THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and
How Is Kingdom Now Theology
Changing the Focus of the Church?

Andrew M. Woods

Foreword by Thomas Ice

The Coming Kingdom

Chapter 11



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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

IS THE CHURCH, ISRAEL?

Galatians 6:16





INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant Theology vs. Dispensational Theology

B. One group or two? Galatians 6:16

- NIV: “peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, ***even*** to the Israel of God.”


Church = Israel



Kenneth L. Gentry Jr.

"The Iceman Cometh! Mormonism Reigneth!," Dispensationalism in Transition, Vol 6, No.1; Jan. 1993 p. 1. Italics mine

"That is, we believe in the unfolding plan of God in history, the Christian Church is the very fruition of the redemptive purpose of God. As such, the multi-racial, international Church of Jesus Christ supersedes racial, national Israel as the focus of the kingdom of God. **Indeed, we believe that the church becomes '*the Israel of God*' (Gal. 6:16)…"**



Hans K. LaRondelle

The Israel of God in Prophecy: Principles of Prophetic Interpretation (Berrien Springs, Mich.: Andrews University U., 1983), pp. 110-11. Italics mine

"Paul's benediction in Galatians 6:16 becomes, then, the ***chief witness*** in the New Testament declaring that the universal church is the Israel of God, the seed of Abraham, the heir to Israel's covenant promise (c.f. Gal. 3:29; 6:16)."

INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant Theology vs. Dispensational Theology

B. One group or two?

- NIV: “peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, ***even*** to the Israel of God.”
- NASB: “And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, ***and*** upon the Israel of God.”

Church



The Galatians 6:16 Controversy

Translation of kai	**“even”**	**“and”**
Use of kai	appositional	continuative
Bible version	NIV	NASB
“Israel of God”	Church	Hebrew-Christians within the Church
Israel and Church	Equated	“Israel of God” is a subset within the church
Theology	Replacement Theology	Dispensational Theology

10 Facts Favoring the Dispensational Interpretation of Galatians 6:16

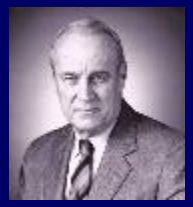
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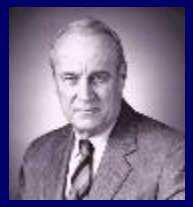
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S. Lewis Johnson

"Paul and the 'Israel of God': An Exegetical and Eschatological Case-Study," in *Essays in Honor of J. Dwight Pentecost*, ed. Stanley D. Toussaint and Charles H. Dyer (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 187.

"It is necessary to begin this part of the discussion with a basic but often neglected hermeneutical principle. It is this: in the absence of compelling exegetical and theological considerations, we should avoid the rare grammatical usages when the common ones make good sense."



S. Lewis Johnson

"Paul and the 'Israel of God': An Exegetical and Eschatological Case-Study," in *Essays in Honor of J. Dwight Pentecost*, ed. Stanley D. Toussaint and Charles H. Dyer (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 187.

"An extremely rare use has been made to replace the common usage, even in spite of the fact that the common and frequent usage makes perfectly good sense in Galatians 6:16."

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Galatians 6:16 (NIV)

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, ***even*** to the Israel of God."



Galatians 6:16 (NASB)

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, ***and*** upon the Israel of God."



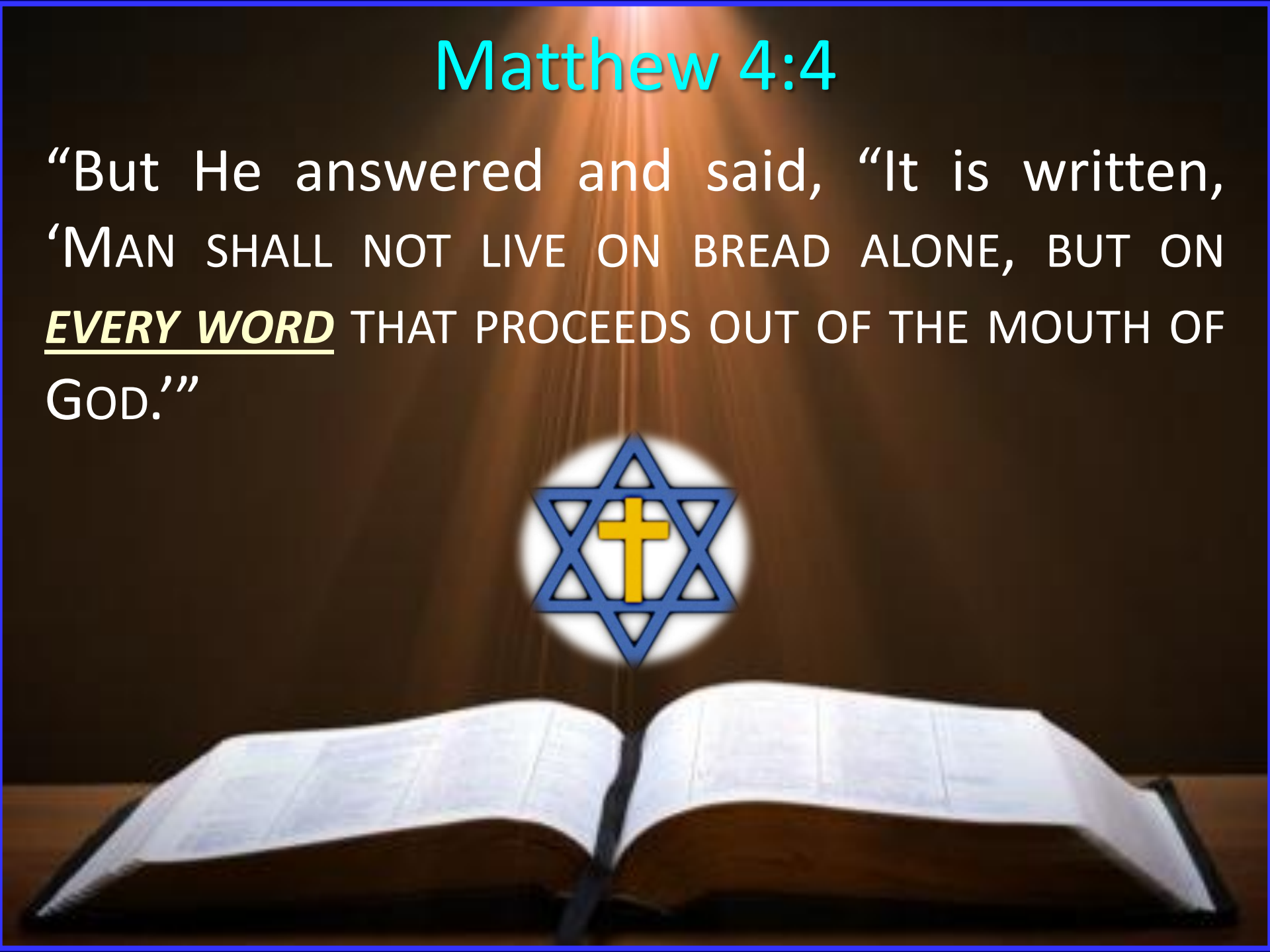
Galatians 6:16

"And as many as shall walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, upon the Israel of God."



Matthew 4:4

"But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON ***EVERY WORD*** THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"



Matthew 5:18

"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not ***the smallest letter or stroke*** shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."



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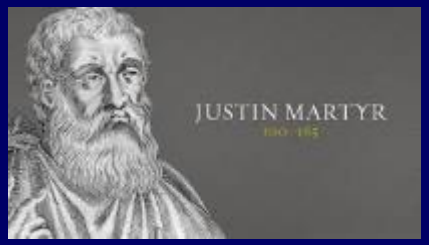
Israel Means Israel

- 15x elsewhere in Paul's writings
- 72x elsewhere in the New Testament
- 1800x in the Old Testament
- "Israel" or "Israelite" used 2500x in the OT



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Justin Martyr

"Dialogue with Trypho" 123, 135

"As therefore from the one man Jacob, who was surnamed Israel, all your nation has been called Jacob and Israel; so we from Christ, who begat us unto God, (like Jacob, and Israel, and Judah, and Joseph, and David,) are called and are the true sons of God, and keep the commandments of Christ"... "As, therefore, Christ is the Israel and the Jacob, even so we, who have been quarried out from the bowels of Christ, are the true Israelitic race."

Order of Paul's Letters



1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)

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What is Inside? Galatians Structure

- Chaps. 1–2: Autobiographical section
- Chaps. 3–4: Doctrinal section
- Chaps. 5–6: Practical section



Galatians 5:1

Therefore…

1-4



5-6

Ephesians 4:1

Therefore…

1-3



4-6

Romans 12:1

Therefore…

1-11



12-16

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Galatians 6:16 (NASB)

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be ***upon*** *(epi)* them, and ***upon*** *(epi)* the Israel of God."



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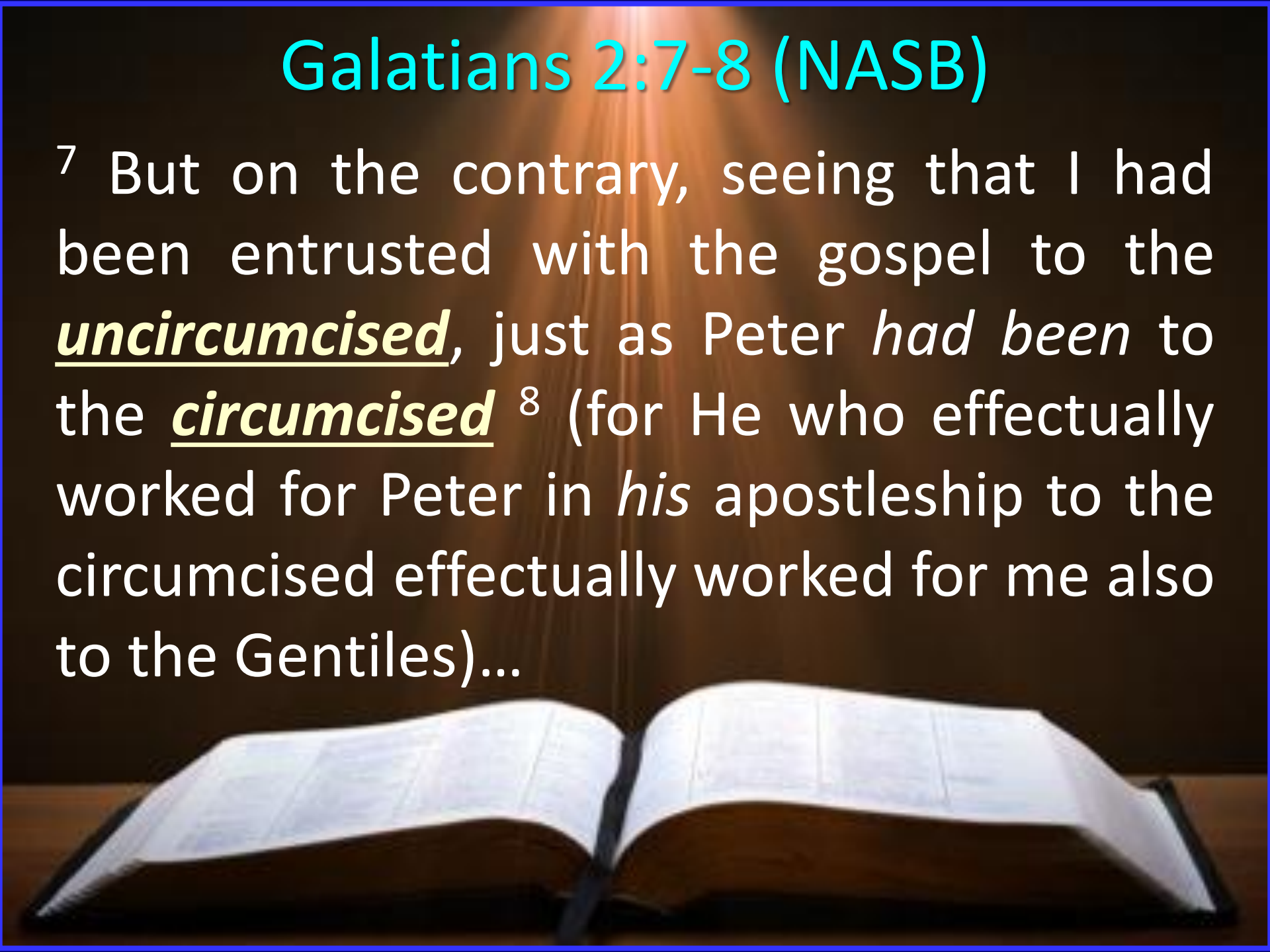
Galatians 6:15 (NASB)

"For neither is ***circumcision*** anything, nor ***uncircumcision***, but a new creation."



Galatians 2:7-8 (NASB)

7 But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the ***uncircumcised***, just as Peter *had been* to the ***circumcised*** 8 (for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles)…



Galatians 6:16 (NASB)

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon ***them***, and upon the ***Israel of God***."



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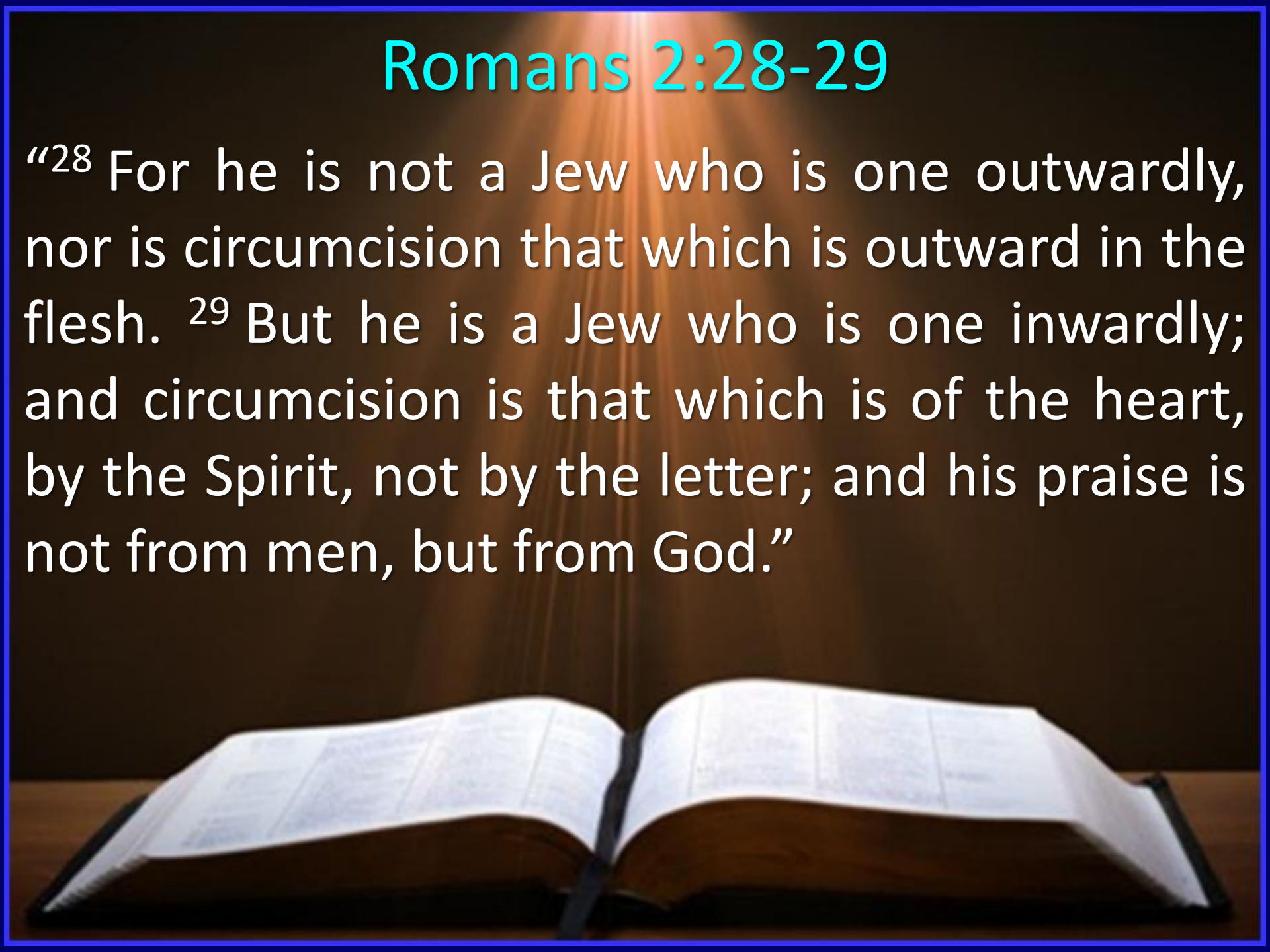
Galatians 6:16 (NASB)

"And to those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the ***Israel of God***."



Romans 2:28-29

“28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly,
nor is circumcision that which is outward in the
flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly;
and circumcision is that which is of the heart,
by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is
not from men, but from God.”



Romans 9:6

"But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel."

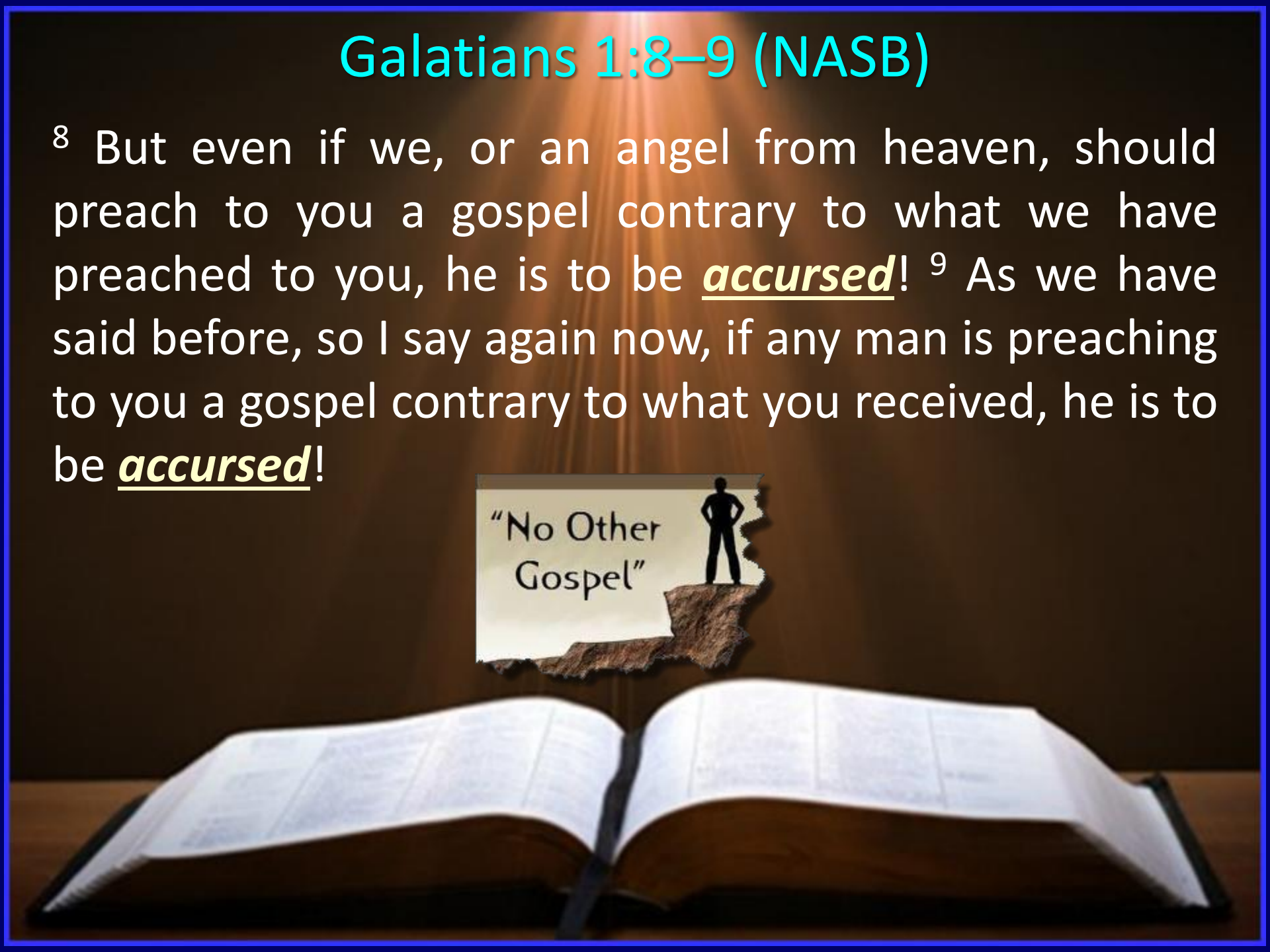


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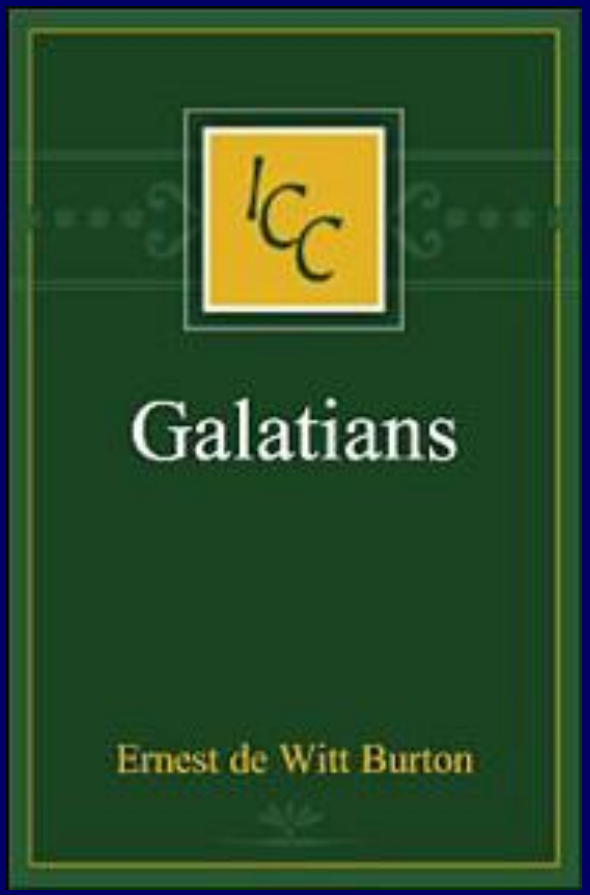
Galatians 1:8–9 (NASB)

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be ***accursed***! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be ***accursed***!



Burton

Galatians, p.358

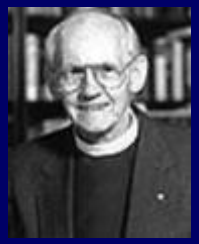


"In view of the apostle's previous strong anti-Judaistic expressions, he feels impelled by the insertion of '***and***', to emphasize this expression of his true attitude towards his people" (emphasis mine).

Conclusion

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D.W.B Robinson

"The Distinction Between Jewish and Gentile Believers in Galatians," Australian Biblical Review 13 (1965): 29-48

"The glib citing of Gal. vi: 16 to support the view that 'the church is the new Israel' should be vigorously challenged. There is weighty support for a limited interpretation."




Church = Israel

Church




Israel
The Israel of God
The Church of God

Conclusion

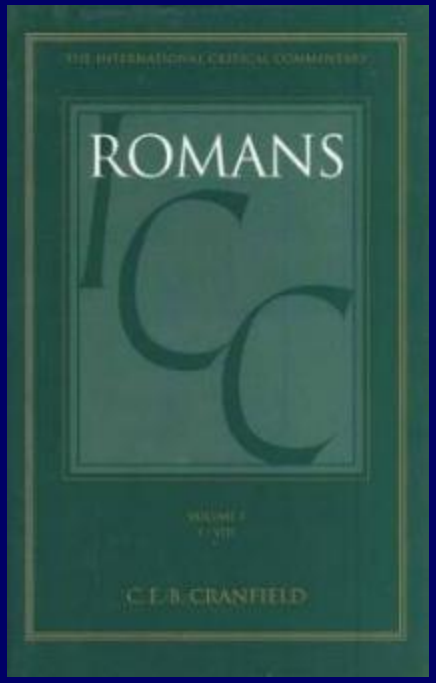
A. Who's Who?

- Chrysostom
- Calvin
- Lightfoot
- Stott
- Guthrie
- Luther
- Lenski
- Hendricksen

B. Amillennial exegetical bias

C.E.B. Cranfield

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans p.448



*"These 3 chapters (Rom 9-11) emphatically forbid us to speak of the church as having once and for all taken the place of the Jewish people…**But the assumption that the church has simply replaced Israel as the people of God is extremely common**…And I confess with shame to having also myself used in print on more than one occasion this language of the replacement of Israel by the Church."*