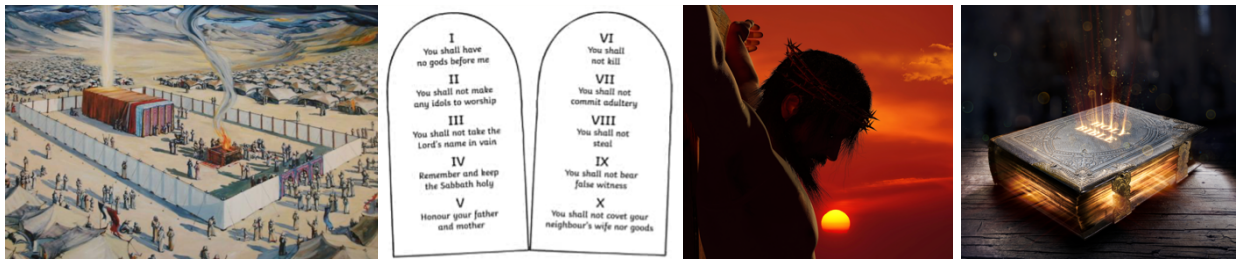


# Jacob, Israel are they one of the same?

It may seem irrelevant today. Who is Jacob and Israel after all. Some may think that it is ancient history that no longer applies in this high-tech, information age of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Those erroneous thoughts and discarding this topic will guarantee bitter disappointment in the near future.

Almighty God is declaring a difference between Jacob and Israel. "He [God Almighty] has revealed **his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel**. He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws" (Psalm 147:19-20).



Archeologists in the modern age have found ancient scrolls dating back 2,000 to 3,000 years old in Egyptian tombs. Recently, an archeological dig found a well-preserved scroll. The 53-foot scroll is a record of the Book of the Dead. Written were the instructions for their after-life. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have the Book of Life, the Bible, given to everyone rich or poor, great or small, Israelite or foreigner. The Bible is found in the homes of vast numbers of people everywhere. It has never remained buried or lost.

Both Almighty God and Jesus Christ long to see creation on earth repent and turn to the Supreme God for help, guidance and saving. Christians have been given a promise by Jesus Christ that whoever prays in his name, he will answer. "And **I will do whatever you ask in my name**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may **ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it**" (John 14:13-14).

The meaning and power of a name has lost its significance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The God of Israel will name and rename because there is power and authority in a name; it is a very specific identifier.

So, then, why is the name of Jacob used with Israel in the same sentence. Are they one of the same?

Jacob's name means "From the Hebrew Ya'aqov, **Jacob** can mean 'to follow, be behind,' but it can also mean 'to supplant, overreach' or come from the Hebrew word for 'heel.'"

While pregnant, twin boys wrestled in Rebekah's womb. She asked God what is happening to her and He said, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

Jacob was born following his brother Esau, holding his heel. The kingship and great blessings awarded to Abraham and passed onto Isaac was the prize the twin boys fought over. Esau was born first, so, he became the winner. It may appear, that Jacob lost the battle. The greater story is rich and reveals, in depth and detail, the choices made by two people within the God's covenant family of Isaac and Rebekah.

Rebekah remembered God's words, "**Two nations** are in your womb, and **two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.**"

- **Two people will be separated:** a distinction will be made between the two boys and their descendants. Two different choices will be made.
- **One people will be stronger than the other:** Esau wrestled with Jacob and won. He was born first. He is the stronger one.
- **The older will serve the younger:** the ruling power will go to Jacob, the younger and Esau will serve Jacob.

The name Jacob also means **to supplant**. Additional meanings of this word include: **to supersede (another) especially by force or treachery, to uproot, to take the place of and serve as a substitute for especially by reason of superior excellence or power.** (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/supplant>)

The time came when Isaac thought that he would soon die. He was old and his eye sight had diminished leaving him blind. He called Esau to hunt game and make his favourite meal before giving him the birthright blessing. Rebekah heard him and called Jacob to prepare to take that blessing.

Jacob replied, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. What if my father touches me? **I would APPEAR to be tricking him** and would **bring down a curse on myself** rather than a blessing" (Genesis 27:11-12).

Jacob's response revealed his fear of being cursed by his father whom he knew had the power to bring down hardship on him and his conscience of what his deceptive action could appear. Jacob knew what God said to his mother. He learned that Esau's verbal agreement of the sale of his birthright to Jacob would not be upheld. Rebekah reassured Jacob to continue and she will take the fallout. He disguised himself as Esau and the birthright blessing was passed down to him.

In the story of Jacob, a parallel story comes to light. Esau mirrors God's first-born child, ancient Israel. God performed wonderful miracles for them as they left Egypt; He cared and protected them in the wilderness; and He entered into an intimate marriage-type of relationship with

them, giving them His law and teaching them His way of love and yet, all of them failed to obey Him, except for Joshua and Caleb. They died in the wilderness never entering the Promised Land.

Esau unveiled his spiritual state when he sold his birthright to Jacob for a mere bowl of soup. He mocked its value when he believed that he would not be alive to enjoy it. He lived only in the present and could not see the glorious future of his descendants serving God, keeping His laws and living His way. Yet, Esau wept bitterly when he learned that his brother had received the birthright blessing. In a mad rage, hatred burned and he vowed to kill Jacob.

As Jacob's name proved, he would uproot his brother, Esau and take his place as first-born receiving the kingship and abundant blessings promised to Abraham. The parallel story is the spiritual message to those of God's covenant people. There is no easy entry into God's kingdom. A battle will ensue between rebels in the covenant family and the God-fearing people for entry into God's kingdom. Entitlement will not qualify. Almighty God is the Alpha and the Omega, He knew before the creation of mankind that Esau would be a rebel. Hence, His response to Rebekah, "the older will serve the younger." Entry into God's eternal, holy, ruling family will require a blood-covenant level commitment to God valuing the great gift of eternal life, God's law and His ways.

God blessed Abraham, known as **the father of the faithful** and promised that through his offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because he obeyed God (Genesis 22:18).

Esau was a burly, self-governing man. He was not open to submitting to his parents or the God of his grandfather, Abraham. He didn't want a relationship with God. Through the story of Jacob and Esau, God decreed that the unrighteous first-born will not inherit the first-born blessings. Also, decreed by God is the disqualification of entitlement by birth. "Produce fruit, then, in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham" (Matthew 3:8-9). Christ opened the door for all of mankind to become heirs according to the promise given to Abraham.

**"If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"** (Galatians 3:29).

Belonging to the seed of Abraham is very important, if you desire to be an **HEIR**—that is, a **son of God**.

Only Jacob received the birthright blessing and Esau missed out.

Esau cried, "Father do you have **ONLY ONE** blessing? Bless me too, my father!" (Genesis 27:38)

God is offering only the repentant and righteous mankind eternal life in His holy, royal, ruling family. There is no offer of life eternal for rebels, careless and compromising law-keepers, disrespectful children of God, self-directing and self-reliant people.

Jacob uprooted Esau through his disguise. His father, Isaac was blind. In his old age, he was spiritually blind to God's plan of the resurrection of the first-born who would be the "younger," the repentant, God-fearing people not the "older" who believe they are entitled by birth.

God confirmed with Jacob the blessings given to Abraham. "There above it stood the Lord, and he said: 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you**'" (Genesis 28:13-15).



Like a typical businessman, Jacob took the blessing as a contract where **he added** his ifs. "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey... and give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, **then** the LORD will be my God (Genesis 28:20-21). Jacob had not yet spiritually matured to have unwavering faith and trust in God. The people like Jacob, are not the overcomers named Israel.

Jacob and Israel are not one of the same.

Through the giving of God's Holy Spirit, the repentant grow into spiritual maturity. Jacob's story of overcoming is confirmed in the wrestling match he had with God. Hosea recognized this God to be the Son of God, the angel of the LORD. "In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor" (Hosea 12:3-4).

This special and unique angel is the Son of God, the One Almighty God praised. "But about the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy'" (Hebrews 1:8-9).

This special and unique angel has the authority to forgive sin. Jacob wrestled with Jesus Christ, the Son of God begging for life. He found himself in a dire situation. 21<sup>st</sup> century Jacob will find themselves in the very same dire situation and the repentant, Holy Spirit filled people will beg for forgiveness and they will wrestle with Jesus Christ—their Saviour, filled with bold determination,

crying for the blessing of eternal life and sonship in the holy, ruling, royal family of God. As the morning light rises mirroring the beginning of the Millennial reign, Christ will see their eternal conviction for God's law and His way and rename them, Israel. This name means "prince with God".

Then the man [the angel of the LORD] said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because **you have struggled with God** and **with men**, and you have prevailed" (Genesis 32:28).

The overcomers will prove their conviction for God and battle against rebel humans who will persecute them. They will not fail because they love their Creator, their God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength and nothing will tear them away from the union they have forged.

Jacob received the birthright blessings given to Abraham, yet he lived in turmoil. The people whose name is changed to Israel are filled with God's Holy Spirit and they work to master sin. The Israel people will stand up against Mystery Babylon in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while the Jacob people will watch. The Israel people will stand up against the beast and only then, will the Jacob people see their dire situation and scramble to overcome; they will wrestle with Jesus Christ at that time, begging for life eternal.

Almighty God will choose Israel again. "**For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel** and settle them in their own land. **The foreigner will join them and unite with the house of Jacob**" (Isaiah 14:1). God created mankind to grow in grace and knowledge and the people like Jacob are the New Testament babes in Christ. Regardless of being DNA descendants or people from around the world, those who repent, God will recognize and have compassion. The overcomers are the true Israel people both DNA and around the world. They have stood in the past and continue to stand unmoveable against Wickedness. These men and women God will choose.

Blessed will be those who overcome. Jesus Christ urged the seven churches to overcome.

**Ephesus:** "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7b). Ephesus has forsaken their first love, which burned in the hearts of all of the ten tribes of Israel at the time the Apostle Paul passed the baton onto the



Gentile ten tribes to take the gospel to the whole world as a legal witness. The house of Joseph led the way and will likely lead the way again in the end-time great religious revival.

**Smyrna:** “**He who overcomes** will not be hurt at all by the second death” (Revelation 2:11). Smyrna is a humble and knowledge-rich people who have witnessed during times of persecution in the past; they will witness again to the whole world during the Great Tribulation.

**Pergamum:** “**To him who overcomes,** I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it” (Revelation 2:17). Pergamum knows of the teaching of Balaam who was an expert in compromising and twisting truth to promote an agenda. The educational and research institutions are centres for this activity. They are willing to publish lies, misinformation and disinformation for either payment, grant continuation, self-glory, or self-promotion. Those who repent will receive a white stone, God is gracious and will declare them innocent.

**Thyatira:** “**He who overcomes,** and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations” (Revelation 2:26). Thyatira tolerates Jezebel who was the foreign wife of King Ahab, king over the ten tribes of Israel. She led Israel into child sacrifice and all of the heinous crimes against humanity that are all coming to the surface today. Many politicians, leaders of leading corporations, judges, national security three-letter agencies, police, unelected officials and many others are participating in Jezebel’s pagan rituals. The movie “Sound of Freedom” is a documentary on this topic. Only a few people holding national and state/provincial and local offices stand apart from committing these heinous crimes.

**Sardis:** “**He who overcomes** will, like them [those who have not soiled their clothes—are not behaving corruptly] be dressed in white [covered in righteousness]. I will never erase their name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels” (Revelation 3:5). Sardis is virtually dead spiritually. Their charities and foundations have become outlets for money laundering and funding crimes against humanity.

**Philadelphia:** “**He who overcomes,** I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name” (Revelation 3:12). Philadelphia remains a small and scattered group of people who remain faithful, sure and unwavering during times of good and distress.

**Laodicea:** “**To the one who overcomes,** I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne” (Revelation 3:21). Laodicea is a very confident group who are convinced that they understand all scriptures in the Bible. Though there are hundreds of different interpretations of scripture and hundreds of different churches, they believe that they are the purest church. Jesus is not among them and they do not see him knocking at their door asking to come in.

Jesus Christ warned the seven churches to overcome: stop bad behaviour, return to taking the gospel to the world, purge Christianity of pagan celebrations and adopt the pure word of God, enforce the law of God in your land and exercise justice and righteousness.

God in His great mercy will hear the cry of His people during the day of Jacob's trouble. "In those days and at that time, declares the LORD, **the children of Israel and the children of Judah will come together, weeping** as they come, and **will seek the LORD their God**" (Jeremiah 50:4).

At that time, the nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel will remember their roots. The English-speaking West, the house of Joseph, will awaken and become a great flame of God's truth across the world and Joseph's brothers, the nations in Western Europe, will become a fire of God's truth.

God will lead them. "But on Mount Zion there will be deliverance, and it will be holy, and the house of Jacob will reclaim their possession. Jacob will be a fire and Joseph a flame; Esau will be stubble, and they will set him on fire and destroy him. There will be no survivors from Esau." The LORD has spoken" (Obadiah 1:18). All the Esau-like people who don't want a relationship with God and hate God's people will be destroyed. The righteous will overpower with God's law; they will convict, sentence and destroy them.

Both houses of the kingdom of Israel will call out to Almighty God for the first time, TOGETHER. The Jews will gladly embrace their brothers who they, for over 2,000 years, refused to acknowledge as family and they will gladly accept them back into the covenant family. Christianity will cleanse their theology to reflect the pure word of God and Western Europe will come in. Both the Jews and the Christians will weep, together calling out to Almighty God for forgiveness and grace. It will be a time of intense shamefulness and grateful joy, when God looks down upon them with compassion.

God will gather them in the north of the Holy Land. Specifically, the north because it is symbolic of the location of God's law courts. These people will have been judged according to God's law and given redemption. They will walk under God's rod of judgement. The unrepentant will not be allowed into the Holy Land. These Jacob people will enter the Millennium as repentant mortals and grow into spiritual maturity during the one-thousand-year reign of Christ. "In those days **the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north** to the land that I gave to your fathers as an inheritance" (Jeremiah 3:18).

Prior to the Millennial reign of Christ, the Jacob people will wrestle as Jacob wrestled with Esau in Rebekah's womb, against the nations who will oppose them. God will fight with them and they will win. God prophecies this glorious time when His people bend their knee to Him and obey Him. "I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not cast them off, for I am the LORD their God. The Ephraimites [specifically the ten tribes of Israel who are today the English-speaking West and Western Europe] will become like mighty men, and their hearts will be glad as with wine [because their God is fighting for them and strengthen them like the strength of the giants]... in distant lands [the West and Western Europe] they will remember me" (Zechariah 10:6-7a, 9b).

21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel have not awakened to their roots today. When they do, a great religious revival will burst onto the international stage. It will be the time of Jacob's trouble. Under great distress and a return to slavery the Jacob people will see the light and beg for life eternal.

"In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of **the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.** A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Almighty God. Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return" (Isaiah 10:20-22).

The two houses of Israel: Judah and Israel have a long history of aggression between them. Both houses have fallen back into sin and each house, today, is full of corruption. From a population of approximately 900,000 million from all twelve nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel, likely only 300,000 million will survive Jacob's trouble. God needed to humble His arrogant and wayward people.

"In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God'" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

From a very small number, God's people will win because the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the All-Powerful God.

An ancient enemy has lingered in the shadows for a long time. God Almighty will lure it out and through His remnant people, they will overthrow ancient powers of Greece (Zechariah 9:13). His people Judah and Ephraim together will destroy this rebel, force from heaven with their mortal servants. God proclaims, "I will bend Judah [the Jews] as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim [the ten tribes/nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel]. I will rouse your sons, O Zion [God's law enforcers], against your sons, O Greece [the puppets of the rogue heavenly rulers] and make you [God's law enforcers] like a warrior's sword" (Zechariah 9:13).

God's word is imaged as a sword. This upcoming battle will not be won through military might and backward engineered, high-tech alien technology, but through countless repentant people filled with God's Holy Spirit who refuse to serve Wickedness, refuse to live in corruption, declare the word of God, enforce the law of God and overthrow every wicked leader holding an office of leadership.

"So he said to me [Zechariah], 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit,**' says the LORD Almighty. 'What are you, **O mighty mountain?** Before Zerubbabel **you will become level ground.** Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'" (Zechariah 4:6-7)





The great power that suppresses God's people will be flattened before Zerubbabel through the power of God's Holy Spirit this battle will be won.

Notice God declares His Spirit as the great force that conquers Wickedness. He closes with "says the LORD Almighty." By placing LORD ahead of Almighty, He is placing theology ahead of law. Peace will be achieved through RIGHTEOUSNESS [God's theology that defines righteousness] LAW [Almighty—the king—enforcer of God's law] keeping—righteous law keeping.

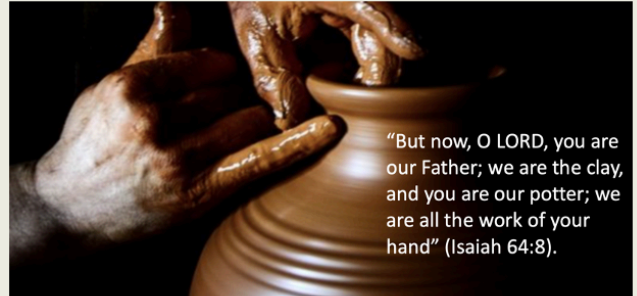
This upcoming battle will be another David and Goliath. God's people will be David and Goliath will be the vast army of Wickedness on earth. God's people will be revered at the fall of Goliath.

"All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, **O worm Jacob, O little Israel**, for I myself will help you," declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the LORD and glory in the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 41:12-16).

O worm Jacob will finally be humbled and lowly, no longer a superpower misusing power all over the world. It also alludes to Psalm 22:6-8, "But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. O little Israel will be a small, handful of righteous people remaining after the persecution by Mystery Babylon who filled her cup with the blood of the saints. This small group of two will be led by Almighty God to take down and crush the "mountains" and "hills" God's imagery for worldwide federal and local governments controlling the people. As Gideon with 300 men overthrew the vast army of Midianites, so this small group led by Almighty God will crush the vast world-ruling powers over earth in the last days of this evil age.

"The nations will escort Israel and bring it to its homeland. Then the house of Israel will possess the nations as menservants and maidservants in the LORD's land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors" (Isaiah 14:2).

Our loving God assures His people. “But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name; you are mine**’ (Isaiah 43:1).



“But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand” (Isaiah 64:8).

Much of ancient Israel rebelled against God. A righteous remnant lives and to these “servants he [God] will give another name” (Isaiah 65:15b). Those who accept the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, have been identified under a new name. The Apostle Paul in his defense said, “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.” Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains” (Acts 26:27-29).

There will be a first and second resurrection; the first is the better resurrection. The rebirth of the people of Jacob is slow, but sure.

“But now listen, O Jacob My servant, Israel, whom I have chosen” (Isaiah 44:1). Jacob remains God’s servant and Israel His chosen. Yes, when they return to their Promised land, foreigners will join them. These foreigners are repentant people from all the nations around the world.

“But you, O Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, **descendant of Abraham My friend**—I brought you from the ends of the earth and called you from its farthest corners. I said, ‘**You are My servant.**’ **I have chosen and not rejected you**” (Isaiah 41:8-9). God’s people were never rejected by Him. They were never lost from His sight. He never stopped caring for them. Forgotten history will be remembered. God’s people will repent.



God foretold the repentance of the ten nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel. “They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west” (Hosea 11:10). Though He pushed them by the east wind all the way into the west far from Him, He watched them over time return, like the prodigal son, weeping in shame. “In the place [the West and Western Europe] where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ **they will be called**

**'sons of the living God.'** The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited" (Hosea 1:10).

Those among the people of Jacob who overcome will have their name changed to Israel, prince with God. They are precious in His sight. "For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, **Israel to be his treasured possession**" (Psalm 135:4).

God has given his treasured possession special knowledge and extended understanding of His word. "He [God Almighty] has revealed his **word to Jacob**, his **laws and decrees to Israel**. He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws" (Psalm 147:19-20).

God does not forget; He does not fail to keep His promises. "He [Almighty God] remember his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generation, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree to Israel as an everlasting covenant: To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit" (Psalm 105:9-11).

Both the Jacob people and the Israel people will rejoice and be glad when God blesses them. "Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!" (Psalm 14:7)

"In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit" (Isaiah 27:6). Finally, God's people from all twelve 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel [the people of Jacob] will bend their knee before Almighty God and establish His law to live righteously. The people of Israel will be a showcase of living righteously, knowledge of God's word, understanding between that which is right and wrong, and God's wisdom that can see deep into the mind of God.

**God is assembling a new government** of faithful and loyal men and women. People who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving.

God's centre of law and order located in heaven is named Lebanon. "**In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field** and the fertile field seem **like a forest?**" (Isaiah 29:17). All of God's great experts in His law rebelled against Him. They became proud and arrogant. God is rebuilding His centre of law and order and filling all of those positions once held by mighty sons of God with the saints, soon resurrected men and women.

The future of God's people and people from all nations will be glorious. Foretold is the humble worship of people from all languages, tribes and nations. "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; **he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**, they will flourish in **the COURTS OF OUR GOD**. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green" (Psalm 92:12-15).

God's people, righteous Israel will set the example of living God's way. Love, compassion, patience, kindness, goodness will be the standard of this kingdom of priests. "I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and **he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon**. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and **his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon**" (Hosea 14:5-6).



A gentle flow of God's Holy Spirit will nourish daily God's people and they will mature spiritually. They will master sin to live righteously. God's way will tunnel deep forming an unbreakable foundation and they will grow tall in God's knowledge, understanding and wisdom like the once unrivaled sons of God who once walked hallways of God's grand courts. Israel's prayers will be perfumed like the fragrance of cedar trees that deter pestilences. Evil will be snuffed out instantly.

God's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in Lebanon full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities.

God names accordingly. Jacob is the name of the people who respect God and fear wrong-doing; they are the babes in Christ. Israel is the name of the people who are boldly active in mastering sin through the resource of God's Holy Spirit. They are the overcomers, the saints, the men and women who are part of the first resurrection. The difference between Jacob and Israel is their spiritual maturity. Ultimately, however, all will become Israel—royal rulers with God.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*

[www.sharingsharpens.ca](http://www.sharingsharpens.ca)