



# The Israel of God

---

The Israel of God

W. D. Furiioso ~ ACTpublications (2023) ~ [www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)

# Table of Contents

Preface	p 3
Introduction	p 5
Definitions	p 8
Addendum	
Some Comments on Romans 11	p 12

\*\*\*\*\*

## At Christ's Table - ACTpublications

*"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."*

1 Corinthians 2:13

© 2023

W.D. Furioso, Writer ~ Frances Furioso, Editor

At Christ's Table Ministries ~ ACTpublications ~ <https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

ACTpublications may be freely shared, reproduced, and distributed - unaltered, in digital or print formats. Any quotations or excerpts must also be unaltered and referenced with the above information.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Special thanks to Keith Graff  
of "The Simple Church" ( <https://www.thesimplechurch.info/> )  
for his editorial help in the finishing of this article.*

---

The Israel of God

W. D. Furioso ~ ACTpublications (2023) ~ [www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)

# Preface<sup>1</sup>

Whether the discussion has to do with “Interpreting Prophetic Scripture”, or “The Church and Israel”, or other related discussions<sup>2</sup>, intentionally or unintentionally, the identification of “**The Israel of God**” comes into play.

But in order to have reasonable communication and a constructive, beneficial discussion on a matter, we need to define the terms which are being employed in the discussion. So, if we are to discuss Paul’s perspectives on “**The Israel of God**”, we need to be clear on Paul’s definitions of the terms which he employs. The purpose of this article is to hopefully arrive at the definitions of certain terms which are all found in Paul’s epistles<sup>3</sup>- namely, “**The Israel of God**”, “**A Jew**”, “**All Israel**”, and “**A Remnant**”.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> All scripture quotations are from the *New American Standard Bible*, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> There is, indeed, much to be discussed on these topics, which is not within the scope of this article.

<sup>3</sup> Galatians 6:16, and Romans 9-11

<sup>4</sup> For an excellent overview of the more general subject matter, I would suggest: “And so all Israel will be saved”, by Jonathan Menn, *Reformed Perspectives Magazine*, Volume 21, Number 37, September 8 to September 14, 2019, which is a brief summary of Appendix 6 in the book entitled, *Biblical Eschatology* (2nd ed., Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2018)

According to Paul's definitions of these terms, I conclude that "The Israel of God" and "All Israel" are synonymous, and is the Church (Ecclesia) of God, which is comprised of those who "*confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead*"<sup>5</sup> - both Gentiles and true "Jews"<sup>6</sup> ("a Remnant"<sup>7</sup> of natural and ethnic Israel). Let's look at that again – slowly:

- "The Israel of God" and "All Israel" are synonymous,
- and is the Church (Ecclesia) of God,
- which is comprised of those who "*confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead*"<sup>8</sup>
- - both Gentiles and
- true "Jews"<sup>9</sup> ("a Remnant"<sup>10</sup> of natural, ethnic Israel).<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>6</sup> Romans 2:28-29

<sup>7</sup> Romans 11:5

<sup>8</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>9</sup> Romans 2:28-29

<sup>10</sup> Romans 11:5

<sup>11</sup> This article may be considered a sequel to another article entitled, *The Gospel of the Lion and the Lamb*; and may also be considered my answer to the question, "What about natural, ethnic Israel?" *The Gospel of the Lion and the Lamb* is freely available by emailing [AtChrist'sTable@gmail.com](mailto:AtChrist'sTable@gmail.com)

# Introduction

## ***“All Israel will be saved”***

*“And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again... a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so, all Israel will be saved.”* Romans 11:23, 25b, 26a

This passage does not say that “all Israel *might be* saved”. It says that “all Israel will be saved”. This is a promise of God which is “... in Him (i.e., Christ) is yes; therefore, through Him (i.e., Christ) also is our Amen to the glory of God through us” .<sup>12</sup> God’s promise of salvation is **IN CHRIST** and **THROUGH CHRIST**. Clearly any covenant promise is fulfilled **ONLY IN CHRIST** – not on any other basis.

But how are we to understand the term “all Israel”? There is a “two-covenant theology” called Dispensationalism, which espouses that there are two different salvation “tracks” — the Christian track for the believing remnant and believing Gentiles, and the track for natural, ethnic Israel which rests on God's historical covenant with them. As we will see, this view is at odds

---

<sup>12</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:20

with much of what Paul wrote on the matter, beginning with the fact that Paul speaks of not two, but ONLY ONE OLIVE TREE<sup>13</sup>. **9**“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10**for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **11**For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” **12**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; **13**for “EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” Romans 10:9-13

There are not two covenants, nor two dispensations, nor two tracks for salvation, nor two Olive Trees – “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek.”

This two-covenant theology is built on a faulty foundation – namely, the failure to interpret Old Covenant prophetic scripture IN LIGHT OF THE NEW COVENANT. These are the spiritual realities in light of the New Covenant: In the New Covenant, which made the Old Covenant “obsolete”,<sup>14</sup> salvation comes to Israel and to Gentiles in the same way — only through “*confessing with*

---

<sup>13</sup> Romans 11:17, 24

<sup>14</sup> Hebrews 8:13

*your mouth Jesus as Lord and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead”.*<sup>15</sup>

In reality, the Beneficiary of the New Covenant is a single Person – Christ, not the whole of natural, ethnic Israel. The covenant speaks of Abraham’s “Seed”, not “seeds”.

*“In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the nations, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.... Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.... you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.... And if you Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to promise.”*

Galatians 3:14, 16, 26, 29

Christ – alone - is the Seed of the Israel of God. All those “IN CHRIST”<sup>16</sup> – whether Jews or Gentiles – are His offspring, and inheritors of the covenant promises<sup>17</sup>.

But also: Those who hold to a two-covenant theology have disregarded Paul’s definitions of “**The Israel of God**”, “**A Jew**”, “**All Israel**”, and “**A Remnant**”.

---

<sup>15</sup> Romans 10:9. Cf. “being born from above”, “by grace, through faith” IN CHRIST JESUS (John 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8)

<sup>16</sup> Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:28

<sup>17</sup> Romans 8:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20

# Definitions

## **“The Israel of God”**

*“And all who will follow this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.” Galatians 6:16*

The term "Israel" must be understood according to Paul's usage of the term:

*<sup>6</sup>“But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.” <sup>8</sup> that is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.” Romans 9:6-8*

“Israel” is “named through Isaac” – that is, “the children of the promise”. “Israel” is not necessarily those “who are descendent from (natural, ethnic) Israel” – specifically, they are not necessarily “the children of the flesh (natural, ethnic Israel). Likewise, the term “Jews” must be understood according to Paul's usage of the term.



## **“A Jew”**

*28 “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”*

Romans 2:28-29

A “Jew” is one “*who is one inwardly*”, not necessarily “*one outwardly*”. And “*(his) circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God*”.

The true Jew’s circumcision is not outward by the knife, but inward of the heart. Therefore, his circumcision can only be acknowledged by God – not by men.

## **“All Israel”**

The term “all Israel” must also be understood according to Paul’s usage of the term. By “all Israel”, Paul means all Jews in natural, ethnic Israel who fit his definitions of “Israel” and “Jews”, as explained above. The term “all Israel” equates to the phrase “the fulness of the Gentiles”: Specifically, not ALL Gentiles will be saved – only those who are “*confessing with their mouth Jesus as*

*Lord, and believing in their heart that God raised Him from the dead”.*<sup>18</sup> Likewise, not all Jews born in natural, ethnic Israel will be saved – only those who are “*confessing with their mouth Jesus as Lord, and believing in their heart that God raised Him from the dead”.*<sup>19</sup> Like Gentiles, Jews will be saved only by faith in Christ’s blood of the New Covenant.<sup>20</sup> “*And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.*”<sup>21</sup>

## **“A Remnant”**

*“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice. Romans 11:5*

The Greek word translated “remnant” is *leimma*<sup>22</sup> which can also be translated, “a remainder”. The verb form, *leipo*<sup>23</sup>, means “to leave”. This is exactly what the Lord said to Elijah about Israel: “*Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel....*” 1 Kings 19:18

---

<sup>18</sup> Romans 10:9. Cf. “being born from above”, “by grace, through faith” IN CHRIST JESUS (John 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8)

<sup>19</sup> Romans 10:9. Cf. “being born from above”, “by grace, through faith” IN CHRIST JESUS (John 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8)

<sup>20</sup> Romans 3:25, 5:9; Hebrews 9:12, 13:12, 20

<sup>21</sup> Romans 11:23 ESV

<sup>22</sup> Strong’s # 3005

<sup>23</sup> Strong’s # 3007

This Old Testament verse is quoted in Romans 11:4. The NASB translates it as, “I have kept for Myself seven thousand ....” But many other translations<sup>24</sup> translate it more accurately as, “I have left<sup>25</sup> for Myself seven thousand in Israel....”

So, this is how Paul understood God’s plan, and how he himself planned to work within God’s plan:

*“... if somehow I move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them.”* Romans 11:14

The “some” of natural, ethnic Israel are those who “*confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead*”<sup>26</sup> (“a Remnant”<sup>27</sup> of natural and ethnic Israel). These “some” ARE PART OF “The Israel of God”, “All Israel”, the Church (Ecclesia) of God.

---

<sup>24</sup> Berean Literal Bible, Legacy Standard Bible, Christian Standard Bible, Holman Christian Standard Bible, American Standard Version, English Revised Version, Literal Standard Version, Young’s Literal Translation.

<sup>25</sup> Greek: *kata-leipo*, Strong’s # 2641.

<sup>26</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>27</sup> Romans 11:5

# Addendum

## Some Comments on Romans 11

<sup>1</sup> *“I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? Far from it! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”*

God hasn't collectively rejected any people – neither Jew, nor Gentile. Paul uses himself as an example: he was *“an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin”* who had come to faith in Christ. The same faith in Jesus as the Christ and receiving His salvation is available to all Jews, as it was for Paul.

<sup>2</sup> *“God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> “Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.” <sup>4</sup> But what is the divine response to him? “I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” <sup>5</sup> In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.”*

Paul substantiates that God hasn't rejected Israel by showing the fact that *“according to God's gracious choice”,* God *“left for Himself”* a REMNANT: *“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.” <sup>6</sup> “But if it*

*is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, since otherwise grace is no longer grace.” Romans 11:5-6*

The Old Covenant track for salvation, “*on the basis of works*”, “*is no longer*”. The New Covenant track for salvation “*is by grace*” – for BOTH Gentile and Jew.

<sup>7</sup>*“What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but **those who were chosen** obtained it, and **the rest** were hardened.”*

Paul makes a distinction between natural, ethnic Israel and “*those who were chosen*”.

<sup>8</sup>*“Just as it is written: “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day.” <sup>9</sup> And David says, “May their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them. <sup>10</sup> May their eyes be darkened to see not and bend their backs continually.”*

These verses speak of natural, ethnic Israel for much of their history recorded in the Old Testament.

<sup>11</sup>*“I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? Far from it! But by their wrongdoing salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. <sup>12</sup> Now if their wrongdoing proves to be riches for the world, and their failure, riches for the Gentiles, how much more will **their fulfillment** be!”*

Referring to natural, ethnic Israel, “their fulfillment” is an arbitrary choice of words on the part of the NASB. It would be more accurate to use the phrase, “*their fulness*”, as the Greek word is *pleroma*<sup>28</sup> meaning “repletion, completion, fulness”. In fact, this is exactly how the NASB translates the same Greek word some verses later (Romans 11:25) speaking of “*the fulness of the Gentiles*”. Again, the terms “*all Israel*” and “*their fulness*” equate to the phrase “*the fulness of the Gentiles*”.

*13 “But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore, insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup> if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them.”*

“... save *some* of them.” Just as there is a “fulness of the Gentiles”, yet not ALL Gentiles will be saved. So too, there is a “fulness” Israel, yet not ALL Jews will be saved.

*15 “For if their rejection proves to be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup> If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are as well. <sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who*

---

<sup>28</sup> Strong’s # 4138

supports the root, but the root supports you. <sup>19</sup> You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' <sup>20</sup> Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; <sup>21</sup> for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. <sup>22</sup> See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off."

These verses address Gentile Christians to be humble and grateful.

<sup>23</sup> "And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> "For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?"

Many in Israel were cut off because of their unbelief; but they can be "grafted in again" through belief in Christ Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brothers, and sisters, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Again: What has happened in Israel is “partial” – some are hardened, and some are not. Just as *“the fulness of the Gentiles”* is “partial” – some believe, and some do not.

*26 “and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” 27 “This is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

God made a covenant with Israel (Jacob) to *“remove ungodliness”* and *“take away sins”*. This He is doing. But it does not necessitate that it will prove to be the case with EVERY INDIVIDUAL in natural, ethnic Israel. The promise does not say that. Again, “the fulness of the Gentiles” does not include EVERY INDIVIDUAL Gentile. Likewise, the term “all Israel” does not mean EVERY INDIVIDUAL Jew in natural, ethnic Israel.

*28 “In relation to the gospel they are enemies on your account, but in relation to God’s choice they are beloved on account of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. 32 For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all.”*



*“The gifts (promises) and the calling of God are irrevocable”*. God can keep His covenant promise and calling without EVERY INDIVIDUAL in natural, ethnic Israel necessarily coming to salvation through faith in Christ.

*<sup>33</sup>“Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!<sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? <sup>35</sup> Or who has first given to Him, that it would be paid back to him? <sup>36</sup> For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”*

Yes, “Amen”. Who are we to insist that God make His choice, and fulfill His covenants in ways which we think are righteous and wise?

*<sup>14</sup>“What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” <sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” <sup>18</sup> So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.... Who are you, you foolish person, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, ‘Why did you make*

me like this,' will it? <sup>21</sup> Or does the potter not have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one object for honorable use, and another for common use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with great patience objects of wrath prepared for destruction?<sup>23</sup> And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon objects of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> namely us, whom He also called, **not only from among Jews, but also from among Gentiles.**" Romans 9:14-16, 20-24

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" Isaiah 55:8-9

## Bill & Frances Furioso ~ At Christ's Table ~



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, discipled many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet...

[www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)

# ACTpublications

*“Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” 1 Corinthians 2:13*

A teaching ministry from Bill and Frances Furioso

## At Christ’s Table

*Disciples of the King and His Kingdom eating and drinking of Jesus*

**THE HEAD**

**THE CENTER**

**THE FOUNDATION**

of Biblical Christianity

with a view to

**REVELATION** of Christ

**RELATIONSHIP** with Christ

**REFLECTION** of Christ

### **FREE ONLINE MINISTRY RESOURCES**

OUR WEBSITE: [www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)

### **WRITTEN MESSAGES**

Restoration Library: <https://usr.helps7.com/AtChristsTable/indexA.html>

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

### **RECORDED MESSAGES**

YouTube: [www.YouTube.com/user/BillFurioso](http://www.YouTube.com/user/BillFurioso)

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-648428572>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/14502151>

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/atchriststable](http://www.facebook.com/atchriststable)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/at-christ-s-table-ministries-254b5320/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/atchriststable1>

---

The Israel of God

W. D. Furioso ~ ACTpublications (2023) ~ [www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)