

# Israel was Divorced by Jesus

Israel was divorced and punished under Torah Law by King Jesus for breaking covenant and because they killed him, their Messiah. This was a judgement against the whole nation because of their apostasy and it was executed through the 'muscle' of Rome.

Israel had the covenantal responsibility to look after God's son, so the covenantal guilt falls on them. As it was a blood covenant that Israel bonded themselves to, the penalty for breaking it was death to the offending party. Israel was destroyed.

**NOTE:** The Jews were responsible for Jesus death, even though it was what Father had ordained.

John's introduction in his gospel record has this:

**John 1:11** (NKJV) – *He came to His own<sup>1</sup>, and His own<sup>2</sup> did not receive Him.*

Then in Revelation, Jesus comes as 'Israel's God' against those who “pierced” him.

**Revelation 1:7** (NKJV) – *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

- “Coming”: An OT euphemism for judgement being meted out to Israel.
- “With the Clouds”: ANE<sup>3</sup> imagery of God/gods travelling to a destination.<sup>4</sup>

What are the proofs that it was God's destruction of the Jews and not the Roman's.

## (A) Jesus prophesied it

**Luke 19:43-44**(NKJV) – *For days will **come upon you** when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

**Luke 21:20-24** (NKJV) – *“But **when you see** Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

**Matthew 26:63-64** (NKJV) – *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter **you will see** the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

Also, the parable of the wicked vineyard workers was an allegory about Israel – what they had done and what God was going to do about them.

**Matthew 21:40-41, 43-45** (NKJV) – *“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”*

*They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other*

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1 – His own domain

2 – His own people

3 – Ancient Near East

4 – See Isaiah 19:1; Deuteronomy 33:26; Psalm 68:4

*vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”*

*... “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”*

***Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.***

The parable of the wedding feast<sup>5</sup> also predicted that Israel would be cut off. In the allegory, the King (Father) called invited guests (Israel) to the wedding of his son (Jesus) but the guests didn't want to be a part of it. The guests even beat up and killed the King's servants (Prophets). The King (Father) was furious and sent his armies (Rome) who destroyed them and burned their city. The King (Father) then sent an invitation to the unholy (gentiles) and they gladly came. Those guests (gentiles) who weren't sincere (non-sons) and didn't come prepared for the wedding event were cast “into outer darkness; [where] there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”<sup>6</sup>.

### **(B) The Jews admitted it**

**Matthew 27:25** (NKJV) – *And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.”*

**John 19:1**(NKJV) – *But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”*

### **(C) It was counted against them**

**1 Thessalonians 2:15** (NKJV) – *who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,*

**Acts 5:30** (NKJV) – *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.*

**Acts 2:23** (NKJV) – *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death*

**Acts 3:14-15** (NKJV) – *But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.*

Also: Acts 4:10; 5:28, 30; 7:52; 10:39; 13:27-29

### **(D) Revelation confirms it**

The book of Revelation has the slain Lamb as the chief character who brings judgement against Israel, who “pierced him”.

**Revelation 1:7** (NKJV) – *...And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him...*

- “tribes”: *phulē* (Gk) – means 'all the descendants of Jacob'.<sup>7</sup>
- “land”: *gē* (Gk) – means 'the land' or 'land enclosed by fixed boundaries'.<sup>8</sup> NOT 'earth' as *kosmos* would have been used in the verse. The same Greek word is used in Luke 21:23, referring to the promised land which was a key component of the Abrahamic covenant.

5 – Matthew 22:1-14

6 – Matthew 22:13 (NKJV)

7 – Thayer definition: MySword Bible (android phone)

8 – Thayer definition: MySword Bible (android phone)

So, all of Israel will mourn because of the judgement brought against them.

The vileness of Jerusalem which also caused their destruction is starkly highlighted by the reference to the city (“The Great City”) being like Egypt, Sodom and Babylon.

**Revelation 11:8** (NKJV) – *...in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our<sup>9</sup> Lord was crucified.*

**Revelation 18:21** (NKJV) – ...“*Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found any more.*”

### **(E) The OT prophesied it**

**Micah 1:1-5** (NKJV) – *The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw **concerning Samaria and Jerusalem**. Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple.*

*For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel.*

*What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?*

## **Was Jerusalem Really That Evil?**

Josephus, a Jewish historian alive at that time of the fall of Jerusalem, wrote about how evil Jerusalem had become.

*I am of opinion that had the Romans deferred the punishment of these wretches, either the earth would have opened, and swallowed up the city, or it would have been swept away by a deluge, or have shared in the thunderbolts of the land of Sodom. For it produced a race far more ungodly than those who were thus visited [i.e. more evil than Sodom].<sup>10</sup>*

He was scathing against his own people, describing them in terms of Sodom and Gomorrah just like Revelation did.<sup>11</sup>

Because of their evil, Jesus prophesied against them:

**Matthew 12:41-45** (ISV) – *The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment and condemn the people living today because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. But look—something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the south will stand up and condemn the people living today, because she came from so far away to hear the wisdom of Solomon. But look! Something greater than Solomon is here! Whenever an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through waterless places looking for a place to rest, but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will go back to my home that I left.’ When it arrives, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and settle there. And so the final condition of that person becomes worse than the first. That’s just what will happen to this evil generation!”*

Jesus' ministry brought spiritual cleansing to Jerusalem and the land of Israel, but he prophesied that after he left the scene that evil would return<sup>12</sup> in greater measure.<sup>13</sup> This evil was an offence to the presence of the Kingdom of God introduced by Jesus, and was judged to deserve nothing but the people's elimination.

9 – NU-Text and M-Text read *their*.

10 – Flavius Josephus “The Jewish War”, Book 5, Section 6. [Quoted in “The Art Of Revelation” p:65]

11 – Revelation 11:8

12 – 2 Peter 2:22

13 – Luke 11:26

## Why Divorce?

Judgement came against Israel in 70AD in the form of a divorce. This is because of the husband-wife relationship which God had with Israel, as stated in the OT.

**Jeremiah 31:32** (NKJV) – *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.*

**Isaiah 54:4** (NKJV) – *“Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood any more.*

The throne room judgement scene in Revelation<sup>14</sup> was a court held against the nation of Israel. The judicial decree given was: “divorce for harlotry”<sup>15</sup>:

**Jeremiah 3:8-9** (NKJV) – *Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.*

Israel had done this in the past. Twice they were destroyed and exiled, but they didn't learn. The book of Hosea was a theatrical warning that played out in the natural, God's heart and desire for his harlot nation to return to him. Ezekiel also spells it out clearly:

**Ezekiel 23:37** (NKJV) – *For they have committed adultery, and **blood is on their hands**. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them.*

Israel is labelled a harlot in Revelation<sup>16</sup> which mirrors that of Jeremiah<sup>17</sup>. The divorce papers (scroll) presented in Revelation<sup>18</sup> is a mirror of the one presented in Ezekiel<sup>19</sup>.

In Revelation there is a judicial process:

- Receiving the divorce papers (scroll) – Revelation 4-5
- Releasing the punishment – Revelation 6-19
- Stoning for adultery – Revelation 16:19, 21 [The stoning law for adultery: Leviticus 20:10]<sup>20</sup>

Jesus predicted this divorce:

- The heirs of the Kingdom (from Abraham's covenant) will be thrown into outer darkness  
**Matthew 8:11-12** (NKJV) – *And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- The Kingdom will be taken from Israel  
**Matthew 21:43** (NKJV) – *“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”*
- Jesus will crush Israel  
**Matthew 21:42, 44** (NKJV) – *“Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing,*

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14 – Revelation 4:2

15 – See also Jeremiah 3:3; Hosea 1:1-2

16 – Revelation 17:5

17 – Jeremiah 3:3

18 – Revelation 5:1

19 – Ezekiel 2:9-3:1

20 – The Romans stoned Jerusalem with 1 talent boulders using catapult engines (Josephus "Jewish War" 5:6:3)

*And it is marvelous in our eyes'...And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

The outcome of the divorce was that the city of Jerusalem was replaced with the heavenly New Jerusalem – i.e. the New Covenant saints.

**Revelation 21:2** (NKJV) – *Then I, John<sup>21</sup>, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as **a bride adorned for her husband.***

## What Are The Implications?

There are a number of implications from this divorce for both Christians and Jews.

These implications are especially important for Christian Zionists to comprehend. Christian Zionists are those gentile believers in Jesus who adhere to Israel being God's constant focus because of his covenant with the Jews. They believe that all the promises made to the Jews will be fulfilled for Israel as a nation. Their belief is that Christians will then join back in with Israel because they (Christians) are a sideline to God's plan.

Part of the key to unravel the outcome of the divorce is an understanding of what 'spiritual Israel' & 'real Jews' are. Father and his Son (his vice-regent) have always been interested in those who were spiritually pure and completely devoted to them and their purposes. This is an eternal, indisputable principle. It was exemplified in The Fall and the consequent expulsion of the first people from paradise. King David demonstrated it in his life. King Solomon demonstrated it in his rise to fame as well as the consequences (curse) that came with his fall into apostasy.

This concept of 'wholly-unto-God' was set out for the Jews in the covenant renewal when Joshua took over the nation's headship from Moses.

**Deuteronomy 30:19** (NKJV) – *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;*

The concept is pretty clear from the full account of God's words through Moses;

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** (NKJV) – *“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

Paul identifies a 'real Jew': “[H]e is a Jew who is one inwardly; and [true] circumcision is *circumcision* of the heart, by the Spirit”<sup>22</sup>.

Paul identifies 'spiritual Israel' (“The Israel of God”): “a new creation [which is the result of a new birth—a spiritual transformation—a new nature in Christ Jesus]”<sup>23</sup>

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21 – NU-Text and M-Text omit *John*.

22 – Romans 2:29 (AMP)

23 – Galatians 6:15

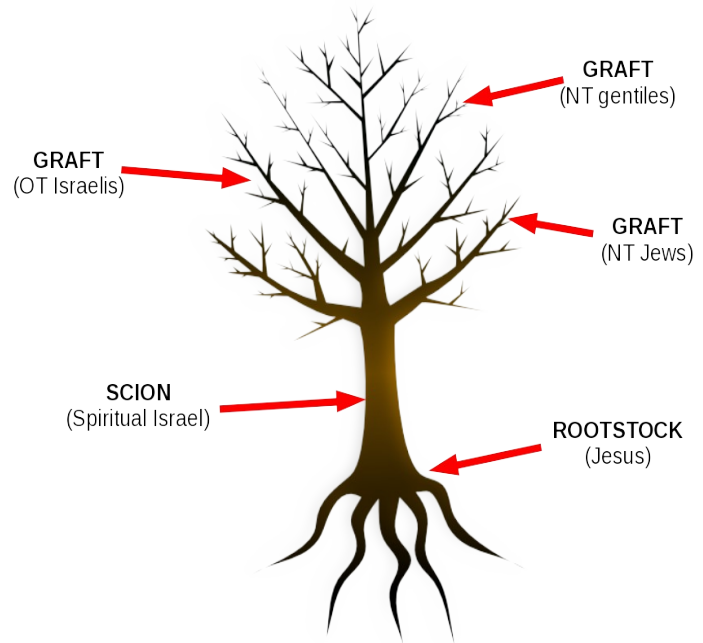
Genuine Jews and spiritual Israel are what God is looking for. These are his primary interest. His interest is not in physical Israel or religious believers. That's a fact.

God's focus is on spiritual sons, as Jesus highlighted<sup>24</sup>, who were to be one with them.

Spiritual Israel are all those who are genuine spiritual sons of God who have been joined to Jesus.<sup>25</sup>

To put it in a graphic: Jesus is the rootstock and the scion that becomes the tree is spiritual Israel that is grafted onto the rootstock. i.e. Spiritual Israel have been grafted into him.

Why Jesus? He's "the root of David"<sup>26</sup> who we were chosen to belong to before the foundation of the universe<sup>27</sup>. (That's when Jesus was 'slain')<sup>28</sup>. And, that was all before Abraham was covenanted to him.<sup>29</sup>



So what are the implications?

1. The promises to Abraham were intended for Jesus' people. The promises given to him were actually a down-payment to his descendants – Galatians 3:16 (3:7-9, 26-29)
2. Spiritual Israel is what the Jews were grafted into – Romans 11:23 (*Note: "again"*)
3. The Jews were pruned off spiritual Israel – Romans 11:15, 17, 20, 23
4. Gentile believers were grafted into spiritual Israel – Romans 11:17
5. Believing Jews are grafted back into spiritual Israel – Romans 11: 25 (23-29)
6. Believing Jews and gentile believers together will eventually form the final spiritual Israel as "one new man" – Ephesians 2:13-22

A couple of important points:

1. The Jews cannot come back in in large numbers because stubbornness came to Israel "until the full number of the gentiles comes to faith" – Romans 11:25
  - o The gentiles are still in Jerusalem,
  - o God is still working greatly with the gentiles (200,000/day come into the Kingdom),
  - o There has been no shift in his attention away from the gentiles
2. There is no move by God himself to re-establish the physical nation of Israel
  - o This is a myth
  - o The secular Zionist movement is responsible for the modern state of Israel (See appendix)
  - o The Zionists were supported by well-meaning Christians to have the nation re-established
  - o Currently, there is a nett exodus from Israel<sup>30</sup> kept quiet by the Israeli government
  - o Many Israelis want to leave,<sup>31</sup> especially to go to the USA<sup>32</sup>

24 – John 17:11, 22

25 – Galatians 3:7, 9

26 – Revelation 5:5; 22:16

27 – Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2, 20

28 – Revelation 13:8

29 – Galatians 3:8

30 – Yediot Ahronot news item 4-4-2007 (<http://archive.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2002/10/18/1802.shtml>) [not available]  
"Victorious Eschatology" p:258

31 – See Ian S. Lustick, Israel Studies Review (2011) "Uncounted: the people who leave Israel" (jffjp.com/?p=77816)

32 – "Victorious Eschatology" p:190

- Israel has to have control of the full promised land from Egypt to Iraq for this to be completed – Genesis 15:18
3. We are to honour the Jews today
- Because of their forefathers – Romans 11:28-29
  - Because we are grafted in with them – Romans 11:17-18

**NOTE:** There is still limited favour for Jews today. This is God's grace to them because of – and only because of – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and probably King David). This was exactly the case with the first two exiles, but it must not be construed as a consequence of their position as 'the people of God', which is the title they forfeited.

## REFERENCES

- Kenneth Gentry (2012) “Survey of the Book of Revelation” [DVD: Disk #1, session #3]
- Kenneth Gentry (2012) “Revelation’s Dramatic Conclusion: A Survey of Revelation 19-22” [PDF]
- Harold Eberle (2009) “Victorious Eschatology: A Partial Preterist View” 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Revised [e-book]

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## APPENDIX

✪ A section of the history of the formation of the state of Israel from the Jewish website 'Judaism 101'. The complete document needs to be read to get a full understanding of the Zionist's intentions.

*“In the late 1800s, Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann founded Zionism, a political movement dedicated to the creation of a Jewish state. They saw a state of Israel as a necessary refuge for Jewish victims of oppression, especially in Russia, where pogroms were decimating the Jewish population.*

*The name "Zionism" comes from the word "Zion," which was the name of a stronghold in Jerusalem. Over time, the term "Zion" came to be applied to Jerusalem in general, and later to the Jewish idea of utopia.*

*Zionism was not a religious movement; it was a primarily political. The early Zionists sought to establish a secular state of Israel, recognized by the world, through purely legal means. Theodor Herzl, for example, was a completely assimilated secular Jewish journalist. He felt little attachment to his Jewish heritage until he covered the trial of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French military who was (unjustly) convicted of passing secrets to Germany. The charges against Dreyfus brought out*

*a wave of anti-Jewish sentiment that shocked Herzl into realizing the need for a Jewish state. Early Zionists were so desperate for a refuge at one point that they actually considered a proposal to create a Jewish homeland in Uganda. Alaska and Siberia were also discussed. But the only land that truly inspired Jewish people worldwide was our ancient homeland, at that time a part of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire known as Palestine.*

*During World War I, the Zionist cause gained some degree of support from Great Britain. In a 1917 letter from British foreign secretary Lord Balfour to Jewish financier Lord Rothschild, the British government expressed a commitment to creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This letter is commonly known as the Balfour Declaration. Unfortunately, the British were speaking out of both sides of their mouth, simultaneously promising Arabs their freedom if they helped to defeat the Ottoman Empire, which at that time controlled most of the Middle East (including the modern states of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as significant portions of Saudi Arabia and northern Africa). The British promised the Arabs that they would limit Jewish settlement in Palestine mere months after the Balfour Declaration expressed support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."''<sup>33</sup>*

✪ Information about Zionism after the formation of the state of Israel can be read in Wikipedia.<sup>34</sup>

✪ **IMPORTANT:** The “The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion” are considered by 'experts' to be a forgery<sup>35</sup> and can't be used as evidence of a Zionist plot.

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33 – [www.jewfaq.org/israel.htm](http://www.jewfaq.org/israel.htm)

34 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Zionism#Zionism\\_after\\_the\\_creation\\_of\\_Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Zionism#Zionism_after_the_creation_of_Israel)

35 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Protocols\\_of\\_the\\_Elders\\_of\\_Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Protocols_of_the_Elders_of_Zion)