

## Links to sites containing information about the history of Christmas:

This site is an encyclopedia that can be edited by anyone. That means that the information in it is more objective and less subjective.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas>

While I do not necessarily like their short article on the actual history of christmas, this site has good information on the symbols of christmas.

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/history/>

This site contains the history of christmas according to the history channel.

<http://www.history.com/minisites/christmas/>

## Who are we?

By Matthew Day

**When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? [Psalms 8:3-4 KJV](#)**

Recently, I took the PSAT test. Before doing the actual test, I had to fill out some information about myself. One of the questions was what is my religion. The answers included Baptist and Quaker and several others that I cannot remember for sure. The point is that, while it included answers for about twenty denominations, none of them included all who believed in Yeshua (Jesus). I had to answer "other." At midrash on Saturday, we talked about a belief called the two-house theory. I won't go into detail about what it is (I am not entirely sure myself), but it has to do with the identity of believers in Yeshua. I have heard of replacement theology and I have heard that God has two people (Believing Gentiles and Jews). WHO ARE WE?

I did a study on the question. I encourage you to do your own studies too.

What are we called?

[2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV](#) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

[Jeremiah 14:9 KJV](#), [Jeremiah 15:16 KJV](#), [Isaiah 43:7 KJV](#), [Deuteronomy 28:10 KJV](#), [Isaiah 43:1 KJV](#)

Israel is called by God's name.

Acts 15:17 KJV That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Amos 9:12 KJV

Isaiah 4:1 KJV And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

Isaiah 44:5 KJV One shall say, I *am* the LORD'S; and another shall call *himself* by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe *with* his hand unto the LORD, and surname *himself* by the name of Israel.

Isaiah 62:2 KJV, Isaiah 65:1 KJV

Some of the Gentiles are called by God's name.

Romans 10:12 KJV For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Ephesians 4:4 KJV *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Colossians 3:15 KJV

God has one people.

From these scriptures, it seems like believers in Yeshua are those that are called by God's name. I'll come back to that last point later (God has only one people).

I have often heard that we are Gentiles. Who are the Gentiles?

Isaiah 49:22 KJV Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

Isaiah 60:5 KJV, Isaiah 60:11 KJV

Jeremiah 16:19 KJV O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and *things* wherein *there is* no profit.

1 Corinthians 12:2 KJV

The Gentiles will come to Israel for truth.

Romans 11:11 KJV I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

The Gentiles are to provoke the Jews to jealousy.

Romans 3:29 KJV *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Romans 3:9 KJV What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

Romans 2:9 KJV, Romans 2:10 KJV

God is God of Jew and Gentile.

Romans 15:9 KJV And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Romans 15:10 KJV And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Romans 15:11 KJV

1 Corinthians 12:13 KJV For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 3:6 KJV That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Galatians 3:14 KJV That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

God has only one people.

So, the Gentiles play a major part in God's plan.

The word Gentile is a translation of the Hebrew words Goy and Nochri. Goy means "nation". Nochri means "foreigner". A Gentile is someone who is not a physical descendant of Jacob. A Jew is a descendant of the tribe of Judah. The words Jew and Gentile are almost opposite!

Yet, Paul said several times that Jew and Gentile were to be treated the same:

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Colossians 3:11 KJV Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

So if the terms Jew, Gentile, and Greek mean almost nothing to those who believe into Yeshua (Jesus) then who are we? Well, the story started with Israel, so let's find out who Israel is.

Romans 9:6 KJV Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Romans 9:27 KJV, Romans 11:7 KJV

Not all Israel is Israel.

Romans 10:19 KJV But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Romans 11:2 KJV God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

Romans 11:25 KJV For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:26 KJV And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

God has not forsaken Israel.

Hebrews 8:8,10 KJV For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

The New Covenant is with Israel and Judah.

Revelation 21:12 KJV And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The new Jerusalem has twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on them.

Most likely, I am not a descendant of Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham. How then can I enter the New Covenant? How then can I enter the New Jerusalem? How can a Gentile enter something that is for Israel? Ruth did it. Let's see how:

Ruth 1:4 KJV And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

Ruth 1:14-18 KJV And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: **for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.** 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Romans 11 helps to explain this. I did not copy it here, so take a moment to read it.

Who are the natural branches? Who are the wild branches? Who is the root? Romans 11:25 explains the first two questions. Revelation 5:5 and 22:16 explain the root.

Yeshua is the root, physical Israel are the natural branches, and the Gentiles are the wild branches. When Ruth said "thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God," she was grafted into the olive tree. She called Israel her people. She became part of God's people, Israel.

I need to clarify something. The Jews of Paul's day had a ritual by which a Gentile could become a proselyte (who is considered as if he was born a Jew). A major part of this ritual was circumcision.

Acts 15:1 KJV And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

The apostle Paul warned the Gentiles coming in NOT to participate in this. This is why he said:

Galatians 5:2 KJV Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

On the other hand, circumcision as an act of obedience is not wrong, for Paul had Timothy circumcised. The problem was doing it to be accepted among the Jews.

Acts 16:3 LITV Paul desired this one to go forth with him, and taking *him* he circumcised him, because of the Jews being in those places. For they all knew his father, that he was a Greek.

Becoming a proselyte is NOT how one joins Israel. It is through faith in Yeshua. It is God who changes names, not a man-made ritual.

My Conclusion: Israel is God's chosen people. God has only one people. Because of my faith in Yeshua, I have joined God's people. This people is Israel. Who am we? We are a part of God's people, Israel, called by His name.

I recommend a book called Fellowheirs by Tim Hegg. It goes into detail about the relationship of the Gentile to Israel.

If you come across anything in your studies that you want to share with me or the newsletter readers, please let me know (But please tell me if you don't want it in the newsletter).

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