



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE AGE OF ISRAEL

The origin of the Jewish race anticipates an important difference between Israel and the Church. God founded the Jews as new RACIAL SPECIES. In contrast, the Church is the NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES [2 Cor. 5:17]. Only the regenerated Jews were part of that holy and chosen nation, while the Church includes believers of every race and nationality.

The age of the patriarchs ended with the Jews as slaves in Egypt. Moses was born during the age of the patriarchs, but the last 40 years of his life belonged to the next dispensation –the age of Israel. Abraham is the father of the Jewish race, while Moses is the father of the Jewish nation.

God again had begun to deal with man in a new way through the covenants that heralded the founding of the nation of Israel. Israel was appointed as God's client nation, His protected representative on earth to whom He would entrust the human authorship and custodianship of written divine revelation. The Jewish Age is related to the nation of Israel – the center of all human events, while the Lord Jesus Christ is the center of human history. The Jews became a nation when God led them out of Egypt, culminating that transitional age of the patriarchs in which He established the Jewish race.¹

As before, the human race was divided into many languages, cultures, and nations. All four divine institutions remained in effect, namely, volition, marriage, the family and the national entity. And as before, salvation throughout the human history continued to be by faith in Christ as He was revealed.

With the exodus out of Egypt God established Israel as His representative in the world –His missionary agency, His spiritual ambassadors in the corrupted world of human negative volition.

The spiritual heritage of Israel began through the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. A three-generation of faith, which the Jews mentioned in their worship as an expression of their faith toward God- as they offered the Passover lamb that, symbolized the Christ. The nation of Israel was given a divine legacy in writing and was designed to manifest God's character as never before in the history [Deuteronomy 4:6-7, 32-40].

God chose Israel to be a blessing to the entire human race [Genesis 12:2-3 acts 15:17] as the communicators of God's Word. God made Israel the recipient, custodian, and communicator of the written canon of Scripture. The nation of Israel also furnished the human writers of the Old Testament Canon. The history and function of Israel is recorded in the Scripture as an eternal record.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the rejected God of Israel ruled the theocratic kingdom, where there was no division between spiritual and evil [Exodus 3-4, Joshua 5:13-15, 1 Samuel 8:1-15].

¹ See pages 130-131

The code of law for Israel given by God through their leader Moses was designed to communicate the grace of God to mankind through His chosen nation.

The Mosaic Law is a remarkable and strong legal system that defined freedom and its corresponding responsibility for all Israelites in Israel both believers and unbelievers alike. The Law also set forth the precise spiritual ceremonies by which the Jews would worship God.

The Mosaic Law is a comprehensive system of private and public duty in Israel under the immediate rule of God. Many of its provisions echo divine commandments given in the dispensation of the Gentiles while no client nation existed. This is the beginning of Israel from an unchanging Source, God Himself.