

# Spiritual Israel and Ethnic / Genealogical / Physical Israel

Spoiler: The diagrams at the end are the thing to see.

## Key verses

[Romans 2:28-29](#) (BSB) -- A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.

[Romans 9:6](#) (BSB) -- It is not as though God's word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.

[Romans 11:17-21](#) (BSB) -- Now if some branches have been broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others to share in the nourishment of the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, remember this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." That is correct: They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either.

## Conclusion

This is not "replacement theology" or "supersessionism". It is essentially **inclusiveness**; ethnicity is no barrier: *All* who believe in Jesus Christ (*Yeshua Hamashiach*) as their Lord and Savior are part of spiritual Israel and are saved and have eternal Life<sup>1</sup>.

[John 3:16](#) (BSB) -- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that *everyone* who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. [italics added]

[John 3:36a](#) (BSB) -- *Whoever* believes in the Son has eternal life. ... [italics added]

## Diagrams

Let's look at it graphically. First, a depiction of Paul's olive tree graft illustration. Then a sort of a Venn diagram of what he's saying.

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<sup>1</sup> And all who in faith believe in the LORD God without yet benefit of knowledge of Jesus are similarly saved (e.g., Abraham, Moses, David, and other Old Testament personages). Again, all are invited. But that's a discussion for another time.

(For what it's worth, the Venn diagram was most illustrative for me, but I'm a computer scientist and engineer and others may have a different learning style than mine.)

## Olive tree graft

# Spiritual and Ethnic Israel

Romans 2.28-29; 9.6; 11.17-21

"Not all Israel is Israel" means:

Not all of physical, ethnic Israel is spiritual Israel, i.e., not all ethnic Israel is saved

-- and --

Not all of spiritual Israel is ethnic Israel, i.e., not all spiritual Israel is Jewish; Gentiles can be saved, too



**Pink & Purple = Traditional Physical, Ethnic, Genealogical Israel, some of whom (purple) are saved by faith, some of whom (pink) are not**

**Blue & Purple = Gentiles, some of whom (purple) are saved by faith, some of whom (blue) are not**

**Purple = Spiritual Israel, People who are saved by faith, some of whom are Jews (Genealogical Israel) and some of whom are Gentiles**

## Spiritual and Ethnic Israel

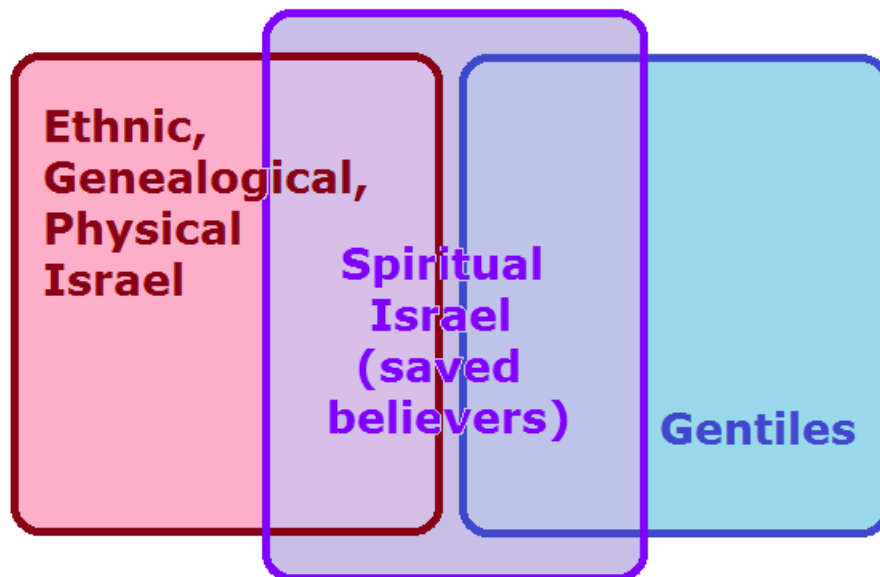
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