

# *The Apostasy of Israel*



# Ban on Marriage to Wives of Idolatrous Nations

Deuteronomy 7:1–6 KJV When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, 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 thou;...



# Ban on Marriage to Wives of Idolatrous Nations

Deuteronomy 7:1–6 KJV ... (2) And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: (3) Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son...



# Stopping Idolatry Was Its Purpose

Deuteronomy 7:1–6 KJV ... (4) For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. (5) But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire...



# Stopping Idolatry Was Its Purpose

Deuteronomy 7:1–6 KJV ... (6) For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

Exodus 34:11–16 KJV Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. (12) **Take heed** to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee...



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

Exodus 34:11-16 KJV ...(13) But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: (14) For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: (15) Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods,...



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

Exodus 34:11-16 KJV ... (15) and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; (16) And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?...



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 KJV ... (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people...



# Warning Against Being Unequally Yoked

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 KJV...(17)  
Wherefore come out from among them,  
and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and  
touch not the unclean thing; and I will  
receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto  
you, and ye shall be my sons and  
daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites...



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ...(2) For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass..."



# Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ... (3) So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished. (4) Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice...



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ... (9) For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. (10) And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,...



# Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ... (11) which You commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land, with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their impurity...



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ...(12) Now therefore, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons; and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever...



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 10:1–3 NKJV Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly...



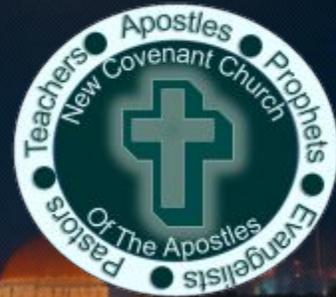
# Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined

Ezra 10:1–3 NKJV ... (2) And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this..."



# Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined

Ezra 10:1–3 NKJV ...(3) Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.



# Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ... (13) And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this, (14) should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations?...



# *Prohibitions Against Marriage Became More Ethnically Defined*

Ezra 9:1–15 NKJV ...Would You not be angry with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor?  
(15) O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"



# Ruth a Convert

Ruth 1:16 NKJV But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.



# Ruth Accepted into Israel

Ruth 4:11-17 NKJV And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah,...(17) Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.



# *Ruth Likely Would Have Been Rejected Post-Exile*

Ezra 10:3–8 NKJV Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law...



# Mandatory Divorce

Ezra 10:3-8 NKJV ... (4) Arise, for this matter is your responsibility. We also are with you. Be of good courage, and do it."

(5) Then Ezra arose, and made the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear an oath that they would do according to this word. So they swore an oath...



# Ruth Likely Would Have Been Rejected Post-Exile

Ezra 10:3–8 NKJV ... (7) And they issued a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the descendants of the captivity, that they must gather at Jerusalem,...



# Divorce or Be Divorced

Ezra 10:3–8 NKJV ... (8) and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the instructions of the leaders and elders, all his property would be confiscated, and he himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity.



# Ethnic Emphasis in Post-Exile Gatekeeping

- Rules on interracial marriage much stricter than Moses.
- These rules were not subsequent to a prophetic command.



# Ethnic Emphasis in Post-Exile Gatekeeping

- Spiritual concern primary in Moses, but only on the radar in Ezra.
- All foreigners classified as idolaters; no evidence of distinctions between idolaters and converts.



# Ethnic Emphasis in Post-Exile Gatekeeping

➤ Contermeasures included actions difficult to Biblical Theology

➤ (Compare mandatory divorce to 1 Cor 7:12–15.

➤ Eviction of small children anathematized in the NT 1 Tim 5:8



# *Mandatory Divorce Contradicted by the New Testament*

1 Corinthians 7:12–15 KJV But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. (13) And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him...



# *Mandatory Divorce Contradicted by the New Testament*

1 Corinthians 7:12–15 KJV ...(14) For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. (15) But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.



# The New Testament Treats Eviction of Dependents as Abandonment and Apostasy

1 Timothy 5:8 KJV But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.



# Ethnic Emphasis in Post-Exile Gatekeeping

- Eviction of small children has almost no value in stopping apostasy, as they can be trained in the faith.
- Eviction of small children is, however, essential if ethnic purity is the goal



# *Ethnic Emphasis in Post-Exile Gatekeeping Was a Departure From Both Mosaic and New Covenants*

*No Room in the New Covenant  
nor Provision by Moses for Mandatory  
Divorce or Abandonment of Small Children*



# Consequences Ethnic Overemphasis

- Obscures the Faith of Abraham
- Obscures Covenants other than Moses
- Obscure Israel's mission to save the world
- Sets up Israel as a Gnostic Enlightened elite



# Obscures the Faith of Abraham

Romans 4:1–3 NKJV What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? (2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (3) For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."



# Obscures the Faith of Abraham

Genesis 15:4-6 NKJV And behold, the word of the LORD came to him... ..(5) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (6) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.



# Obscures the Covenant of the Pieces

Genesis 15:17–18 NKJV And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. (18) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—



# Obscures Covenants Other Than Moses

- Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants still in full legal force “As is.”
- The House of David fell out of power, while the Levitical priesthood grew



# Obscures Covenants Other Than Moses

- The Covenant of the Pieces show salvation by Grace, anticipating the New Covenant.
- Salvation based on who God is, not who you are!!!



# Obscure Israel's Mission to Save the World

- Israel was to Bless All nations of the Earth by delivering to it both the oracles of God and the Messiah.
- Instead, Israel fixated on her ethnic identity



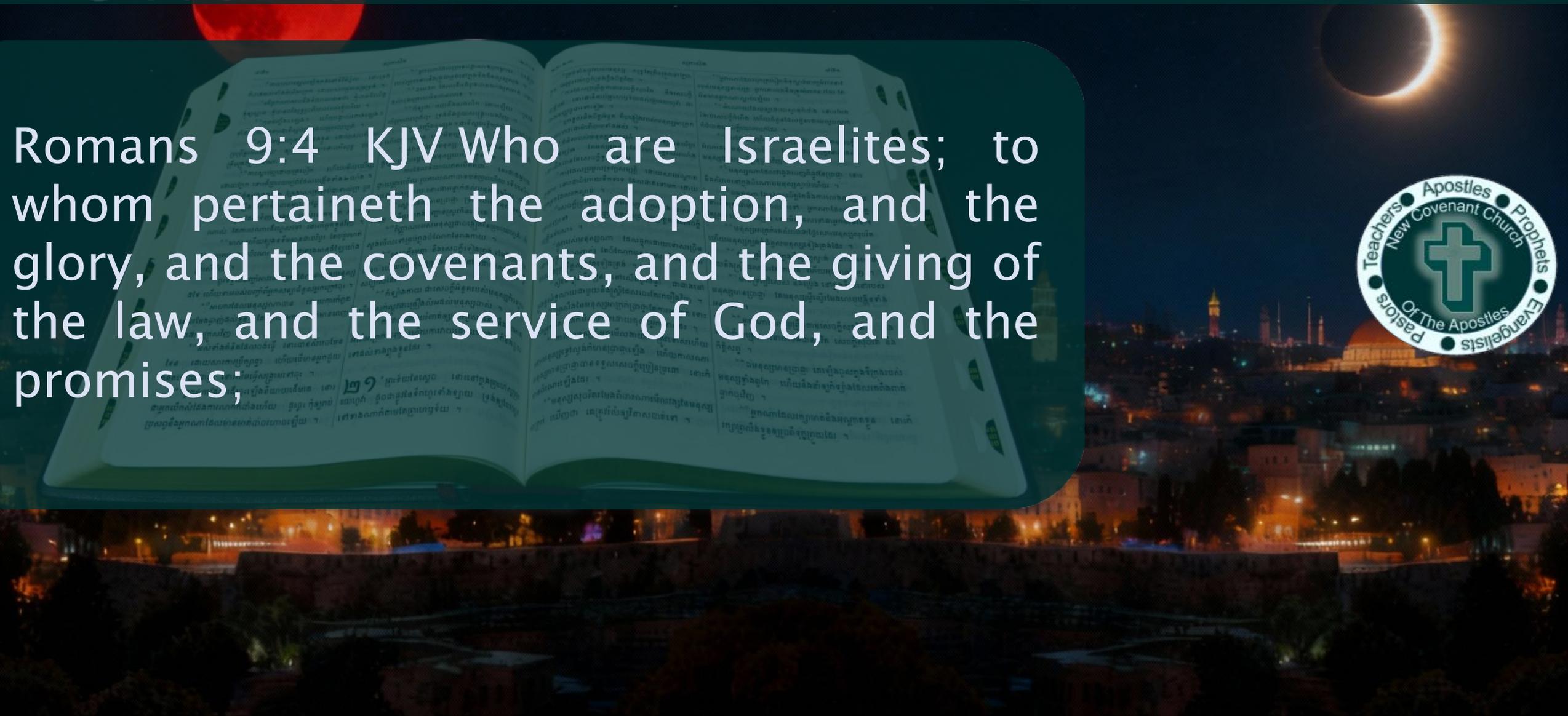
# Obscure Israel's Mission to Save the World

Genesis 12:1–3 NKJV Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. (2) I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



# Obscure Israel's Mission to Save the World

Romans 9:4 KJV 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;



# *Sets Up Israel as a Gnostic Enlightened Elite*

- Ethnic focus led Israel to see herself as an enlightened elite.
- This was coupled with the ascendancy of the Priesthood and contact with Gnostic thought via contact with Antiochus Epiphanes, that resulted in the priesthood being seen as an enlightened elite.



# *Sets Up Israel as a Gnostic Enlightened Elite*

- They invented the Oral Torah Theory
- Oral Torah Theory claims that a separate Orah Torah was revealed to Aaron and handed down only to the priests.



# *Sets Up Israel as a Gnostic Enlightened Elite*

- No Biblical or historical reference to an Oral Torah predating contact with Gnostic Thought
- No Oral Torah could have survived the Apostasy of Manasseh, Where knowledge of the written law was not remembered



# The Apostasy of Israel

This Violated the  
Law of the Stranger



# Scripture References

Genesis 12:1–3, Genesis 15:4–18,  
Exodus 34:11–16, Deuteronomy 7:1–  
6, Ruth 1:16, Ruth 4:11–17, Ezra 9:1–  
15, Ezra 10:1–8, Romans 4:1–3,  
Romans 9:4, 1 Corinthians 7:12–15,  
2 Corinthians 6:14–18, 1 Tim 5:8,



# *The Apostasy of Israel*

