

## Identity & Israel

### I. How Does Adam Relate to Israel?

Parallels between Adam and Abraham

Adam	Abraham
“Be <b>fruitful</b> and multiply” (1:28)	“I will make you exceedingly <b>fruitful</b> (17:6)
Place: <b>Garden</b> of Eden (Paradise, 2:8)	Place: Land of Canaan (like the <b>Garden</b> of the Lord, 13:10)
“ <b>God blessed</b> them” (1:28)	“And I [ <b>God</b> ] <b>will bless</b> you” (12:2)
“God caused a <b>deep sleep</b> to fall upon the man” (2:21)	“A <b>deep sleep</b> fell on Abram” (15:12)
“fill the earth and <b>subdue</b> it” (1:28)	“ <b>kings</b> shall come from you” (17:6)
Commits Sin involving wife (3:6)	Commits Sin involving wife (12:10-20)
Promise of Offspring (3:15)	Promise of Offspring (15:4)
Conflict between Offspring (4:1-16)	Conflict between Offspring (21:8-21)

Just like Adam, Israel is God’s son.

**Exodus 4:22-23** *Then you shall say to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord, **Israel is my firstborn son**, 23 and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.”*

**Deuteronomy 1:31** *and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, **as a man carries his son**, all the way that you went until you came to this place.’*

Israel is a corporate Adam.

**Hosea 6:6-7** *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. 7 But **like Adam** they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.*

### II. The Identity of Israel

Major Headings in Israel’s History:

Abraham & the Patriarchs  
Moses & the Exodus  
Conquest & the Judges  
United Kingdom  
Divided Kingdom  
Invasion & Exile  
Return from Exile

As this promise of restoration flows from Adam to his offspring, his offspring become evident as opposed to the Serpent's offspring (see Genesis 4-11). This restoration promise flows particularly into the life of Abraham for the creation of a nation:

**Genesis 12:1-3** *Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

**Genesis 17:4-8** *Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and **kings** shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.*

This nation Israel was promised a land that was likened to Eden (Genesis 13:10):

*And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere **like the garden of the LORD**, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar.*

After Israel was led by Moses from Egypt through the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai, God brought them to the mountain to give them a national covenant (see Exodus 19-20). They are charged to be holy as God is holy, and by judging the Canaanites (the seed of the Serpent) by casting them out of the land.

**Deuteronomy 7:1-2** *When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than yourselves, 2 and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.*

Just as with Adam, he was calling Israel to imitate Him:

**Leviticus 20:7-8,26** *Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8 Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 26 **You shall be holy** to me, for **I the Lord am holy** and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.*

In imitating God's holiness, they would become a kingdom of priests:

**Exodus 19:5-6** *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."*

Israel was to be God's adorned bride:

**Ezekiel 16:7-8** *I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.*

### III. The Mixed Identity of Israel

The results for Israel were simple. If they kept/obeyed the covenant, then God would bless them by providing rain and water for crops and sustenance, providing military victories against opponents, and eventually growing the Kingdom so that it covered the world. If they broke/disobeyed the covenant, then God would curse them by bringing drought to destroy their crops and sustenance, bringing military losses against opponents, and eventually crumbling the Kingdom so that everyone would be exiled around the world.

Israel experienced these blessings and cursings throughout their history. God blessed them by bringing them out of Egypt. Israel rebelled in the wilderness so that most could never see the Promised Land. God blessed by bring them into Canaan and conquering their enemies. Israel rebelled in the land so that they never fully controlled it. God blessed them by giving them a King to unite and expand the kingdom. Israel rebelled along with the kings so that God split the kingdom and eventually drove them into exile to other nations.

Overall, Israel became just like Adam since they failed to obey and broke the covenant God had arranged with her:

**Hosea 6:6-7** *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. 7 But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.*

Here are some samplings of God's perspective of Israel. Instead of being God's bride, Israel had become an adulterous whore:

**Ezekiel 16:13-15** *Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14 And your renown went forth*

*among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD. 15 "But **you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown** and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his.*

**Hosea 5:3-7** *I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me; for now, O Ephraim, **you have played the whore**; Israel is defiled. 4 Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD. 5 **The pride of Israel** testifies to his face; Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt; Judah also shall stumble with them. 6 With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them. 7 They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD; for they have borne alien children. Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields.*

Instead of acting like the offspring of Abraham, the friend of God, they became the offspring of evildoers, like Sodom and Gomorrah:

**Isaiah 1:4-10** *Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, **offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!** They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil. 7 Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence foreigners devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners. 8 And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. 9 If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, **we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.** 10 Hear the word of the LORD, **you rulers of Sodom!** Give ear to the teaching of our God, **you people of Gomorrah!***

God banished Israel from the land (2 Kings 25:1-30; 2 Chronicles 36:17-21) and they were, as a nation, exiled to Assyria and Babylon.

**2 Chronicles 36:20** *He (Nebuchadnezzar) took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons.*

#### **IV. The Restoration of Israel**

Throughout Israel's failure over centuries after the covenant at Mt. Sinai, God graciously promised to restore Israel in the "latter days":

**Isaiah 2:2-4** *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion*

*shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

**Isaiah 40:9-11** *Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

**Ezekiel 36:24-28** *I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

**Daniel 7:9-10,13-14** *As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. 13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

**Israel Identity:** Offspring of Abraham, Son of God, Kingdom of Priests, Wife of God