

CHAPTER 2

WHO IS THE CHURCH AND WHO IS ISRAEL?

In order for full restoration to come to both the *house of Judah* (Judaism) and the *house of Israel* (Christianity), both houses of Israel need to understand the Biblical terms "*church*" and "*Israel*." In today's world, the term "*church*" is traditionally identified and associated with the *house of Israel* (Christianity) while the term "*Israel*" is traditionally identified and associated with the *house of Judah* (Jews/Judaism).

In this chapter, we will examine the Biblical terms "*church*" and "*Israel*." In doing so, we will discover that the "*church*" was **born at mount Sinai**. Furthermore, we will discover that the Biblical term "*Israel*" refers to the family (*mishpochah*) of the G-d of Israel that is likened in the Bible to an "*olive tree*." In the Biblical "*olive tree*" allegory, "*Israel*" consists of the *natural root* of the olive tree (natural born Jews). The *wild olive branches* are those who have been **grafted** (non-Jews from the nations who believe in the G-d of Israel and have accepted *Yeshua/Jesus* as the Jewish Messiah [*Mashiach*] (Romans 11:13-26) into the natural root. As long as there is a sun, moon and stars in the heavens, the *natural root* (natural born Jews) will remain a part of the *olive tree* of the G-d of Israel (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 31:35-37).

THE GREEK WORD FOR CHURCH IS EKKLESIA

In the King James translation of the Bible, the English word "*church*" is only found in the New Testament (*Brit Hadashah*). For this reason, the word "*church*" is most often associated with the *house of Israel* (Christianity). The English word "*church*" is the Strong's word 1577 in the Strong's Greek dictionary. It is the Greek word, "*ekklesia*." In the Strong's Greek dictionary, the Greek word, "*ekklesia*" is defined as "*a calling out, a popular meeting, a religious congregation, a Jewish synagogue or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both.*"

THE HEBREW WORD FOR CHURCH IS KAHAL

In the *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* numerically coded to the *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, it will give a more complete and detailed definition of the Greek word, "*ekklesia*." The *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* will define the Greek word, "*ekklesia*" to mean "*an assembly*" and will explain that the corresponding equivalent word in the Septuagint (Jewish Scriptures translated into the Greek language/the Old Testament [*TeNaKh*]) as being the Hebrew word, "*kahal*." The Hebrew word "*kahal*" is the Strong's word 6951 in the Strong's Hebrew dictionary and is defined to mean, "*an assembly, congregation, company, multitude*."

ECCLESIASTES IS DERIVED FROM THE GREEK WORD FOR CHURCH

The book of the Bible named "*Ecclesiastes*" is derived from the Greek word "*ekklesia*." In the introduction to the book of *Ecclesiastes* in the *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible* (King James Version) by Spiros Zodhiates published by AMG publishers, the following observation is made about the title of the book, "*Ecclesiastes*":

"The title of this book in Hebrew, Qoheleth (6953), is the word translated as 'Preacher' in chapter one, verse one. The English title is the transliteration of the title in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Greek word *Ekklesiastes*, which means 'speaker of a called out assembly,' is derived from the word *ekklesia* (1577) which is the New Testament word for 'church'."

THE CHURCH WAS BORN AT MOUNT SINAI

I was taught within Christianity (*house of Israel*) from the time that I was a little boy that the "*church*" was born in Acts 2 with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) upon those who were gathered in Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) for the Biblical feast of Pentecost (*Shavuot*). After being taught this,

I discovered that I was told the correct **DAY** that the church was born (the Biblical feast of Pentecost/*Shavuot*), however; as I began to study the Hebraic/Jewish roots of Christianity, I discovered that the birth of the "church" actually happened nearly 2,000 years earlier at mount Sinai.

In Stephen's sermon in Acts 7, he makes mention of Moses (*Moshe*) and the event that happened at mount Sinai in Acts 7:37-38 as it is written:

*"This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall you hear. This is he, that was in the **CHURCH** in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles [the Torah] to give unto us."*

In Acts 7:37-38, Stephen is referring to Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 18:15-16 as it is written:

*"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the **DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY...**"*

The word in Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 18:16 translated in the King James Bible as "assembly" is the Hebrew word "*kahal*" which is the Greek word "*ekklesia*" and is the English word "church." In the King James translation of the New Testament (*Brit Hadashah*), the Greek word "*ekklesia*" translated into English as "church" in Acts 7:38 was referring to Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 18:16 which describes the event that happened at mount Sinai (*Horeb*) as the day of the assembly/*kahal*/church/*ekklesia*.

Three times in the book of Deuteronomy (*Devarim*), the G-d of Israel by the pen of Moses (*Moshe*) through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) describes the event that happened at mount Sinai as the day of the assembly (*kahal*/church/*ekklesia*). The occurrence in Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 18:16 has already been quoted. The other two references are in Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 9:10 and Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 10:4. In Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 9:10 it is written:

*"And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the Lord spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the **DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY.**"*

In Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 10:4 it is written:

"And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount out of the midst

of the fire in the DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY: and the Lord gave them unto me."

G-D'S CHURCH/ASSEMBLY IS A MIXED MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE

The G-d of Israel is not a respecter of persons but considers all those who call upon His name to be members of His family (*mishpochah*). In Acts 10:34-35 it is written:

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."

Those who were at mount Sinai when the "church" was first born consisted of the natural born descendants of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) and a mixed multitude who believed in the G-d of Israel and who left Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) with the children of Israel. At mount Sinai, they were called the *house of Jacob*. In Exodus (*Shemot*) 19:1-3 it is written:

"In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the HOUSE OF JACOB, and tell the children of Israel."

In addition to the natural born descendants of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) who are called the *house of Jacob*, a mixed multitude who believed in the G-d of Israel and who left Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) with the children of Israel were also present at mount Sinai. In Exodus (*Shemot*) 12:29-31, 37-38 it is written:

"And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants and all the Egyptians ... and he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said ... and the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children."

And a MIXED MULTITUDE went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle."

Therefore, the "church" that was born at mount Sinai consisted of the natural born descendents of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) called the *house of Jacob* and a mixed multitude from Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) who feared and became believers in the G-d of Israel following the plagues in the land of Egypt (*Mitzrayim*). It was the mixed multitude who sojourned out of Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) with the *house of Jacob* and became an assembly/*kahal*/church/*ekklesia* of people unto the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai.

G-D'S SPIRITUAL CHURCH IS A MIXED MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE JEWISH MESSIAH

The spiritual (eschatological) assembly/*kahal*/church/*ekklesia* of people unto the G-d of Israel consists of both natural born Jews and non-Jews who accept the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus as the promised Messiah (*Mashiach*) of the G-d of Israel. In Galatians 3:26, 28 it is written:

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus [Yeshua HaMashiach] ... there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus [Yeshua HaMashiach]."

In Romans 10:9-13 it is written:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture [TeNaKh / Old Testament] saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed [Isaiah 28:16]. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [Joel 2:32]"

WHO IS ISRAEL?

What does the Biblical term Israel mean and how does it relate to the family (*mishpochah*) of the G-d of Israel and believers in *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*)? In the Bible, the *house of Jacob* (consisting of the *house of Israel* and the *house of Judah*) is allegorically described as being likened to an olive tree. In Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) 11:1, 6, 16-17 it is written:

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying ... Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying ... The Lord called thy name. A green olive tree ... and the branches of it are broken. For the Lord of hosts that planted thee ... of the house of Israel AND of the house of Judah..."

The branches of the original natural olive tree (the *house of Israel* AND the *house of Judah*) were broken. Therefore, the broken branches needed to be redeemed, restored and grafted again back into the original natural olive tree. How did this happen?

JACOB'S NAME IS CHANGED TO ISRAEL

In order to understand who is Israel (*Yisrael*), you need to understand the origin of the name of Israel (*Yisrael*). Israel (*Yisrael*) is the name given to Jacob (*Ya'acov*) by the G-d of Israel. In Genesis (*Bereishit*) 32:24-28 it is written:

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, and he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God, and with men, and hast prevailed."

JACOB HAS TWELVE SONS WHO BECOME THE HOUSE OF JACOB

Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel had twelve sons. The descendents of Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel were called the children of Israel or the *house of Jacob*. The descendents of Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel, the *house of Jacob*, entered into a covenant with the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai (Exodus [*Shemot*] 19). The descendents of Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel, the *house of Jacob*, broke this covenant. In doing so, the **branches** of the original **olive tree** were **broken**.

THE HOUSE OF JACOB IS DIVIDED FOLLOWING THE REIGN OF SOLOMON

Followed the reign of Solomon (*Shlomo*), the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*) was divided into the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). This was done because the G-d of Israel judged Solomon (*Shlomo*) because he broke the Torah/covenant of the G-d of Israel by marrying foreign wives who caused the nation of Israel to worship foreign gods. In I Kings (*Melachim*) 11:1-5 it is written:

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods [Deuteronomy 7:1-4]: Solomon cleaved unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites."

Therefore, Solomon's (*Shlomo*) kingdom (*the house of Jacob*) was divided into Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). In I Kings (*Melachim*) 11:9-13 it is written:

"And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it

*for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.
Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son
for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."*

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IS CALLED THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam, Solomon's (*Shlomo*) servant, became the ruler of the Northern Kingdom who consisted of ten tribes. In I Kings (*Melachim*) 11:26, 28-32 it is written:

*"And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king .. and the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the **house of Joseph**. And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)"*

The Northern Kingdom was called the following names in the Bible:

- 1. The house of Israel (I Kings 12:21, Jeremiah 31:31)**
- 2. The house of Joseph (I Kings 11:28)**
- 3. Samaria (Hosea 7:1, 8:5-6, 13:16)**
- 4. Ephraim (Hosea 4:17, 5:3, 7:1)**

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM IS CALLED THE HOUSE OF JUDAH

Rehoboam became the leader of the Southern Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom was called the *house of Judah*. Both the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) broke the Torah/covenant that the G-d of Israel made with the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*) at mount Sinai. Therefore, according to the words of the covenant, both the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) were dispersed into the nations of the world. In Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 28:15, 36-37, 64 it is written:

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee ... The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee ... And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone ."

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IS TAKEN CAPTIVE TO ASSYRIA

The Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) was taken captive by the nation of Assyria (II Kings [*Melachim*] 17:7-23). In the fullness of time, they lost their identity as the *house of Israel* and became assimilated into all the nations of the world.

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM IS TAKEN CAPTIVE TO BABYLON

Meanwhile, the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) was initially taken captive by the Babylonians. The G-d of Israel declared through the prophet Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) that the duration of the Babylonian captivity was to last for 70 years (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 25:1-11). Following the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, a remnant of people from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) returned to the land of Israel during the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM IS THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Those from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) who returned from Babylon with Ezra and Nehemiah were called Jews. In Ezra 2:1, 5:1 it is written:

*"Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city ... Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto **THE JEWS** that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them."*

In Nehemiah 1:1-2 it is written:

*"The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain **MEN OF JUDAH**; and I asked them concerning **THE JEWS** that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem."*

THE ROMANS TAKE THE HOUSE OF JUDAH INTO WORLDWIDE CAPTIVITY

Following the destruction of the second Temple (*Beit HaMikdash*), the Roman Empire took the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) captive. From this captivity, the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) was eventually taken captive into every nation of the world. In spite of this worldwide captivity, the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) has never lost their identity of being a nation of people called Jews from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) even unto this day.

WHO ARE JEWS AND WHO ARE ISRAELITES?

The descendents of Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel (*house of Jacob* consisting of all twelve tribes) are Israelites. The descendents of Jacob (*Ya'acov*)/Israel (*house of Jacob*) were divided into Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). The descendents of the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) lost their identity of being a nation of people from the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) when they were taken captive by the nation of Assyria (around 721 BCE) and assimilated into all the nations of the world. However, the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) never lost their identity of being Jews from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) during their worldwide captivity.

In a strict definition of the literal (*peshat*) Biblical word Jew, Jews are descendents from the *tribe of Judah*. However, in a broader definition of the literal (*peshat*) Biblical term Jew, those tribes from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) were also called Jews in the Biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) consisted of the tribes of Judah, Levi and a part of Benjamin.

Meanwhile, those tribes from the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) are not Biblically called Jews because they are not from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). Instead, the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) is called Israelites.

Therefore, **ALL** Jews (those from the Southern Kingdom) are Israelites (a subset of all twelve tribes). However, not all Israelites (those from the Northern Kingdom) are Jews (from the Southern Kingdom).

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IS CUT-OFF FROM THE NATURAL OLIVE TREE

The judgment of the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) for forsaking the Torah/covenant of the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai was that they would be cut off from the **natural olive tree**. Their judgment is given in Hosea (*Hoshea*) 1. In this chapter, the G-d of Israel told the prophet Hosea (*Hoshea*) to marry a whore named Gomer (Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1:2-3). The children born from this marriage would be a prophecy of the future judgment of the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*). There are three children born from this marriage who are mentioned in Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1. The names of these three children are *Jezreel* (Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1:4, *Lo-ruhamah* Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1:6 and *Lo-ammi* Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1:9).

Jezreel is the Strong's word 3157 in the Hebrew dictionary. The Hebrew word *Jezreel* comes from two Hebrew words. These two Hebrew words are *Zarah* (2232)

and *El* (410). *Zarah* means "to sow or scatter." *El* is the Hebrew word for G-d. Therefore, the Hebrew word *Jezreel* means "G-d will sow or G-d will scatter."

Lo-ruhamah is the Strong's word 3819. The Hebrew word *Lo-ruhamah* comes from two Hebrew words. These two Hebrew words are *Lo* (3808) which means "no or not" and *Ruhamah* which comes from the Strong's word (7355) *racham* which means "mercy or compassion." So, the Hebrew word *Lo-ruhamah* means "no mercy or no compassion."

Lo-ammi is the Strong's word 3818. The Hebrew word *Lo-ammi* comes from two Hebrew words. These two Hebrew words are *Lo* (3808) which means "no or not" and *ammi* which comes from the Strong's word (5971) *am* which means "people." So, the Hebrew word *Lo-ammi* means "not my people."

The forefathers of the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) along with the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) were called together the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*). In Exodus (*Shemot*) 19:3, the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*) entered into a marriage covenant (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 2:1-3) with the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai. At that time, they became a called out people unto the G-d of Israel known in Hebrew as a *kahal* (assembly) and in Greek as an *ekklesia* (church). In doing so, the rights of this covenant gave the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*) an eternal inheritance if they were obedient in keeping the covenant (Exodus [*Shemot*] 19:5-6). However, by breaking the terms of the Torah/covenant that the G-d of Israel made with His people, the G-d of Israel is now telling the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) that they are no longer His people and He will no longer have mercy upon them. In doing so, the G-d of Israel *divorced* the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*). In Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) 3:6, 8 it is written:

"The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel [house of Israel] hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the HARLOT ... And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel [house of Israel] committed ADULTERY [was unfaithful to the terms of the Torah/marriage covenant at mount Sinai] I had put her away, and given her a bill of DIVORCE..."

In giving the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) a divorce (*get*), they lost the inheritance that was rightfully theirs by being a member of the family (*mishpochah*) of the G-d of Israel. The G-d of Israel declared that they would not be His people and that He would have no mercy upon them. Therefore, they were *cut off* (*karet*) (3772) from the *natural olive tree*.

THE HOUSE OF JUDAH IS AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE TO THE G-D OF ISRAEL

Both the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) broke the marriage covenant that the G-d of Israel made with His called out assembly (*kahal/church/ekklesia*) at mount Sinai. In Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) 3:6-8, 10 it is written:

"The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel [house of Israel] hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot ... and her treacherous sister Judah [house of Judah] saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel [house of Israel] committed adultery I had put her away and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister JUDAH feared not, but went and played the HARLOT also ... and yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart but in falsehood saith the Lord."

G-D DOES NOT DIVORCE THE HOUSE OF JUDAH

Even though the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) broke the Torah/marriage covenant at mount Sinai along with the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*), the G-d of Israel proclaimed that the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) would be punished for their sins but that He would not remove His mercy (*chesed*) from them or divorce them because of His love for David and the city of Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*). In Psalm (*Tehillim*) 89:1-3, 28-37 it is written:

"I will sing of the MERCIES of the Lord forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up forever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant ... my MERCY will I KEEP for him forevermore, and MY COVENANT SHALL STAND fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. If his children forsake my law [Torah], and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from

him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once I have sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure FOREVER, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established forever as the moon, and as a faithful witness of heaven. Selah."

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IS PROMISED MERCY IF THEY REPENT

The G-d of Israel is slow to anger, quick to forgive and abundant in mercy. In Psalm (*Tehillim*) 103:8-9, 17-18 it is written:

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever ... But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

In Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) 3:5, 12-13 it is written:

"Will he reserve his anger forever? ... Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord."

The G-d of Israel promised that if the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) would repent that they would again be called His people. In Hosea (*Hoshea*) 1:10 it is written:

"Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God."

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM BECOMES FUTURE CHRISTIANITY

Once again, in Hosea (*Hoshea*) 1, the G-d of Israel proclaimed that the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) would not be His people (*Lo-Ammi* — Hosea 1:9) and He would have no mercy (*Lo-ruhamah* — Hosea 1:6) upon them. But, if they would repent, (*teshuvah*) (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 3:5, 12-13) they would be called again His people (Hosea [*Hoshea*] 1:10). The Apostle (*Shaliach*) Peter (*Kefa*) makes a direct link with those from among the nations who have accepted *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) with the prophecy that the G-d of Israel made to the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) in Hosea (*Hoshea*) 1. In I Peter (*Kefa*) 2:5-6, 9-10 it is written:

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ [Yeshua HaMashiach]. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded [Isaiah 28:16] ... But you are a chosen generation [Deuteronomy 7:6], a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people [Exodus 19:5-6] ... which in time past were not a people [Lo-Ammi — Hosea 1:9] but are now the people of God [Hosea 1:10]: which had not obtained mercy [Lo-ruhamah — Hosea 1:6], but now have obtained mercy [through the Jewish Messiah (Mashiach) Yeshua/Jesus who is of the seed of David (Revelation 5:5)]."

The Apostle (*Shaliach*) Paul (*Rav Sha'ul*) also wrote about how the G-d of Israel would pour out His mercy upon the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) through the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus. In Romans 9:23-26 it is written:

"And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy [those who would accept the Jewish Messiah (Mashiach) Yeshua/Jesus], which he had afore prepared unto glory, even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles [those from the house of Israel and from the nations who previously assimilated into Gentile culture]. As he saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved [Hosea 2:23]. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God [Hosea 1:10]."

THE MESSIAH IS THE AGENT OF G-D'S MERCY UPON HIS PEOPLE

Even though both the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) was an unfaithful wife to the G-d of Israel, G-d promised **MERCY/GRACE** to both houses of Israel if they would repent (*teshuvah*). In His judgment upon His people, the G-d of Israel divorced the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) but He did not divorce the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). Why did the G-d of Israel not divorce the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) because of their unfaithfulness to Him? The reason is because of the G-d of Israel's love for David and for the city of Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*). In I Kings (*Melachim*) 11:34, 36 it is written:

"Howbeit, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes ... that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem [Yerushalayim] the city which I have chosen to put my name there."

The G-d of Israel promised that He would **ALWAYS** have mercy upon the seed of David (Psalm [*Tehillim*] 89:1-3, 28-37). The Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) was promised to come through the seed of David. In Isaiah (*Yeshayahu*) 11:1 it is written:

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch [a term for the Messiah] shall grow out of his roots."

David was a man after the G-d of Israel's heart. In Acts 13:22-23 it is written:

"...he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus [Yeshua]."

The Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus is the root and offspring of David (Revelation 22:16) and has the key of David (Revelation 3:7).

The G-d of Israel did not divorce the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) because of His love and mercy for David, the city of Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*), and all those who believe upon the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus for their salvation (deliverance/redemption).

The G-d of Israel made provision in the Torah that if a family member of the G-d of Israel sold his possession or inheritance (which the Northern Kingdom [house of Israel] did when the G-d of Israel divorced them) that one of his kin (somebody from the Southern Kingdom [house of Judah] — the Jewish Messiah [Mashiach]) could redeem a near kinsman (*go'el*), which was sold away. In Leviticus (*Vayikra*) 25:25 it is written:

"If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession [Northern Kingdom (house of Israel) Hosea 1], and if any of his kin [Southern Kingdom (house of Judah) through the Jewish Messiah (Mashiach) Yeshua/Jesus] come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold."

The Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus is the agent of the G-d of Israel's mercy upon His people. In Luke 1:54-55, 72-73 it is written:

"He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his MERCY; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever ... to perform the MERCY promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he swore to our father Abraham"

THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL IS GRAFTED INTO THE NATURAL OLIVE TREE

The physical descendants of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) are the **root** and **natural branches** of the G-d of Israel's **olive tree**. The physical descendants of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) who are members of the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) will remain as a natural people as long as there is a sun, moon and stars. In Jeremiah (*Yermiyahu*) 31:35-36 it is written:

"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar, The Lord of hosts is his name: If these ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever."

Following the reign of Solomon (*Shlomo*), the house of Jacob (*Ya'acov*) split into the Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). For being disobedient to the terms and conditions of the marriage contract (*ketubah*) made with the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai, the G-d of Israel divorced the

Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*). By repenting of their sins, the G-d of Israel promised mercy to the divorced Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*). The agent of the mercy of the G-d of Israel is the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) from the seed of David and from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*). By repenting of their sins and by putting their faith, trust and confidence (*emunah*) in the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus for their salvation, redemption and deliverance, the assimilated Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and all people from among the nations are **GRAFTED** into the **natural olive tree** and become members of the commonwealth of Israel. In Ephesians 2:11-13 it is written:

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ [Mashiach], being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus [Yeshua HaMashiach] ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ [Mashiach]."

While the natural seed from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) will remain a remnant of people as long as there is a sun, moon and stars, because they have been unfaithful (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 3:6-10) in their marriage covenant (Jeremiah [*Yermiyahu*] 2:1-3) made with the G-d of Israel at mount Sinai (Exodus [*Shemot*] 19), they also need the mercy that the G-d of Israel promised David through the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) *Yeshua*/Jesus.

When they accept *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*), the natural branches will be grafted into their own olive tree. The **grafting** of the **wild olive branches** (those from the nations not from the Southern Kingdom [*house of Judah*]) with the **natural root** and the **natural branches** (those from the Southern Kingdom [*house of Judah*]) into **ONE olive tree** by accepting *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) is mentioned by the Apostle (*Shaliach*) Paul (*Rav Sha'ul*) in Romans 11. In Romans 11:13, 17-19, 24, 26 it is written:

"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles [the grafted Northern Kingdom/house of Israel] ... and if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wast grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in ... For if thou wast cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wast grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree? ... And so all Israel [both the grafted house of Israel (wild branches) and the grafted house of Judah (natural branches)] shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer [kinsman redeemer/go'el], and shall turn away ungodliness in Jacob [Isaiah 59:20]."

WHO IS THE CHURCH AND WHO IS ISRAEL?

In today's world, the term "*church*" is traditionally identified and associated with the *house of Israel* (Christianity) while the term "*Israel*" is traditionally identified and associated with the *house of Judah* (Jews/Judaism). In this chapter, we learned that the Biblical "*church*" was **born at mount Sinai**. It consisted of physical natural born descendents of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) and a mixed multitude from among the nations who came out of Egypt (*Mitzrayim*).

Biblical Israel is the **olive tree** of the G-d of Israel. The physical natural born descendents of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) will remain a remnant of people and a part of the redemptive plan of the G-d of Israel as long as there is a sun, moon and stars. Biblical Israel consists of the **natural root** of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) and the **assimilated** Northern Kingdom (*house of Israel*) and all people from among the nations who are grafted into the natural olive tree by repenting (*teshuvah*) of their sins and accepting *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*). Those from the Southern Kingdom (*house of Judah*) who accept *Yeshua*/Jesus as Messiah (*Mashiach*) are natural branches grafted into their own olive tree. So, Biblical Israel consists of the physical descendents of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) and a mixed multitude from among the nations who are grafted into the natural olive tree. Therefore, the Biblical terms "*church*" and "*Israel*" are synonymous terms.

The traditional understanding of the word "*church*" (associated with Christianity) has NOT replaced "*Israel*" (associated with the traditional understanding as Jews who have not accepted *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah). On the contrary, the non-Jews from among the nations who have repented (*teshuvah*) of their sins and have accepted *Yeshua*/Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (*Mashiach*) are *grafted* into the natural olive tree. While all Jews (those from the Southern Kingdom [*house of Judah*]) are Israelites, not all Israelites (those from the Northern Kingdom [*house of Israel*] and who have been grafted into the natural olive tree from among the nations) are Jews. Those grafted in from among the nations to the natural olive tree are Biblical Israelites.

In conclusion, in order for restoration to come to both the *house of Israel* (Christianity) and the *house of Judah* (Judaism), both houses of Israel need to recognize who each other are Biblically. The *house of Israel* (Christianity) needs to recognize that they have NOT replaced the natural seed of Abraham (*Avraham*), Isaac (*Yitzchak*) and Jacob (*Ya'acov*) but have been *grafted* into the natural olive tree. The *house of Judah* (Judaism) needs to recognize the *house of Israel* (Christianity) as being *Messianic Israel*. Therefore, both houses of Israel need to

understand that they are brethren (Psalm [*Tehillim*] 133) and members of the SAME olive tree. May the G-d of Israel bring redemption, restoration, reconciliation and unity to both houses of Israel speedily in our days. Amen!