The Invention of the Jewish People: Examining Genealogy, History, and Faith

Introduction

In a time when tradition is often embraced without scrutiny, many teachings embedded within Christian theology—especially in dispensationalist and evangelical circles—deserve renewed examination. One such claim is that the Jewish people today are the direct, unbroken descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and are therefore the legitimate ethnic continuation of biblical Israel. This belief has significantly influenced modern prophecy teaching, political policy, and evangelical support for the state of Israel.

But is this narrative historically, genetically, or biblically sound?

This exhaustive analysis draws upon the work of Jewish historian Shlomo Sand (*The Invention of the Jewish People*), Josephus, modern Jewish scholars, and Scripture (KJV) to examine the claim of modern Jewish identity in relation to ancient Israel. The purpose is not to demean any group but to pursue truth and confront longstanding myths that affect Christian doctrine, biblical interpretation, and geopolitical alliances.

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1. The Zionist Influence on

Christian Prophecy

The publication of the *Scofield Reference Bible* in the early 20th century marked a significant turning point in how many Christians interpreted prophecy. Cyrus I. Scofield, with help from Zionist-influenced scholars such as A.C. Gaebelein, incorporated marginal notes that elevated ethnic Jews as God's eternal covenant people, irrespective of belief in Christ.

This view, called **dispensationalism**, taught that the Jews' return to Palestine was a prophetic fulfillment and a sign of the imminent rapture. The idea was that the modern state of Israel, formed in 1948, fulfilled promises made to Abraham. However, this idea depends entirely on the assumption that modern Jews are genealogically linked to biblical Israelites—a claim deeply questioned by both scholars and Scripture.

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2. Scriptural Insight (KJV): Who Is a True Jew?

The Bible itself refutes the idea that being a "Jew" is merely about bloodline. Paul wrote:

> ***Romans 2:28-29***
> *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly… But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit…"*

Jesus addressed imposters directly:

> ***Revelation 2:9***
> *"…I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."*

> ***Revelation 3:9***
> *"…which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet…"*

Jesus and John the Baptist recognized false Israelite claims:

> ***Matthew 3:9***
> *"And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."*

These Scriptures destroy the idea that biological descent is the determining factor of who constitutes God's people.

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3. Modern Jewish Disbelief in the Old Testament

Ironically, many modern Jewish historians do not even accept the literal truth of the Old Testament they are supposedly descended from. Shlomo Sand notes:

> *"The famous conquest of Canaan… never actually happened… The supposed Israelite conquest occurred when Egypt ruled the land—yet no Egyptian document records it."*

He and others point out that key biblical events—such as the Exodus, David's kingdom, and Solomon's Temple—are seen as national myths. Israel Jacob Yuval stated that much of Jewish history was created not from historical fact but from liturgical and theological need.

Thus, many who claim a return to ancient Israel's promises **do not even believe in ancient Israel's foundational texts**.

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4. Proselytism and the Multi-Ethnic Roots of Jewish Identity

From the Hasmonean era onward, Jewish identity became increasingly defined by **religious adoption rather than lineage**. One of the most telling examples is the forced Judaization of the **Edomites** (Idumeans):

> ***Josephus, Antiquities 13.9.1***
> *"Hyrcanus… subdued all the Idumeans, and permitted them to stay… if they would circumcise… and make use of the laws of the Jews. And they were so desirous… that they submitted… and henceforth they were no other than Jews."*

Herod the Great was a descendant of these Edomites.

Judaism also spread via proselytism:

- **North Africa**: Berber tribes embraced Judaism.
- **Arabia**: The Himyarite kingdom adopted Jewish laws.
- **Europe**: Converts became Jews by religion, not by blood.

These converts' descendants eventually identified as Jews, yet had no genetic link to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob.

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5. The Khazar Kingdom and the Birth of Ashkenazi Jewry

One of the most controversial but well-documented historical realities is the **conversion of the Khazar Empire** to Judaism

around the 8th century.

> *King Joseph of Khazaria (quoted in correspondence):*
> *“We are of the sons of Japheth and of his son Togarmah.”*

He does **not** claim descent from Shem or Abraham.

Arthur Koestler, in *The Thirteenth Tribe*, documents how after the collapse of Khazaria, these people migrated into Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and Germany—becoming the **Ashkenazi Jews** who today comprise over 80% of world Jewry.

Kevin Brook, *The Jews of Khazaria*, and Shlomo Sand also affirm this historical reality.

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6. Suppression of the Khazar Past for Zionist Legitimacy

Shlomo Sand argues that the **Khazar connection was deliberately omitted** from Jewish education and Israeli history:

> *“There was anxiety about the legitimacy of the Zionist project… If it became widely known that the Jews were not direct descendants of ancient Israelites, it would undermine their right to return.”*

Thus, a **mythical genealogy** was upheld to **secure political legitimacy**.

Modern ministries, unaware or complicit, have built entire support movements around this false history, extracting billions from Christian donors.

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7. Supporting Works and Scholars

Several Jewish and secular scholars support the idea that Jewish identity today is a **religious-cultural phenomenon**, not an ethnic bloodline:

- **David Goldberg**, *Jewish Chronicle* (2009):”No one today, unless a simpleton, believes that all Jews are descended in an unbroken chain from Abraham…”
- **Isaac Asimov**, *It’s Been a Good Life*:”Many Eastern European Jews are descended from Khazars… I may be one of them—who knows, and who cares?”
- **Arthur A. Cohen**, *The Myth of the Judeo-Christian Tradition*
- **Dr. Gary North**:”There is no such thing as a Judeo-Christian tradition.”

These voices help dismantle the illusion of a continuous ethnic Jewish people.

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8. Jesus, John the Baptist, and the False Claimants

Jesus and John the Baptist regularly rebuked the religious leadership of their day, recognizing that many were **not true Israelites**.

> ***John 8:39-44***
> *“If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham… Ye are of your father the devil…”*

> ***Matthew 23:33***
> *“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”*

They were the religious elite, but they were not of true Israel—demonstrating that **lineage does not equate to covenant standing**.

Who Is the True Israel of God?

Scripture redefines Israel in the light of Christ:

> ***Galatians 3:28-29***
> *“There is neither Jew nor Greek… ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs…”*

> ***Philippians 3:3***
> *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit…”*

The **true Israel** is not based on genealogy but on faith. It is the **body of Christ**, comprised of all believers.

Conclusion: Let Us Return to Truth

The idea that modern Jews are the unbroken genetic line from ancient Israel is a myth—crafted by nationalism, theology, and political expediency. This myth has deeply influenced Christian prophecy and missions, diverting funds, attention, and doctrine away from biblical truth.

> ***Hosea 4:6***
> *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…”*

> ***John 8:32***
> *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

It is time for Christians to reject tradition and embrace Scripture. Truth is not determined by popularity but by the Word of God. As believers, we must pursue knowledge, seek understanding, and test all things by the Scriptures.

> ***Proverbs 4:7***
> *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”*

May the truth set you free.

Appendix: Responses to Common Objections

Objection 1: “It doesn’t matter.”

Response: Truth always matters. Jesus warned the churches about those who falsely claim to be Jews (Revelation 2:9, 3:9). Misidentifying Israel leads to false doctrine and misplaced loyalty. We are called to “prove all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Objection 2: “I can’t do anything about it.”

Response: Every believer is accountable for what they do with

truth. We can choose not to support false teaching, teach our families, and share the truth with others. That's not nothing—it's obedience (Ezekiel 33:6).

Objection 3: "It doesn't affect me."

Response: False doctrine always has consequences. It affects how Christians view prophecy, how ministries raise funds, and even how nations set foreign policy. If it draws us away from Christ and toward false expectations, it most certainly affects us.

Objection 4: "God has a future plan for Israel" (meaning the modern state).

Response: Yes, God has a plan—but it's through Christ. The New Testament defines Israel spiritually, not geopolitically (Romans 9:6; Galatians 3:29). The promises of God are fulfilled in Christ and extended to all who believe—not a secular state.

> ***Romans 9:6*** *– "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel."*
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> ***Galatians 6:15-16*** *– "…a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."*

Objection 5: "But didn't God promise the land to Israel forever?"

Response: Yes, God did promise the land—but under the **Old Covenant**, which was conditional upon obedience (Deuteronomy 28). That covenant **ended** with the coming of Christ and the establishment of the **New Covenant** (Hebrews 8:6–13).

> ***Galatians 3:18***

> *“For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.”*

> ***Matthew 21:43***
> *“The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”*

Jesus declared that the physical inheritance was no longer the basis of God’s kingdom—the kingdom is now **in Christ** and **not of this world** (John 18:36).

Objection 6: “But Romans 11 says ‘all Israel shall be saved.’”

Response: Romans 11:26 must be understood **in context**. Paul is speaking of a **spiritual Israel**, as he clarifies earlier:

> ***Romans 9:6***
> *“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.”*

“All Israel” in Romans 11:26 refers to the **fullness of God’s elect**, both Jew and Gentile, who come to Christ. It is not a prophecy about a future national conversion or political state.

> ***Romans 11:23***
> *“And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in…”*

God’s promise is to **those who believe**, not to a geopolitical entity.

Objection 7: “But the Jews are still God’s chosen people.”

Response: Under the Old Covenant, yes. But under the New

Covenant, the only chosen people are those who are **in Christ**:

> ***1 Peter 2:9***
> *“But ye are a chosen generation… that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness…”*

> ***Galatians 3:7***
> *“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”*

No one is chosen simply by ethnic identity or genealogy anymore. God’s covenant people are now the **Church**, the body of believers.

Objection 8: “You sound anti-Semitic for questioning Jewish identity.”

Response: Exposing false doctrine is not hatred—it is love for the truth. This is not about ethnicity; it is about **historical and biblical accuracy**. Even Jewish scholars like Shlomo Sand, Arthur Koestler, and David Goldberg raise these same questions. Jesus Himself rebuked those who falsely claimed to be Jews (Revelation 2:9, 3:9).

True love warns of deception. We are called to **speak the truth in love** (Ephesians 4:15) and to **expose the works of darkness** (Ephesians 5:11).