Who is Israel?

Redeemed Israel—A Primer

Batya Ruth Wootten

Foreword by Angus Wootten
Word Definitions:

YHVH

In this work we will occasionally use these four letters to indicate the Name of the One True God, which Name is often translated as "the LORD." Historically, Judaism avoided its use and Christianity followed suit. The Father’s Name is spelled with four Hebrew letters, הוהי, yod, hey, vav, hey, and is variously translated: Yahweh, Yahveh, Yehovah, etc. We sometimes use the four English letters that best duplicate the sound of the Hebrew letters, as pronounced in modern Hebrew: YHVH. We also sometimes use Elohim, which is Hebrew for God, and Yah, which is short for YHVH (Isaiah 12:2).

Yeshua

Yeshua is the Messiah’s Hebrew/Aramaic name. A shortened form of Yehoshua (Joshua), it means “Salvation” (Nehemiah 8:17; Matthew 1:21). Jesus is derived from the Greek Iesous. The Greeks changed His name because their language did not have a “sh” sound, plus they often added an “s” to the end of male names. This Greek transliteration was converted into English at a time when the English letter “J” had a sound like that of today’s “Y.” It was pronounced “Yesus,” much like the Greek name. But, with the hardening of the sound of the English “J,” it began to be pronounced as “Jesus.” We choose to transliterate His name from Hebrew into English as “Yeshua.”

Ephraim

Ephraim is the given name of Joseph’s second son. It means doubly fruitful. Jacob/Israel prophesied that Ephraim’s heirs would one day become a “fullness of Gentiles.”
The name “Ephraim” is used in the scriptures to describe the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom, which is also called the Kingdom of Israel. The term “Ephraimite” is sometimes used to describe these people (as opposed to the Southern Kingdom of Judah). The people of Ephraim lost their identity after they were exiled by the Assyrians (around 722 B.C.). We use this name to describe those known as the “ten lost tribes,” and to broadly speak of non-Jewish Believers in the Messiah of Israel, who also are declared in Scripture to be full members of Messiah Yeshua’s Commonwealth of Israel (Genesis 41:52; 1 Kings 12:21; 2 Kings 17:34; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Ephesians 2:11-22).

**Torah**

*Torah* means teaching, instruction, direction. This Hebrew word is often translated as the “Law.” Our God says He loved Abraham because he kept His Laws (Genesis 26:5). Abraham kept the spirit of the Torah before the letter of it was given to Moses. Everyone who wants to be blessed in life should look to our Father’s precepts for guidance. Moses said of them, “Keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’” (Deuteronomy 4:5-6). King David said, “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Torah of the LORD. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways.... Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed” (Psalm 119:1-6).

King David also said of the Father’s Word, “The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting” (Psalm 119:160). Messiah Yeshua, in a prayer for those who would follow Him, said of the written
Word of His day, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

As New Covenant Believers we are saved by grace through faith and not by works, by the shed blood of our Messiah and by the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11). It is with this understanding of all that our Messiah has done for us, and of the wise and simple faith of our forefather Abraham, that we speak of honoring the eternal wisdom of Torah and walking in its lifestyle.

We further note that Adam and Eve were sent outside the Garden for their sin, and that Israel was scattered among the nations for theirs. Not until Messiah returns us to His Promised Land and sprinkles us with “clean water” will we be fully empowered to walk in His eternal Torah. Until then, we nonetheless seek to have the Messiah’s eternal truths written on our hearts, by His Holy Spirit. In this way we will be empowered to walk in His way, even as was promised to those who partake of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 36:23-28; 37:15-28).

Abba—אַבָּא

Aramaic for “Father.” The Targums translate Hebrew into Aramaic and use ‘abba’ for “father” or “my father.” Ab is Father, ha’Ab is the Father. The word alludes to the deep spiritual relationship between Believers and God the Father.  

Believer(s)

We choose to use the word Believer(s) to describe those who seek to follow Israel’s Messiah and to walk as He walked. We trust that, in the end, He alone will decide who did or did not “believe:” in Him (Matthew 7:23; Act 16:1; 1 Corinthians 6:15,20; Galatians 3:9; 1 Peter 1:17-19).

---
a According to an Old Testament Word Studies article, Abba does not mean “Daddy” as is commonly taught. See http://www.christianleadershipcenter.org
O house of Ephraim Israel and house of Judah...

the Father called your name, a green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form. But because of your sins, He pronounced evil against you. Yet take heart, O house of Israel, take heart O house of Judah, for YHVH has promised: It will come about that after I have uprooted and scattered them, after some have become like degenerate, foreign vines, then My compassions will again be kindled and I will regather them. I will bring them back, each one to his own inheritance, each one to his own land. Yes, this is My promise to them. For these two olive branches are My two chosen witnesses. And I will grant authority to them, for they are the two sons of fresh oil who are standing by the LORD of all the earth.

(Jeremiah 2:18-21; 11:10,16-17; 12:15; Hosea 1-2; Zechariah 4:11-14; Revelation 11:3-4.)
Israel’s Prophetic Call

“O House of Israel and House of Judah... YHVH called your name, ‘A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form’” (Jeremiah 11:10,16). And YHVH says, “Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick... in My hand” (Ezekiel 37:19). “In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together... to the land I gave their fathers as an inheritance” (Jeremiah 3:18). “It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong” (Zechariah 8:13). “Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; and YHVH will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; and He will wave His hand over the River with His scorching wind; and He will strike it into seven streams and make men walk over dry-shod” (Isaiah 11:13-15). “‘In those days and at that time,’ declares YHVH, ‘the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be YHVH their God that they will seek. They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to YHVH in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten’” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).
“‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares YHVH, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them... But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days... I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “Know YHVH,” for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them... for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

“Therefore through this Jacob’s iniquity will be forgiven; and this will be the full price of the pardoning of his sin: when he makes all the altar stones like pulverized chalk stones; when Asherim and incense altars will not stand” (Isaiah 27:9). “Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; this very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you. For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim... and I will make you like a warrior’s sword. Then YHVH will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning; and the Lord YHVH will blow the trumpet, and will march in the storm winds of the south” (Zechariah 9:12-14).

_SHEMA ISRAEL,_
_Hear O Israel,_
_Hear and obey the call of the Holy One of Israel._
There are two main branches in the Olive Tree of Israel: Ephraim and Judah.

When the Father first called “Israel” an “olive tree,” He specifically said He was speaking to “the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jer 11:10). Yeshua said, “I am the root and the offspring of David.” Isaiah calls the Messiah “the Branch” (Rev 22:16; Isa 11:1).

(See pages 58-62 for more information.)
The Five Stages of Israel’s Olive Tree

1. Jeremiah’s Olive Tree With Both Branches: Ephraim and Judah (Jer 11:10,16)
2. Ephraim’s Branches First to be Broken Off Dispersed Among the Nations (722 B.C.) (Hos 1-2; 8:8; Amos 9:9)
3. Judah’s Broken Branches Dispersed to Babylon (586 B.C.) (Psa 137; 2 Ki 20:17; 24:15)
4. Paul’s Olive Tree: 30 A.D. With Some From Judah Who Returned From Babylon (Rom 11)
5. Israel’s Restored Olive Tree With “Both Branches” (etz/sticks/branches/trees). Made One Stick/Tree in the Father’s Hand (Eze 37:15-28) (See pages 58-62 for more information)
## Contents

... Foreword. ................................. ix

1 Who is Israel? And Why You Need to Know. 1
2 Many Israels—One Israel. ...................... 7
3 Physical or Spiritual? .......................... 13
4 Stumbling Ephraim and Judah. ............... 15
5 Restoring Israel’s Kingdom. .................. 19
6 A Door of Hope For The Last Days......... 27
7 Our Glorious Future. .......................... 31
8 Twelve Tips About Twelve Tribes.......... 41
9 Israel Revealed. ................................ 45
10 There Are Two. .............................. 53

Addendum A: Key Verses to Remember. 55
Addendum B: Prayer Points ................. 67
Biography. ........................................ 75
Key of David Publications. ................. 77

Charts and Illustrations:
Two Branches in The Olive Tree .......... ix
The Five Stages of Israel’s Olive Tree ... x
Our Israelite Roots. ......................... xii
Restored Israel Hallmarks. ............... 25
Punishments of Ephraim and Judah. .. 26
Different Dispersions Maps ............... 30
Fall and Restoration of Israel’s Kingdom. 40
Israel’s Different Diasporas and Times.... 44
Our Israelite Roots

NOAH
  ↓
  SHEM  HAM  JAPHETH

ABRAHAM
  (Gen 17:4)
  ↓
ISAAC
  (Gen 26:3)
  ↓
JACOB / ISRAEL
  (Gen 35:10, 11)
  ↓
THE 12 TRIBES
  (Gen 48:28)
  ↓
KINGDOM OF ISRAEL
UNITED UNDER KING DAVID
  Kingdom divides (1 Kings 11:26-12:24)

2 Tribes
  ↓
KINGDOM OF JUDAH
  Captive in Babylon 70+ yrs

10 Tribes
  ↓
KINGDOM OF ISRAEL
  Scattered by Assyria, 722BC
  "Not My People" (Hos. 1:8; 8:8)

2 Tribes
  ↓
KINGDOM OF JUDAH

10 Tribes
  ↓
KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

THE JEWS
  Scattered by Rome, 70 AD
  ↓
MESSIAH Y'SHUA
  ↓
HOUSE OF YHVH
GOD OF ISRAEL
  Ekklesia / Church
  (1 Tim 3:15; Heb 3:6)

THE GENTILES ("Melo haGoyim")
  (Genesis 48:19)

RESTORED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL
UNITED UNDER THE SON OF DAVID, MESSIAH Y'SHUA

Scripture References:
Gen 48:19; 49:10; 1 Ki 11:11-35; 12:21; Isa 8:14;
11:10-12; 56:8; Jer 31:18-20; 31-33; 33:25, 26; Eze
37:15-28; Dan 7:9-22; Hos 1:6, 9-11; 2:1, 21-23; Mat
11:49-52; Acts 1:6; 3:19-21; Rom 4:17; 8:29-30;
9:4-27; 11:25, 26; Gal 3:29; 4:28; 6:16; Eph
2:11-3:6; Ja 1:1; 1 Pet 1:1; 2:9-10

Legend: -----Lost Among the Nations
It is my observation that the God of Israel often uses men and women working together to keep His plan for Israel on course. Sometimes He especially chooses to use the female team member. For example, He used Sarah to ensure that the promise went to Isaac rather than to Ishmael (the one Abraham planned to choose), and He used Rebekah to thwart Isaac’s plan to pass the promise to Esau rather than to Jacob (whom YHVH had chosen) (Genesis 21:9-12; 27:4-10).

I am thankful that the Father has used my wife, Batya, and her faithfulness to help keep our team on course. Because of her tenacity, we can now understand “Israel,” and can therefore be used by the Holy One to help accomplish His desire, which is to have a people for His own possession.

In the early seventies we became deeply involved in what was then a new Messianic Jewish Movement, where we faced two initial challenges. First, we needed to provide a way for Jewish Believers to come to know Jesus, or Yeshua, as their Messiah without having to renounce their Jewish heritage. Secondly, we needed to present Israel’s Messiah to the Church from a Jewish perspective, and thus encourage an appreciation for the eternal principles of Torah (the “Law”) and for the truths revealed in the Feasts of Israel.
From the beginning, the movement began to attract so-called “Gentiles.” In fact, more non-Jews were flocking to the Hebraic standards being raised by Messianic Judaism than were Jewish people. These Believers had two primary motivations: They wanted to support their Jewish brethren and they wanted to trade in their errant traditions for the Father’s Torah truths and His eternal Feasts. They too were being drawn to this reemerging Israel.

We strongly supported the fledgling efforts of our Jewish brothers. Among other things, we established a real first: The House of David Messianic Materials Catalogue.

The goal of this publication was to develop and distribute materials that would aid Believers in understanding both their “roots” and the Jewish people.

However, the more we read and observed, the more we became concerned over the place being given to those who were regarded as non-Jews. At the time, Messianic Jewish heritage was based on the person having “visible” Jewish parentage when they became involved in the movement (or they could be married to someone who met their requirement). The “physical Jews” who accepted Messiah were assumed to be “spiritual Jews” as well. On the other hand, the “Gentiles” who joined the movement were considered to be only “spiritual” heirs, and there was no way for them to attain the Jewish “twice chosen” status.

This standard resulted in two classes of citizenship—a division that soon began to cause problems—because many non-Jews felt like they were being treated like second-class citizens.

Seeking resolution, I appealed to the leadership to establish a “conversion procedure” that would make everyone equal, both “physically” and “spiritually.” However, not only was this proposal unacceptable to most of them, but after contemplating the idea, it became completely unacceptable to my wife. She reasoned that,
while all must repent, if one also had to “be converted to be a first-class citizen,” then one must have been born wrong in the first place. She would often say, “A mortal man’s declaration will not change the facts of who I am. What I need to know is, who am I to the Father?”

The teachings being put forth about the roles of Israel and the Church did not seem to add up to what we saw in Holy Writ. This fact, plus the challenge of finding Scriptural books about Israel for our catalogue, led Batya to cry out to the Father for an answer to what had become for her, an ever-present question: “Who is Israel?”

This concise book offers the essence of the Father’s answer to that important question. Surely the Holy Spirit will use this little book even as he has used its parent books to forever change multiplied thousands of lives.

Batya has written a number of books on this subject, with each new issue being more concise yet offering more material. Her best known book began a series titled, Who Is Israel? Her latest and best book is Redeemed Israel—Reunited and Restored. This work is an overview of many of her life-changing books.

Our prayer is that this economical “Primer” version will be used to help guide a believing Israel back onto the road of “Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.” We pray that it will be used to help get the whole house of Israel back on course, thus preparing the way for Messiah’s return and restoration of the Kingdom to Israel.

This brief work provides essential answers to the “Israel” question. It shows that Israel was divided into two houses (the house of Ephraim/Israel and the house of Judah.) It emphasizes the fact that our Father is now putting these brothers (and their companions) back together. And it touches on other life-changing questions, like, Where is Israel now and what is her destiny?
Who is Israel? Redeemed Israel—A Primer

On a profoundly personal level, this solution-driven book will help you answer the following questions: *Who are you to the Father? Why do you feel the way you do about Israel? And, what is your individual destiny?*

I believe my wife was called to write the first of our books because in our team she is the “nit-picker” (you need one of those for research purposes). She is never willing to settle for anything less than the absolute truth, regardless of the consequences. Furthermore, between the two of us, she is more articulate. But her books speak for both of us. Every word. However, I feel there is another reason that she especially has been called to write on this subject. I think YHVH probably wanted this latter-day truth to be presented first by the feminine side of His creation, because in order to reunite a divided Israel, we need to see that Ephraim/Israel and Judah, Christians and Jews, often behave like battling, jealous children. And, before their age-old disputes can truly be settled, both must be corrected fairly and equitably (Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 20:10). In the Father’s grand design, mothers most often settle squabbles between children. Moreover, as reunited Israel comes forth from their womb of dispersion, they will be like sons who must first learn to heed their “mother’s instructions” (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20). Scripture commands us not to “forsake the law/torah of our mother.” And, our Mother’s “torah,” her particular female type of instruction, most often deals with the child’s heart attitude.

A child’s training primarily begins with its mother. Only when a son has matured and developed a right heart attitude is he turned over to his father, who then teaches him the wisdom and eternal truths of Torah—he trains him to become “bar mitzvah” (a son of the commandments).

---

This natural order teaches us that a right heart attitude is essential in order to be properly trained in the Father’s Torah. Since women are usually more intuitive than men, they are generally much better at reaching the heart of a matter than are fact-oriented men. To put Israel back together again, we need to first become like little children and first deal with the issues of our hearts.

It also seems to me that our Father has often used women to get the men moving, and this generation of men needs to have a fire of faithfulness lit under them. There are too many who would rather sit and look for signs than move out and create wonders.

In the spirit of Deborah of old, Batya issues a call to those who are sitting and waiting like Barak. Hers is an encouraging call to “Arise, O sons of Israel! Believe that the Father has given your enemies into your hands!” (Judges 4-5). Her call is a declaration, for the exciting day is now upon us when the Holy One of Israel is beginning to make the “sticks” of Ephraim and Judah one stick in His holy hand (Ezekiel 37:15-28)!

This book is a collection of brief studies about both of the houses of Israel, and about their role in this exciting event. Each chapter adds new understanding to the whole. In the end, I think you will find the information contained herein will lead to a paradigm shift in your thinking. You will have a new and exciting Scriptural view of the whole house of Israel.

Today is the day when YHVH Tsavaot, the Lord of Hosts, is calling forth the overcoming armies of Israel! So sign up with Him today! Enlist right now! You do not want to miss out on all of the upcoming action!

He has sovereignly decreed that Ephraim and Judah ultimately will know victory over their enemies. They will help prepare the way for the return of our King and will help establish His kingdom here on earth (Isaiah 11:11-16).
Who is Israel? Redeemed Israel—A Primer

We want to be part of that overcoming army. We want to partake of that victory.

Finally, I want to say that the God-given insight found in our books has brought radical change to my life. The scriptural insights offered have truly helped to remold me, to make me more aware of my ultimate destiny in Messiah, and to encourage me to walk in that destiny.

Furthermore, I have seen this same understanding dramatically change the lives of multiplied tens of thousands, and I know it can change you! So let me welcome you to the ranks of the radically changed. Let me welcome you to the multitude of forerunners who are now being prepared for the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the restored Kingdom of Israel!

Angus Wootten
Director
Key of David Publishing
Saint Cloud, Florida
Who is Israel? And Why You Need to Know

One

Who is Israel? And Why You Need to Know

Who is Israel?

Why do we even need to know? Is it not enough for Believers to know that we are “in Messiah”?

Our answers to these questions are extremely important. They set the course for how we interpret Scripture, how we determine who the Father’s “chosen” people are, and how we define His end-time plan for them.

Whether realized or not, our answers to these questions play a profound role in our lives. In the game plan of the God of Israel, the people of Israel are the primary players. If we do not know who His players are, we will not understand His game plan or be able to properly play the game.

The people of Israel are the family of the God of Israel. They are His chosen people. But who makes up this family, the Jewish people or the New Covenant Believers?

For ages, the answers given by many Christians excluded those in Judaism. However, in our day, some give answers that similarly exclude New Covenant Believers from being part of the chosen people of Israel. Such denials have reaped an abundance of negative results for both groups. Both attitudes are unscriptural and only add to the problem.
Who is Israel? Redeemed Israel—A Primer

To solve the Israel dilemma some teach that the Jewish people are “God’s Chosen People” and that the Church is the “Bride of Christ.” But Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua) said He is One with the Father. It was over this very claim that the Jews took up rocks to stone Him (John 10:30-31).

In truth, our Messiah is One with Him who says He chose Israel for His own possession, and that, only if the heavens above can be measured will He cast off all the offspring of Israel. He also vows that, “If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed laws of heaven and earth, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob” (Deuteronomy 7:6; Jeremiah 31:37; 33:25-26).\(^1\)

The immeasurable Heavens remain. Israel’s offspring continue to be the chosen people of the God of Israel. He continues to love the people of Judah and has sworn that He “will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land and again choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 2:12).

And yet...

In the New Covenant Peter writes to certain “aliens” (foreigners/strangers) and says, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession” (1 Peter 1:1; 2:9). Paul likewise writes to non-Jewish Believers and tells them, “God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

So what is the truth? Who are the chosen people? Is it the Jewish people or the aliens to whom Peter wrote?

Answers found in Scripture will help us to better grasp God’s end-time plan to re-gather His chosen people. They will also answer a question many non-Jewish Believers ask about themselves: Who am I to the God of Israel?

To begin, we note that YHVH says, “Israel is My son, My firstborn” (Exodus 4:22). If we reverse this statement we see that His “firstborn is Israel. “

\(^1\) Also see John 17:22; 1 Cor 8:6; 1 Tim 2:5; Deu 6:4; 7:6; 14:2; Mk 12:29; Exo 5:1-2; 2 Sam 7:24; Jer 30:1; 33:22,24; 46:28; Rom 11:2-5,26-29.
Who is Israel? And Why You Need to Know

To be Israel is to be the Father’s firstborn. Messiah is the firstborn of all creation and the firstborn from the dead. In Him, we are called to the general assembly and ekklesia, or congregation, of the firstborn. In the spirit of Messianic prophecy YHVH says, “I am a father to Israel and Ephraim² [Joseph’s firstborn heir] is My firstborn” (Jeremiah 31:9; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15,18; Hebrews 1:6; 12:23-24).

To be firstborn Israel is to have both a position and a call. Yet, many are content to apply this title to themselves in an abstract, spiritual sense. Others feel it makes no difference whether or not they are part of the people of Israel. “We’re the Church,” they proudly assert. Or, they say, “Why should we care about being part of Israel?”

We care because the Holy One of Israel never made a covenant with Gentiles. He instead made His promised New Covenant with the House of Israel. And, in Messiah, we are called to join that covenant people and to be part of His holy commonwealth (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-12; Ephesians 2:11-22). In short, we are either part of His designated covenant people—or we have no covenant at all.

We also care about who Israel is because we do not want to follow in Esau’s foolish footsteps. The New Covenant sternly warns, “See that no one is…godless like Esau, who…sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.” Then, when he later wanted to inherit that blessing, he was rejected and could bring about no change of mind, though he sought for it with tears (Hebrews 12:15-17, NIV).

Esau could never regain what he had lost. In regard to inheritance, he was the actual firstborn son of Isaac, but he sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob for a bowl of beans. Thus did Esau despise his birthright, and he has been hated for his action ever since.³

---

² Please see “Ephraim” in the Definitions Section (pages iii-iv).
Who is Israel? Redeemed Israel—A Primer

This is not an Old Covenant story that we can summarily dismiss. These stories were recorded for our instruction. Again, we are called to Mount Zion, to the general assembly and ekklesia of the firstborn, to Messiah Yeshua, the mediator of a new covenant. And we are sternly warned not to think lightly of His high and holy call. We must instead regard it with proper reverence and awe (1 Corinthians 10:1,11; Hebrews 12:18-28).

Esau was called a “profane” man because he gave away that which should have been precious to him. Similarly, for us to think lightly of our call to belong to the ekklesia of Firstborn Israel is to risk a sin like that of Esau. We do not want to be like him, or even be one of his neighbors, for they too were destroyed (Romans 9:13; Jeremiah 49:10).

To have our Father call us His firstborn is to be given a priceless gift. Like Jacob, with unflinching determination, we must hold on until we receive our blessing. Jacob endured wrestling with the angel and would not quit, and thus was given the title of “Israel”—meaning he who prevails (Genesis 32:26-30).

In Israel, the firstborn would inherit a double portion and a certain right to rule. In turn, he would be the next head of his family. His call was to be like a redeemer to his brethren when they were in a time of need. This is a role that is of profound importance, especially in the times in which we now live...

Again we ask, who are the Father’s “chosen” people? Is it the Christians or the Jews? Or, could the Scriptural answer include both groups of people? Moreover, could it be that we have not understood this Scriptural truth because we were not meant to fully understand about “all Israel” until this point in time in history?

We suggest that this is the case.

4 Deu 21:17; Strong’s Concordance #’s H 4941 and 1062.
5 Ref Deu 7:6; 1 Pet 1:1; 2:9; Isa 8:13-14; Rom 11:25.
To properly answer our questions about Israel we must address the idea of “Physical Israel.” We cannot conclude this matter unless we do so, but we do so with a caveat. We will not examine Israel’s blessings in an attempt to prove patriarchal descent for any person or group. We instead do so for the following reasons:

Most people define Israel based on some idea of physical descent, regardless of how abstract or vague their definition. Perceived physical descent from the patriarchs, or a presumed lack thereof, is most often the deciding factor in everyone’s “Israel decision.” Therefore, if we want to understand Israel, we are forced to address this universal standard because it is the underlying and misleading presumption in most conclusions in the matter. We challenge the validity of this misconceived rule, because the errant answers that have grown out of it have affected the very fundamentals of our faith. For, when coming to know Messiah Yeshua, one naturally asks the questions, “Who are His chosen people? Who are Abraham’s heirs? Who is Israel?”

To understand the foundational truths of our faith, we must have Scriptural answers to these questions. We also examine this issue because the results of denying the Jewish people their rightful position as part of the people of Israel is a sin of monumental proportions—and it must be stopped. However, to similarly deny the non-Jew his rightful position as part of the people of Israel is also a sin of profound proportions, and must also be stopped.

Our study will be rooted in the beliefs that people cannot absolutely prove genetic connection to the patriarchs, for reasons like rape and adultery, plus, destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. resulted in all official lineage documents being destroyed. For these and other reasons, we do not suggest anyone actually pursue “endless genealogies” (1 Timothy 1:4). We conclude that it is point-
less for anyone to be argumentative about this issue, or try to make arrogant claims based on unprovable genealogy.

This means that Jewish people cannot prove they are physically related to Abraham and no one can prove that non-Jewish Believers are not physically descended from him. Lineage simply cannot be proven either way.

Because no one can absolutely prove that they descend from the patriarchs, we pursue our course by faith alone, using Scripture as our guidebook. We press on in hopes that we might restore to a people of promise that which was once lost. We do so in hopes that Messiah’s followers will be inspired with a great sense of latter-day destiny.

Finally, we must understand that even though people sometimes offer complicated theories about Israel, the truth about her identity is really very simple to understand:

Long ago the Father divided Israel into two houses, Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. As His “two witnesses,” He sent them in two different directions to serve two principal purposes—to establish His two immutable truths of Law and Salvation by Grace. And now, in this last day, YHVH would have His two Israels come together, that they might fulfill His divine purpose and begin to more fully confirm His truth in the earth.

That is the simple truth behind this book.

As you read the confirming verses in this condensed overview, please remember the simplicity behind it all:

Two houses—Two directions—Two different purposes—Now is the time to put them back together again.

Father, we seek Your truth concerning Israel. We want to be led by Your Holy Spirit and kept from all error. We ask that, as we study, we might hear Your voice alone as You quietly whisper in our ear, “This is the way, walk ye in it” (Isaiah 30:21).

Amen and Amen.

---

7 Ref: 1 Ki 11:11-12,26,31-35; 12:24; Isa 43:10;
Who is Israel? And Why You Need to Know