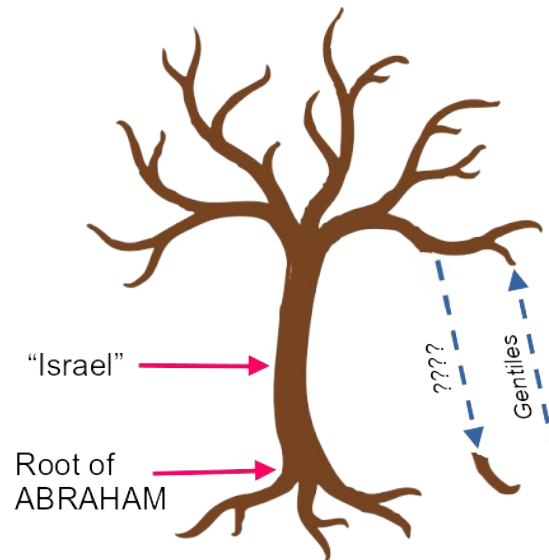


A Different Take ON: Grafted into Israel

The standard evangelical take on this is that the church has been grafted into Israel. As their understanding is that Israel are forever ‘The Children of God’, we’re now part of ‘The Children of God’. The concept looks like this:¹



Let’s see if that stacks up with the realities of the New Covenant and The Kingdom.

The first thing to understand is that people’s relationship with Almighty God (not the Hebrew Yahweh) has always been based on faith, not selection. People believe in him and he accepts their connection because of their faith. The only way we can come to him is by faith² – not nationality, gender, status, etc.³

It has always been the faith of “seekers”⁴ that has allowed Father to accept a person’s connection to him and, therefore, bring them under his blessing.⁵ Faith was accounted to the following people in scripture:⁶

- Abel
- Sarah
- Moses
- Samson
- OT prophets
- Enoch
- Isaac
- Rahab
- Jephthah
- Noah
- Jacob
- Gideon
- David
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Barak
- Samuel

Faith as part of human relationship with the Trinity was put in place right from the very beginning. Even Adam and Ezer⁷ had to live by faith. Their faith was to trust The Son⁸ and eat only of the trees that he approved of.

The second thing to note is that the covenants that Father made with specific men⁹ were based on their faith in him, not their achievements. The covenants with the Israelite Fathers¹⁰ were based on their faith, not their works or just because of their lineage. It’s true that the newer covenants followed on from the covenant with Abraham, but they were a reinforcement of the original one, as a continuation of it. If it was just lineage that mattered, then every head of the Israelite nation would have had their own renewed covenant. We know that was not the case, and it was because of their lack of God-directed faith that they

1 – TREE CLIPART: www.clker.com/clipart-tree-with-roots-14.html (Used in my diagram)

2 – Hebrews 11:6

3 – Galatians 3:28; James 2:2-4 (Luke 20:46)

4 – Hebrews 11:6

5 – Hebrews 11:6

6 – Hebrews 11:4-32

7 – SEE: “Revealing Ezer” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/05-Revealing-Ezer.pdf

8 – It was The Son who walked and talked with them in the Garden, not Father.

9 – the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic covenants

10 – e.g. Genesis 26:2-5; 28:13-15; 1 Chronicles 17:4-14

didn't receive one.

Thirdly, we are justified (made right in Father's sight)¹¹ by our faith.¹² This is a large part of the message Paul wrote about,¹³ so there's no need to pursue that point.

The last thing to note is that any Israel that Paul could have been referring to in the analogy of grafting into the olive tree, would have been spiritual Israel, not national Israel. In context, the statement, "their rejection",¹⁴ shows that the Old Covenant (OC) has ceased and that the New Covenant (NC) was in play. Therefore, there was no point in being grafted into national Israel.

Under the NC, there's no national identity because we are all sons and all the same in Father's sight.¹⁵ Our nationality is irrelevant, so it has no bearing on which nation is the better or which is more sacred. Those qualifications don't exist in the NC, and therefore they don't exist in the Kingdom.

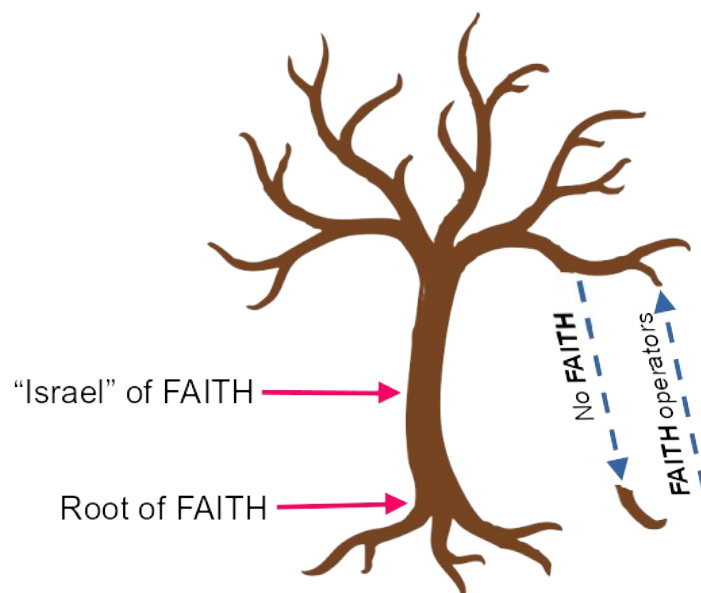
Under the NC, Paul makes it very clear what he's referring to, when he says that a true Jew is one who is circumcised in their heart, not physically circumcised.¹⁶ He also states in that same passage that a Jew isn't one who looks (or dresses) like a Jew. Both those points eliminate the Nation of Israel as being the people we are grafted into.

So, here's the passage in question:

Romans 11:17-20, 23 (NASB) – *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, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in". Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith...And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again.*

Note that I've highlighted the points of importance in it. They relate to FAITH. Faith and unbelief is the criterion under which we are joined to or removed from 'the olive tree'.

The concept is now pictured as follows:



11 – Justification simply means to be made just, right or righteous. From the Greek *dikaioo* (δικαιόω).

12 – Romans 3:28

13 – Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16; 3:11, 24 (Also James 2:24)

14 – Romans 11:15

15 – Galatians 3:28

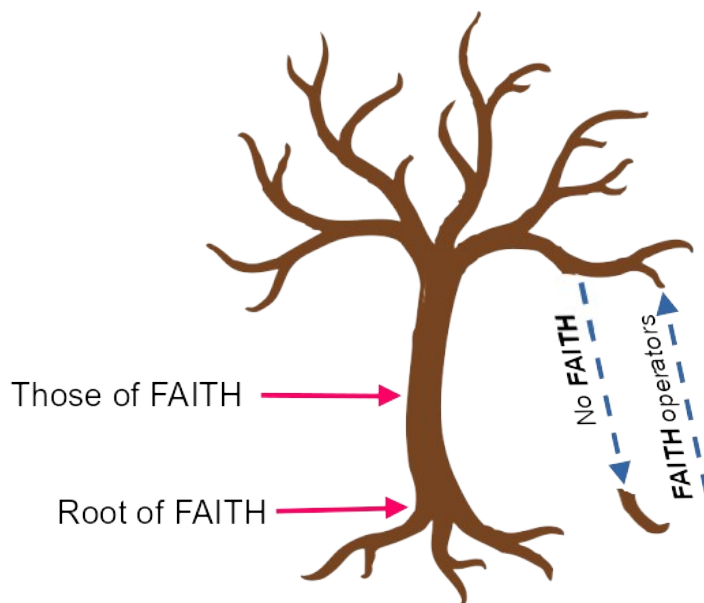
16 – Romans 2:28-29

We are a people of faith, called “the household of faith”¹⁷ by Paul. Therefore, we belong to all those who have faith in the genuine Creator, not those who worship idols or belong to man-made religions. The tree we are grafted into is that basal group of faith-people. There are countless millions of faith operators who have lived since Creation, not just the ones mentioned on page 1, above. The root is FAITH, which supports the ‘tree of faith’.

So why talk about Israel as the tree we’re grafted into? Well, that’s because Paul was an apostle to the Gentiles and he was wanting to make the Jews (Israelites) jealous of them. The Jews thought they were perpetually ‘the children of God’¹⁸ and that made them arrogant. That arrogance and their adherence to the religion of Judaism was what caused them to be “rejected” and pruned off the tree of faith. The Jews were the focus for Paul, who was a Jew himself,¹⁹ as he didn’t want them to be lost, but to be grafted back into “the household of faith”, like what was happening to the gentiles.

Paul actually doesn’t refer to Israel in the olive tree metaphor. He’s really talking about ‘the tree of faith’, with the “holy root”²⁰ called ‘faith’. In the verse referencing the “root” he refers to “dough” and a “lump” of bread. There’s no correspondence between Israel and bread, so why the linkage of grafting to a tree called ‘Israel’? The Israel reasoning is inference based on Christian symbolism, not what the author was wanting to convey. It’s very easy to get the wrong message from text when you read into it with 21st century understanding and theology.

You see, **it’s all about our faith**. Unbelief removes people from ‘the tree of faith’, while those who are ‘faith operators’ are grafted in. That means we aren’t grafted into Israel, but into all those who live by faith. The diagram should look like this:



From now on we should see this ‘grafting’ as it really is. We should cease thinking of Israel and Jews, and even stop thinking of spiritual Israel.

What about faith under the NC? How does it work now?

The answer to that question is two-fold.

(1) Initial Faith – Like every ‘faith operator’ before us, we come into Father’s family by faith. We must believe by faith that:

17 – 2 Thessalonians 3:2

18 – SEE: “A Different Take On - Israel’s Everlasting Covenant”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Different-Take-On-Israels-Everlasting-Covenant.pdf

19 – Before his conversion, he was an extremely pious Jew.

20 – Romans 11:16

- He exists
- He has provided a way for us to come into his holy presence
- He has our best interest at heart
- His character is to bless
- He is love (Not monstrous or a ‘cosmic policemen’ who needs placating)
- He’s worth committing our lives to

That’s all that’s required to “come to him”. He has no demands, rules, laws or commands – nothing. Sure, we can add all the things we’ve been taught, but his list is short and simple. They are the same faith pre-requisites that were in effect from The Fall, into the OC, then into the NC, and now into the future.

(2) Ongoing Faith – Here’s where religion makes it difficult. It teaches that if we don’t have faith we “sin against God” and can “lose our salvation”. Various verses are quoted to back that up, but the reality is that we are maintained in ‘the household of faith’ by the faith of Jesus. That reality is found by translating Philippians 3:9 correctly.

For example:

Philippians 3:9 (MIRROR) – So here I am; found in Christ. I was looking in the wrong place all along. My own duty-and-guilt-driven religious endeavor snared me in the cul-de-sac maize of self-righteousness, sponsored by the law of works. **The faith of Christ** reveals my identity; righteousness defines who God believes that I really am. **This righteousness is sourced in God and endorses the authority of faith.** (Faith is a fairy tale if Jesus is not the substance of it.)²¹

Note from that verse that it’s not our faith, but his faith. If it’s our faith, it waivers and can cease. As sons, our sonship is sealed, not only by the work of the Cross, but also by the righteousness of Jesus (not ours) and by his faith. That’s very different to what we’ve been taught, and it’s very reassuring.

Some readers may say that I’ve got it wrong, that it’s actually our faith in Jesus. NO!

The NIV has this footnote to its “faith in Christ” statement in Philippians 3:9, as an alternate rendering of the Greek – “Or *through the faithfulness of*”²²

The following translations use “faith of Christ” rather than “faith in Christ”:²³ KJ21, BRG, DARBY, DRA, GNV, JUB, KJV, AKJV, WYC & YLT.

Our wonderful Father has provided a foolproof way for us to come into the Kingdom and to remain there. He’s done it all and he maintains it.

So, we aren’t grafted into the nation of Israel, or even spiritual Israel. We become an entity in ‘the tree of faith’, which is all those faith-people who’ve gone before us. (Not those of the Christian faith, but those who come to Father in faith.)

The reality in this article also paints a different picture of what “all Israel will be saved” really means. Paul was referring to the Israel of faith, not the nation of Israel.

*“The ‘all Israel’ being saved in Romans 11 is the same ‘all Israel’ as in Romans 9 – those who are of faith, not by birth or nationality. All Israel from a salvation perspective was never a nation but the remnant who were faithful within that nation. Paul was not teaching that the whole nation of Israel would miraculously be saved at some point in our future when all Gentiles have been saved.”*²⁴

21 – Scripture taken from THE MIRROR. Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author. Mirror Bible: www.mirrorword.net

22 – NIV Footnote www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+Philippians+3%3A9&version=NIV#en-NIV-29431

23 – www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Philippians%203:9

24 – Mike Parsons (2022) “The Eschatology of the Restoration of All Things” [PDF] p:268 eg.freedomarc.org/course/eschatology-ebook

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and get a better understanding of the NT from the realities of the NC and the Kingdom, as viewed from the perspective of Father's heart of unconditional love and limitless grace & mercy.

www.amazon.com.au/Mirror-Study-Bible-Francois-Toit-ebook/dp/B07LBPKMVF

Laurence

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)