

## Are the Jews God's chosen people today?

That depends on what you mean by the term "Jew." Paul said, "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God" (Rom 2:28-29).

Recently a nationally known preacher attempted to "smooth over" a statement he made construed by some to be anti-Semitic. He replied to the charge by saying: "I am wholeheartedly pro-Israel and committed to ensuring the State of Israel remain free. The Jews are God's chosen people and we are, as Christians, miraculously connected to them as adopted brethren. ...I honestly believe that, as a Christian, it is my responsibility to honor and revere the people God chose as His own." Is this an accurate assessment of Jewish people and the Christian's relationship to them? What does the Bible say?

The Jews to whom the question refers are the descendants of Abraham. God promised Abraham a son by Sarah his wife named Isaac. Isaac was blessed with a son named Jacob who himself had twelve sons. The sons of Jacob became a great nation just as God promised Abraham (Gen 12:1-3, 22:15-18). The nation was named after Jacob whom God renamed "Israel" (Gen 32). Many years later the inhabitants of the southern portion of Israel were called "Jews."

While it is true, that Abraham and his descendants through Jacob were God's chosen people, it is no longer the case. God's purpose for making Abraham a great nation was to bring Christ into the world. The Law of Moses took care of national Israel "till the Seed should come..." (Gal 3:19). That "Seed" was Christ Jesus (Gal 3:16). Those who belong to Christ are Abraham's seed but are neither Jew nor Greek (Gal 3:16, 29). They are **"a holy nation, His own special people..."** (1 Pet 2:5, 9).

Therefore, to maintain that all Jews everywhere, and particularly those occupying Palestine, are still God's chosen people is to demonstrate a misunderstanding of God's word. It is just not true! God's chosen people today, in the words of an old song, are "elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth." They believe the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16). They answer the call of the gospel through obedient faith (Rom 10:14-15, 6:3-4). They are children of God "through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:26-27).

Such people, as described above, Jesus adds to His church and they compose God's nation today, i.e., "spiritual Israel." Paul said, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal 3:29). Christians then, regardless of physical descent, race, or national origin, are "the Israel of God" (Gal 6:16). These are the true Jews. A physical family lineage is no longer the determining factor of God's chosen race.

Study your Bible and search the Truth. Bible correspondence course available by request. Take a moment to grasp the importance of preparing for eternity. God and His word will help you do just that. Thank you for reading.