




# Hebrew Roots of Our Faith

*New Jerusalem Community Church*

Dr. Bill Morehouse – March 27, 2005





# Chinese Roots of our Faith?

***New Shanghai Community Church***

Shanghai—Chinese Town.

# Home of Yin and Yang, the *I Ching*, Taoism, and the teachings of Confucius



Red Heaven

14/14

# Egyptian Roots of our Faith?

*New Giza Community Church*





An ancient Egyptian wall painting depicting a row of five deities. From left to right: a small figure, a bull-headed deity (likely Khnum) holding a long staff, a deity with a ram's head (likely Amon) holding a staff, a deity with a falcon head (likely Horus) holding a staff, and a deity with a human head (likely Isis) holding a staff. The figures are rendered in a stylized manner with red skin, blue and yellow clothing, and various headdresses. The background is a light-colored wall with some hieroglyphs visible above the figures.

# The City of the Pharaohs

Home of Ra the Sun God, Isis, Amon,  
Osiris, Horus, Sekhmet, Khnum, etc...





# Aztec Roots of our Faith?

## *New Teotihuacan Community Church*





*Former home of Quetzalcoatl,*

*the “Feathered Snake” god who dwelt in the  
Pyramid of the Sun, and his consort Tlazolteotl  
the Earth Goddess and Mother of the Gods...*





An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, showing the Dome of the Rock in the middle ground, surrounded by trees. In the foreground, there is a large cemetery with many white tombstones. The city of Jerusalem is visible in the background, spread across hills.

# Hebrew Roots of Our Faith

*Joy Community Church*



# **Question 1:**

**Where in the world did the roots of our faith start?**

**Answer: In the Middle East – first in the garden of Eden, then Babylon and on into Canaan and what would become the Promised Land, Zion, or Israel.**





“The Holy Land”



Abraham's Migration from Ur  
ca. 20th Cent. B.C.

Route

Hebrew – Descended from Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob (Israel). The language of the Hebrew people.

# Definitions

Mediterranean Sea

Jewish –  
Descended from  
the Tribe of Judah  
or culturally  
related to Judaism.

Church – An aggregation of believers in  
the true God. A building set aside for  
gatherings of believers.





# Saturday, a Jewish holiday?

## News Report:

“The Iraqi government’s decision to make Saturday a day off has sparked much protest as Iraqis object to the observance of what they call the ‘Zionist holiday.’ Many Iraqis went to work on Saturday anyway, saying they did not want to rest on the day when the Jews rest. They are demanding that the additional day off be Thursday instead.”

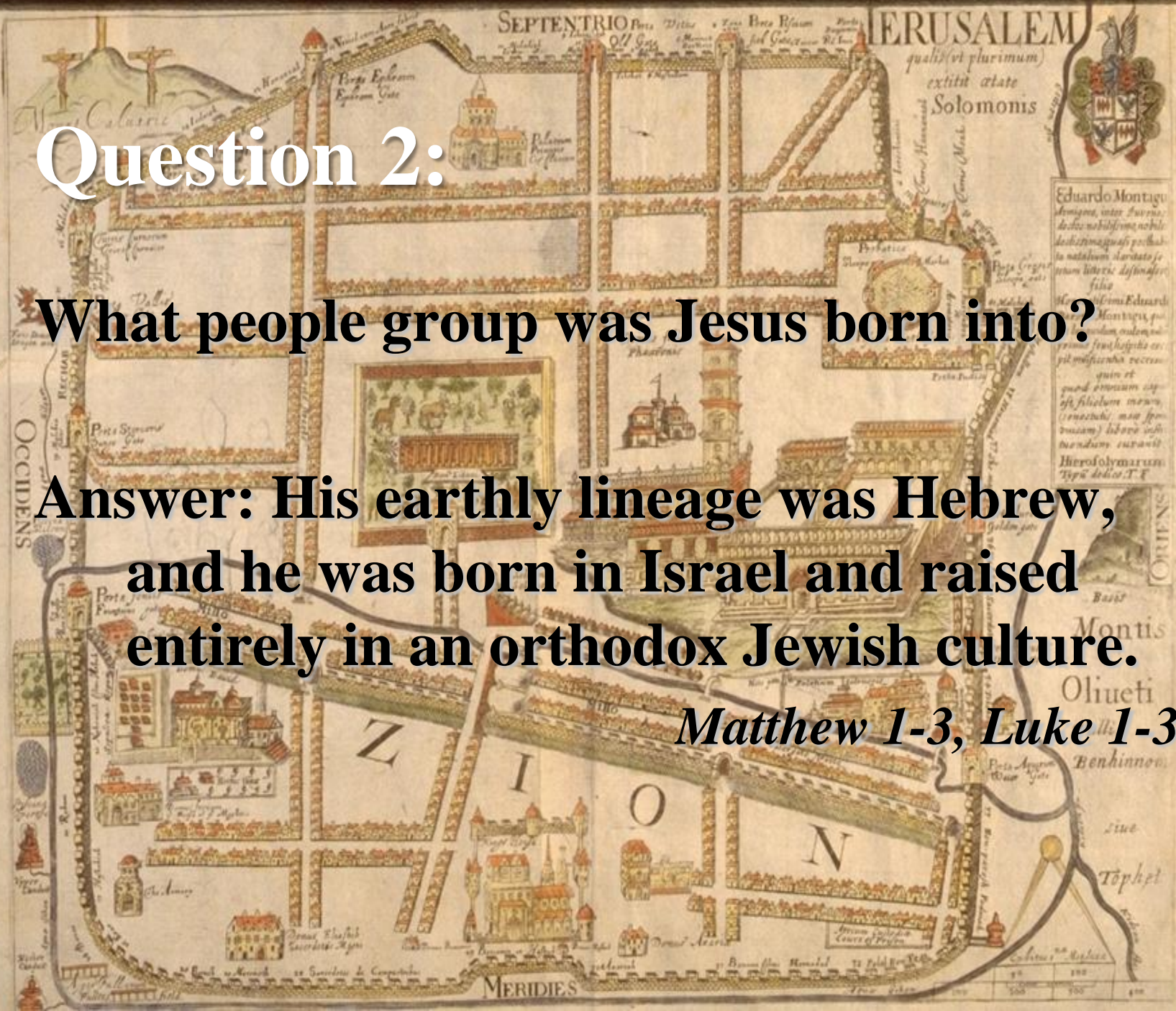


# Question 2:

**What people group was Jesus born into?**

**Answer: His earthly lineage was Hebrew, and he was born in Israel and raised entirely in an orthodox Jewish culture.**

*Matthew 1-3, Luke 1-3*





The background of the slide is a photograph of an open, antique book. The pages are heavily aged, showing a deep brown or tan color with visible texture and some staining. The text on the pages is written in a cursive script, likely Hebrew, and is arranged in multiple columns per page. The book is open, showing two pages on the left and two on the right, with a central gutter where the pages are bound.

## **Question 3:**

**How many of the books of the Bible were written by Hebrew/Jewish authors?**

**Answer: 64 out of 66, all but the 2 written by Luke. The entire Old Testament was written in Hebrew.**



## **Question 4:**

**What is the Biblical organization of God's chosen people?**

**Answer: The Bible always describes it either as a living plant (a tree, vine, or shrub) or a building with foundations (Christ being the chief cornerstone), but never as a pyramid.**



# An Olive Tree or Vine

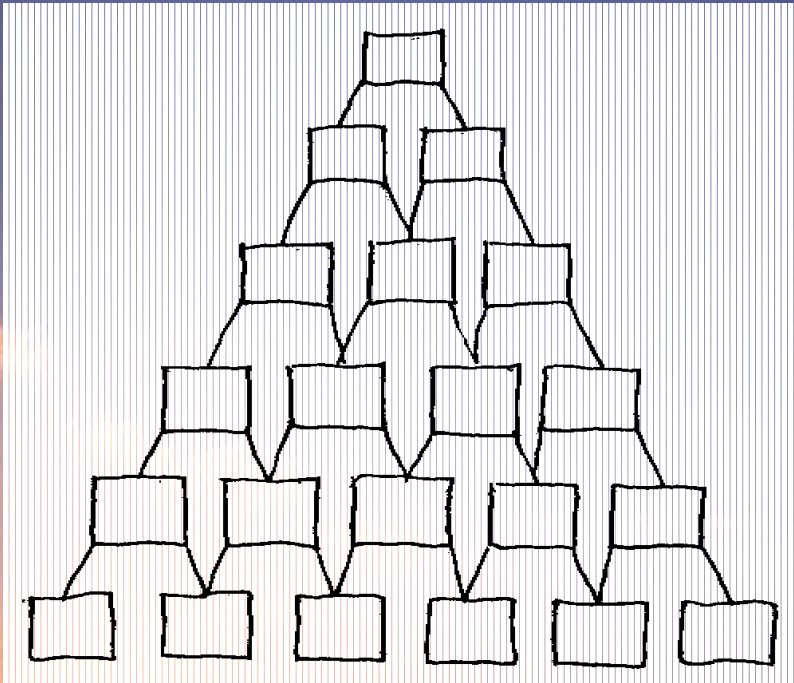
- Leaves
- Fruit-bearing branches
- Structural limbs
- Trunk
- Roots





# A Pyramidal Structure

Rough Organization



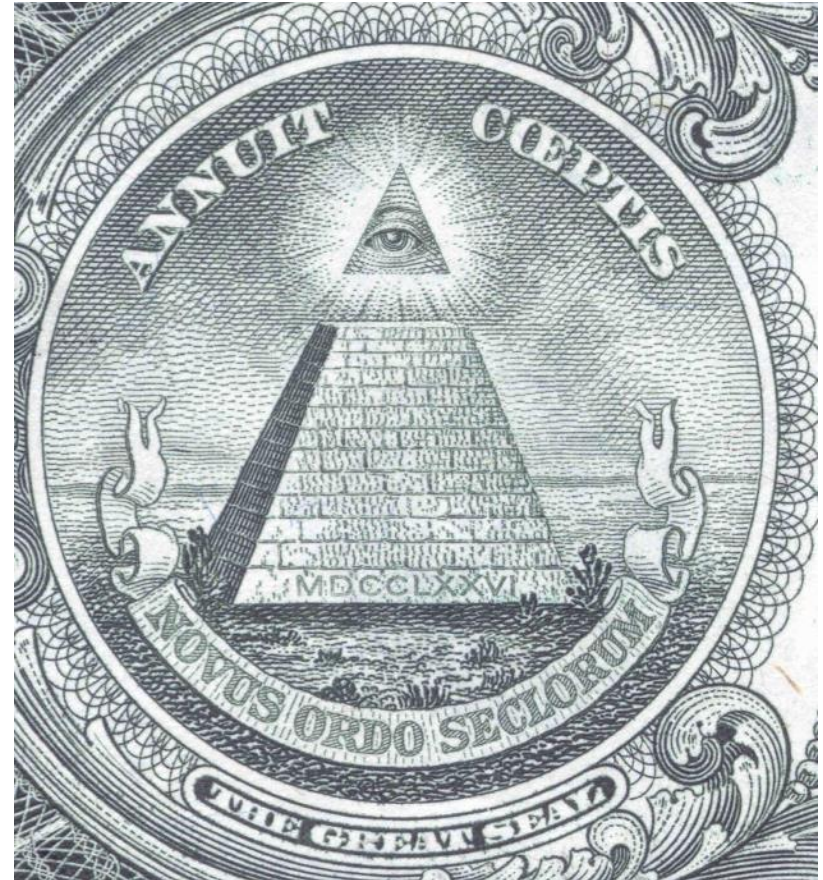
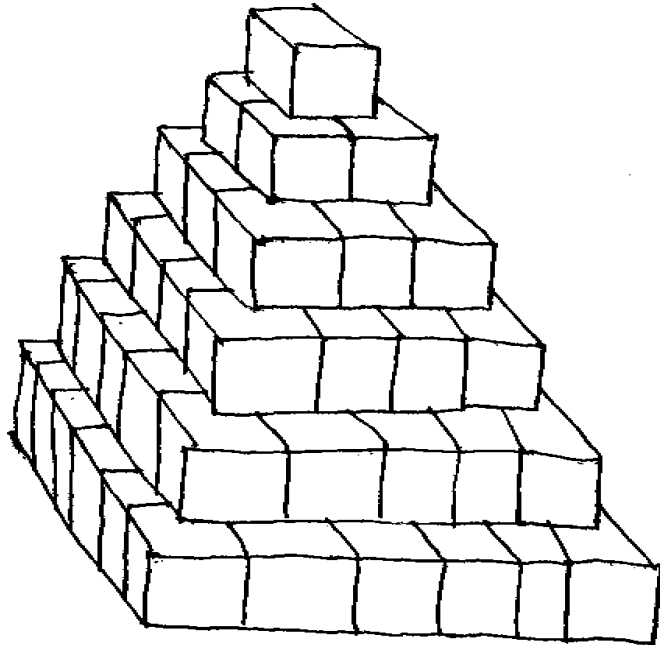
A Hierarchy

- King, Pharaoh, Pope
- Satraps, Cabinet members, Cardinals
- Governors, Archbishops
- Mayors, Bishops
- Councilmen, Ministers
- Citizens, Lay people
- Misfits, unwashed



# A couple of pyramid drawings

Pyramid depth detail





## Question 5:

**How did Luke, along with the rest of us Gentiles and our Western Civilization, get so involved in such a tiny Jewish religion?**

**Answer: We were wooed by the Holy Spirit, won by Christ, and grafted, contrary to nature, like wild olive branches into a tree that God had been cultivating for millennia. *Romans 11:24***

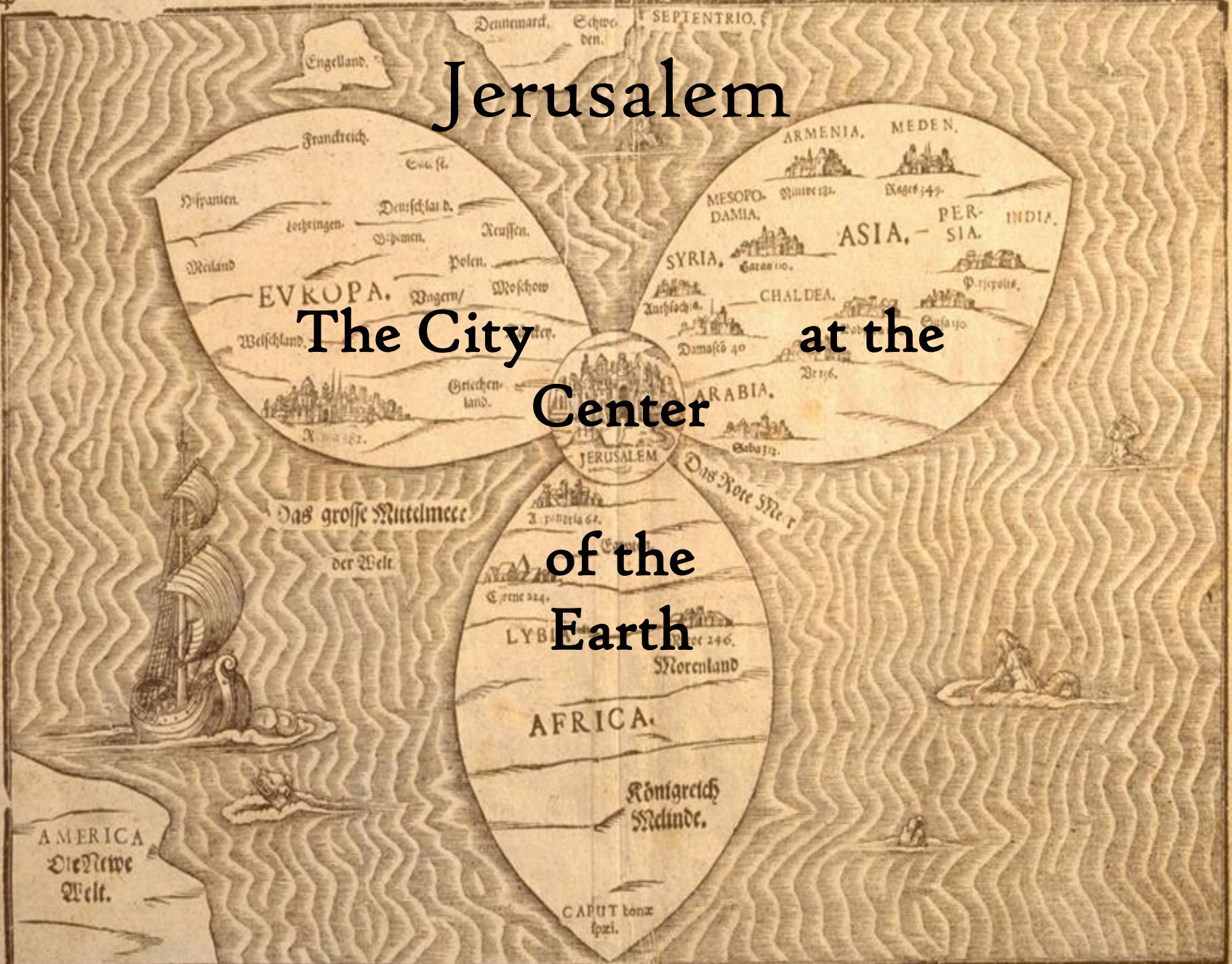


Jerusalem

The City  
at the  
Center  
of the  
Earth

OCCIDENT.

OCCIDENT.





# **Different or Overlapping Terms?**

- **Israel, Zion (people, place)**
- **The Ecclesia, Church (people, place)**
- **God's Chosen People (then and now)**
- **The Kingdom of God (governance)**
- **The Body of Christ (cohesion, function)**
- **The Bride of Christ (role, destination)**
- **The Kingdom of Heaven (here and there)**



# The People of God

- Chosen by God, the elect
- Called out of the world, consecrated
- Called together for edification, equipping
- Given provision, land and property
- Sent forth into to world to call others
- Destined for heaven



# Who will be in heaven?

- People in the Old Testament? Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David?

*Hebrews 11 list of O.T. “Saints” and others*

- People in the New Testament? Gospel writers, Peter, Paul, and Mary?

*Multiple lists of names throughout the N.T.*

- People not mentioned in either Testament? Augustine, Francis, Luther, Calvin, PT?

*Lists of “Saints” and “nonsaints,” martyrs, and others*

**The Lamb's Book of Life**



# What does it take?

- Faith in God and in His finished work –  
“Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

*Gen. 15.6; Rom. 4.3,9; Gal. 3.6; James 2.23*

- Faith grafts us into His family (His cultivated olive tree, His Vine), gives us tickets into His Kingdom in Heaven, and makes us part of His Kingdom on earth.





# How do Israel and the Church fit in?

God knows  
His own.

- Those members of each who have genuine faith in the Living God, Jews and Gentiles alike, have both been grafted into one body as a witness to the world and are destined for heaven together.



# Cross = Filter

*“Hermeneutical Lens”*

Change

Remain

Amplified

Pt. of Termination





# New Testament Church of Acts

- Mixed, mostly Jewish
- Continued to observe Sabbath and Feasts
- Taught from “Old Testament” Scriptures
- Decentralized with itinerant ministry



# Replacement Theology

## Israel

- High Priest
- Hierarchy of Priests
- Vestments, rituals
- Circumcision
- Altar for Old Sacrifices
- Mosaic Law, Works
- System for Atonement
- Patriarchs, examples
- Old Feasts & Holy Days
- Jerusalem
- Tradition

## The Church?

- Pope (or other)
- Hierarchy of Ministers
- Vestments, rituals
- Infant Baptism
- Altar for New Sacrifices
- Canon Law, Works
- Penance, Indulgences
- “Saints”
- New Feasts & Holy Days
- Rome (or other)
- Tradition



# Replacement Holy Days

## Israel

- Sabbath (7<sup>th</sup>)
- Passover (Pesach)
- Shavuot (Weeks)
- Succoth (Booths)
- Rosh Hashanah
- Hanukkah
- Various events

## The Church?

- Sunday (1<sup>st</sup>)
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Not replaced?
- New Year's Day
- Christmas
- Various Saints' Days



# What happens when the Church *replaces* Israel?

- 1) The Church becomes arrogant and self-centered.
- 2) It boasts against the Jews and Israel.
- 3) It devalues the role of Israel or has no role for Israel at all.
- 4) These attitudes result in anti-Semitism in word and deed.

# What happens when the Church *replaces* Israel?

- 5) Without a place for Israel and the Jewish people today, you can't explain Bible prophecies, especially the very specific ones being fulfilled in Israel today.
- 6) Many New Testament passages don't make sense when the Jewish people are replaced by the Church.
- 7) You can lose the significance of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament, for today.



# What happens when the Church *replaces* Israel?

- 8) You can lose the Hebraic/Judaic context of the New Testament, which teaches us more about Jesus/Yeshua and how to become better disciples.
- 9) The Church loses out on the opportunity to participate in God's plan and prophecy for the Church and Israel in the world today.





# What happens when the Church *relates* to Israel?

- 1) The Church takes its proper role in God's redemptive plan for the world, appreciating God's ongoing covenant relationship and love for Israel and the Jewish people.
- 2) We can see the consistency of God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation as an ongoing complementary process, not as disconnected snapshots.
- 3) We show love and honor for God's covenant people, not contempt.



# What happens when the Church *relates* to Israel?

- 4) We value the Old and New Testaments as equally inspired and significant for the Church today.
- 5) Bible prophecy makes sense for today and offers opportunities for involvement in God's plan for Israel.
- 6) We become better disciples of Jesus/Yeshua as we are able to appreciate the Hebraic/Judaic roots that fill in the definitions, concepts, words and events in the New Testament that are otherwise obscured.



An aerial photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The pyramids are visible in the lower right corner, surrounded by desert sand and some smaller structures. In the upper left and center, several fighter jets, including F-16s and F-15s, are flying in formation. The sky is clear and blue. The text "Wanted: Roots" is overlaid in the upper center.

Wanted: Roots

Dead?





or Alive?