

The Israel of God

**By
Wayne Shelton**

I want to talk a little bit about our mind: how we understand things in our natural mind. The Bible says the carnal mind is enmity with God. So if the carnal mind is the ruler, guess what? He's going to come in and be against God because that's what he is. So we don't need any carnality. But the Lord spoke in me and said, 'This is not My country, speaking of the United States.' You know God's people: and I hear them all the time talking about 'this country' and the rule that has come upon the land recently. There's been other rules that have been just as bad: at least just as bad, if not worse. And the Lord spoke in me: if this was His, do you really believe this would be happening? If this was His land: if America was His country.

So why then do we want to teach God's people this is God's country. I know we should vote because physically we are in America. But why then do we want to teach God's people – who are of another city, who are of another country that this is God's country? Why do we want to teach them that? We want 'God's Country' to manifest itself in this country, but we need to realize what God's Country is. And I'm telling you, it seems like very few preachers understand it. There are some who have this understanding, but when you get into the 'mainstream ministry', they want to take people back to that piece of earth in the Middle East and

walk where Jesus walked, and tell them they are going to 'The Holy Land', and they are on 'Holy Ground', and so on and so forth.

But without allowing the people to know you are The Seed of Abraham. You are Abraham's Seed! And if you are Abraham's Seed, you are in The Holy Land, you are The Holy People. It moved from the natural to the Spirit. And so many want to see things stay in the natural, or confuse them by keeping part of them in the natural, and part of them in the Spirit. Selective – we'll select what is and what isn't. Right? But you are The Seed. It's important to understand this, folks.

In **Romans 9: 1**, *"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. 6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also*

had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.” They are not all Israel, which are of Israel. We’re going to get back into “The Glory”, but I want you to see this. The children of the Spirit are the children.

Turn to **John 3:1**, *“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:”* What was Nicodemus? A ruler of the Jews. **Verse 2**, *“The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God...”* Why did he come at night? He didn’t want to be seen! It typifies darkness, but he didn’t want to be seen. But who is he? See a lot of people miss this. He was a man of the Pharisees. So he came to Jesus and he called Him Teacher. **Verse 2**, *“The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”* So Nicodemus recognized, You are a Man of God. **Verse 3**, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth,*

and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?” He’s a teacher of the Pharisees and he says how can this be? Verse 10, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?” In other words, aren’t you a teacher of Israel and you don’t know this?

But what The Lord said to me so strong sometime back is this is a doctrine right here taught in practically every “Born Again” denomination on the earth: you must be Born Again. Good doctrine - and it’s taught in Baptist circles, Pentecostal circles, Apostolic circles – you go down the line. It’s taught. Maybe some of the Methodists and Presbyterians – I don’t know, but it’s taught. You must be Born of the Spirit of God to enter The Kingdom of God. But one thing that jumped out at me sometime back was Nicodemus was a Jew! Jesus was speaking to one of the rulers, teachers of the Jews, and says you – Jew - must be Born Again to enter The Kingdom of God! Now these people thought they had The Kingdom of God! They were waiting for God to restore The Kingdom back to them, were they not? What was The Kingdom of God on the earth? What was it by your Bible? It was Israel. Israel when they were in their good standing: when their house was set up and the Kings were walking in the order of the Lord - they were The Kingdom of God on the earth!

And they were waiting because they’ve heard the Prophets prophesy. They’re waiting for a day that God will restore again The Kingdom to Israel. They are waiting. And here

comes Nicodemus – a teacher of the Jews, of the Pharisees, to Jesus and says You’ve got to be of God for what You were doing. So he recognizes He’s of God: you’ve got to be of God. And what does Jesus tell him? You must be Born Again to enter this Kingdom! This is not a flesh Kingdom: this isn’t coming the same way. This is coming on the earth in a New way. Right? It’s a New way: never been done this way before; not like the type and shadow. And we’ve talked a lot about the type and shadow. I preached a lot of this type and shadow. Isaac – the type and shadow. You can look at **Genesis 15: 1-5**. God is dealing with Abraham. **Genesis 17:1-9** and **15-19**. **Genesis 21:1-4**; **Genesis 32:24-30**, and then **Exodus 4:21 – 33**.

So God comes to Abraham in the Scriptures, and I’ve ministered this for years – on The Seed of God. And He tells Abraham unto thy Seed will I give this land. And He also tells Abraham that He’s going to make an Everlasting Covenant with this Seed. And the Seed that He’s going to make it in is Isaac because Abraham takes this and says if I die is Eliezer, my steward going to be my heir because Abraham is old. God says no – not this one. Abraham, this isn’t the heir. So time goes on and he still doesn’t have his son, he still doesn’t have his Seed. So Sarah comes to him and says here Abraham is my handmaid, my servant. Take her and have the Seed. And Abraham does it! He does it through his own works. He thinks he can do his own works and produce the Works of God! It’s a type of what goes on in the Church. We think we’re going to do our own thing and produce His Works. What does God say? God appears to him again and says, “Unto thy seed will I give this land.” And Abraham says, “Oh that Ishmael may live here: that

Ishmael may be thy Seed!” What does God say? No, this isn’t the one. He says because I’m going to come, and when I come Sarah is going to have a son, and you’re going to call his name Isaac, and **this** is going to be My Seed in all the earth.

So Isaac comes through the Work of God! He didn’t just come to Sarah and Abraham. Not only was Sarah barren, but now she’s well past the age of having children. She’s barren and she’s past the age, so God is making it known this is My people. I performed this Work. And so He brings up a people in the earth to be His, and He calls them “Israel.” Who calls them Israel? He does! That’s what **Genesis 32** is. It is Jacob wrestling with the Lord, and God calls him Israel, The Prince of God. And then God tells Moses to go tell Pharaoh, “*Israel is my son.*” In other words, God has birthed a nation. God has made a people. This one is natural. This one ultimately came through Abraham and Sarah, but God did it. So He made a people on the earth that Christ came out of. So Christ comes out of this people: Christ comes out of the Israel of God upon the earth. “*Israel is my son, even my firstborn.*” (**Exodus 4: 22**)

So we read the story of Jesus and when Jesus was born Joseph and Mary never named Him. “*Thou shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.*” (**Matthew 1:21**) So here in this Son He’s fulfilling all the Work that He did inasmuch as Jesus had to come out of particular places – did He not? Did He not have to go down into Egypt? He had to fulfill the Old Testament. “*Out of Egypt have I called my son.*” So Jesus goes down to Egypt because Old Testament Israel had been in Egypt and was

called out. What were they called out to? To serve The Lord! To be a people unto God – Called out! And isn't it amazing, that's what the EKKLESIA - The Church means? The Called Out! It doesn't mean the building you meet in on Sunday. It means "The Called Out" of God. "*Out of Egypt have I called my son.*" He called out the Church of The Living God: Called out to God through Christ. That's what The Church is!

I hear this inside and I get loud, and sometimes I even sound mean because I hear it, and I'm not mean at all. Sometimes I listen to myself on the CDs and I go – Oh! because I hear it. I'm hearing it. I'm standing here this morning hearing The Voice of God speak in me. "*Israel is my son. Out of Egypt have I called.*" He called! Who calls? He called. And it's not a mistake that it's called the EKKLESIA. But see, this should be in the hearts of His people. In other words His people should understand it. His people should live in the knowledge of it: dwell in the knowledge of it: not in the knowledge of something else. They should literally dwell in the knowledge of this Word that is in them: this Living Word that is alive, that is speaking in your heart you should be living in. It's not a word like Moses' word on the outside – on a stone. It's a Word – where at? In you! Inside – that you KNOW! I try to say sometimes it's not okay that we don't know. It's not okay, because He put His Word in US – to know!

We should fall down on our face and say, 'God, show me Your Word! I want to reverence You, Father. Show me Your Word, and Yours only! My God, let me speak Your Word and Yours only.' That's what should be the cry of our heart.

And whether we're in the midst of 20;100;5,000;10,000 – it doesn't matter. Let me speak and declare Your Word! Not mine, because that's what you put in me, Father. Let me know it, and I can know it because You've given me Your Spirit that I might know all things, and I believe Your Word. I believe I have The Mind of Christ that You can instruct me. I believe You can make me know because I have Your Spirit. Hallelujah – my God! So yeah, I get worked up with this because I hear it. I hear it, and when you hear The Spirit of God speak it should work you up! It shouldn't be ... oh well. It should work you up!

But now I want to read you **Genesis 17** and then we're going to turn over to **Galatians 3**. **Genesis 17: 1**, *"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. 3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, 4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. 9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant*

therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. **10** This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.”

Now **Verse 15**, “And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. **16** And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. **17** Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? **18** And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! **19** And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.” Now flip with me to years later. **Galatians 3:13**, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” So He becomes the curse – right? Why? That... **Verse 14**, “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. **15** Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. **16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

So when you go back and read about “The Seed” naturally it gets its fulfillment in Isaac. It goes into Jacob: Jacob’s

name becomes Israel. And the whole nation takes on his identity. They all become known as Israel. They take on his identity. Israel is my son – that is the identity they take on: to be a son unto God, to be a people unto God. But here it comes. Here Christ is the fulfillment of this Seed! “And to thy seed, which is **Christ**.” So here it comes. **Galatians 3: 17**, “*And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. 18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*” He didn’t give it to him by works. **Verse 19**, “*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's*

seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Heirs to the Promise. Now one thing: did He give it to Abraham before he was circumcised or after? **Romans 4:3**, *“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. 9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: 12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.”*

And you can continue to read here **Verse 13**, *“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be*

heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: **15** *Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.* **16** *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,* **17** *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”* And I see in that **Genesis 17**. Abraham received the promise of the Covenant in uncircumcision – before The Law was given. That’s what **Galatians 3** says: the Covenant before in Christ. What Covenant was “before in Christ”? The Covenant of Faith! That whosoever calleth on the name of the Lord shall be saved. That’s what was being shown in Abraham: that Abraham was called righteous. Why? Because he believed God. He believed God. And The Law was 430 years after, but could not make this Covenant of none effect. But see, this Covenant comes to its fulfillment in Christ: to The Seed to whom the promise... What promise? The promise of The Spirit.

What’s promised to this Seed is The Spirit. It’s promised all through the Old Testament that He’s going to pour His Spirit. We usually look at Joel: that He’s going to pour his Spirit upon all flesh. (**Joel 2:28–32**) So Israel has heard that – natural Israel, and they are waiting on this promise. Why? Because that’s when according to the Prophet Isaiah that Israel will again be a fruitful field – when The Spirit comes. **Isaiah 32:12**, *“They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.* **13** *Upon the land of my*

people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city: 14 Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks; 15 Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. 16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.” When? When The Spirit is poured out. **Verse 17**, *“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”* This is the same thing Galatians is talking about: the promise of The Spirit. The promise of The Spirit - natural Israel was waiting on this to come! They were waiting: they were looking and saying, when is this going to be? When will you again restore to us The Kingdom? You all have read that, right?

So here he’s saying when The Spirit is poured out, that’s when it becomes a fruitful field. Herein is My Father glorified. What does Jesus say? *“Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit.”* Why? Because you’ve got The Spirit. No man can bear fruit of himself unless he abides in The Vine. Who declares The Vine? Doesn’t Isaiah declare The Vine also? The Vine, The Branch, His Planting. Here you go, and here in **Galatians 3** the promise of The Spirit is given by Faith. It doesn’t come by the works of The Law. It comes through the hearing of Faith. And see, that’s what Jesus was preaching to them when He came preaching “The Kingdom”.

How many of you know in the Bible – Matthew, Mark, Luke

and John it says Jesus was preaching to them “The Kingdom”? The Kingdom. What was He telling them? Repent and believe. He told them over in the book of John if you believe on Me: what did He say is going to flow out of your belly? *“Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water, which he said, speaking of the Spirit.”* (**John 7:38, 39**) That’s going to be given according to the book of Isaiah to Israel. See, The Spirit is given to Israel. Turn to **Isaiah 43: 1**, *“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee O Jacob...”* Who created Jacob? The Lord. **Verse 1**, *“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. 3 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. 4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. 5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; 7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. 8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. 9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.*

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. 12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.”

Now notice two things in this passage. One – He talks about “gathering the nations”. Did you read that? When did He do that? Jesus said if I be lifted up from the earth, I will gather all men unto Me. So right there is where He gathered the nations – unto Him. At The Cross, and crucified them. And then there He talked about His people – “Bring His Seed”. And where is that Seed gathered to? It’s gathered to Christ: gathered to Him, joined unto the Lord. What is that Seed joined to? He will bring His Seed from afar and say to the east to give up, to the west give up. He will bring His Seed. They are gathered together in Him! They are gathered together in Christ. He gathers The Seed in Himself. He is the place they are gathered. The Seed of God is in The Man Jesus Christ, or in Christ Jesus is – however you want to say it. It’s gathered up in Him in His Resurrection. You are Abraham’s Seed through His Work.

That’s how you become Abraham’s Seed. You weren’t Abraham’s Seed before His Work. You were Gentiles according to the flesh. That’s what Paul writes in the book of **Ephesians** chapter 2. According to the flesh you were Gentiles: you were without. But now – **in Christ Jesus** you’ve been gathered: you’ve been brought in. In Christ

Jesus through His Work you are brought into the land! My God! This is the land that God's people need to see: not a piece of dirt! They need to see the land God brought us into by The Spirit of God. I'm not telling you not to fly to natural Israel. I wouldn't care to go over there, but I'm just telling you that's not the land. The land is the place that God has brought forth in Christ, and He's brought His Seed into that land. And that's what Paul tells us in Ephesians if you can hear it. That's what he tells us in Galatians: you are Abraham's Seed. The children of Faith are Abraham's Seed and heirs according to the promise. Heirs of what? Heirs of The Spirit of God: that He was going to pour out His Spirit and make you a fruitful field. Hallelujah! Glory to God! That His Glory would really come and dwell in His House. Glory to The Lamb of God!

Isaiah 43: 18, *“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. 20 The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. 21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.”* Rivers in the desert. Out of your belly shall flow rivers. This people – who formed them? Again I'll give you the type. In Isaac God formed this people. He formed Jacob for Himself. But what does the Bible say? “You are a New Creation created of God in Christ Jesus unto good works”: to be a praise unto Him: unto good works. See that's the fulfillment of the Scripture: that they should show forth My praise.

Come on down to **Isaiah 44:1**, “Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: **2** Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. **3** For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: **4** And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. **5** 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.” He’s dealing with The Spirit: the promise of The Spirit was to Israel. Israel is my son, even my firstborn. What does it say about Jesus? He gave Him The Spirit without measure. And what did Jesus pour out? He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire - The Spirit. This is that which was spoken of the prophet Joel that in the last days God shall pour out His Spirit upon all flesh, and his sons and daughters shall prophesy. Who’s going to prophesy? His sons and daughters! Who’s going to dream dreams and see visions? His sons and daughters: His Israel of God, the people of God that are called by His Name.

He gets all of this in Christ! It becomes fulfilled. Read **Isaiah 44:21– 24**. The Lord hath redeemed Jacob. Who redeemed him? Jehovah, The Lord and glorified Himself in Israel. What does Jesus say in the book of John? **John 17:1**, “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: **2** As thou hast given him power over

*all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. **4** I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **9** I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. **10** And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.”*

That’s why He told Israel He was going to be glorified in them. Now go to **verse 20**, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” The Glory – we have dealt with this. The Glory. God was in Christ and now Jesus was glorified with The Father as He was before the world was. “Father, glorify me with Thy own self.” “My Father and I shall come and

*make our abode with you.” Why? “That they may be one, even as we are one.” Why? That He may be glorified. Where? In them! That what He said to Israel might be fulfilled: that God would be glorified in a people. That a people would understand His Glory: know His Glory, see His beauty. I’ll ask you to read **Luke 2:25 – 32.***

Ephesians 2: 11, *“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: **13** But now...”* But now – Now – someday far, far away? No – NOW! **Verse 13**, *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”* Nigh to what? Nigh to the Covenants, nigh to Israel, nigh to the promises. That’s what you’re made nigh to. How? By the Blood of Christ! **Verse 14**, *“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; **15** Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; **16** And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: **17** And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.”* The ‘both’ there are Jew and Gentile.

See He preached the same Peace to the Gentiles that were far off, and to the Jew that was nigh: nigh to the promises, nigh to Israel, nigh to the Covenants. **Verse 18**, *“For through*

*him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” For through Him they both have the same thing – the promise of The Spirit. **Verse 19**, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;” “In My Father’s house are many dwellings, are many mansions.” You are God’s House! **Verse 20**, “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; **21** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: **22** In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Hallelujah!*

God got His Household back! He got it back in Christ because He laid a Stone in Zion. It’s like He told them: “Behold, I lay in Zion...” And the Apostle Paul says to build upon **that** Stone. Why then do we want to build upon some natural stone over there? Why? Why do we want to believe that when God has laid a Stone and He’s built His House on the Stone; He’s building His Kingdom on this Stone. This Stone was what Daniel saw cut out of the mountain that rolled down and wiped out all kingdoms. This is THE Stone: this is THE Rock, this is THE One! Why do we want to build on another? Why not build on The True Rock? No other stone can be laid! No other one can be built upon! This has got to be built in the people in the Church: that God’s people begin to declare they are His City, they are in His House, they are the Righteousness of God in Christ – that He’s done it! That this is the City. This is what He was saying by the Prophet – not building some other natural temple, but you are The Temple of The Living God as God

has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

This is The House! Glory to God – hear The Lord! My God, we don't need God's people to think in their minds of some other house. We need them to hear The Lord, and raise up in The House. I'd love to hear other ministers preach this. I'm not against them. I'd love to have them declare this from the pulpit and thousands and thousands hear the Voice of God declaring "The House". I'm not against any of these brothers in The Lord. I just yearn to hear God's people declare The Word by The Spirit of God: to allow The Spirit of God to raise up in them and speak in them, and see God's people understand. What a powerful thing it would be folks, if God's Body declared the same Word on the earth. And it wasn't divided by schisms and isms: by Pentecostal and Baptist and on down the list. You talk about powerful! If it was edifying itself in love; if it received one another as The Body of Christ: if it looked at one another and realized we are bone of His Bone and flesh of His Flesh; that we belong to Him – He's our Life. We are in Him, you are in Him, and I need what you've got, and you need what I've got. Paul's words – "joints" that supply every need. My God – what a powerful place it would be! Glory to The Lamb of God!

Honey, God is after this House because He built it. He laid it. He established it. The Stone that He said He would lay: "*Behold I lay a stone in Zion.*" And here it is – Jesus Christ Himself being the Stone that all the building is built on – every bit of it. Apostles and Prophets. This is what the Prophets declared. This is what they were prophesying of. This is what is hidden in our Bibles. It's hidden in Genesis,

hidden in Malachi – hidden there. But it's made known **in Christ**: it's revealed in Christ! So it's important to read Malachi, it's important to read Genesis. It's important to get in there and read because it's made real: it's given its substance in Christ. That's where the substance of the scripture is at. That's where the power of it is at - **in The Revelation of Jesus Christ. He is The Stone! I hear That Stone!**

I just ask you to get in The Word: look at The Word. Let God speak in you. He wants to speak in you. Hear His Voice. Hear Him speak – He wants to speak in you. He wants to speak in His Own Body. Glory to God!

AMEN