

THE TWO ISRAELS & DISPENSATIONALISM

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Section 1 - Foreword

1A - Division in God’s Creation

As you can see from Genesis 1:1 to 2:3, God’s creative work during Creation Week involves continual divisions of something into two or more parts.

- On Day 1, He divided Universe’s primordial soup into two parts: (A) **matter**, a giant globe of water at Universe’s center, and (B) **space**, a spherical shell of unknown composition, above and surrounding the matter (it became the 2nd heaven).

- On Day 2, he divided the (A) matter into three parts: (A1) a **small globe of water** at Universe’s center, which is described as the waters under the firmament (or lower waters), (A2) an intermediate **spherical shell of water** above and surrounding the small globe of water, which is identified as the firmament, and (A3) an outer **spherical shell of water**,¹ above and surrounding the firmament, which is identified as the waters above the firmament (or upper waters).

- On Day 3, he divided (A1) the small globe of water into three parts,
 - (A1-A) the **land**, a solid globe of minerals, which he further divided into three parts, (A1-A1) the **core**, (A1-A2) the **mantle**, and (A1-A3) the **lithosphere**;
 - (A1-B) the **sea**, a spherical shell of water surrounding the land, and
 - (A1-C) the **air**, a spherical shell of gases (or atmosphere) above and surrounding the sea, which he further divided into five parts, (A1-C1) the **troposphere**, (A1-C2) the **stratosphere**, (A1-C3) the **mesosphere**, (A1-C4) the **thermosphere**, and (A1-C5) the **exosphere**.

¹ “Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heaven” (KJV Psalm 148:4).

The above is enough to make my point. If you are interested in a more complete explanation of Creation Week, see Chapter 6 – The Cosmology of the Bible in Volume 3 - Natural History in my book ABVONE.²

1B - Division in God's Word

God also used division in the creation of His Written Word, the Bible, which he divided into two volumes:

- The **Tenakh** – i.e. the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament - which he further divided into three parts: (1A) *the Law*, (1B) *the prophets*, and (1C) *the Writings*; and
- The **New Covenant Scriptures** – i.e. the New Testament. which he further divided into four parts: (2A) *the Gospels*, (2B) *the Acts*, (2C) *the Epistles* and (2D) *the Revelation*.

The dividing pivotal point between the two volumes of the Bible was the moment that Messiah died on the cross at Golgotha, which occurred at the 9th hour (3:00 pm) on Passover in 33 AD. At that moment, the Mosaic Covenantal Period (1464 BC-33 AD) ended and the New Covenantal Period (33 AD-Parousia) began. The latter not only followed and replaces the former, but completely supersedes it as well.

1C – Changes in Meaning of Some Words in NCS³

In addition, the New Covenantal Scriptures changed the meaning of several important words in the Bible.

- **Israel** was divided into two Israels: (a) *Israel of the Spirit*, in which Jewish and Gentile believers ultimately reside, and (b) *Israel of the Flesh*, in which Jewish unbelievers reside.
- **The Olive Tree**, which was used by many verses in the Tenakh to represent Israel, was divided into two olive trees:(a) the *Cultivated Olive Tree*, in which Jewish believers remain, into which believing Gentiles are grafted, and from which Jewish unbelievers are removed and cast away, and (b) the *Wild Olive Tree*, in which unbelieving Gentiles remain.⁴
- **The Holy City** of Jerusalem was divided into two Jerusalems: (a) the *physical Old Jerusalem* of this age, which is the capital of the State of Israel, and (b) the *spiritual New Jerusalem* of the next age, which will descend to the New Earth after the *Wedding of the Lamb* in Heaven,

² Holbrook, John, Jr., *A Biblical View of Nearly Everything – through the eyes of a curious architect.*

³ New Covenant Scriptures.

⁴ The unfruitful branches of Jewish unbelievers are pruned from the *Cultivated Olive Tree* and cast aside.

- **The Holy Temple** was divided into two temples: (a) the *physical Herodian Temple* in Old Jerusalem, from which the Shekinah Glory, God’s presence, departed, as indicated by the rending of the veil before the Holy of Holies on Passover 33 AD, and (b) the *spiritual Temple of the Holy Spirit* in the hearts of all believers, who will reside in the New Jerusalem in the next age.

Section 2 – The Two Israels

2A - Israel of the Spirit

Israel of the Spirit consists of all Jewish and Gentile believers, who have accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the *Son of God* and the *Promised Messiah of Israel*. In Romans 11, they are described as follows:

- **The Jewish believers** are the fruitful branches of the *Cultivated Olive Tree* and the *Faithful Remnant of Israel*, who now reside in the *Cultivated Olive Tree*; and
- **The Gentile believers** are the fruitful branches of the *Wild Olive Tree* who are being removed from there and grafted into the *Cultivated Olive Tree*.

They recognize that the New Covenant has replaced and now superseded the Mosaic Covenant entirely. They now worship God in the Temple of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and look forward to spending eternity in the *New Jerusalem* that will descend to Earth after the end of the current age.

2B – Israel of the Flesh

Israel of the Flesh consists of Jewish unbelievers, who have rejected Jesus of Nazareth as the *Son of God* and the *Promised Messiah of Israel*. In Romans 11, the Jewish unbelievers are described as the unfruitful branches of the *Cultivated Olive Tree*, who are now being removed from there and cast aside. They ignore the New Covenant entirely and believe that the Mosaic Covenant is still in force. Many of them regard the return to the Promised Land as a fulfillment of prophecy and tend to put their allegiance to the State of Israel above their allegiance to the nations in which they reside. Many of them also tend to approve of and even support the current movement (a) to rebuild the *Temple of Solomon* on the Temple Mount and (b) to resume animal and bird sacrifices to atone for sin.⁵ Failing to understand what Daniel is referring to as the “abomination that makes desolate,”⁶ many of them are perplexed by the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD, about which the rabbis have debated ever since it occurred.

Section 3 - Dispensationalism

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Dispensationalists here. They consist of both Jews and Gentiles who profess to have accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God and the Promised

⁵ An effort to accomplish this objective is already underway. See Randall Price’s [Ready to Rebuild - The Imminent Plan to Rebuild the Temple the Last Days Temple](#) (1992), [The Coming Last Days Temple](#) (1999), and [The Temple and Bible Prophecy - A Definitive Look at Its Past, Present, and Future](#) (2005). Then, confirming the foregoing, on September 18, 2022, AllIsraelNews posted an article entitled “Does the arrival of five red heifers in Israel signal third temple, end times?” (see <https://www.allisrael.com/does-the-arrival-of-five-red-heifers-in-israel-signal-third-temple-end-times>).

⁶ Daniel 11:31 & 12:11.

Messiah. Unfortunately, they hold (a) that the Mosaic Covenant and the New Covenant currently coexist and (b) that Messiah will return to Earth twice: (a) at His 2nd Advent he will rapture the saints, and (b) at His 3rd Advent soon thereafter, He will destroy Israel's enemies and then rule the world from a throne in Jerusalem for a thousand years.

Dispensationalists' key mistake is not paying sufficient attention to the Scriptures regarding the following:

- The uniqueness and sufficiency of Messiah's crucifixion to atone for the sins of mankind. Although there is no verse that specifies that Messiah's death on the cross at Golgotha was a *unique, one-time, all-sufficient, never-to-be-repeated* sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind, this point is made continually throughout the New Testament. Clearly, any further sacrifices of animals and birds ignores God's sacrifice of his Son and represents the most egregious affront to God that mankind could devise.
- The rending of the veil in front of the Holy of the Holies in the Temple at the precise moment of Messiah's death at Golgotha, which is described in Matthew 27:51,⁷ and which occurred at the ninth hour (3:00 pm) on Passover 33 AD. Clearly, the Shekinah Glory – i.e. God's presence - departed from the *physical* Herodian Temple in Old Jerusalem and entered the *spiritual* Temple of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all faithful believers, who will live in the New Jerusalem in the next age..
- The spirit of "strong delusion" that God sent into the world to test the faithfulness of people who profess to have accepted Messiah as their Lord and Savior, which is described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–12.⁸ The delusion undoubtedly involves (1) the antichrist's claim to be a Christian, (2) the antichrist's promotion of the movement (a) to rebuild the Temple of Solomon and (b) to resume animal and bird sacrifices to atone for sin there, and (3) the antichrist's ratification of a treaty between the UN and Israel that authorizes the Israelis to do so.⁹

As a result of the above mistake, many professing believers will become (a) increasingly focused on Messiah's ethnicity and (b) decreasingly focused on Messiah's divinity and Gospel. They may end up believing that, since "All Israel will be saved,"¹⁰ they need not present the Gospel to

⁷ "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (KJV Matt 27:51).

⁸ "2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (KJV 2 Thessalonians 2:3–12).

⁹ The antichrist will be the Secretary-General of the UN at the time.

¹⁰ Romans 11:26.

their unbelieving Jewish relatives and friends. If they become unwavering Dispensationalists, they will (a) join the Great Apostasy, and (b) be numbered among the Lost by God.

Almighty God, have mercy upon them and deliver them from that fate. *Amen.*