

Who Is YHWH's Israel?

The Impure Pure Seed

Introduction

There is within the Scriptures a command for us to honour YHWH's chosen people, particularly if we desire YHWH's favour (Gen.12:3). But just who are YHWH's chosen? Is it the Jewish people we know today? The orthodox claim it to be so, yet with what we know about them that is a hard pill to swallow? For a start they advocate transgression of YHWH's mitzvot; both the third commandment and Deut.4:2 which, according to John makes them sinners (1.John 3:4) and James tells us they are on the wrong side of YHWH (Jas.2:10). But the issue goes beyond transgression and the real question is, are today's Jews really the chosen of YHWH?

Circumcision

Circumcision is not only a sign of the covenant (Gen.17) but it is circumcision that physically separates YHWH's chosen from the rest of humanity. Yitzchak and Ya'akov were borne of a circumcised seed that is from a circumcised penis. In a sense, penetration of the circumcised penis took the woman into circumcision. It was in reality, a circumcised sperm that penetrated the female egg creating a fertilised circumcised egg, thus the cycle of circumcision is via fertilisation and ultimately the new birth. Eight days after the completion of this cycle a new cycle of circumcision is commenced with the circumcision of the new baby and on it goes.

YHWH's words to Avraham when He instructed him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice leave us in no doubt that His concept of circumcision is separation,

And He said, "Take your son, now, your only son Yitzchak, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriyah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I command you."(Gen.22:2).

YHWH refers to Yitzchak as Avraham's only son, was YHWH forgetting about Ishmael Avram's first born? I don't think so! Clearly YHWH saw a distinction between the two boys and the distinction was circumcision. The essence of the covenant YHWH made with Avram was separation – set apartness and the mark of separation was circumcision. Yitzchak was born of a circumcised seed that is, after Avraham's circumcision, Ishmael wasn't. Thus it was Yitzchak who was set apart not Ishmael. Yes, Ishmael was eventually circumcised but he was not born of circumcision. It is noteworthy that today that those who have accepted Mashiach are in the eyes of YHWH born of Avraham's circumcision, refer to later comment. Now let us look at another verse from Genesis,

"And an uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, his life shall be cut off from his people – he has broken My covenant." (Gen.17:14).

The uncircumcised person is to be cut-off (alienated) from the nation because he does not wear the mark of separation and is incapable of spawning a circumcised seed. Thus, we have the first condition for the pure seed – circumcision. YHWH's concept for a set apart nation required each and every birth to be via circumcision. But this philosophy now hits a stumbling block and that is, none of the children born in the wilderness were circumcised.

You will recall that whilst in the wilderness none of the new births were circumcised and so YHWH ordered Joshua to circumcise every male before they were allowed to enter the Land: Joshua chapter 5. In their uncircumcised state they were 'cut off/alienated' from YHWH and unable to enter the Land. Only a set apart nation could enter the Land.

As far as I am aware all faithful Jews today undergo circumcision in the manner prescribed by Torah thereby fulfilling this condition.

Genealogy

It was Avraham's descendants through Yitzchak and Ya'akov who were to form the holy/set apart nation of Israel. In YHWH's eyes humankind was to be divided into two classes; Israel and the nations and it remains that way today. You can read the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find YHWH entering into a covenant with the nations. YHWH only ever made covenants with the descendants of Avraham. But who today are the descendants of Avraham?

It is common knowledge that Jewish records were completely destroyed with the destruction of the second temple by the Romans and this has to be an obstruction to those claiming ancestry. What is more, many claiming Jewish ancestry today may not even come from the line of Shem but be descendants of Yapheth. As is to be expected this issue has created a great deal of controversy however, historical records do not allow us to ignore that such a situation exists. In his book 'The Thirteenth Tribe' Koestler argues the pros and cons of this subject and provides much historical data indicating that many who call themselves Jews and of European extract are not descended from Avraham: specifically those Jews of Polish and Russian origin. So what do the records tell us? The following information is abstracted from facts presented by Koestler, the *emphases* are mine.

At the time of Charlemagne there existed in Eastern Europe a Jewish state known as the Khazar Empire. This empire was at its peak from the seventh to the tenth century and played a major part in shaping the destinies of mediaeval and consequently of modern Europe. The Khazars were a people of Turkish stock *not Hebrews*.

Around AD 740 the Khazar Empire embraced the Jewish faith a fact evidenced by Arab, Byzantine, Russian and Hebrew sources. In his book 'The Magyar Society in the eighth and Ninth Centuries' the Hungarian Marxist: Dr. Antal Bartha wrote;

'Our investigations cannot go into problems pertaining to the history of ideas, but we must call the reader's attention to the matter of the Khazar kingdom's state religion. It was the Jewish faith which became the official religion of the ruling strata of society. Needless to say, the acceptance of the Jewish faith as the state religion of an ethnically non-Jewish people could be the subject of interesting speculations.'

Whilst the sources differ in minor detail the major facts are beyond dispute. What is in dispute is the fate of the Jewish Khazars after the destruction of their empire in the twelfth/ thirteenth centuries. On this problem the sources are scant but various late mediaeval Khazar settlements are mentioned in the Crimea, in the Ukraine, in Hungary, Poland and Lithuania. The general picture that emerges from these fragmentary pieces of information, is that of a migration of Khazar tribes and communities into those regions of Eastern Europe – mainly Russia and Poland – where, at the dawn of the Modern Age the greatest concentration of Jews were found. This has led several historians to conjecture that a substantial part and perhaps the majority of eastern Jews - and hence of world Jewry - might be of Khazar and not of Semitic origin.

In the 1973 edition of the Encyclopaedia Judaica there is a section on 'Khazar Jews after the Fall of the Kingdom' which reads,

'The Turkish speaking Karaites (a fundamental Jewish sect) of the Crimea, Poland and elsewhere, have affirmed a connection with the Khazars, which is perhaps confirmed by evidence from folklore and anthropology as well as language. There seems to be a considerable amount of evidence attesting to the continued presence in Europe of descendants of the Khazars.'

How important, in quantitative terms, is that presence of the Caucasian sons of Yapheth in the tents of Shem? A.N. Poliak a Professor of Mediaeval Jewish History at Tel Aviv University wrote in the introduction to his book 'Khazaria,' published in 1944 and a second edition in 1951;

‘a new approach is required, both to the problem of the relations between Khazar Jewry and other Jewish communities, and to the question of how far we can go in regarding this (Khazar) Jewry as the nucleus of the large Jewish settlement in Eastern Europe.... The descendants of this settlement- those who stayed where they were, those who emigrated to the United States and to other countries, and those who went to Israel – constitute now the large majority of world Jewry.’

Comments from scholars such as these recognise that the issue is real. In reference to the genealogy of the Khazars, Koestler records the words of the Khazar king; Joseph,

Joseph then proceeds to provide a genealogy of his people. Though a fierce Jewish nationalist, proud of wielding the ‘Sceptre of Judah,’ he cannot and does not, claim for them Semitic descent; he traces their ancestry not to Shem but to Noach’s third son Yapheth; or more precisely to Yapheth’s grandson Togarma, the ancestor of all Turkish tribes. “We have found in the family registers of our fathers.” Joseph asserts boldly, “that Togarma had ten sons and the names of their offspring are as follows, Uiger, Durso, Avars, Huns, Basilii, Tarniakh, Khazars, Zagora, Bulgars, and Sabir. We are the sons of Khazar, the seventh”

There is no argument that the Khazars were pagans descended from the line of Yapheth, who converted to Judaism and eventually spread far and wide. The only issue is, as stated by Professor Poliak, just how much of world Jewry flows from the Khazar kingdom. When we consider the location of the Khazar Kingdom – south of modern day Poland and stretching from Hungary to Russia it is more than probable that the Jews of this region are descendants of the Khazars. But we cannot restrict it to just Eastern Europe, it is known that with the decline of their empire the Khazars emigrated westward settling throughout Europe. Thus there is a huge, huge question mark over the authenticity of not only European Jews but also those who emigrated to America and Israel from Europe. What is certain is that a large percentage of Jews today are not of the seed of Avraham, not even of the seed of Shem. This knowledge shines a new light on Noach’s words to his sons,

May Elohim enlarge Yepheth; he will dwell in the tents of Shem. (Gen.9:27)

There are of course several other obstacles to the claim of Jewishness through genealogy; intermarriage which can be found in the Scriptures themselves, rape and proselytism. Maurice Fishberg who published ‘The Jews – A Study of Race and Environment’ sums it up well,

“This,” writes Fishberg, “is indeed the crucial point in the anthropology of the Jews: are they of pure race, modified more or less by environmental influences, or are they a religious sect composed of racial elements acquired by proselytism, intermarriage during their migration in various parts of the world?”

Fishberg is confident it is the latter. A further quote from Fishberg targets the issue of rape;

“Such violent infusion of Gentile blood into the veins of the flock of Israel has been especially frequent in Slavonic countries. One of the favourite methods of the Cossacks to wring out money from the Jews was to take a large number of prisoners, knowing well that the Jews would ransom them. That the women thus ransomed were violated by these semi savage tribes goes without saying. In fact the ‘Council of the Four Lands’ at its session in the winter of 1650 had to take cognizance of the poor women and children born to them from Cossack husbands during captivity and thus restore order in the family and social life of the Jews. Similar outrages were again perpetrated on Jewish women in Russia during the massacres in 1903-5.”

Let me finish the issue of genealogy with a final extract from Koestler,

We are told, for example, that a certain Juda ben Ezekiel opposed his son marrying a woman who was not of ‘the seed of Avraham,’ whereupon his friend Ulla remarked, “How do we know for

certain that we ourselves are not descended from the heathens who violated the maidens of Zion at the siege of Jerusalem.” Rape and loot were considered a natural right of a conquering army.

Interestingly Mashiach Himself prophesies there will be people who purport to be Jewish but are not Jews,

“And to the messenger of the assembly in Smyrna write, ‘This says the First and the Last, who died, and came to life again: ‘I know your works, and pressure, and poverty – yet you are rich – and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, on the contrary they are a congregation of Satan. (Rev.2:8-9).

Mashiach is talking about imposters – illegitimate Jews, people who are not of the line of Shem yet calling themselves Jews. Isn’t Mashiach prophesying exactly what is reported in this article?

All things considered we must be very circumspect about any assertion today that one is the pure seed of Avraham, the odds are heavily against such a claim. The probability that the great majority of Jews are descended from the line of Yapheth not Shem, is the Jews own great deception. Not only may this put the holocaust as evil as it was, in a different light but also the term antisemitism. But is bloodline relevant to salvation? Considering the above, if it is, then who of humankind will be saved?

Who or What is the Remnant?

The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid. (Zeph.3:13)

In Zephaniah chapter 3 YHWH is describing the events culmination the end of this age. Verse 13 relates to a remnant of His people living in the Land through the millennium in peace and safety. But exactly who will constitute YHWH’s remnant? Who is YHWH’s Israel today?

We can only consider salvation from a Messianic context because Mashiach expressly states that none shall come to the Father except through Him (John 14:6), salvation is only through Mashiach (John 10:1-9) and it is Mashiach who will collect the remnant (John 10:16). What is more, Mashiach plainly says He has come only for the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt.15:24). It is for this reason that the apostle phrases it the way he does,

And if you are of Messiah, then you are seed of Avraham, and heirs according to promise. (Gal.3:29).

If you are in the body of Mashiach then YHWH considers you no different to a descendant of Avraham. But there is more to this verse than is readily seen. Mashiach is the Word in the flesh and in this form He came a long time after Avraham’s circumcision, thus when we accept Mashiach we become seed of Avraham after Avraham’s circumcision and considered, in the eyes of YHWH, equal to being born of a circumcised seed. Thus the promise of the Land and all the blessings associated with that promise apply to us all. Now Mashiach was a descendant of Avraham therefore all in the body of Mashiach are his family as confirmed by Him,

And one said to Him, “See, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.” But He answering, said to the one who spoke to Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And having stretched out His hand toward His taught ones, He said, “See My mother and My brothers! “For whoever does the desire of My Father who is in the heavens is My brother and sister and mother.” (Matt.12:47-50).

What is the desire of our Father? It is to obey all that He has instructed; His commandments, laws, rulings and precepts. As Mashiach’s response to the Adversary in Matt. 4:4 man must live by every word that came from the mouth of the Father. The remnant that YHWH will place in the Land will be those who have accepted His Son as their kinsman redeemer and live an obedient lifestyle.

But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of Elohim and do it." (Luke 8:21).

Bloodline is no longer the criteria, acceptance of Mashiach and obedience to all that the Father has given is what is critical to salvation.

Conclusion

Several people I know have pawed over their ancestral history in an enthusiastic effort to prove they have some Jewish blood running through their veins. Whilst the result of such an investigation may provide some personal satisfaction, it is of no relevance whatsoever to salvation.

Today the orthodox remain in a state of separation because they have rejected Mashiach but this separation will only continue until Mashiach returns, when He will be accepted by the Jewish people as a whole,

"And I shall pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Yerushalayim a spirit of favour and prayers. And they shall look on Me whom they pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son. And they shall be in bitterness over Him as a bitterness over the first-born. "In that day the mourning in Yerushalayim is going to be great, like the mourning at Haqad Rimmon in the valley of Megiddo. "And the land shall mourn, every clan by itself: the clan of the house of David by itself, and their women by themselves; the clan of the house of Nathan by itself, and their women by themselves; the clan of the house of Levi by itself, and their women by themselves; the clan of Shimei by itself, and their women by themselves; all the rest of the clans, every clan by itself, and their women by themselves. (Zech.12:10-14)

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Yerushalayim, for sin and for uncleanness. "And it shall be in that day," declares YHWH of hosts, "that I cut off the names of the idols from the earth, and they shall be remembered no more, and I shall also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the earth. "And it shall be when one prophesies again, then his father and mother who brought him forth shall say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken falsehood in the Name of YHWH. And his father and mother who brought him forth shall pierce him through when he prophesies. "And it shall be in that day that the prophets shall be ashamed, every one of his vision when he prophesies, and not put a hairy robe on in order to deceive, but shall say, 'I am no prophet, I am a farmer, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.' "And one shall say to him, 'What are these wounds in your hands?' And he shall say, 'Because I was wounded at home by those who love me.' "O sword, awake against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," declares YHWH of hosts. "Smite the Shepherd, and let the sheep be scattered. But I shall turn My hand upon the little ones. And it shall be throughout all the soil," declares YHWH "that two thirds therein are cut off and die, and one third is left therein. "And I shall bring the third into fire, and refine them as silver is refined, and try them as gold is tried. They shall call on My Name, and I shall answer them. I shall say, 'This is My people,' while they say, YHWH is my Elohim.'" (Zech.13:1-9).

There is only one route to the Kingdom and that is Mashiach, He is the single route for all including all Jews. The belief that Jews have an automatic right of entry via genealogy is a myth perpetrated by Jewish leaders. As said earlier the criteria is Mashiach not bloodline.