
NATIONAL DISTINCTIONS PART II

I love to sing and continue to believe that *"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus Loves the little children of the world."*

Where do all these children come from? From Adam, yes! But, when the flood of Genesis 6 came on the world during Noah's time, only Noah and his three sons - Shem, Ham and Japheth were left to populate the earth. Basically, every person must trace his genealogy from these three heads. The whole world and its family history goes back to these three individuals.

Experts conclude that all people descend from three original races. Descent from antiquity originated with the **White Man** (Caucasian), the **Black Man** (Negroid) and, the **Asian Man** (Mongolian). All other races are a mixture of Shem, Japheth and Ham, who must have carried the necessary genes to produce all peoples of the earth.

Further, Anthropologists agree, classifying people into a small number of main racial groups, such as the **Caucasoid** (European or "white"), the **Mongoloid** (which includes the Chinese, Inuit or Eskimo, and Native Americans), and the **Negroid** (black Africans).

While race and ethnicity have become a complicated science, it is interesting that the Bible boils the information down to very simple terms and, just a couple of people.

Of course, Bible truth is rejected by the majority-authority because people feel the need of attaching themselves to someone and to some place. Rather than calling themselves Christians, alone, Americans demands that their genealogy be attached; that their ethnicity be given equal recognition.

Thus, there are Native-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans and, of late, Latino-Americans. Many are demanding their own language and their own flag. Well, this is the Land of the free, isn't it!

So, what nationality are you? What's your family tree? Who's your daddy? When we go to the Bible, **genealogies and lineages** are important, particularly in the Old Testament where the "**begets**" are endless. *"These were reckoned by their genealogies," I Chronicles 5:17.*

But, enter the **New Covenant** and we hear Scripture clearly state that doctrine overrides and even puts an end to genealogies. It is important to note that careful reading is needed, here; for, God remains concerned with His people and His people remain Israelites. "But he is a Jew who is inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not of the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God," Romans 2:29.

The LORD, God will not forget His promise that He gave to Abraham. Not only is Abraham the father of the Jews - those of circumcision (Ro 4:12a) but, he is also the father of faith, "those who also follow in the steps of the faith of father Abraham," according to Romans 4:12b.

These above truths bring us to an understanding of the difference between the Old and New Covenants. The Old was spiritually based, but God dealt with Israel as a physical nation, by earthly means. One had to **"join up"** with Israel through fleshly circumcision to receive the blessings and inheritances God promised.

On the other hand, the New Covenant deals with people on a spiritual basis, alone. "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing," Jesus said (Jn 6:63). Since, the New Covenant was established, one has to **"join up"** with the Savior through belief in Him, in order to receive the blessings and inheritance that are in His Person. "...the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." As He was speaking, Jesus was transferring the blessing of God from the **flesh to the spirit; from works to faith; and, from the Old and into the New.**

And, just like Israel's progress, our blessings are ongoing, too; which come by believing what He says through faith, at each teaching. For all Christians, the present-progressive life is what honors the Lord. One must be saved; yet, one must be baptized; and, one must be faithful. It's a present day walk of faith.

The nation of Israel is to be looked upon as a history lesson. The nation foretold, by physical ways and means, what God will do, spiritually. Therefore, Israel's **deliverance from bondage** was physical; but, **ours spiritual**. Israel's **faithful walk in the wilderness** required faith that God would feed and water His people; and, **ours** is a spiritual trust in **obeying His doctrine** (teaching), **initially and, ongoing.**

Faith doesn't stop once we cross the Red Sea or, the baptismal and watery grave. And so, the hungry and thirsty ones come to the source of life, Jesus, the Christ; "**For they shall be satisfied,**" Mt 5:5.

And finally, Israel received the **inheritance of the land** (See 1st Cor. 10); and, ours, the promise to **inherit the kingdom** (Mt 5:3-5); even, "**having authority over the nations**" (Rev 2:26).

One more point worth noting: Not all Israel entered the Promised Land (Heb 3:19); neither will all the saved "**inherit the kingdom of God**" (Gal 5:21). However, please understand that not one Israeli returned to Egypt. Likewise, not one saved person will ever return to a lost condition. Once God's, always God's.

Biblical understanding shows that all connections to our earthly fathers and their land, from which we immigrated from so many years ago, are completely erased. "**There is neither Jew nor Greek**" (or any other race of people), Galatians 3:28a.

Further, when one becomes a child of God, all **class distinctions** are removed, including social. "**There is neither slave nor free man,**" Galatians 3:28b. And, the separation gets much more detailed. Even sex identification is removed. "**There is neither male nor female,**" Galatians 3:38c.

The Bible says we have a heavenly Father, God. In the new birth and at the resurrection, we will know Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; but, it will be Jesus that gets our attention. Today, our Father says, "**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!**" Mt 17:5. With Jesus as our life, why would we want to attach ourselves to dad or granddad.

Further, when we are raised, we won't look like, act like, nor care where daddy's homeland was located. We're headed for Mount Zion! "**Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is,**" 1st John 3:2.

THAT'S OUR HOPE!