

Our Christian Roots

Because of God's love for us, He has made it simple to become a Christian. All we need to do is, by faith, receive Jesus as our Savior, fully accept His death as the sufficient sacrifice for our sins (**John 3:16**), and trust Him alone. A simple definition of a Christian is a person who follows Jesus Christ. **Matthew 1:23** recounts **Isaiah 7:14's** prophecy about the Son of God, *Immanuel*, meaning "God with us." God Himself took on human flesh, entered His own creation, and dwelt among His people. Every detail of Jesus's life was rooted in Israel's culture and story, shaped by Israel's faith, and connected to Israel's destiny. God ordained Israel to be His instrument for revealing Jesus Christ and bringing salvation to the entire world. To understand why Israel should have a place in our hearts, we must first grasp the magnitude of what the Jewish people brought to us. Today we are able to experience the blessings of the Christian faith because of the Jews. If we don't understand that, we will never have the proper attitude toward God's plan for His chosen people and for us, as revealed in the Bible. Christianity has emphasized the biblical message of grace for 2000 years, and the church's worldwide spread has been extraordinary, yet that message is ours only because it was passed down by the Jewish people. The gospel was born in Israel, as foretold by the Old Testament prophets within the Hebrew nation in the land promised to their ancestors. It was the Jewish apostles who carried the gospel to the ends of the Earth. The first churches were established by Jewish missionaries. Our faith, from beginning to end, flows through Israel. This is why Israel should have a place in all our hearts. Through Israel came the law. Through Israel came the Scriptures. Through Israel came the Messiah (Christ), born of the House of David. Through Israel, the church originated, carrying the gospel to every nation. Through Israel came our salvation. All Christians are sons and daughters of Abraham's seed. Galatians explains this clearly. **Galatians 3:6-9**: *"Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Therefore, recognize that it is those who are of faith who are {Spiritual} sons and daughters of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations will be blessed in you.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer."* And **Galatians 3:29**: *"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."* The "Seed" promised to Abraham, through whom blessings would come to all people, was Jesus. Every time we open our Bible, we hold Israel's gift in our hands. Every time we pray in Jesus's name, we access our Heavenly Father through Israel's Messiah. Every time we gather with fellow believers in church, we carry on a story that began in Israel. God, who kept His promise to bring the Messiah to Israel, will keep His promises regarding Israel's future redemption and His promises to us. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Our faith should be firmly grounded in what God has revealed to us in His Word. Reject antisemitism, which is a poisonous expression of hostility toward the roots of our faiths.