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that. Speaking to the chief priests and elders of Israel who had confronted Him, questioning His authority, *"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was Jehovah's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a **nation** bearing the fruits of it'"* (Matthew 21:42-43). Israel finally ceased to be the chosen nation of Jehovah when they rejected God's own Son as their foundation.

Another nation has taken the place of old Israel. Writing to Christians, Peter explained, *"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.' Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,' and 'A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.' They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy **nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy"* (1st Peter 2:4-10). Whereas Israel stumbled at the Rock, the church perceives this Rock as precious, and, therefore, has become the nation whose God is Jehovah.

That old Israel is no longer God's people is a theme throughout the New Testament. Paul wrote, *"They are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed"* (Romans 9:6-8), meaning not everyone who was born into the nation of Israel has retained citizenship in the spiritual kingdom. Thus, the apostle stated, *"In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon **the Israel of God**"* (Galatians 6:15-16). Circumcision, the token of the former covenant, is out and newness in Christ is in. Those who are thus renewed are the new Israel!

WE HAVE THE GOSPEL

Kyle Ellison

In a religious world where churches try to win people with every tactic under the sun, let the local church be satisfied with the power of the gospel.

Almost weekly, I am asked, "What do you guys have at that church for me and my family?"

The answer is simple: The gospel.

What do we have for the youth? The gospel.

What do we have for young adults? The gospel.

What do we have for the newly married? The gospel.

What do we have for new parents? The gospel.

What do we have for singles? The gospel.

We, as a church, do not believe that we can develop any program, activity, or gimmick that will help every area of your life more than what God has already provided in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you're looking for entertainment, club activities, and dinner parties, there are places to find these. However, the work of the church of Christ must be laser-focused on the preaching, teaching, and equipping of others with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Satan is far too cunning for the church to become distracted by every other thing in this world while neglecting the one thing that can absolutely change the world.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (Romans 1:16-17).

A LAMB

James Montgomery Boice

Genesis 22– A lamb for a man.
Exodus 12– A lamb for a family.
Leviticus 16– A lamb for the nation.
John 1– A Lamb for the whole world.

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

Acts 16:30

Learn the Gospel
John 6:45; Romans 10:17

Believe in Christ
Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

Confess Christ
Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Repent of Sin
Acts 3:19; 17:30

Be Baptized into Christ
Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

Remain Steadfast
1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"The Assembling of Ourselves Together"

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday
Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday
Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

"If a Man is Overtaken in any Trespass... Restore Such a One"

Galatians 6:1

Confess Trespasses
James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

Repent of Sin
Acts 8:22

Pray for Forgiveness
Acts 8:22

Remain Steadfast
1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"A Word Fitly Spoken Is Like Apples of Gold in Settings of Silver"

Proverbs 25:11

"If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning."

– C.S. Lewis

"Whole Counsel"

Acts 20:27

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"The Nation Whose God is Jehovah"

Bryan Matthew Dockens

"B*lessed is the* ***nation*** *whose God is Jehovah, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance"* (Psalm 33:12). When this psalm was inspired, the nation under consideration was Israel. God had promised Abram, *"I will make you a great* ***nation****"* (Genesis 12:2). Two generations later, *"God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, 'Jacob, Jacob!' And he said, 'Here I am.' So He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great* ***nation*** *there'"* (Genesis 46:2-3). The descendants of Abraham, through his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob, who was also called Israel, became the nation God had foretold for generations. That nation enjoyed Jehovah's unique blessings as His chosen people.

That blessed status was conditional, though. *"Moses went up to God, and Jehovah called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy* ***nation****." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel'"* (Exodus 19:3-6). Obedience to God by keeping His covenant was the qualification and Israel failed at

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