

Israel and Church Distinctions
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Israel	Church
Began with the call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) and was established as a nation at Sinai (Ex 19:5-6).	Began at Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:13).
Composed of physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex 3:15; Psa 105:6-10).	Made up of Jews and Gentiles, forming “one new man” in Christ (Eph 2:11-16; Gal 3:28).
Promised a literal, earthly kingdom with Messiah ruling from Jerusalem (Isa 9:6-7; Zech 14:9).	Has a heavenly citizenship and awaits the rapture (Eph 2:6; Phil 3:20; 1 Th 4:16-17).
Will go through the Tribulation as part of God’s purging and restoration (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24-27).	Raptured before the Tribulation (1 Th 1:9-10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Rev 3:10).
The Spirit came upon select individuals temporarily for specific tasks (Judg 14:6; 1 Sam 16:13).	Every believer is permanently indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor 6:19; Eph 1:13-14).
Israel is a distinct nation chosen by God (Ex 19:6).	The Church is not a nation but a body of believers from all nations (Rom 10:19).
God’s program for Israel is tied to the land promised to Abraham (Gen 12:1; 15:18; 17:8).	The Church is called to go out and make disciples in many lands (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).
Israel is mentioned throughout the Old Testament and recognized by other nations (Num 14:15; Josh 5:1).	The Church was a mystery not revealed in the Old Testament (Eph 3:1-6; Col 1:26-27).
Israel was under the Mosaic Law (Deut 5:1-3; Psa 147:19-20; John 1:17).	The Church is under the Law of Christ (1 Cor 9:21; Gal 6:2).
Israel’s priesthood was limited to the tribe of Levi (Num 3:6-7).	All believers in the Church are priests to God (Rev 1:6).
Worship was centered in the Tabernacle and later the Temple (Ex 40:18-38; 2 Ch 8:14-16).	Believers’ bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and they gather wherever they choose (1 Cor 6:19-20; Col 4:15).
Israel offered animal sacrifices as atonement for sin (Lev 4:1-35).	Christians offer spiritual sacrifices, such as worship, service, and themselves to God (Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15; 1 Pet 2:5).
Israel was required to tithe from the produce of the land to support the Levites and the needy (Deut 14:22-23, 28-29; Num 18:21).	Christians are not required to tithe but are encouraged to give joyfully and generously (2 Cor 9:7).
Israel will be judged as a nation at Christ’s Second Coming (Ezek 20:34-38; Matt 24:30-31).	The Church will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ for rewards (Rom 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:10).

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