

This is Part Eight of the Serial Publication in PDF and Video, including all of Chapter Five.

The  
PRODIGAL SON  
PROPHECY

God's Amazing Plan for the Restoration of the Two  
Hebrew Houses and the Salvation of the Gentiles

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## CHAPTER FIVE:

# THE SALVATION OF "THE JEWS"

In Matthew 23:37-39, near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus passed a sentence upon the House of Judah. Standing on the Mount of Olives, looking across the narrow Kidron Valley at the Holy City spread out before Him, he lamented:

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 'Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord' ".*

Three and a half years later the implementation of that sentence would be initiated and the long 2000-year "age of the Gentiles" would begin upon the final indictment of the Jews by Stephen, the first martyr of the church (Acts 7). And the man who orchestrated Stephen's murder, Saul of Tarshish, would very soon become Paul (Acts 9), the Apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13).

That gentile age is nearing its end today, as we await the return of Christ to His city when indeed, the Jews will finally recognize their Messiah and "weep for Him as for an only son" (Zechariah 12:10), and "all Israel will be saved." (Romans 11:26).<sup>1</sup>

*"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10, cited in John 19:37).*

*"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 59:20, cited in Romans 11:26).*

On the Day of Atonement, the last of the 10 Days of Awe, "all Israel" (such of them as repent of their unbelief in Christ) will receive their salvation when the Messiah appears to rescue Jerusalem from the army of the wicked which have overrun it (Zechariah 14).

*"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered; For on*

*Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls” (Joel 2:32).*

These are represented by the 144,000 Hebrews, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Jacob: faithful Torah-believing men who were sealed against death by God in order to survive the time of wrath.

*"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Revelation 7:2-4).*

The “seal of the living God” is His name, written upon their foreheads:

*"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth" (Revelation 14:1-3).*

These two passages, offering snapshots of the Hebrew elect before and after their rescue by the Messiah, evoke a pattern seen in the Passover and subsequent exodus from Egypt, and (to a lesser extent) the rescue of Lot from Sodom, but most especially Ezekiel’s vision in Ezekiel 8-9, including a description of the sealing of the righteous Jews before the execution of God’s wrath:

*"And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.** And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary" (Ezekiel 9:4-6).*

Interestingly, what defines the righteousness of these men is not their actions, but the grief in their hearts over the apostasy that surrounds them. This was also true of covetous, incestuous Lot who nevertheless is described as righteous in 2 Peter 2-9:

*"He rescued **righteous** Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment."*

Importantly (relative to God's command that judgment on the wicked begin at His sanctuary), Mount Zion is traditionally identified as being the site of the Temple Mount (not the hill immediately to the south of the Old City that is designated so today) which location comports with both Revelation 14:1, Isaiah 59:20 and Ezekiel 9:6 all of which are cited above. In other words, "God's sanctuary" is Mount Zion and Mount Zion is traditionally considered to be the site of the Temple Mount.

### **JEW, ISRAELITES AND HEBREWS: WHO'S WHO?**

*"Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against **Judah**...But I will watch over the **house of Judah**, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. **"Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, 'A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the LORD of hosts, their God'**" (Zechariah 12:2-5).*

Zechariah Chapter 12 describes the end-time siege of Jerusalem before its rescue by Christ and identifies "the clans of Judah" as the leaders of the city's defense. This is a reference to the Tribe of Judah (from which Jesus was born). But Judah is also a reference to the House of Judah, which includes the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin (and, *de-facto*, Levi).

The "Jews" are, technically, the members of the House of Judah (two tribes) and are first designated by that nickname in the Bible when the House of Judah was at war with the House of Israel (the other 10 tribes, led by Ephraim).

*"Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath" (2 Kings 16:5-6).*

Properly differentiating the House of Judah from the House of Israel is absolutely essential to understanding both Biblical history and prophecy. This can be difficult, because the word "Israel" is sometimes used to designate all 12 tribes such as "all Israel" in Romans 11:26, and sometimes the

House/Kingdom of Israel. When the Bible uses the name “Jacob” to designate the Hebrews it means all the tribes. Similarly, the designation House of David (as in Zechariah 12:10 above) means all 12 tribes, because David’s kingdom was united, before the division caused by his son Solomon’s great sin.

Whenever the Bible addresses the House (or Kingdom) of Israel or the House (or Kingdom) of Judah by name, it is done purposefully and precisely to distinguish it from the other. But there is potential for additional confusion in that sometimes each House/Kingdom is designated by it’s capital: i.e. Jerusalem (for Judah) or Samaria (for Israel). And sometimes the House/Kingdom is designated by it’s leading tribe: Judah or Ephraim. Thus it is often necessary to search the context to know which entity is being addressed, but that is an important exercise.

In the next section we will study this little-recognized aspect of Biblical teaching in greater depth and explore the relationships of the two houses to God, to each other and to the world in light of both history and prophecy.

### **WHO ARE THE JEWS TODAY?**

Modern mainstream Christianity and most Bible versions identify all Hebrews as “Jews,” but that is not entirely accurate. They are correct only in the sense that most self-identified Hebrews are modernly aligned with the House of Judah and its system of Torah-based synagogue worship, and can thus properly be labeled as Jews. But many Hebrews are secular, and others align with Christianity (which we will show in the next section is the House of Israel).

There is an additional factor to consider within Judaism related to the Talmud (the collected commentaries on the Old Testament by Jewish sages) and the degree to which individual Jews and religious factions adhere to those human writings and opinions rather than God’s Torah itself. This distinction was at the root of Christ’s numerous rebukes of the Scribes and Pharisees, and has many parallels in Christian denominations which elevate human traditions and extra-biblical church rules to the status of doctrine, sometimes in contradiction to the Scripture. True Judaism and true Christianity are defined by God’s Word, not the writings or teachings of human beings or institutions, no matter how esteemed.

## **Dangerous Ground**

I want to pause for a moment here and acknowledge that we have now begun to tread some theologically dangerous ground, in the sense that some of the facts and perspectives we will next explore are shared in part by various cults and racist groups. Further, even within authentic Christianity there are deeply entrenched and polarized ideological camps which (at the extremes) either believe the Jews can do no wrong, or alternately that the Jews are behind all of the ills of the world. The truth lies somewhere in the middle.

We will need to take out our scalpels and be prepared to carve the truth away from falsehood very precisely so as not to be misunderstood. Readers who do not possess good reading comprehension and analytical reasoning skills, or who cannot be objective about their prior conclusions, may have difficulty with this materials, so be forewarned. Remember that our loyalty must be to Truth, not doctrines or denominations.

## **JEWES WHO ARE NOT JEWS**

*“I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan”*  
(Revelation 2:9).

Clearly, the Bible warns that some who call themselves Jews are not. This is not to say that non-Hebrews cannot become Jews through conversions, as noted in Easton’s Bible Dictionary (under proselyte):

"The law of Moses made specific regulations regarding the admission into the Jewish church of such as were not born Israelites ( Exodus 20:10 ; 23:12 ; Exodus 12:19 Exodus 12:48 ; Deuteronomy 5:14 ; Deuteronomy 16:11 Deuteronomy 16:14 , etc.). The Kenites, the Gibeonites, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites were thus admitted to the privileges of Israelites...[I]n New Testament times, we read of [Jewish] proselytes in the synagogues ( Acts 10:2 Acts 10:7 ; Acts 13:42; Acts 13:43; Acts 13:50, 17:4 ; 18:7; Luke 7:5 ). The 'religious proselytes' here spoken of were proselytes of righteousness, as distinguished from proselytes of the gate...the 'proselytes of the gate' (half proselytes) were not required to be circumcised nor to comply with the Mosaic ceremonial law. They were bound only to conform to the so-called seven precepts of Noah, viz., to abstain from idolatry, blasphemy, bloodshed, uncleanness, the eating of blood, theft, and to yield obedience to the

authorities...abstain from work on the Sabbath, and to refrain from the use of leavened bread during the time of the Passover. The 'proselytes of righteousness', religious or devout proselytes ( Acts 13:43 ), were bound to all the doctrines and precepts of the Jewish economy, and were members of the synagogue in full communion"<sup>2</sup>

[Note that even in this dictionary entry the word “Jewish” is used to identify all Hebrews and Hebrew culture, even regarding events that predate the existence of the House of Judah or nation of Judea.]

Importantly, some people were (temporarily or permanently) forbidden, due to race or circumstances of birth, from full conversion.

*“No one who is emasculated or has his male organ cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD. No one of illegitimate birth [a “Mamzer”] shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall enter the assembly of the LORD. No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of the LORD... You shall not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother; you shall not detest an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land. The sons of the third generation who are born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 23:1-8).*

The term “assembly of the Lord” means the population of legally acceptable marriage partners. Thus the grandchildren of half-proselyte Edomites (descendants of Esau) and Egyptians could become full proselytes and marry full-blooded Hebrews. However, a *Mamzer*, meaning a person of illegitimate birth could never become a full proselyte, thus every Ammonite and Moabite was permanently excluded because these two nations were established through the incestuous, and therefore illegitimate, union of Lot and his two daughters, respectively. However, scholars have noted that this rule did not apply to females, and thus Ruth, a Moabite is found in the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth, our Lord.

Marriage was also forbidden with any descendants of Canaan, the grandson of Noah who established the demon-worshipping religions of the post-flood world:

*“When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations\* greater and mightier than thou ; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. **For they will turn away thy son from***

*following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly* (Deuteronomy 7:1-4). [\*These seven tribes are all ethnically Canaanite though they are identified here by different tribal affiliations.]

Importantly, this prohibition seems to be related more to Canaanite idolatry and its destructive social and spiritual consequences than to bloodline. There isn't enough detail in the Scriptural context of the incidents mentioning Hebrew/Canaanite intermarriage in Genesis 24:3; 26:34; 27:46; 28:8 to assert this conclusion definitively. But these were all prior to the giving of the Torah through Moses when the rules regarding both intermarriage and idolatry were more clearly codified. However, in every mention of the marriage ban or its violation *after* the giving of the Torah, the justification for the ban is expressly linked to Canaanite idolatry, defined by human sacrifice and sexual perversion (see Leviticus 18, especially v. 24-28).

Interestingly, this Canaanite demon-worship was also adopted by the Moabites and Ammonites per Numbers 25:1-3 and 1 Kings 11:5-7 and is referenced indirectly in Deuteronomy 23:4 (i.e. Balaam's curse) as the reason for the prohibition on marriage with them (since it was Balaam who advised King Balak to send in Moabite wives to corrupt the Hebrew men -- 2 Peter 2:15).

Thus, in Ezra's purification of the assembly of marriageable Hebrews after the Babylonian exile (in Ezra 9:1-2), the reason given for Ezra's policy -- applying even to Egyptian and Edomite proselytes who were exempted from the ban under Torah law (as to their ethnicity) -- was demon worship.

*“Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, **doing according to their abominations**, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites [all Canaanites by bloodline], the Ammonites, the Moabites [Mamzers], the Egyptians, and the Amorites [scribal error -- Amorites should be Edomites]”* (Ezra 9:1-2).

In other words, it was demon worship by the Egyptians and Edomites that disqualified them from inclusion in the pool of marriageable partners, even though they would otherwise have qualified.

## **BY THEIR FRUIT**

We must now consider who are those *“who say they are Jews but are really of the synagogue of Satan.”* In light of the above, this designation must be based on conduct, not bloodline, since so many authentic “Jews,” including Jesus, have a mixed racial heritage (Ruth was a Moabite, Rahab was a Canaanite).

Now at the time of Christ's earthly ministry until just before John's publication of Revelation, the nation of Judea was ruled by the Herodian Dynasty, under Roman auspices. The Herods were Edomites whose ancestors (along with the entire population of Edom) had been forced to convert to



Judaism about a hundred years earlier. The Herodians, established as the ruling family of Judea by the Romans beginning with Herod the Great, were terribly wicked. Herod began his reign with the slaughter of the Hasmonean (Hebrew) royalty, descendants of the legendary Maccabee family of the Tribe of Judah, which had thwarted the antichrist prototype Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 164BC (Daniel 11). (The Maccabees presided over the rededication of the temple, an event celebrated annually today as Hanukkah). Herod also attempted to kill the infant Christ by slaughtering all the children of and around Bethlehem.

Surely Herod and many of his administration, his family, and successors would deserve the label of False-Jew.

During this entire Herodian period the designation “Jew” was far less indicative of Hebrew origins since it described all of the residents of the then pluralistic nation of Judea, integrated culturally and demographically in the Roman Empire. And even the House of Judah, such as it was, was heavily influenced if not controlled by non-Hebrews (the Herodians).

### **ARE MODERN “JEWS” EVEN JEWS? (YES!)**

These facts have bolstered the claims of various cults and racist groups (both Black and White) whose members insist that they themselves are the “true Jews” while asserting that those identifying themselves as Jews modernly (such as the “Zionists”) are imposters. These racist contenders for the Jewish title (and other adversaries) also cite the influence of Turkish Kazar conversions in the roots of the Ashkenazic Judaism of Europe as evidence that today’s Jews are not really Jews.

However, missing from the debate over these facts is the identity, history and role of the House of Judah, which has always been irreversibly tied to the Torah and measured by faithfulness to its teachings. By that standard, it is clear to see that a core of authentic Judaism survived the Herodians, the Romans, the Turks, the Catholics, the Protestants, the Nazis, et cetera, and exists today in distinct communities around the world, including Israel. And, as in Christianity, persecution has served as a purifying “refiner’s fire” for the faithful, and a powerful motivation for the unfaithful to depart.

Whereas the identification “Jew” might have been confused in the pluralistic Roman-controlled Judea of the early church period (as is true today in Secular-Humanist western societies), frequent and often long-lasting persecution and hardship in the Diaspora largely ensured that only those willing to suffer for their faith would openly claim the label.

Who would claim to be a Jew who wasn’t over most of the past two millennia? I suggest that very few would do so, and in my estimation that is one of the greatest proofs that the House of Judah is composed primarily of authentic Jews today, including both Hebrews of all the tribes of Jacob, as well as non-Hebrew converts and their descendants -- all defined not by their bloodline, but by the

measure of their Torah faithfulness.

As Paul wrote in his Letter to the Romans:

*“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 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. . . . For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one” (Romans 2:28-29; 3:28-30).*

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> We will address that topic more fully in due time but for those who would like to jump ahead, some key insights are provided in Zechariah 12 and 13 (esp 13:9), and Isaiah 59.

<sup>2</sup> (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/proselyte/>).