

#42: Mattot (מטות) "Tribes" | #43: Masei (מסעי) "Journeys of"

Torah ~ Num. 30:1-36:13 | Prophets ~ Josh. 20:1-6; 22:7-9; Jer. 1:1-2:28; 4:1-2 | New Covenant ~ Matt. 5:33-37; Rom. 11

The Olive Tree

In Torah Portion Masei, the Lord spoke to Moses concerning the leaders of each tribe and their land inheritance. The twelve sons of Jacob was the fathers of these tribes or families. The Hebrew word for "family" is mishpachah (משפחה). But before we had the fathers of the tribes, we had the father of the Israelite nation, Abraham.

Genesis 12:3b is speaking of Abraham when it says "and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" TLV. The Hebrew word used here for "blessed" is ve-niv-re-choo, but it is a different Hebrew word from others used for "blessed." Rabbinical commentaries say that "ve-niv-re-choo" means more than to be blessed, it means to be "grafted in."

God's family (His children, people, or nation) has been and will always be called Israel. He has always wanted citizenship in Israel to be open to everyone as can be seen in *Exodus 12:38* with Israel being a mixed multitude of Jews and Gentiles when they came out of Egypt.

All believers in Yeshua are grafted into the Olive Tree which is called Israel

Galatians 3:29a "So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family" CEV

Paul said in *Romans 11:17-24* that Gentiles who have accepted Yeshua are now adopted into the family of Israel.

Romans 8:15b-16 "(15b) but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (16) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" ESV

Ephesians 3:6 "the Gentiles are now to be fellow heirs [with the Jews], members of the same body" AMP

Galatians 3:26 "For you are all children of God, through faith in Messiah Yeshua." WMB

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." TLV

Romans 9:6b "For not all those who are descended from Israel are Israel" TLV

Romans 2:28-29 tells us that a true Jew (Israelite) is not based on our birth, but on our beliefs.

Jeremiah 31:31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah" TLV

All believers in Yeshua are Spiritual Israelites

Former Gentiles would now belong to one of the tribes of Israel, more than likely that would be Yeshua's tribe, Judah. At the end of this age, when we enter the New Jerusalem (*Revelation 21:9-21*), there will be twelve gates on which are written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. Everyone who enters the city must enter through one of these gates according to the tribe that they belong to. There will not be a gate called "The Gentiles."

Ephesians 2:11-14 says that believers who are Gentile in the flesh are now spiritual Israelites, citizens of Israel.

This "middle wall of separation" in *Ephesians 2:14* existed only in the second Temple. It was a man-made wall that the rabbinical authorities had built to separate the Jews from the Gentiles. This kept Gentile believers from being considered a part of the people of Israel. Gentiles could not enter into the Temple past this point and having to stay in the "Court of the Gentiles." Yeshua spiritually broke down this wall for us, making us apart of the nation of Israel without man-made rules.

But believers have not replaced native born Israel's Chosenness

Believers in Yeshua are called by God for His purpose. But believers have not, nor will we ever, replace the calling of the native born Israelites as God's chosen people.

Romans 11:29 "God does not take back his gifts. He does not change his mind about those he has chosen." NIRV

In Closing

John 10:16 "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.." NIV