



## Am I an Israelite?

The name **Israel** (Heb. **Yisrael**) is made of two words **Yi sar** meaning *from prince*, meaning prevailed or ruled as a prince; and **El** means *God, Strength, Mighty, the Almighty*. It means *Prince with God, God's Prince* or as a *Prince having power with or of God*.

Israel was the name given to Jacob. In the book of Genesis chapter 32 when Jacob wrestled with an angel and prevailed so the angel blessed him and named him Israel.

### Genesis 32:24-30

<sup>24</sup> *And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.*

<sup>25</sup> *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, as he wrestled with him.*

<sup>26</sup> *And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

<sup>27</sup> *And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.*

<sup>28</sup> *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.*

<sup>29</sup> *And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.*

<sup>30</sup> *And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*

Again in chapter 35 God confirms the name Israel on Jacob and blesses him.

### Genesis 35:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.*

<sup>10</sup> *And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.*

But in some place there is a distinction been made between Jacob and Israel as if they were two different persons.

### Numbers 23:21

<sup>21</sup> *He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.*

### Numbers 23:23

<sup>23</sup> *Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!*

### Numbers 24:5

<sup>3</sup> *And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:*

<sup>4</sup> *He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:*

<sup>5</sup> *How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!*

### Deuteronomy 33:10

<sup>10</sup> *They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar*

To understand this let's go back to the Genealogy of Abraham. Abraham had mainly eight sons Ishmael, Isaac, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. Isaac had two sons Esau and Jacob.

The decedents of Jacob (Israel) were known as Israelites. God called the Israelites 'His people'.



### **Exodus 5:1**

<sup>1</sup>*And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

Being an Israelite does not mean born in the country Israel but being of the people of God. In the Old Testament to be God's people they were suppose to worship only Him, keep His commandments and His statutes. Doing only one did not quality them to be an Israelite.

### **Exodus 12:15**

<sup>15</sup>*Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.*

### **Exodus 30:31-33,38**

<sup>31</sup>*And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations.*

<sup>32</sup>*Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you.*

<sup>33</sup>*Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people.*

<sup>38</sup>*Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.*

### **Exodus 31:14**

<sup>14</sup>*Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

### **Leviticus 7:20**

<sup>20</sup>*But the soul that eateth of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, that pertain unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.*

Therefore to be an Israelite, just being a decedent of Jacob did not qualify them, they needed to worship the true God and keep His commandments and His statutes.

How do we become Israelites?

In the New Testament **we become the descendants of Abraham when we believe in Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Galatians 3**

<sup>7</sup>*Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.*

**When you become of Christ – ‘the seed of Abraham’, the promises of Abraham which are of Jesus is yours.**

### **Genesis 17**

<sup>4</sup>*As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*

<sup>5</sup>*Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.*

<sup>6</sup>*And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.*

<sup>7</sup>*And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*

<sup>8</sup>*And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*



**Genesis 22:17-18**

<sup>17</sup>*That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*

<sup>18</sup>*And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Therefore by believing in God you are blessed and fruitful and strong, but yet you do not become an Israelite. To become an Israelite you need to become a descendant of Israel (Jacob), you can need to obey God's commandments and keep His statutes.

Become an Israelite not just a descendant of Abraham if you want to enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 7:21**

<sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

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**God Bless you**