

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

Others in Need

- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ♦ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ♦ Denver Kitzan—surg. recovery
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Yoel Urra—improving
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Craig Wray—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ The Barlow, Hudson, and McCall families after recent losses.

Continued in next column...

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Caleb Howze, Mark Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Ethan Howze
 Helper: Ezra Howze
Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn

Events



Oct. 22-25
Silverhill Gospel Meeting w/ Garland Robinson preaching

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

October 15, 2023

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class
 11AM Worship
 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

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Do You Stand With Israel?

(Part 1)

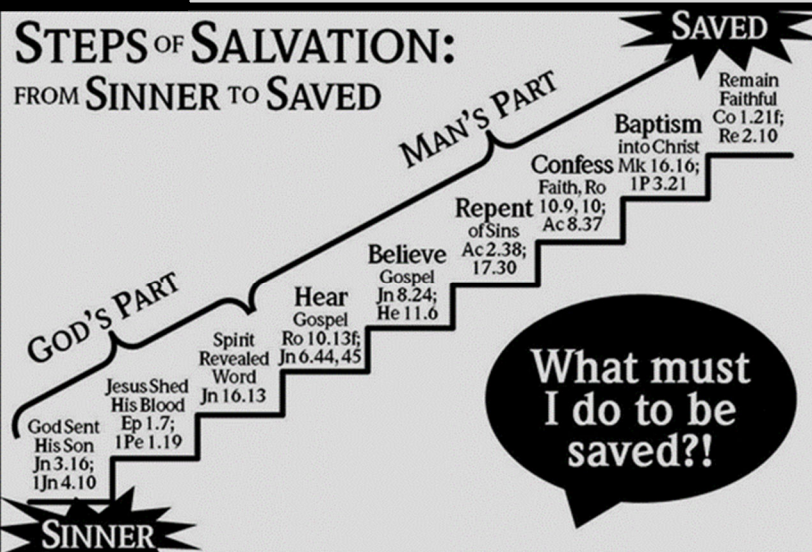
By Jason Patrick Hilburn

If you stand with Israel, with which Israel do you stand? The word "Israel" can mean different things, based on the context in which it is found, such as: 1) The grandson of Abraham (originally named Jacob) who had twelve sons; 2) The nation which proceeded from Jacob and his twelve sons; 3) The modern nation commonly called "Israel," which may or may not be true descendants of Jacob (nobody today can prove that his lineage goes back to Jacob—cf. Ezra 2:62; Neh. 7:64); or 4) The entire group of people today who are saved through faith and obedience to Christ, regardless of their genealogies—the body of Christ.

There can be legitimate reasons for nations such as modern Israel to defend themselves, but if you stand with people who claim to be Jews simply because you believe they are "still God's chosen people," you are mistaken. Genesis chapter twelve records God making a promise to Israel's grandfather Abram that consisted of three main parts, fulfilled in this order: 1) God would make a great nation of Abram's descendants (Deut. 26:5); 2) God would give Abram's descendants the promised land of Canaan (Josh. 3:19; 23:11-14); and 3) God would bless all families of the earth through Abram's seed (Matt. 1:1-25; Gal. 4:4; cf. Gen. 12:1-7).

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

Those blessings have now come to pass. The physical nation of Israel was God's peculiar and holy nation until the time of Christ's death (Ex. 19; Gal. 3:22-29; Eph. 2:11-20), but that nation has already fulfilled its main purpose—to bring the Messiah into the world so all families (Gentiles included) can be blessed through Him (Acts 10:34, 35). The Law of Moses was a wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles for over 1400 years from the time of Moses to the cross. Christ came and nailed the Law of Moses to His cross (Col. 2:14-17), having "broken down the middle wall of partition" between Jews and Gentiles. Now there is "no difference" between Jews and Gentiles in the eyes of God (Acts 15:9). There is really no such thing as "Jew" or "Gentile" anymore spiritually, because the only distinction that matters now is whether one is "in Christ" or "out of Christ." Those who call themselves "Jews" and reject Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God cannot be pleasing to God, as will be noted.

Notice what Paul wrote to some who failed to understand that there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles:

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:26-29; cf. Col. 3:11; Gen. 12:3).

Under the New Covenant, those who have been "baptized into Christ" are the only spiritual heirs of God's blessings promised through Abraham (Gen. 12:3). Later in the same epistle Paul mentions "the Israel of God," which today is Christ's church, consisting of saved souls from all over the world of various family lineages (Gal. 6:15, 16; cf. 5:3-6). Jesus commanded all nations (which includes Israel) to believe and be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:36-38).

Paul also spoke of spiritual Israel (the church) when he wrote to the Romans. The main purpose of the Letter to the Romans was to prove that, whether Jews or Gentiles, the only way to be saved is through obedience to the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:5; 2:6-11; 4:12; 6:1-22; 8:1-13; 10:16, 21; 12:1, 2; 13:1; 13, 14; 16:26). Paul said that the true "Jew" is one inwardly, not

outwardly, because, whether Jew or Gentile, he believes what the Old Testament prophesied about Christ and obeys Christ (Rom. 2:28, 29; cf. Col. 2:11-13). Paul said that just because one may be "of Israel" (a descendant of Jacob), that does not mean he is a part of today's Israel (the Lord's church):

...For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed (Rom. 9:6-8).

Paul's words above echo what he wrote to the Galatians that we previously mentioned (Gal. 3:26-29). In fact, Paul (of a Jewish background himself) prayed for other Israelites who had not submitted to Christ, because they were lost:

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God (Rom. 10:1-3).

Keeping in mind the above passage, note that all Israelites who will be saved will be saved in the same way as the Gentiles--by obeying the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 11:26), not by their own system of righteousness. Their Deliverer (Rom. 11:27) will only take away their sins through His New Covenant that He died to establish (Rom. 11:28; Heb. 9:15-17), and to say otherwise is to trivialize His death and to commit blasphemy. His New Covenant cannot be separated from His New Law (Heb. 7:12-14; 10:8, 9), and when Christ returns, He will punish all those do not obey His Gospel, whether Jews or Gentiles (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

Speaking of "standing with Israel," at one point in his life, Saul of Tarsus (a Jew) had "stood with (fleshly) Israel" against the true Israel of Christ, the church of Christ, and was sharply rebuked and blinded by the Lord (Acts 9). It was not until Saul obeyed the command to "be baptized, and wash away thy sins" that he became a part of New Testament Israel, being added to the Lord's church (Acts 22:16; cf. 2:36-41, 47; 9:18, 19).

To be continued next week, Lord willing...