

The House of Israel
Part 3
Boyd Yahn

Well hello everyone; I thought we would get this on tape and send it out for those of you who are following the series and finding it of some interest. This is the third in a series on the House of Israel and last time we had walked through the covenants of promise, including physical blessings and the promise of the messiah flowing through Israel.

0:27

The Gentiles were to be blessed by their presence and by being grafted into Israel and accepting Israel's God as their own; become heirs of salvation along with the natural born Israelites. This is all conditional upon obedience and submission to the only true God.

0:47

It's made plain in the book of Isaiah; Isaiah 66, 1 and 2, where God tells specifically, regardless of your origin, what it is that He is looking for. Isaiah 66, verse 1 says:

¹ Thus says Yahovah: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? ²For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says Yahovah. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

1:26

God tells us what He values and what He looks for in people generally. In Exodus 8 and verse 1 and Exodus 5 and verse 1 is completely in harmony with this; where Israel was drawn out of Egypt to serve and worship God. That required, naturally, a list of do's and don'ts and includes how God wants to be worshipped.

1:52

And again if we look in the book of Psalms; Psalm 147 and verses 19 and 20, we find out again that it was, God had chosen Israel to receive the benefit of knowing these things. In verse 19 of Psalm 147 it says:

*¹⁹He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.
²⁰He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His judgments, they have not known them.*

2:28

And again a reminder that God did not reveal Himself to the other nations initially. Well, why would He do that? Well if we go to the book of Deuteronomy; Deuteronomy 7, we'll get a glimpse of the Father's thought process in all of this. Deuteronomy 7 and we will read verses 1 – 16

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¹ *“When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ²and when Yahovah your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. ³Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. ⁴For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. ⁵But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. ⁶“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

4:28

Very important to notice there, this is an action from us to God; we love God, God loved us, as it said, then in turn we loved Him. And how do we display that we love God? We keep His commandments.

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¹⁰and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

¹¹Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. ¹²“Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. ¹³And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. ¹⁵And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. ¹⁶Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the Lord your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

5:58

Well, in this politically correct environment that we live in, that's quite a mandate. And it tells us why and the result that God wanted and those are pretty far reaching promises. If we go back to Genesis 22; Genesis 22, verses 16 – 18.

6:21

It is important to review and remember that these things actually happened. Genesis 22, verses 16 – 18, God saying:

¹⁶... “By Myself I have sworn, says Yahovah, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

7:02

Those are tremendous promises that God gave. If we flip over to Genesis 26; Genesis 26, verses 3 – 5, where God is speaking to Isaac:

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³ *Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.*"

7:45

God is indeed faithful. And it might be a, not be a bad idea, when the time comes and the resurrection has occurred and Abraham is alive once again, maybe to take the time and seek him out and say thank you for his work. What do you think?

8:04

What exactly was it that Israel was instructed to do? What did they sign up for as it were? Well, we can go to Exodus 6. In that particular passage we will read; Exodus 6, verses 1 – 8. Where we get an idea how that went down.

¹ *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."* ² *And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am Yahovah. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Yahovah (All caps, LORD, in the Old Testament) was not known to them.*

8:58

So here we see God revealing His personal name to them.

⁴ *I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. ⁵And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel (And we went through who that was.) whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am Yahovah; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.'*"

9:54

If we go back, or ahead, I'm sorry, to Exodus 7 and verses 1 – 5, Exodus 7, verses 1 – 5 we learn all the more about this God whom we serve:

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¹ So Yahovah said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. ²You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. ³And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵And the Egyptians shall know that I am Yahovah, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.”

10:57

You can see in this passage, God can be or is all about attitude adjustment; it was Him who hardened Pharaoh’s heart, or his spirit, his attitude, so that he wouldn’t let them go. Pay attention to that when you are doing your bible study. Over and over again what I found is you see places where God changes the attitude, perhaps of the people that took Israel into captivity; He softened their heart. Watch for that as you go through your bible study to see how God is actually involved in changing attitudes, adjusting attitudes. That’s what He does.

11:38

There was a mixed multitude that came out of Egypt with Israel and that’s another time and another place. Exodus 19; if we go to Exodus 19, verses 1 – 8 we will learn a little bit more about how this actually works. Exodus 19, verses 1 – 8

¹ In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. ²For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. ³And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’

12:50

We learn a little bit more of God’s intent.

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These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”⁷ So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him.⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

13:12

We can see that Israel, yeah, they understood what the instructions were, they understand, ah, yes-sir-ree, we're with the program. You also should notice here that Moses was not afraid to be one on one with God.

13:30

I believe that is very, very important for us to observe. We learn more of how it went down and the beginnings if we go to Deuteronomy 5 and this is where we are going to pick up a little bit on the spirit of Israel. Deuteronomy 5, verses 1 – 5.

¹ And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. ² The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³ The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. ⁴ The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. ⁵ I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain.

14:37

Notice that Israel does not want to be eyeball to eyeball with God. They were to listen through Moses, but they didn't want to have any part of that action of being face to face. If we go on to verse 22, it says:

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²²“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. ²³“So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. ²⁴And you said: ‘Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that the Lord speaks with man; yet he still lives. ²⁵Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of The Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. ²⁶For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? ²⁷You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.’ ²⁸“Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. ²⁹Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! ³⁰Go and say to them, “Return to your tents.”

16:24

Notice again Moses.

³¹But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.’ ³²“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³³You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

16:59

Notice again, Moses was not afraid to be before God. Was Jesus Christ afraid to be before God? No, He put Him first. God’s servants stand in tough; the people, not so much. They don’t want to be exposed to God; they want someone between them and God.

17:27

The mental disposition, or the spirit of Israel, is that they don’t want to be directly involved with God. They want somebody in between. In our world, with Christ as our head; if Jesus Christ is actually our head as we are instructed in scripture, then who do we put first, who did Christ put first? It should be obvious.

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17:56

Christ was eyeball to eyeball with God the Father; we like Moses should be exactly the same. You see the same mindset showing up when Israel said, “No, we want us a king.” And if we walk through that passage in I Samuel 8; I Samuel 8, we will read of where that demand was put before in I Samuel 8, verses 1 – 8.

¹ Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

18:57

Well that’s quite a change from, you be kings and priests to me.

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to God. ⁷ And Yahovah said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

19:37

The excuse was, the bad boys; the reason was, they didn’t want to have God ruling over them. It’s important in this world to always look at the excuse, and then look for the real reason. And you are going to find, that far more often than not, you and I will hear the excuse from somebody; we will not hear the reason and maybe we should fix that.

20:04

They didn’t want God ruling over them, despite them promising to do so, and having received the finest blessings from God. Have you ever seen anyone who matches that description? Maybe you’ve come across an Israelite in your life. There’s the same proclivity in another fashion. What does God actually think about that?

20:31

What does God, or how does He feel about people not wanting to have Him as their leader and their guide and having somebody step in between? Well, we know the passage; Jeremiah 5, verses 30 and 31. It says, and this is God speaking.

³⁰ “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: ³¹ the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. ...

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21:09

So we see the same thing showing up again. Israel wants somebody between them and God. They don't want to be face to face with God. God's people love to be arm's length to God. God is not so keen on that.

21:27

I can't imagine God having an issue with not being able to talk to His kids directly, could you? Would Satan have a problem with God the Father talking to His kids? Do you think maybe he would be a little happier with a compromised human being standing between that he controls, talking to God's kids? Just asking!

21:49

When one's mind set is to want somebody or someone between them and God, it opens Pandora's box for evil. To place something between us and God is idolatry, and Israel loves idolatry; it's their thing.

22:11

Go to Ezekiel 20; Ezekiel 20 and verses 27 – 33. This is a very important scripture because it shows us the continuity from the times we just read about right up until the day of the Lord.

²⁷“Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “In this too your fathers have blasphemed Me, by being unfaithful to Me. ²⁸When I brought them into the land concerning which I had raised My hand in an oath to give them, and they saw all the high hills and all the thick trees, there they offered their sacrifices and provoked Me with their offerings. There they also sent up their sweet aroma and poured out their drink offerings. ²⁹Then I said to them, ‘What is this high place to which you go?’ So its name is called Bamah to this day.”’ ³⁰Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? ³¹For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live,” says Yahovah God, “I will not be inquired of by you. ³²What you have in your mind

23:37

Their mental disposition.

shall never be, when you say, ‘We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.’ ³³“As I live,” says Yahovah God, “surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.

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23:55

Right up to the time of Jacob's trouble the house of Israel are idolaters. And it's going to take some serious muscle to change that. You know, Steve Collins did some wonderful work looking at the physical promises made to these people and tracking them through time and if you have not read Steve's books, I would highly recommend that you do.

24:22

But to identify Israel today you would want to look for folks living like Gentiles, having Gentile religious practices, and yet calling upon the true God. A mixture of the two; it's not that they weren't religious; they practiced religion apart from God's instructions, and that wasn't quite what God had in mind.

24:49

And if we go to the little book of Zephaniah; Zephaniah we'll read what God thinks about the false religious practices when you combine two sets of worship. We'll pick it up in verse 2 of Zephaniah 1:

*²"I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land," Says Yahovah;
³"I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, the fish of the sea, and the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land," Says Yahovah. ⁴"I will stretch out My hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, the names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests—⁵Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; Those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD,*

25:40

Oh yes, they involve Yahovah's name.

But who also swear by Milcom; (A pagan deity) ⁶Those who have turned back from following the LORD, and have not sought (Him), nor inquired of Him."

Well that's pretty plain.

25:58

We find out, again to review it, there is quite a difference between what God expected and we'll read about that in Exodus 34. What God actually expected, and then we will take a look at, err how that really turned out for Him. What He got if you will.

26:19

Exodus 34 and verses 10 – 24, Exodus 34, verses 10 – 24.

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¹⁰And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of Yahovah. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. ¹¹Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. ¹²Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. ¹³But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images ¹⁴(for you shall worship no other God, for Yahovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous Yahovah), ¹⁵lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their Yahovahs, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, ¹⁶and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. ¹⁷"You shall make no molded gods for yourselves. ¹⁸"The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt. ¹⁹"All that open the womb are Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, whether ox or sheep. ²⁰But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem him, then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. "And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. ²¹"Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. ²²"And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. ²³"Three times in the year all your men shall appear before Yahovah, the Lord God of Israel.

28:35

God made it pretty plain what He expected. If we go to the book of Judges; in the book of Judges, in chapter 18 and we'll pick it up in verse 11, we'll find out what it is that He actually got. Judges 18, verse 11.

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¹¹And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war. ¹²Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.) ¹³And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah. ¹⁴Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, “Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do.” ¹⁵So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man—to the house of Micah—and greeted him.

29:40

The Levites were the priests.

¹⁶The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. ¹⁷Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image. The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war. ¹⁸When these went into Micah’s house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?” ¹⁹And they said to him, “Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father (Note) and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?” ²⁰So the priest’s heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.

30:30

Recognizing a better gig, he saw it right away.

²¹Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them. ²²When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah’s house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan. ²³And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, “What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?” ²⁴So he said, “You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, ‘What ails you?’”

31:04

His world just fell apart.

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²⁵And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!" ²⁶Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house. ²⁷So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. ²⁸There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there. ²⁹And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish. ³⁰Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

32:04

The Danites were in idolatry up to their ears.

³¹So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

32:15

They had the best priests money could buy. Compromise isn't a new thing. Israel carried idols with them even in the wilderness and it seems God was aware. Just as a passing comment, you can go through Revelation 7 and you can see the tribe of Dan is not there. Their idolatrous practices caused them to be booted out and Manasseh was substituted, the second part of Joseph. So you read Revelation 7 and he's not there.

32:51

The idolatry caused him; and you read in Genesis 49 that he will have to wait for his salvation. He just would not turn to God. That God's pretty smart, if you go to Amos 5, verses 25 and 26, you know, it goes right back, ah, in verse 25 it says:

²⁵"Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? ²⁶You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun, your idols, the star of your gods, which you made for yourselves. ²⁷Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus," Says Yahovah, whose name is the God of hosts.

33:37

You would almost think the after reading this for the 40th time in scripture, and its way more than that, that God has a problem with idols. The fact that the lost tribes would choose to live as Gentiles shouldn't really surprise us. We are told about it in Ezekiel 4.

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We won't go through it, but Ezekiel was called to carry out certain actions for Israel to observe. Well that whole thing culminates in verse 13 of Ezekiel 4.

34:15

Where it says:

¹³Then Yahovah said, "So shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, where I will drive them."

It's showing that the Children of Israel would be driven amongst the Gentiles and their inclination to idolatry opened wide the door to doing so.

34:38

When God the Father is not put first, the first commandment is violated. When something else is put first, it doesn't matter what; it is according to Satan, as long as we have an idol, that's good enough. We can't put God the Father first, anything but God the Father first.

35:03

The biblical Christ made this very clear in Luke 4:8. And as a matter of fact Christ never said, "Worship me" ever, it is simply not in the scriptures. When Christ was rebuking Satan in Luke 4:8 He made it very clear:

⁸... 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

35:27

Notice in II Kings 17; II Kings 17 and verses 7 – 20. We get a description of what the hankering was of the house of Israel. Pick I up in verse 7:

⁷For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against Yahovah their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, ⁸and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. ⁹Also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. ¹¹There they burned incense on all the high places,

36:26

They were not irreligious, they were religious, but not towards God.

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like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke Yahovah to anger,¹² for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."¹³ Yet Yahovah testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

37:01

Christ commented in the New Testament; they killed Him.

¹⁴Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in Yahovah their God. ¹⁵And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. ¹⁶So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. ¹⁷And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

37:56

Neither the northern kingdom of Israel or Judah would follow God generally. Their spirit is a spirit of idolatry. It's important to look past the action, they were idolaters, but what produced that action? Why were they idolaters? Well, that starts in the mind. Their mental disposition was to be idolaters and God records that for us.

38:29

In Hosea 5, verses 1 – 7 we read:

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¹ *“Hear this, O priests! Take heed, O house of Israel! Give ear, O house of the king! For yours is the judgment, because you have been a snare to Mizpah and a net spread on Tabor. ²The revolters are deeply involved in slaughter, though I rebuke them all. ³I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; for now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled. ⁴“They do not direct their deeds toward turning to their God, for the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, and they do not know the Lord. ⁵The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them. ⁶“With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek Yahovah, but they will not find Him; (John 7:34) He has withdrawn Himself from them. ⁷They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, for they have begotten pagan children.*

39:34

Teaching them pagan traditions rather than the commandments and statutes of their God.

Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage.

When it comes time for modern Israel, it will happen suddenly. Pagan children is not what God had in mind.

39:52

That is specifically what they did and what does God actually think about that? Well, if we go to the book of Jeremiah; in Jeremiah 10 we can read a little bit about that. In Jeremiah 10, it's a passage that is familiar to us. In Jeremiah 10, verses 1 – 5.

40:16

It says:

¹ Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. ²Thus says Yahovah: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. ³For the customs of the peoples are futile (pointless); for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. ⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. ⁵ They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.”

40:55

So God's admonition to a certain practice was very clear and maybe we've seen that someplace, if we have our eyes open at all? If we go back to Ezekiel 8, we read of another thing where God expresses exactly what Israel was doing and what He thinks about that.

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41:16

¹ And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me there. ² Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire—from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber. ³ He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. ⁴ And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. ⁵ Then He said to me, “Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance. ⁶ Furthermore He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary?

42:17

You know, they are literally driving God away.

Now turn again, you will see greater abominations.” ⁷ So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. ⁸ Then He said to me, “Son of man, dig into the wall”; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. ⁹ And He said to me, “Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.” ¹⁰ So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls. ¹¹ And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. ¹² Then He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, ‘Yahovah does not see us, Yahovah has forsaken the land.’” ¹³ And He said to me, “Turn again, and you will see greater

43:12

You know there is a one-up-mans-ship here thing.

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you will see greater abominations that they are doing.”¹⁴ So He brought me to the door of the north gate of Lord’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.¹⁵ Then He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.”¹⁶ So He brought me into the inner court of Yahovah’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of Yahovah, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of Yahovah and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.¹⁷ And He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.¹⁸ Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.”

44:18

Israelites generally, with their spirit of idolatry, do not want to be face to face with their Father. Again; they want something between them and God. Do you think Satan might offer something up to facilitate that? Perhaps a religion of Gentile origin, with its own law done away, Jesus? Israelites would be drawn like ants to a picnic. And the end results we read of in the book of Matthew.

44:49

Matthew 7, verses 21 – 23, he (Satan) absolutely has done this and there is a result that is recorded for us. This is a very important passage of scripture that we need to think and meditate on as we try to sort out everything that we see before us. Matthew 7, verse 21, it says:

²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

45:18

We can see that Israel did not do the will of the Father, they served Baal their father, and Christ clearly said, “You are of your father the devil.”

²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

45:35

Oh, they were, they had obviously had Christ in the show, and the true Christ will say:

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... I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

45:49

The worship of Baal isn't hard to figure out as to practices. God gave Israel the way He wanted to be worshipped and we certainly read about that and Israel didn't want any part of that action.

46:06

Many years ago now I did a series of sermonettes called Baal 1, Baal 2, Baal 3 and Baal 4. And you can go on line; it's easy to do, go to a Druid site. Go to a Wiccan site; a witch site, go to a Baal site, it's not hard to find. And would you expect, based on Israel's spirit of idolatry, they would be doing those things?

46:34

Has anybody ever seen Baal worship? If you are one of Gods ecclesia, would it make sense for you to worship Baal? I mean really; yet perhaps 80% of them did exactly that in the 1990s because the idol they followed, a church organization, became their head and not God.

47:00

The head of every man is Christ and that has been twisted and distorted, such that a false Christ has been substituted as the idol. That is candy for an idolatry loving Israelite. The Roman Catholic Church structure; hierarchy, is custom designed for idolatry were you to look to the priest. You look to the organization for your spiritual direction instead of having Christ as your head, your example, to always put the Father first. It is endorsed and taught that you put the church first or a minister first in your life.

47:54

They're your instructor. I had mentioned it in a message years ago that the structure of the COGs (Churches of God) as I had known them was exactly the same as the Roman Catholic Church. And that didn't go over so well.

48:11

And yet I met a fellow who was at Ambassador College where he was asked, the class was asked, "Who does (this particular fragment of the Church of God) most likely resemble? And the answer was, the Roman Catholic Church. And that was somehow okay.

48:31

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When we understand this structure and the natural proclivity of Israel to be idolaters, we can see for what it is and that passage in Jeremiah 5: 30 and 31, which we read, and Gods feeling of such situations becomes ever so clear.

48:53

If we are one of God's ecclesia and Christ is our example; our head, the one we put first and foremost must be the Father. We must be different historically than Israel or Judah. We are told to test the spirits to see if they are from God.

49:16

And we now know from the scriptures what idolatry really is. We can look at that and begin to test the scriptures and test the spirit of the nations and you can see where the modern descendents of Israel are now dwelling. Look to their spirit for the clues.