

## Similarity and Differences between Israel and the Church

### A. OT saints saved by grace through faith

1. God used Israel as a Nation (Kingdom of Priest, Holy Nation, Exo 19:5-6) to spread the Word, to attract Gentiles to come to God.
2. All the laws, priests, sacrifices all point to Jesus Christ.
3. The basis of their salvation is the death of Christ. They believed and they were saved and at the appointed time Christ will die for them.

### B. NT saints also saved by grace through faith

1. God used the church and individual Christians (= disciples) to preach the Gospel to reach out to the Gentiles. (key word : go)
2. Christ died on the cross for the sins of the whole human race. He died for everyone.
3. Christ saved us from the bondage of sins and redeemed us from the Law. We are no longer under the Law (Rom 6:14; Gal 5:18). Therefore, we do not keep the Sabbath, and there is no need to offer sacrifices such as burnt, sins, guilts, peace, grain offerings. We do not keep the festivals such as Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of the Tabernacle. All these sacrifices and festivals were pointing to Jesus Christ. Then Christ came the first time and He had fulfilled most of these except the feast of the Tabernacle which foretells the Millennium Kingdom in the future.
4. We do not need to keep all the sacrifices and festivals for our justification and sanctification. We are saved by grace through faith. Today we worship and grow in the Lord by studying His Word, Bible study, fellowship, prayers, preaching the Gospel and making free will offering.

For the Jewish Christians, they may still want to keep the festivals (except the Sabbath) for their cultural events, that is OK because it is their culture as long as they realize they do not need to do that for justification nor sanctification.

Just like Chinese Christians, we still celebrate Chinese New Year Festival because we are Chinese.

5. Today we remember the Lord by keeping the Lord's Supper (the Communion, as a memorial).
6. One day the Church program will end and the Church will be raptured before the Seven Years of Great Tribulation (Rev 4-19). The Seven-Years of Great Tribulation is part of God's program for Israel.

### C. Millennial saints also saved by grace through faith

1. After the church is raptured, there will be seven years of Great Tribulation. (Rev 4—19; Mat 24—25)
2. God will protect Israel and Israel will not be destroyed by Satan, Antichrist, or False Prophet. (Rev 12—13)
3. Almost at the end of the Great Tribulation, the Holy Spirit will pour down upon Israel and they will repent and accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah. (Zec 12:10; Joe 2:28-32)
4. At the end of the Great Tribulation Christ will return. Satan will be bound for 1000 years. Antichrist and False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. (Rev 19:20-21; 20:1-3)
5. Christ will return and land on Mount Olive. (Zec 14:1-16; Rev 19)
6. Christ will set up the Millennial Kingdom and He will rule for 1000 years. This is the final fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Davidic and New Covenants.
7. At the beginning of the Millennium, everyone is saved. Only the saved (those who believe in Jesus, Jews or Gentiles) can enter the Millennial Kingdom.
8. Many will be born in the Millennial Kingdom and they too will have to believe in Jesus to be saved.
9. In the Millennial Kingdom there will be a grand temple, and all 12 tribes of Israel will receive land in Israel (Eze 40—48). During the Millennium, Israel (believing Jews) will keep the sacrifices and the festivals as a memorial just as Church keeps the Lord's Supper as a memorial. There is no mention of Israel keeping the Lord's Supper in the Millennium.

10. During the Millennial Kingdom reign, if there are Gentile nations that refuse to worship the Lord, the Lord will punish them by not giving them rain or good climate, etc. (Zec 14:17-21)
11. At the end of the Millennial Reign, Satan will be released to deceive the Nations. This is a test for all who will be born during the Millennial Kingdom reign to see if they will trust the Lord. Then the Great White Throne Judgment will appear. (Rev. 20:11-15)
12. After that, the New Heaven and New Earth will begin. All those who had believed in God and Jesus Christ will enjoy and worship God forever in the New Heaven and New Earth.

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