ISRAEL and the CHURCH

By S.M. Stafford

A little book called "The Church is Israel Now" has recently made its appearance based on the presupposition that the Israel of the New Testament Covenant and the Israel of the Old Testament Covenant are two different peoples. The thesis of the book is that God completely and irrevocably repudiated his people Israel of the Old Testament, those whom he had chosen from before the foundation of the world to be his peculiar people. He obviously spent a great deal of time and effort to prove his case from the Bible. If he had based his presupposition on Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" and in the book of Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever," his research of the Bible would have led him to the truth. He could have asked himself why is the Epistle to the Hebrews in the New Testament if they are no longer the Chosen of God?

Once a presupposition has been chosen, we tend to see only that which appears to agree with it. We become like the horses that have blinders put on them so they will not be distracted by anything on the right or left of them but can only see what is directly in front. That is fine for the plow horse but not for one looking for the truth in God's Word. The title of the book is so close to the truth that if the author had not been wearing blinders he would undoubtedly arrived at the truth. The truth lies in the statement of Jesus, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel", so his church must consist of those lost sheep of the house of Israel. James attested to that fact when he addressed his Epistle "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad". In Romans 11:13, St. Paul identifies himself as "the apostle of the Gentiles" and in the next verse he said "them which are of my flesh". By this statement he identified these "Gentiles" as being racial Israel as he had identified himself in Romans 11:1 as "an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin". The name Israel appears 74 times in the New Testament with no indication that it refers to any other people than those of Jacob/Israel. In Romans 11:2 St. Paul tells us, "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew". He goes on to tell us in verse 5, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace".

Election is by race and that race is the race of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Salvation is by grace and can be appropriated only by those of the election by race. Those in the churches call themselves Christians. The name Christian was first given to the disciples who were of the seed of Abraham in Antioch, Acts 11:26. It was done while they were assembled with the church. There is only one true church and that church was established by Christ (Matthew 16:18) and would include only those to whom he was sent, Matt. 15:24, "the lost sheep of the house of Israel".

The doctrine of the one true church is the faith that the Apostles preached, not to the world, but to Israelites "to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came who is over all, God blessed forever." Please note the word "flesh" as it always refers to a seedline.

It is not for us to question God's plan, for "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour and another unto dishonour?" — Romans 9:21. Membership in the true Church is by Divine calling. All of the names of those chosen from the foundation of the world to be enrolled in the church are in the Lamb's Book of Life. It is a select group chosen by God, the Father. Jesus, speaking of the Father, said in St. John 17:6, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world", and in verse 9, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for which thou has given me; for they are thine".

When Jesus spoke to the multitudes that gathered he spoke in parables and when his disciples asked him why, "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given."—Matt. 13:11. Under the Old Covenant circumcision was required, the wives coming in under the husbands and the daughters under their father. Under the New Covenant it is the Sacrament of Baptism that is our initiation into the true Church. Biblical baptism is by immersion in water which is symbolic of being buried with Christ and rising with him. As an example for us, Jesus, himself, was baptized in this manner. (Romans 6:3-5)

The modern "church" has opened itself up to the world in opposition to the teaching of Christ. In Leviticus 20:24 God said, "I am the Lord your God which have separated you from other people." In Deut. 7:6 God says his chosen are "a special people unto himself, above all the people that are upon the face of the earth". One of the greatest sins of the Bible is the mingling of the holy seed with the people from whom God separated them. Ezra 10:12 warns against intermarriage with other peoples: give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons." In Ezra 10:2,3 we find the only hope for God's people who have committed this sin is "to put away all the wives and such as have been born to them." Today intermarriage is rampant with the blessing of the modern "church". The true church is the body of Christ, Romans 12:5, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ" and Christ did not come to earth in a mongrelized body. We are told in II Timothy 2:8 that Jesus Christ came of the seed of David. In Saint John 1:1-3 we learn that Christ was the word, that he was there in the beginning, that he was God and that he created all things. In Genesis chapter 1 we have the record of the creation and that everything was created after its own kind and the seed of each was in itself. When he created man he created him in his own image, Gen. 1:26, 27. The word "man" in the Hebrew is "Adam" and means to show blood in the face, i.e. flush or turn rosey, a human being. Only the white race blushes or shows red in the face. It is not the will of God that other races be brought into the church. Micah in chapter 4 speaks of the last days and verse 5 tells us, "For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord (Yahweh) our God for ever and ever."

The Bible is its own interpreter and not for private interpretation. When we read in Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come," we should go to Isaiah 27:6 for the correct meaning. "He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit (offspring)." Isaiah 27:6 makes Matthew 24:14 mean something quite different than what is taught in the modern church. The gospel of the kingdom belongs to Israel and Israel is to be found all over the world.

The prophesies made concerning the children of Israel were not fulfilled in Palestine, nor can they be fulfilled by the church or by those calling themselves Jews today. In Revelation 2:9 Christ said, "I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews (of Judah) and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." In Isaiah 65:15 we find a prophesy concerning these "Jews" and God's chosen people. "And ye shall leave your name (Jew) for a curse unto my chosen; for the Lord God shall slay thee (see Luke 19:27), and call his servants by another name:" (see Acts 11:26). The false Jews have retained their name to this day and are still a curse to God's chosen, while God's chosen are now called "Christian" which means followers of Christ.

Romans 9:7 tells us, "Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Abraham had children by other women than Sarah who bore Isaac who was the promised seed. To find the chosen people in the world today, we must identify the seed of Isaac, or Isaac's sons. The Hebrew language did not have a vowel sound. Try pronouncing Isaac's sons without the "I" sound and you have the first clue. It sounds very much like "Saxons". Another clue is to find what happened to captive ten-tribed Israel when they were freed by the Assyrians. They were turned loose into the Caucasus Mountains where they started migrating north and west, the only logical way they could go. An English historian by the name of Sharon Turner traced the movement of the Anglo-Saxon people back to the Caucasus mountains in the same time period that captive Israel was freed by the Assyrians. Is that just a coincidence? We are now known as Caucasians. The third clue as to the identity of racial Israel in the world today lies in the answer to the question, what people are fulfilling what the Word of God said the chosen people would be doing? They were to be a blessing to all the families of the earth, Genesis 13:3. They were to be many