

THE HISTORY OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Request: What is our responsibility biblically as American Christians to the nation of Israel?

We will study this request in two parts. The first part will study the history of the naming of the nation of Israel. The second part will study American Christian's biblical responsibility to the nation of Israel.

We will begin by studying our lesson text by the following three homiletical points (2 Cor.11:18-23a).

- Boast (2 Cor.11:18) flesh
- Bear (2 Cor.11:19-20) foolish
- Boldness (2 Cor.11:21-23a) family

In 2 Cor.11:22 –23a, Paul describes his identify with the Jews by four national titles: **“Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so.”**

Today's lesson will study Eight aspects of the history of the Naming the Nation of Israel.

1. The name Israel was conferred upon Jacob by an angel at Peniel (face to face with God) (Gen.32:28) around 2000 BC.

Israel () is derived from the verb () meaning to persist or persevere.

This was the famous wrestling match between the Lord and Jacob (Gen.32:24-32). Jacob limbed away a believer committed to spiritual change (32:31-32).

The name change from Jacob (defiance of OMCD) to Israel (reliance of NMDV) is an important doctrinal concept: “For you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.” (32:28). However, it will take him another 10 years to put off Jacob OMCD and put on Israel NMDV in order to reach ultimate spiritual maturity.

2. The name Israel was nationalized to the 12 sons of Jacob upon entering the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua around 1400 BC (Ex.32:4; Deut.4:1; Josh.3:17- 4:1).

Ephraim and Manasseh were added to the 12 tribes of Israel by Jacob to Joseph on his deathbed (Gen.48:1-6, 20) around 1800 BC.

The tribe of Levi was chosen for worship service (Num.3:5-10; 8:14-19; Num.1:20-49) around 1900 BC. Joseph and Levi were dropped from the original 12.

Levites were mentioned in NT (Luke 10:32).

3. At the death of Saul, a struggle for the throne resulted.

(1000 BC) Ten of the tribes, under leadership of Abner and Ishbosheth took on the name Israel. The remaining two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, under leadership of David took on the name of Judah. (2 Sam.2:8-11; 3:6-16).

King David united the 12 tribes of Israel under a monarchy (2 Sam.2:10-11; 5:1-5) around 1000 BC.

(900 BC) At the death of Solomon, another struggle for the throne resulted. Once again, the ten tribes under the leadership of Jeroboam took on the name Israel and the remaining two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, under the leadership of Rehoboam took on the name of Judah around (1 Kings 11:43; 12:16-20, 25; 2 Kings 17:21).

Jeroboam made Shechem the capitol and apostate religious center (1 Kings 12:25-33).

This is mentioned in the NT (John 4:5, 19-24).

4. In 722 BC, the 10 tribes known as the northern kingdom or Israel went under the fifth cycle of divine discipline to Assyria (2 Kings 17:5-18, 21-23; Deut.28; Hosea 6:4, 7, 10-11).

5. In 586 BC, the 2 tribes known as the southern kingdom or Judah went under the fifth cycle of divine discipline to Babylon (2 Kings 23:27; 24:20; 25:8-12).

The Jews returning from the Babylon captivity were called Israelites (Neh.9:1-2; 11:3-4).

The name Jew was a form of Judean (Est.3:4). The Jewish Esther was a Benjamite (2:5-7, 15).

The name Jew is used this way in the NT (John 4:9; Acts 18:1-2, 24).

6. In the Church Age, the believer is never classified as Jew or Gentile. He is classified as Christian.

(Acts 11:26; Rom.1:16; 2:9-11, 28-29; 9:6-8; 10:12-13; 11:1; 1 Cor.9:19-23; 12:13; Gal.2:14-16; 3:28-29; Phil.3:5; Col.3:11).

In the Church Age, Jews and Gentiles are approached evangelistically as individuals in the world. (Rom.1:16; John 1:10-13, 29, 47; 3:16-18; 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10).