

THE COVENANT PEOPLE OF GOD - PART I

DEFINITIONS:

- Kahal and Kahilat - Hebrew terms meaning "congregation". Used to refer to the "congregation of Israel" or "congregation of Yehovah". Only term used in the Hebrew scriptures to refer to the assembly of the people of God.
- Miqra - Hebrew term meaning "the called out".
- Ekklesia - Greek term used to translate the Hebrew "kahal" and "kahilat". Literally translated as "the called out". Translated "assembly" in the New Covenant (Testament) scriptures to refer to the assembly of the people of God.
- Israel - A compound word derived from the following three Hebrew words: 1) "*lysh*" meaning "man, male or he"; 2) "*sarah*" meaning "prince or ruler" (to have power, to prevail); and 3) "*el*" meaning "God". Literal meanings "he is a prince of God", "he is a prince with God" and "he will rule as God". More accurately defined as a) he who rules with God, and b) he that is given authority by God to rule. The name Israel reflects the purpose and destiny of God's covenant people.

I. Names and Phrases Applied to God's Covenant People.

- A. Israel or congregation of Israel (Num. 16:9)
- B. Congregation of Yehovah (Num. 27:17)
- C. House of Israel (Ex. 40:38)
- D. House of God (I Tim. 3:15; I Pet. 4:17)
- E. Israel of God (Gal. 6:16)
- F. Assembly (ekklesia) of God (Acts 20:28)
- G. Flock of God (Ezek. 34:31; I Pet. 5:2)
- H. The Bride of Messiah (Rev. 21:9)

II. Patriarchal Covenants & Promises

- A. Abrahamic promises
 - 1. A great nation shall come from Abraham (Gen. 12:2)
 - 2. Through Abraham's descendants all people of the earth shall be blessed (Gen. 12:3; 22:18)
- B. Abrahamic Covenant
 - 1. Abraham to be a father of many people (Gen. 17:4)
 - 2. To be established with Abraham and his seed as an everlasting covenant (Gen. 17:7)
 - 3. The land of Canaan to be given to Abraham and his seed as an everlasting possession (Gen. 17:8)
 - 4. Circumcision of all the males to be an external sign of the covenant (Gen. 17:10-12)
- C. Abrahamic Covenant confirmed with Isaac (Gen. 26:2-5)
- D. Abrahamic Covenant confirmed with Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15)
 - 1. Blessed Jacob by changing his name to Israel (Gen. 32:24-29)

III. Mosaic or First Covenant made with the People of God

- A. First Covenant made with the Congregation of Israel at mount Sinai (Ex. 19:1-11)
- B. Torah given as the conditions of the Covenant
 - 1. Commandments (later called "statutes"- laws engraved in stone - in Deut. 5:1-21) (Ex. 20:1-17)
 - 2. Judgements (rules /decrees) (Ex. 21:1-23:33)
- C. Covenant ratified with blood (Ex. 24:7-8)
- D. Levitical Priesthood included within the First Covenant
- E. Conditions of the Covenant Restated
 - 1. Statutes (laws engraved in stone) and Judgements (rules/decrees) (Deut. 5:1-21)
- F. Blessings of the Covenant (Deut. 28:1-14)
- G. Curses resulting from breaking the Covenant (Deut. 28:15-68)

IV. Citizenship/Membership in the Congregation of Israel under the First Covenant

- A. Composed of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - the children of Israel (Ex. 19:1-9)
- B. A mixed multitude from Egypt (most likely Egyptians, Ethiopians and possibly people of another ethnicity) (Ex. 12:38)
- C. The Ammonite and Moabite after the 10th generation from the children of Israel's exodus from Egypt (Deut. 23:3)
- D. The Edomite and Egyptian after the 3rd generation from the children of Israel's exodus from Egypt (Deut. 23:7-8)
- E. The stranger (non-Hebrew) that embraced the covenant of Yehovah (Lev.19:34, Isaiah 56:3-8)
- F. Requirements for non-Hebrew converts for citizenship in the congregation of Israel
 - 1. Circumcision and accepting the covenant required (Ex. 12:48-49, Isaiah 56:6-7)
- G. Requirements for Hebrews maintaining citizenship in the congregation of Israel (Gen. 17:9-14, Ex. 19:5-6)
- H. Removal (excommunication) from the congregation of Israel for willful disobedience in breaking the covenant (Num. 15:30-31)

V. Purpose of the Covenant People

- A. To be a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6)
- B. To be a holy nation/people (Ex. 19:6)
- C. To be a light to the Nations (Isa. 49:3-6)

V. Inheritance under the Mosaic or First Covenant

- A. The land of Israel as an everlasting possession (Gen. 48:4)
- B. To possess the nations (Psalm 2:8)
- C. To be the head of the nations (Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6)