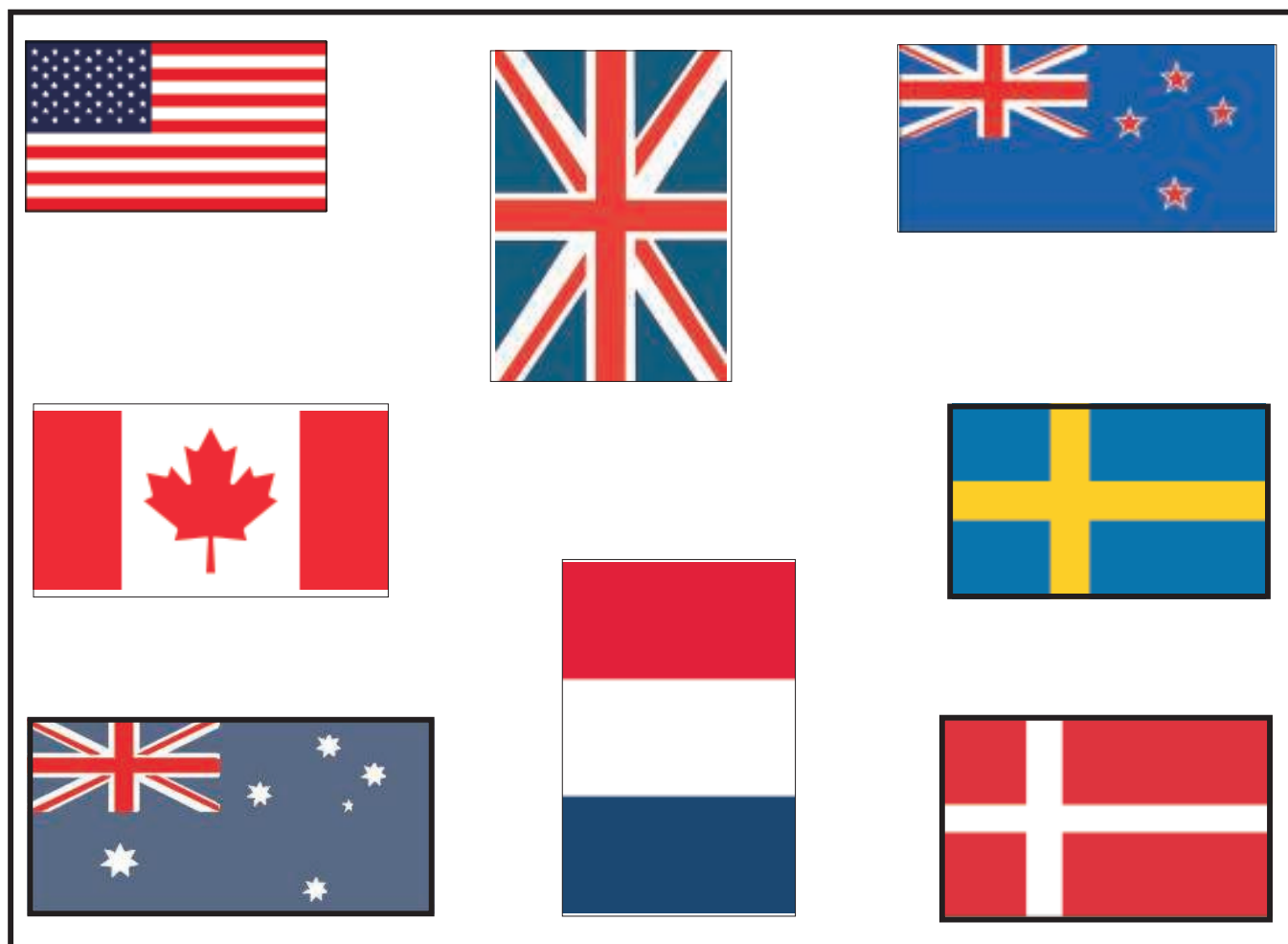


**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



The Flags of Various Nations Descended from Israel

An Open Letter from the Staff...

We learned in lesson nine that the Good News of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God was preached to the descendants of dispersed Israel throughout the areas of Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy. These people were the so-called “Gentiles” (Israelites in the nations) spoken of in the New Testament to which the Messiah sent Paul and the disciples to “bear His name.”

From there the Good News spread throughout Europe, Britain, North America, and the rest of the world. Yes, the Christian nations of the world are the modern-day descendants of the Israel forefathers -- YEHOVAH’s chosen people. In them can be seen the marks of Israel’s blessings and the unfolding of the New Covenant.

We also learned, however, that the majority of these modern-day Israelites are blinded to their true identity, to the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God, and to the meaning of the New Covenant. They are living as “children of the flesh” rather than as “children of promise.” What do these terms mean?

What did Paul mean when he said in **Romans 9:6** that “they are not all Israel which are of Israel”? **Are all physical Israelites “children of promise” and “heirs of the kingdom”?** Yeshua the Messiah said that his sheep would hear his voice and follow him. Just who are his sheep? Who are the “called” and the “elect” spoken of in the New Testament?

Those walking (living) after the flesh cannot please YEHOVAH God. They do not have the spirit of the Messiah and are therefore NONE of his (not his sheep). It is only through the grace and power of the living Messiah that we can be his sheep.

These questions are the subject of this lesson.



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 11

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About Our Cover...

Depicted here are the national flags from various of the modern nations descended from the Ten Tribes of Israel.

The Messiah's Sheep -- Modern-Day Israel

LESSON 11

Who Are Yeshua's Sheep?

We saw in lesson six that YEHOVAH God called the Israel people "SHEEP of His pasture." Many times in the Bible the people of Israel are compared to SHEEP and a FLOCK. Yeshua also used these terms. Let us read what he had to say about "his sheep."

1. In **John 10:14** how does Yeshua say that his sheep relate to him? He is WHAT "of mine"?

2. Then, in **John 10:27**, what does the Messiah say his sheep first do? Then, after this, what do his sheep do?

COMMENT: The above words of the Messiah clearly show that HIS "sheep" are those that KNOW him, HEAR his voice, and FOLLOW him. Do ALL physical Israelites today know, hear, and follow the Messiah? If they do not, then by the Messiah's own words they are NOT all HIS sheep! Many Israel descendants have lived in rebellion to the Messiah and YEHOVAH God, and many continue to do so even today. In fact, the majority of the so-called "Christians" today are following FALSE "christs" and choosing to believe in PAGAN doctrines. Therefore, many Israelites today are "blind."

3. In **John 12:37-40**, John reiterates what Isaiah's prophecy says about faithless Israelites whose eyes and hearts were WHAT? See **Isaiah 6:10**.

4. In both **Romans 11:5-8** and **II Corinthians 3:13-16**, Paul says that blindness is upon WHOM? And that only a "remnant" (those who turn to the Messiah) obtained that which they sought after? See also **Isaiah 29:10**.

COMMENT: Some became "sheep of HIS pasture," and some remained "blind and lost."

HOW do we recognize the difference?

5. In **Luke 9:23** what does the Messiah say a true Christian should do DAILY to follow him?

6. In **Matthew 10:38** Yeshua says that if we do not take up his "cross" -- his burden -- and follow after him then we are not WHAT?

COMMENT: The words FOLLOW and FOLLOWETH in the above verses are translated from the Greek word *akoloutheo*. **Strong's Concordance** defines this word (#190) as follows: "to be in the same way with, i.e. To accompany (specially as a disciple.)" **Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon** indicates the fullest extent this action can take: "to cleave steadfastly to one, conform wholly to his example, in living and if need be in dying also."

Strong's definition suggests that to follow someone is to be that person's disciple. The following scriptures illustrate this point.

To Follow is to Be a Disciple

1. In **Luke 14:27** the Messiah says we CANNOT be WHAT if we don't bear his cross and follow him?

2. On the other hand, in **John 8:31**, the Messiah says we ARE his disciples if we do WHAT?

COMMENT: In the above verses, Yeshua calls those who believe on him and follow him DISCIPLES. He also says that they must "continue" in his words. This suggests that they must OBEY and LIVE by his words. To do so, they must hear his voice and then FOLLOW him. Thus we can see a connection between DISCIPLES and SHEEP.

The Greek word for "disciple" -- *mathetes* -- is defined, as follows: **Strong's Concordance** defines the Greek word *mathetes* (#3101) as "a learner, i.e. A pupil." It comes from the Greek word *manthano* (#3129),

meaning “to learn.”

Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon defines the Greek word *mathetes* as “a learner, pupil, disciple: one who follows one’s teaching.”

OBEDIENCE seems to be a KEY ingredient in being a disciple or sheep of the Messiah. This can be seen from the following verses.

3. According to the Messiah in **John 14:15**, WHAT will we DO if we love him?

4. In **John 14:23** Yeshua says we will KEEP WHAT if we love him?

5. What are we to the Messiah if we do whatsoever he commands us? **John 15:14**.

6. Concerning Yeshua’s mother and brethren, the Messiah tells us that if we do the WHAT of the Father we will become his “brother, and sister, and mother”?

7. If we are to enter into the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God what effect must YEHOVAH’s commandments have on our lives? **Revelation 22:14**.

8. The apostle James tells us in **James 1:22** that we must interact with the word in what fashion?

COMMENT: This would indicate that those allowed to understand the word are expected to ACT upon that knowledge.

Here we seem to see a NARROWING DOWN of who the Messiah’s SHEEP truly are. Those who hear his voice (COMMANDMENTS of the Father, sayings) and follow (OBEY) him, as he obeys the Father, are called his DISCIPLES, FRIENDS and BRETHREN. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO RECEIVE LIFE AND ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM. Do all physical Israelites today meet this standard?

Do We Meet the Standard?

Obviously NOT all Israelites today acknowledge Yeshua the Messiah as their king and savior. NOT all listen to his voice or follow after him as he follows YEHOVAH God. However, SOME do accept him and believe on him.

1. Read **John 1:11-13**. Verse 11 tells us that when the Messiah “came unto his own” they DID NOT do WHAT?

2. According to verse 12, those who received the Messiah and believed on his name were given the power to become WHAT?

3. In verse 13 we learn that these believers were “born [begotten], not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,” but of WHOM?

COMMENT: These verses provide additional evidence that only a PORTION of the descendants of Israel accepted the Messiah and believed on him. These were the ones who were begotten (regenerated with spiritual life) by YEHOVAH God through the process of the New Covenant. Could these be the SHEEP that hear the Messiah’s voice and follow him? If so, then not ALL physical Israelites (LITERAL descendants of Jacob-Israel) could be his sheep -- only PART of them!

We have already seen that the Messiah stated he was sent ONLY to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (**Matthew 15:24**). Some believe Yeshua was speaking ONLY of the Israelites who were dispersed and scattered abroad among the nations beyond the Palestine area. However, the Bible disproves this.

Not All Scattered Abroad

1. Read **Matthew 9:35-38**. When the Messiah looked out upon the multitudes he was “moved with compassion on them” because they were like WHAT scattered abroad? Also, what didn’t they have to lead them?

2. In verse 37 WHAT is “plenteous” but WHAT “are few”?

3. Read **Matthew 10:1-15**. In verses 5-7 WHOM did the Messiah send forth and tell them to preach the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Judean Israelites) rather than to the Israelites in the nations (Gentiles) and in Samaria?

COMMENT: The Gospel was preached FIRST to the Judean Israelites and LATER to

other Israelites.

4. According to **verse 14**, would ALL of these lost Judean Israelites accept the Messiah's disciples and hear the Good News of the Kingdom of YEHOUVAH God?

COMMENT: The preceding verses CLEARLY show that there were lost Israelites in the Palestine area AS WELL as scattered abroad in the nations. Yeshua sent his disciples FIRST to the Judean Israelites (the disciples were later sent to the OTHER ISRAELITES -- the so-called "Gentiles"). NOT all of these Israelites accepted the Messiah and the Good News of the Kingdom of YEHOUVAH God. Further evidence exists to show that Yeshua had "SHEEP" (Israelites) BOTH in Palestine and outside the area.

Separate Folds

1. Read **John 10:14-18**. In **verse 16** Yeshua states, "And _____ sheep I have, which are not of this _____."

COMMENT: This indicates other Israelites living beyond the immediate area.

2. Continuing, in **verse 16**, what is it that Yeshua says "there shall be one" of? And, also, one WHAT to lead it?

COMMENT: This indicates that all his followers would be united WITH HIM.

Here the Messiah is speaking of SEPARATE FOLDS of sheep (Israelites): the JUDEAN Israelites who first heard the Good News, and the NON-JUDEAN Israelites scattered throughout the nations (the so-called "Gentiles"). Yeshua makes a prophecy that ALL FOLDS (all groups of sheep -- Israelites) will hear his voice. Although his voice was "heard" in "all" folds, NOT EVERY individual Israelite accepted him and the Good News of the Kingdom of YEHOUVAH God! NOT all were "sheep." Some Israelites were "goats" and "tares" (**Matthew 25:32-33; 13:24-30**).

3. Read **Luke 12:31-32**. In **verse 32**, WHAT does the Messiah refer to his sheep as?

4. Also, in **verse 32**, WHAT is it that

YEHOUVAH God desires to give them (the sheep)?

COMMENT: In the above verse, the word FLOCK is translated from the Greek word *poimnion*. **Strong's Concordance** defines this word (#4168) as "figuratively, a group of believers." **Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon** defines it as "a group of Christ's disciples." Here we see that those who believed on and followed the Messiah were the LITTLE (but growing) FLOCK that received the Kingdom. Paul makes reference to this "flock" in **Acts, chapter 20**.

5. Read **Acts 20:17-38**. In **verse 17** Paul is speaking to WHICH particular members of the Church of YEHOUVAH God in Ephesus?

6. What does Paul instruct the elders of the Church of YEHOUVAH God to do in **verse 28**?

7. In **verse 29** Paul WARNS that something "grievous" would come in and draw some of the flock away with perverse teachings. WHAT was it that was "grievous"?

COMMENT: In the foregoing verses, Paul is comparing the FLOCK to the ECCLESIA or CHURCH of YEHOUVAH God. (The word CHURCH is a poor and misleading translation. The Greek word is *ekklesia*, [#1577] in **Strong's Concordance**, defined as "a calling out, i.e. An elect assembly." This refers to a "GOVERNMENTAL" body rather than a typical modern-day understanding of a "religious" organization. This term will be studied in more detail in later lessons). Paul is admonishing these "elders" (shepherds) to watch over and feed these "called-out ones" and protect them from being led astray by false teaching. The word OVERSEERS is translated from the Greek words *skopos* (#4649), meaning "a watch (sentry or scout)" and *epi* (#1909), meaning "over." Thus, an "overseer" is one who "watches over" or guards. Rebellious, disobedient Israelites were NOT included as part of the FLOCK or ECCLESIA -- only those "called out" by YEHOUVAH God.

Peter's Strangers

Peter makes reference to the SHEEP in the book of **I Peter**. In **verses 1 and 2 of chapter 1**, Peter states that he is writing to the "STRANGERS" (resident foreigners -- #3927 in Strong's Concordance) scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. These were dispersed Israelites living in foreign nations.

1. Read I Peter, chapter 1. In verse 2 WHAT does Peter call these "strangers"?

2. WHAT sort of "children" does Peter call them in **verses 14-15**? WHAT sort of children are "called" to be holy?

3. In verse 23 Peter says the word of YEHOVAH God is causing them to be WHAT again?

4. Read I Peter, chapter 2. In verse 2 Peter refers to these Israelites as SOMETHING that is newborn -- desiring the "sincere milk" of the WHAT?

5. In verse 5 Peter compares them to "lively" PARTS of a "spiritual house" (the Kingdom). WHAT are these parts? He then calls them a "holy" SOMETHING. What is that "something"?

6. In verse 9 what sort of generation does Peter call them? And WHAT sort of priesthood? He also calls them a holy SOMETHING and what type of people?

7. Peter says, in **verse 25**, that they were as SOMETHING "going astray. WHAT were they? However, he then says that they are "now returned unto" WHOM?

COMMENT: In these verses Peter describes the SHEEP of the Messiah -- those that hear his voice and FOLLOW him. They are a special group -- an elect -- chosen by YEHOVAH God "out of" physical Israel to be a holy and peculiar people. They are called out of darkness through a REBIRTH (regeneration or spiritual RESURRECTION). As new creatures in the Messiah (newborn babes), they begin a process of spiritual growth and maturation. This is the unfolding of the New Covenant promised

by YEHOVAH God to Israel in the Old Testament (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**).

Not All of Israel are Yeshua's Sheep

We are beginning to see a picture that not ALL of physical Israel qualify as the Messiah's sheep. Many students of the Bible have made the mistake of believing that those who did not hear the Messiah's voice were only non-Israelites, and were, therefore, not considered "sheep" on account of their race. The Bible, however, indicates that MANY of the literal flesh and blood Israelites also refused to hear the Messiah and REJECTED him and his teachings.

1. Read Romans 9:1-33. In verse 3 Paul is talking about his "brethren," his "kinsmen according to the" WHAT?

2. He identifies these kinsmen, in **verse 4**, as WHAT?

3. In verse 6 Paul says they are not all WHAT "which are of Israel"?

4. Paul states in **verse 7** that just because the Israelites have a certain relationship to Abraham (they are his WHAT?) not all of them are necessarily his WHAT?

5. In verse 8, what does Paul say they (the Israelites) are the children of? What does he say they are NOT?

6. After referring to YEHOVAH's selection of Jacob over his twin brother Esau (**verses 10-13**), Paul states in **verse 16** that the CHOOSING is not of men but of whom?

7. In verse 18 what does Paul say that YEHOVAH has on some people, and what does He do to others?

COMMENT: In these verses we find some extremely important statements. Paul is talking about ISRAELITES, and he says that NOT ALL those out of Israel (physical descendants of Israel) are true Israel (spiritually reborn Israelites). He further explains this by stating that being the "seed" (LITERAL offspring) of Abraham does not make them all "children," (being a "fleshly" child does not automatically make one a child of promise).

What Paul is describing here is the result of the New Covenant -- the implantation of YEHOVAH's Law into the heart. He is saying that being a literal, physical descendant of Israel is NO automatic "guarantee" of being reborn into YEHOVAH God's Kingdom and being one of the Messiah's sheep. It is, however, important to realize that those CHOSEN by YEHOVAH to experience this rebirth/life are called "out of" PHYSICAL/DEAD ISRAEL.

Paul also explains, in the remainder of **chapter 9**, that this calling (choosing or selection) of individuals by YEHOVAH God is purely at HIS discretion, as Sovereign Creator, to show His power and mercy.

Again, we see this idea of physical Israel divided into TWO portions: those who hear the Messiah's voice and follow him as he follows YEHOVAH God (children of YEHOVAH -- children of promise), and those who REJECT him and live in REBELLION to YEHOVAH God (children of the flesh). Both are the LITERAL SEED (offspring) of Abraham, but only ONE represents the sons of YEHOVAH God. This truth is repeated over and over throughout the New Testament.

Allegory of the Two Israelites

Paul, by means of an allegory, describes TWO KINDS of Israelites in the fourth chapter of Galatians: those in BONDAGE (children of the flesh), and those who are FREE (children of promise). BOTH are PHYSICAL ISRAELITES, yet there is a significant difference between them.

At this point we should explain what exactly an allegory is. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* explains an allegory as thus: "A figurative sentence or discourse, in which the principal subject is described by another subject resembling it in its properties and circumstances. The principal subject is thus kept out of view, and we are left to collect the intentions of the writer or speaker, by the resemblance of the secondary to the primary subject. Allegory is in

words what hieroglyphics are in painting. We have a fine example of an allegory in the eighteenth psalm, in which God's chosen people are represented by a vineyard. The distinction in scripture between a parable and an allegory, is said to be that a parable is a *supposed* history, and an allegory, a figurative description of *real* facts."

1. Read **Galatians 4:21-31** and compare to **Romans 9:6-9**. According to **verse 23**, what was the son of the bondmaid "born after"? In contrast, what was the freewoman's son "born after"?

2. What does **verse 24** tell us that Hagar (like the Old Testament and Old Jerusalem) was born into ("gendereth to")?

3. What does **verse 26** say that New Jerusalem (the Bride of Promise) is?

4. Now what does the first part of **verse 29** tell us about a certain type of person? And who does this "certain type of person" persecute?

5. In **verse 30** we see that the son of which woman (New Jerusalem) is to be an heir (of the Kingdom)? And which woman and her son (Old Jerusalem -- flesh) is to be cast out?

6. What does Paul admonish us "to stand fast therefore in" in **Galatians 5:1**? What does he tell us not to be entangled again with?

COMMENT: Here we see a picture of unregenerate Israelites (children of the flesh) in BONDAGE to the flesh (dead in sin) as opposed to regenerate Israelites (children of the promise) made FREE and thus capable of receiving the New Covenant (through faith in the Messiah). We see the Israelites born after the flesh PERSECUTING those Israelites born after the spirit (just as they do today).

However, we also see that the Israelites of promise are HEIRS (inheritors) of the KINGDOM of YEHOVAH God while the others are cast out.

This allegory brings out two kinds of Israelites. Both are of the SAME SEED LINE, the same family of people, but some are the Messiah's sheep and some are not. We see again

that merely being a PHYSICAL descendant of Israel is not enough in itself to inherit freedom and qualify as one of the Messiah's sheep. Yeshua the Messiah. (This process will be covered in more detail in future lessons.)

Children of Flesh vs. Children of Promise

Paul makes clear the difference between these two types of Israelites. In **Romans 10** he describes these "children of the flesh" who live in BONDAGE.

1. Read **Romans 10:1-4**. In **verse 1** who does Paul desire -- and pray for -- to be saved?

2. In **verse 2** Paul says that they "have a zeal of God," but not according to what?

3. In **verse 3** what does Paul say these Israelites are of YEHOVAH's righteousness? What does he say they go about trying to establish?

4. Continuing on in **verse 3**, what is it that Paul says they haven't done "unto the righteousness of God"?

COMMENT: These Israelites of the flesh were trusting in their own works to succeed in life instead of trusting in the Messiah's instructions. They were not submitting to YEHOVAH God -- they were living in rebellion. They were RACIAL Israelites, but they were NOT following after the Messiah as he followed after the Father.

In contrast, Paul describes in **Galatians 3** the "children of God" (children of promise) that live in the FREEDOM of the Messiah under the New Covenant.

5. Read **Galatians 3:26-29**. What is it that Paul tells us in **verse 26** that makes one a child (son) of YEHOVAH God?

6. In **verse 29** we read that if we are the Messiah's sheep, then we are Abraham's seed and what else? And this is according to what?

COMMENT: Here we see what makes an Israelite a SON of YEHOVAH God (heir -- freeman): FAITH IN YESHUA THE MESSIAH. Ancestry alone does NOT accomplish it. Faith in one's own works will NOT do it! Only YEHOVAH God brings it to pass with the New Covenant administered by

Flesh vs. Spirit

The terms "flesh" and "spirit" are also used often in the Bible to describe these two types of Israelites -- those that FOLLOW the Messiah and those who do NOT. A look at **Romans 8** will illustrate the use of these terms.

1. Read **Romans 8:1-17**. In **verse 1** what is it that the Messiah's sheep DO NOT walk after? And what is it they DO walk after?

2. In **verse 4**, what is it that is fulfilled in those who walk after spirit?

3. In **verse 5** what is it that those who "are after the flesh" mind? And what is that those who "are after the spirit" mind?

4. We read in **verse 8** that those "that are in the flesh" cannot do what?

5. In **verse 9**, those "in the spirit" have whose spirit dwelling in them?

6. **Verse 9** also says, "Now if any man have NOT the spirit of Christ, he is _____ of his."

7. According to **verse 14**, the SONS of YEHOVAH God are those led by what?

8. In **verses 16-17**, what is our relationship to YEHOVAH God? And to whom are we JOINT-HEIRS with?

COMMENT: Here we see that Israelites walking (living) after the FLESH cannot please YEHOVAH God. They DO NOT have the spirit of the Messiah (YEHOVAH's spirit) and therefore are none of his (not his sheep). However, those Israelites walking AFTER THE SPIRIT are LED by the spirit of YEHOVAH God dwelling in them and are the SONS of YEHOVAH God. As YEHOVAH's children, they are HEIRS of YEHOVAH God and JOINT-HEIRS with the Messiah (our Elder Brother). Repentant and OBEDIENT Israelites are YEHOVAH's true sheep -- the sheep of His pasture. It is only through the grace and power of the Messiah (by means of YEHOVAH's spirit) that we can be his sheep.

We have seen in this lesson what it means to be one of the Messiah's sheep. We have also discovered that not all Israelites are "his sheep." This discovery destroys the FALSE TEACHING that it is only non-Israelites who do not hear Yeshua's voice and do not follow him. We have seen a number of examples from the Bible showing that many Israelites reject the Messiah as well.

An additional FALSE TEACHING which is promoted by some within the "Christian" world today is that NONE of those people called "Jews" in most modern Bible translations and versions were Israelites. Some say they were Edomites from the lineage of Esau, while others go so far as to say they were literal offspring of "Satan, the Devil." This, they claim, is why they could not "hear" the Messiah's words and refused to believe on him. We have already learned in Lesson 2 that the word "Jew" in the New Testament should have been rendered JUDEAN. We also know that the majority of people called "Jews" today have little or nothing in common with the Judeans of the Bible. Lesson 13 will examine in more detail just WHO these people were that were called JUDEANS.

Recommended Reading...

The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found!

Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets

Answers to Questions in Lesson 10

1. Our past sins 2. 7,000 3. Identity 4. Seven 5. Two spiritual harvests 6. Resurrection 7. When the sun starts to decline 8. The real sunset 9. No 10. Nisan 14 11. Levitical 12. Baptism 13. The ministry 14. Stoning 15. Four 16. The Aphikomen

NOTES:

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: The Messiah's "sheep" are those who, above all, do what? _____

Question 2: The word "follow" is translated from what Greek word? _____

Question 3: Is there a connection between "disciples" and "sheep"? _____

Question 4: Who are the ones who receive eternal life and enter the Kingdom? _____

Question 5: Is it true that Israelites walking after the "flesh" cannot please YEHOVAH God? _____

Question 6: What makes an Israelite a son of YEHOVAH God? _____

Question 7: Israelites of promise are _____ of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God.

Question 8: What are the TWO types of Israelites in Galatians 4:23? _____

Question 9: To which Israelites was the Gospel FIRST preached? _____

Question 10: The non-Judean Israelites scattered throughout the nations were known as _____.

Question 11: An "overseer" is one who _____ or _____ the congregation or "ecclesia."

Question 12: The result of the New Covenant is the implantation of _____ into the hearts of the "sheep."

Question 13: Ever since the time of the Messiah Israelites of the flesh have _____ those Israelites born after the spirit.

Question 14: Paul describes the two kinds of Israelites in Galatians 4 by means of an _____.

The answers will be found in the next lesson. In approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 9 through 12, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

