."

**BIBLICAL
REALITY:**
Reference to
specific Judean
authorities who
persecuted early
apostles.

1 Thess. 2:15



Claim that Jews
are children of
the Devil.

**BIBLICAL
REALITY:**
Spiritual rebuke
to specific
individuals
actively opposing
the truth.

John 8:44

Beyond Replacement: Why Scriptural Covenants Endure for Israel



Covenants are "Everlasting," Not Temporary

The covenants with Abraham and Israel are described as "everlasting" and remain valid as long as the sun and moon exist.



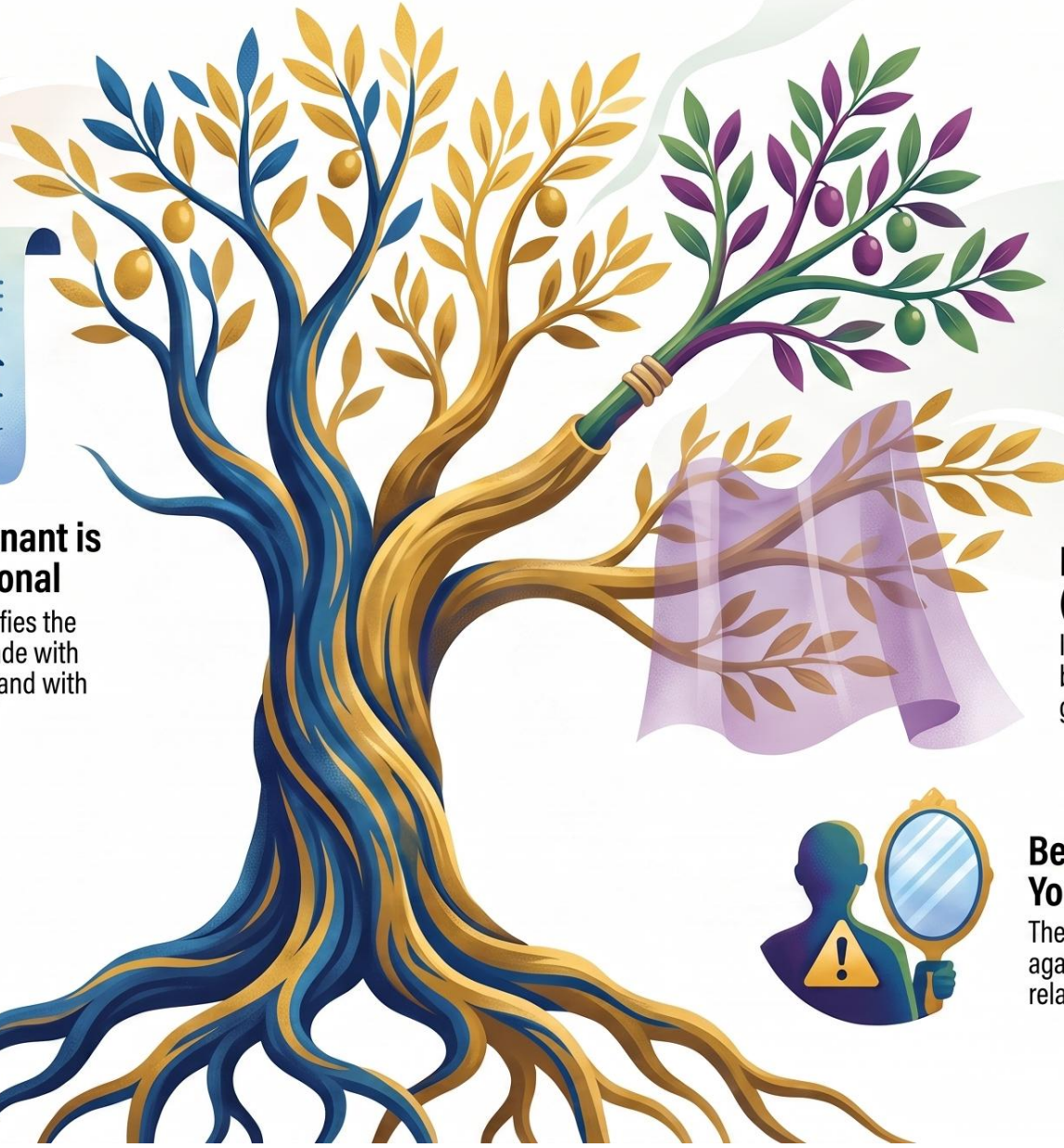
The New Covenant is Explicitly National

Jeremiah 31:31 specifies the New Covenant is made with "the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."



God's Calling is "Without Repentance"

Romans 11:29 confirms God does not change His mind about His choice of the nation of Israel.



Grafted In, Not Replaced

Gentile believers are "grafted in" to the existing Olive Tree of Israel, not a replacement for it.

Israel's Status is "Lo-Ammi" (Not My People) Temporarily

Israel is currently set aside during their blindness, but their restoration is a guaranteed prophetic certainty.



Beware of Being "Wise in Your Own Conceits"

The Apostle Paul explicitly warns Gentiles against arrogance regarding their position relative to Israel (Romans 11:25).