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### An Investigation into the New Testament Understanding of Israel

Ashton Hurst

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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# **An Investigation into the New Testament Understanding of “Israel”**

Ashton Hurst

# Road Map

**01** How to become a member of true Israel?

**02** OT salvation and Israel's rejection of Jesus

**03** From National Israel to the whole world

**04** The remnant: has God permanently rejected Israel?

**05** What about "Israel" Revelation?

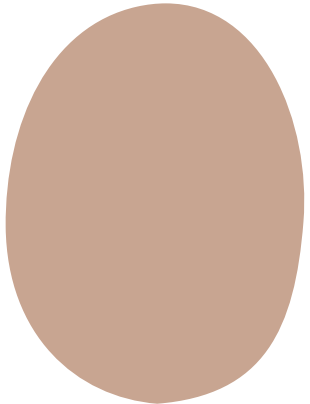
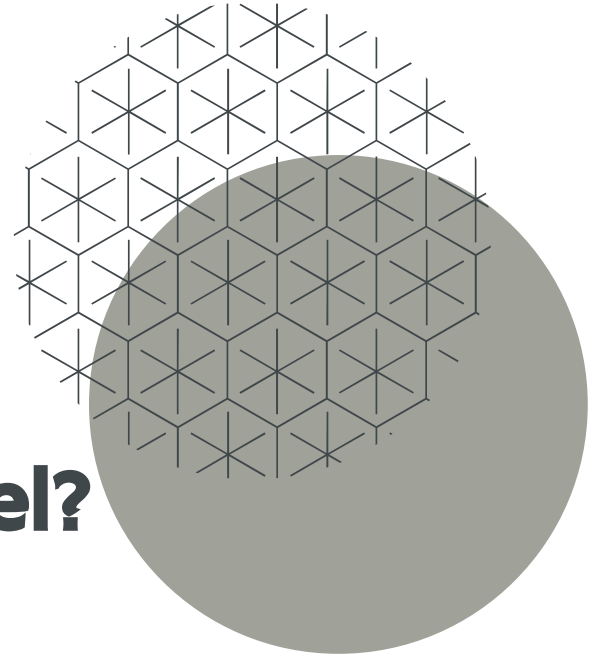
**06** Conclusions



01

# How to become a member of true Israel?

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# Faith in God

Matt 15:21–25, Eph 2:8–9, Heb 10:19–25

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# Grace of God

Romans 11:5–6, Ephesians 2:8



02

**OT salvation and Israel's  
rejection of Jesus**

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# Old Testament Salvation

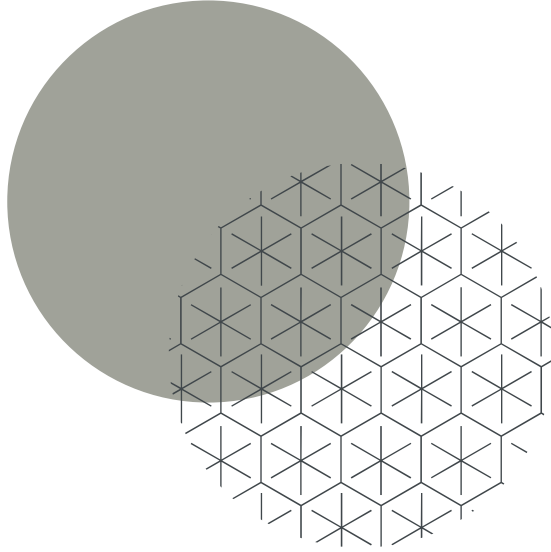
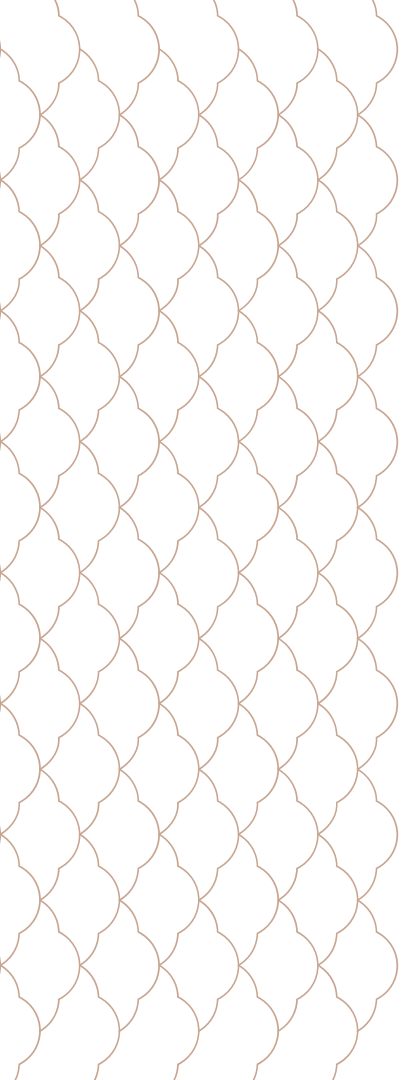
The nation of Israel was granted access into God's family based on their faith in God and obedience to God

NOT based on their nationality or ethnicity

Evidence:

- 1 Cor 10:1-13 & Heb 4:6
- Some Israelites were cut off from God's family because of disobedience
- Some Gentiles were accepted into God's family in the OT
  - Rahab
  - Ruth





## Israel's Rejection of Jesus

The reason that national Israel was “cut off” was because they rejected Jesus Christ

Rom 9:2–5, Rom 9:18–21, Heb 10:28–29





03

**From national Israel to  
the whole world**

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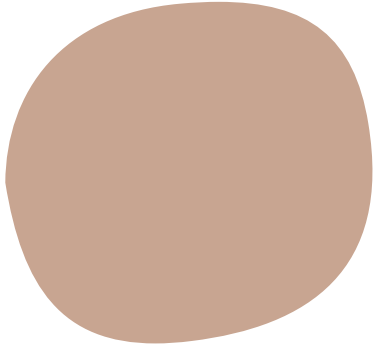
# God's Purpose for Selecting Israel

Beginning with Abraham, God chose Israel to be a vessel to reach all nations for his glory

**HOWEVER**

Israel failed by continuously disobeying God in the OT, then they also rejected Christ





# Now to the Gentiles

Romans 11

After Jesus's death on the cross, God opened his arms to the Gentiles:  
a complete reversal!





**Jesus's earthly ministry showed  
this same pattern**

**Matt 10:5-6 and Matt 15:21-28**



04

**The remnant: has God  
permanently rejected Israel?**

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# Romans 11:1-6

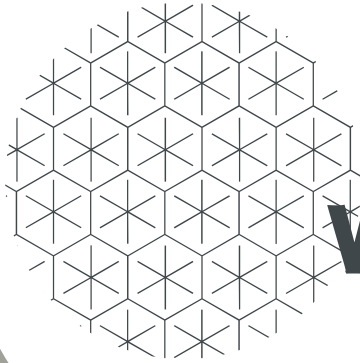
I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Or don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he pleads with God against Israel? **3** Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and they are trying to take my life! **4** But what was God's answer to him? I have left seven thousand for myself who have not bowed down to Baal. **5** In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. **6** Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace.



05

**What about “Israel”  
in Revelation?**

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**Revelation  
consistently uses  
symbolism!**



# Chapter 7: the 144,000 and the Vast Multitude

## 7:1-8

- 144,000 Israelites sealed
- Symbolic for the complete people of God

## 7:9-17

- A vast multitude of people from all nations are before the throne of God



# God's People in the New Creation

## Revelation 21:3

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.

## Leviticus 26:11–12

I will place my residence among you, and I will not reject you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

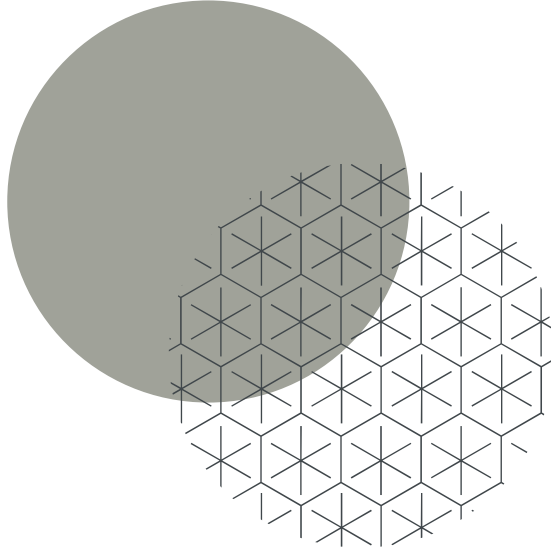
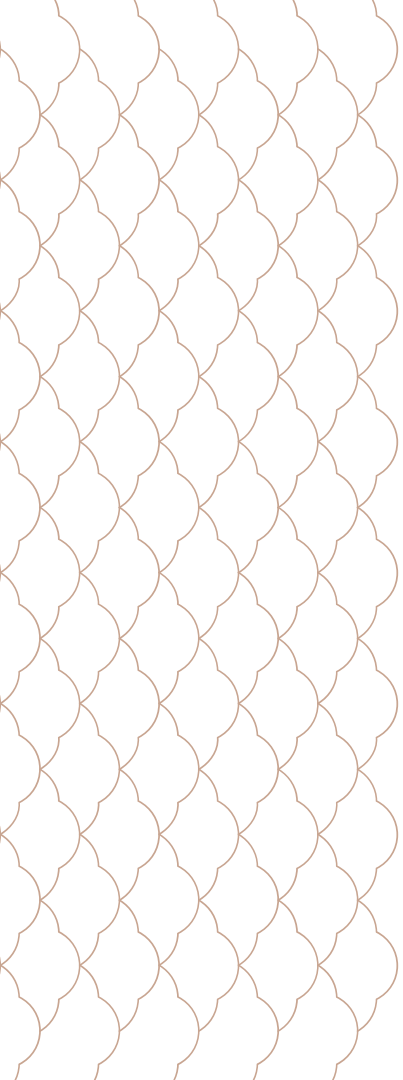


06



# Conclusions





# True Israel

- **all nations**
- **faith**
- **grace of God**
- **good works**  
**and the**  
**advancement**  
**of the gospel**



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**Thank You**

