

THE DANGERS OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY



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What is “Replacement Theology?”

Replacement Theology is the belief that, due to Israel’s rejection of Messiah, the church has now officially superseded (replaced) Israel as God’s chosen people.

This view would say that the church is the “New Israel.”

How Did Replacement Theology Become Popular?

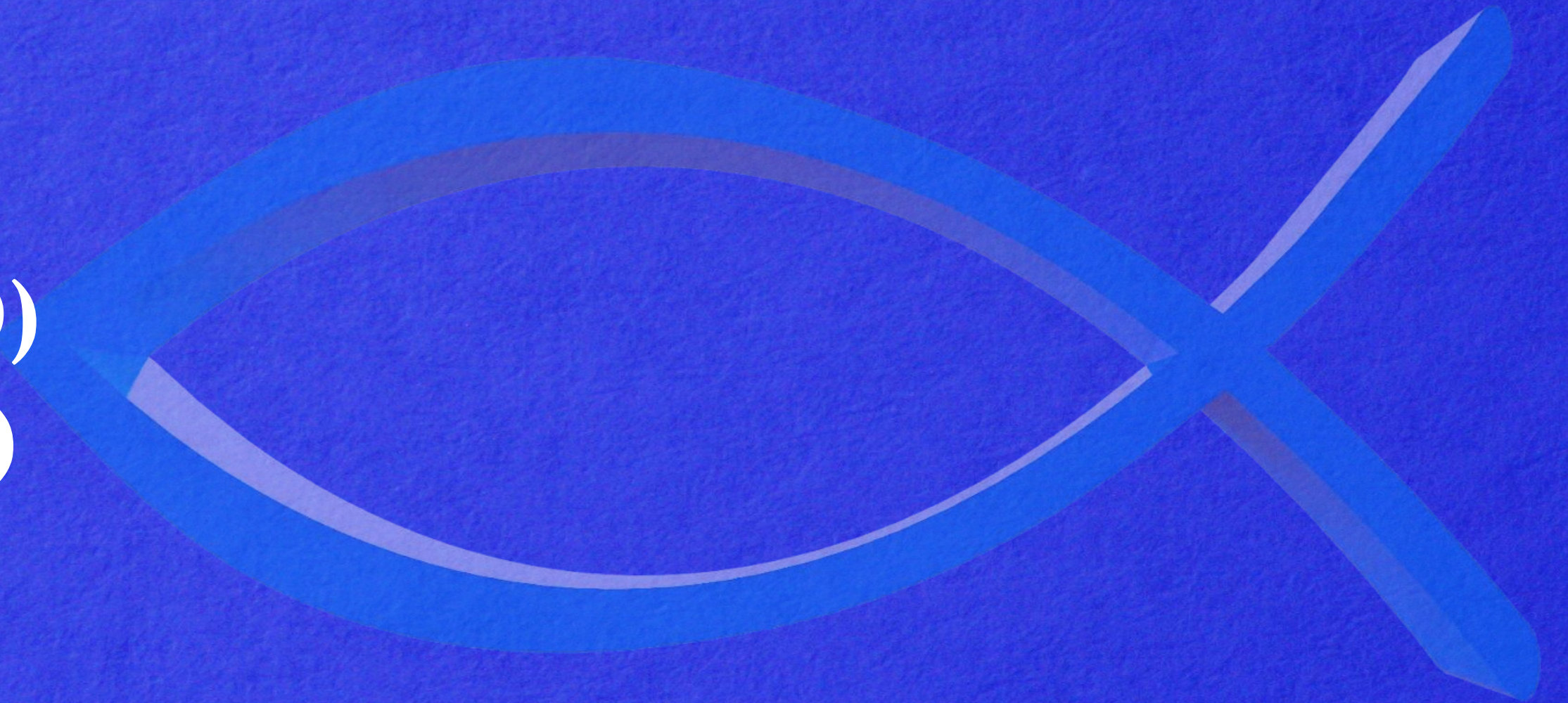
Replacement Theology gained support beginning in the 2nd century AD due to the following three reasons:

1. The church, which was originally 100% Jewish, was now becoming predominantly Gentile as Christianity spread into Asia Minor, Western Europe, and Africa.
2. Israel ceased to be a nation in AD 70, leading to the expulsion of Jews worldwide in AD 135 under the Emperor Hadrian.
3. As a result, all Scriptures pertaining to, or prophesying about national Israel were reinterpreted and applied (spiritually) to the church (since there was no “Israel”)

Most of the Church Fathers Adopted This View

- The Epistle of Barnabas (100 AD)
- Ignatius of Antioch (50-117 AD)
- Justin Martyr (100-167 AD)
- Irenaeus (130-202 AD)
- Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD)
- Tertullian of Carthage (155-230 AD)
- Origen in Alexandria (185-254 AD)

Jews began to be known as “Christ-Killers,” leading to justifying the mistreatment of the Jewish people.



Top 14 Dangers of Replacement Theology

1. RT is based on an **inconsistent interpretive method**
2. RT indirectly promotes **Antisemitism**
3. RT forfeits potential **blessings from God** (Gen 12:3)
4. RT potentially invites **cursings from God** (Gen 12:3)
5. RT misses **God's end times narrative** (allegorizes, spiritualizes Rev.)
6. RT fails to recognize **God's unconditional promises to Israel** (Rom 11:1, 29)
7. RT fails to understand **key distinctions between Israel and the church** (Rom 9-11)

Top 14 Dangers of Replacement Theology

8. RT applies Scriptures meant for Israel to the church
9. RT combines the Rapture with the Second Coming of Christ
10. RT denies a literal Millennial Kingdom of Christ (2 Sam 7:16; Rev 20)
11. RT misinterprets and misapplies Daniel & Revelation (Rev 22:18-19)
12. RT fails to recognize God's promise to save "all Israel" (Rom 11:26)
13. RT misses the purposes of the Tribulation (Dan 12:1-2; Rev 3:10)
14. RT misinterprets Israel's hardening as God's rejection of them (Rom 11:25-26)

Biblically, Why Should We Reject Replacement Theology?

1. God's **Choice** of Israel Was Sovereign and Unconditional

(Deuteronomy 4:37-39; 7:6-9)

2. God's **Covenants** with Israel Were Also Unconditional

Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-15; 15:18-21)

Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:15-17; 1 Chron. 17:11-14; 2 Chron. 6:16; Matt. 21:19)

Land Covenant (Gen. 12:7; 15:18; 17:18; 26:3-4; Joshua 1:4; Dt 29-30)

New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-33; Ezek 37:14; Zech. 12:10; Luke 22:20; Rom. 11:26)

3. Paul's **Theology of Israel** Is Explained in Romans 9-11.

The covenants still belong to national Israel (9:4)

Not every individual Jew is a child of God (9:6-8)

God defends His sovereign choice of Israel (9:9-22)

God chose Israel so that Gentiles could know His mercy (9:22-26)

Israel pursued righteousness through the law, not faith (9:30-10:21), but her disobedience did not cause God to reject her (11:1-2)

Israel's rejection of Jesus led to Gentile's salvation (11:11)

Gentiles (church) were grafted in to promises made to Israel, but did not replace Israel (11:17-24)

National Israel is under a partial hardening until the Rapture (11:25)

All Israel will eventually be saved (11:26)

God's promises to Israel are irrevocable (11:29)

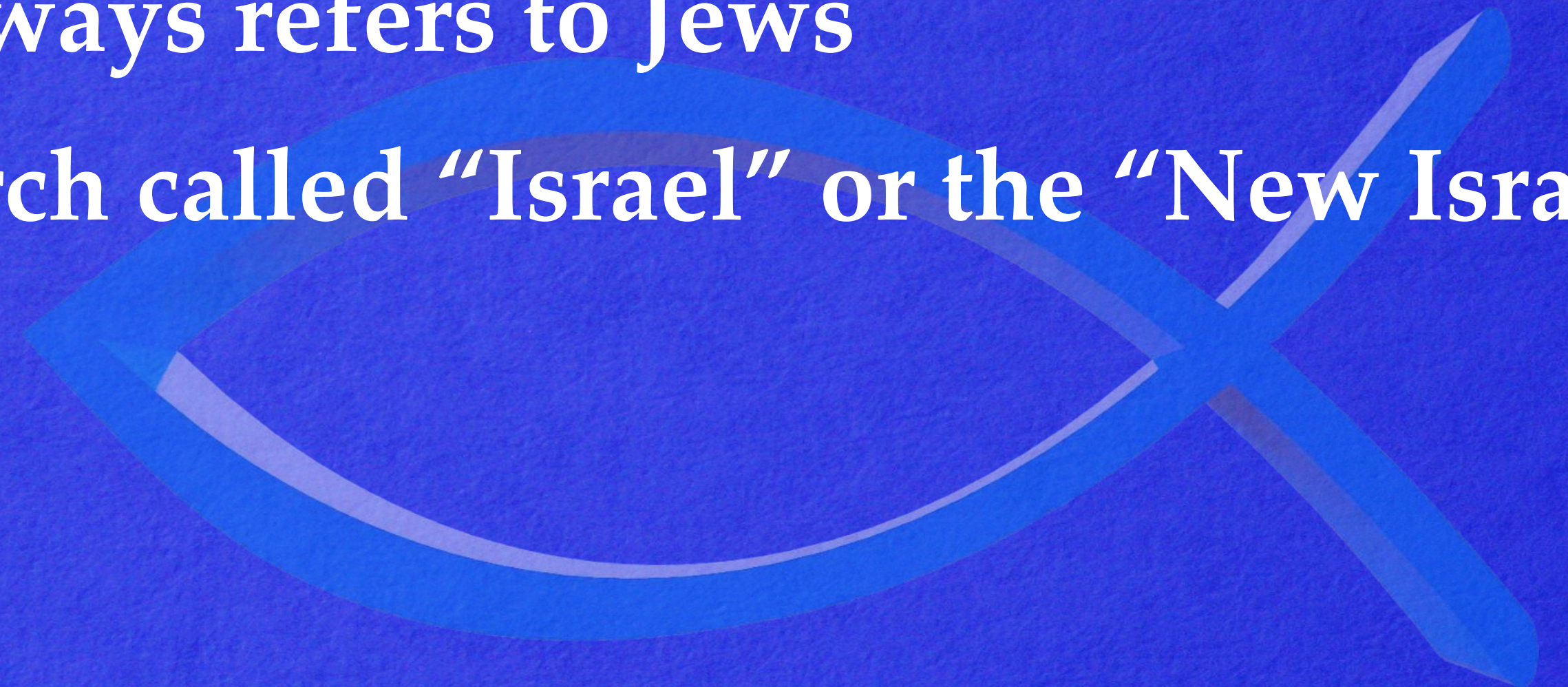
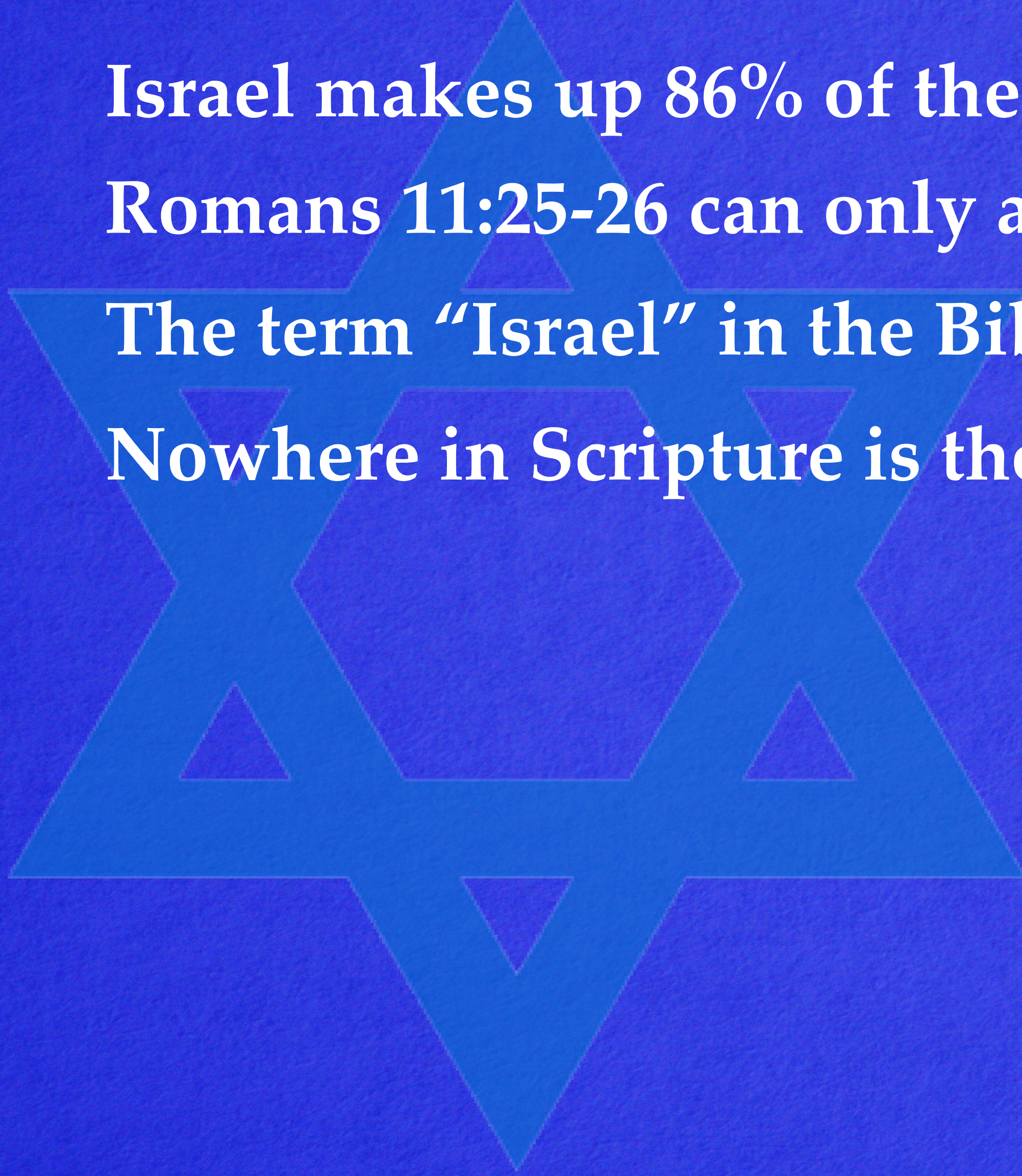
4. The Bible Makes a **Distinction Between Israel and the Church.**

Israel makes up 86% of the Bible. The Church, 14%.

Romans 11:25-26 can only apply to Israel, not the church

The term “Israel” in the Bible always refers to Jews

Nowhere in Scripture is the church called “Israel” or the “New Israel”



5. Scripture's **Future Prophecies** Require National Israel.

The Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation require Israel's existence

Revelation contains some 550 references to the Old Testament

The church is portrayed as absent during the Tribulation. Israel is not.

The prophets and evangelists of Revelation are portrayed as Jewish

Satan specifically targets the Jews during the Tribulation (Rev 12:13-17)

Antichrist will enter & desecrate a rebuilt Jewish Temple (Mt 24:15; 2 Th 2:4)

All the nations will surround Jerusalem in the end times (Zech 12:1-9; 14:12)

God promises salvation to national Israel at Christ's second coming (Zech 12:10; Matt 23:39; 24:31; Rom 11:26)

Jesus returns to Jerusalem at His second coming (Zech 14:4)

Jesus reigns from Jerusalem in His Millennial Kingdom (Isa 9:6-7; Jer 3:17; Zech 14:4, 9, 16-17; Lk 1:32-33)

Israel occupies the promised land during the Millennial Kingdom (Ezek 36:28-30)

God's grand redemption narrative cannot be fully understood apart from His plan and purposes for Israel

The nation of Israel now exists, and we are seeing Revelation's signs begin to appear





OUR GOD IS A PROMISE-KEEPING GOD.

