

Becoming Israel - Leaving Babylon, Leaving Religion, and feeling...IT'S BY DESIGN

Finding the Ancient Path

A study of covenant identity, wilderness, wrestling, and crossing over

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pE7OdkF6iLU&t=3118s>

The Pain of Isolation

- New convictions can lead to leaving a church or being excluded from one.
- Loss of fellowship, friends, and familiar systems can feel like a wilderness.
- The Teaching asks whether that season can be used for deeper scriptural examination.

When Does a Person Become Israel?

- Deuteronomy 29 is used to show Israel and the stranger entering covenant.
- Ephesians 2 is used to describe those once alienated as brought near to Israel's Commonwealth.
- The Teaching says New Covenant identity begins through faith in Yeshua.

What Becoming Israel Does NOT Mean

- Not becoming ethnically Jewish.
- Not becoming a citizen of the modern State of Israel.
- Not automatically adopting every cultural custom.
- The Teaching uses “Israel” for the covenant people of God.

Both Covenants and Israel

- Jeremiah 31 names the house of Israel and house of Judah in the New Covenant promise.
- The law is described as written on minds and hearts.
- The Teaching uses this to argue continuity of covenant people rather than two unrelated peoples of God.

The Foreigner Who Joins Yahovah

- Isaiah 56 speaks of the foreigner joining himself to Yahovah.
- The passage emphasizes covenant loyalty, service, love of His name, and Sabbath.
- The Teaching presents obedience within covenant relationship rather than as a mere external burden.

An Awakening

- Questions about Sabbath, appointed times, food instructions, and inherited doctrine may arise unexpectedly.
- The Teaching describes this as an awakening that can expose tension with long-held religious traditions.
- That tension may lead into a period of separation.

Jacob: The Central Model

- Genesis 32: Jacob was left alone.
- He wrestled through the night and refused to let go without a blessing.
- His name changed from Jacob to Israel.
- He crossed over changed - and limping.

Why Solitude Matters in the Teaching

- Solitude removes some outside voices and forces personal examination.
- Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist, and Yeshua are cited in connection with solitude or wilderness.
- The goal is not isolation for its own sake, but dealing with Scripture and Yahovah personally.

Wrestling for Understanding

- Deuteronomy 4 and Jeremiah 29 promise that Yahovah is found when sought wholeheartedly.
- Jacob's persistence becomes an illustration of diligent searching.
- The Teaching urges listeners not to stop at inherited answers when Scripture raises deeper questions.

Treasure Worth Digging For

- Matthew 13:44-46: hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.
- The Teaching compares scriptural discovery to digging until a valuable vein is found.
- The emphasis is sustained seeking, not quick or convenient answers.

Blessing and Cost

- Jacob received blessing and a new name, but he also left with a limp.
- The Teaching applies the “limp” to lost friendships, family tension, or lost fellowship.
- Transformation is presented as both beautiful and painful.

Dealing With Yahovah Face to Face

- The Teaching applies Jacob's literal encounter as a spiritual picture for believers.
- Convictions must ultimately be personally examined and owned.
- Fellowship is valued, but another person cannot substitute for one's own response to Scripture.

Crossing Over

- Jacob crossed over after the encounter.
- Psalm 119 and Luke 24 are used to speak of opened eyes and opened understanding.
- The Teaching uses “crossing over” for a new understanding of identity, covenant, and Scripture.

A New Name and a New Direction

- Isaiah 56, Isaiah 62, and Revelation 2 are connected to the biblical theme of a new name.
- The Teaching sees Jacob's renaming as part of the larger theme of transformed identity.
- The application is to emerge from the wrestling with convictions rooted in Yahovah's Word.

Summary of the Journey

- Alone: separated from what was familiar.
- Wilderness: traditions and doctrines are tested.
- Wrestling: seek Yahovah and Scripture diligently.
- Blessed but changed: truth can carry real costs.
- Crossing over: walk forward with a new understanding and personally grounded convictions.

Discussion

- What does Scripture itself say about covenant identity?
- Which traditions need to be tested more carefully?
- How can isolation become a season of seeking rather than bitterness?
- What does it mean to pursue truth while still walking patiently and lovingly with others?