

# NO LONGER STRANGERS



*Rediscovering the Chosen People and  
the Jewish Roots of Christianity*

**Dr. Richard Booker**

**EXCERPT**

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## **Introduction**

One of the most profound statements in the Bible is in Genesis 12:3. The Lord had just directed Abram (later called Abraham) to leave his pagan country (Babylon) and go to a new land where God would bless Abram and make his descendants a great nation. Later God would make a covenant with Abram in which He promised to redeem the world through one of Abram's descendants.

Because the Lord established His plan of redemption with Abram, He promised to bless those who bless Abram but curse those who curse him. The obvious reason is that those who would seek to destroy Abram and his descendants would hinder the redemptive purposes of God.

The Lord said to Abram, "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3). History has shown time and again this to be true. Nations that have blessed the Jewish people have prospered, while those who have persecuted them have suffered.

### **The Abrahamic Curse and the Church**

Unfortunately, the Christian church has not blessed the Jewish people. It has persecuted them. One of the reasons for this tragic past was that the early church fathers in the second, third, and fourth centuries stripped Christianity of its Jewish roots. The result of this action was that the church established anti-Semitic policies of hatred and violence towards the Jewish people. Without its Jewish root, the church embraced Greek and Roman concepts and practices.

It was with this knowledge of hate shown by Christendom towards the Jewish people that Adolph Hitler was able to write in *Mein Kampf*, "Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord."<sup>1</sup> Hitler knew that European Christendom would not resist his plans to destroy the Jews because of their own anti-Semitic past.

While many Christians say they are not responsible for this terrible past, we still suffer the consequences of the sins of our church fathers, even though we personally did not participate in the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Holocaust, et cetera. The church collectively has been under the dark cloud of the curse of Abraham for seventeen hundred years.

Hatred of Jews and Israel is not a thing of the past. It is once again raising its ugly voice like the Philistine giant of Bible times who threatened the very existence of Israel and the Jewish people. In order to have the blessing of Abraham promised by God, Christians must repent of our

anti-Semitic past. We must stand with the Jewish people against the dark forces of evil which would seek to destroy both communities. Evil that is not opposed will spawn even more evil.

When Christians are educated in the Jewish roots of their faith, they will understand the great debt Christianity owes to the Jewish people. They will want to bless, comfort, love, and support the Jewish people and the nation of Israel as commanded in the Bible. The curse of Abraham will be lifted off the church and the blessings of God will come to incorporate Christianity in the form of spiritual renewal and enrichment.

### **God is Doing a New Thing**

While Christians must never forget the past, this is a new day for thousands of Gentile believers around the world who are discovering that biblical Christianity has its roots in Jerusalem and biblical Judaism.

Our Christian roots are not in Athens, Rome, Geneva, Wittenburg, Aldersgate, Azusa Street, Nashville, or Tulsa. Our spiritual roots are in Jerusalem, and the Lord is calling us back to our roots. This realization has created a desire in the hearts of Christians to learn about the Jewish heritage of our faith.

This happened in my own life in 1974 when the Lord gave me spiritual insight regarding the connection between the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) and the New Testament. I saw that the two Testaments told one basic story and that it was impossible to correctly understand the New Testament without a good knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures.

I left my successful business career in 1979 and, along with my wife, Peggy, traveled extensively throughout the United States teaching the Bible in churches and conferences. Over the years, I came to realize that one of the greatest needs among Christians is for them to understand their Hebraic/Jewish roots.

There were 2,000 years of Hebrew history, culture, language, traditions and customs that formed the root of Christianity. The more Christians learn about our Hebraic/Jewish roots, the more fruitful and blessed we can be in our lives.

While Christians in America view life with a Western mind and worldview, the Bible was written by Abraham's descendants who had an Hebraic culture, language, and worldview. This presents a real challenge. We have a Middle-Eastern book that we seek to understand from our Western culture.

Our Western perspective can easily cause us to misunderstand the Bible. Furthermore, our mind has been more influenced by Greek philosophy than biblical, Hebraic thought. This is why we must study the Hebraic/Jewish roots of Christianity.

When we read the Bible through Hebrew eyes, our understanding becomes much richer, deeper, and clearer with more detail than we could ever imagine. We see truths that we are unable to see with our Western eyes no matter how pure our motives and intense our desires.

Jesus and His early followers were deeply rooted in the rich Hebraic soil of their ancestors. They thought, taught, and lived out of this soil. God planted Christianity in this soil, and we must return to it in order to be biblically nourished.

As this understanding became clearer in my mind, Peggy and I sought the Lord for several years about what this could mean for our lives and ministry. We believed God had a change in store for us, and that somehow, it related to helping educate Christians in the Hebraic/Jewish roots of the faith.

### **Words of Confirmation**

Finally, on the night of November 13, 1995, the Lord impressed on two of his servants, each with over fifty years experience in ministry, to share the following words to us. Both words were spoken as prophetic utterances. The setting was a Bible school where I had taught for seven days on the Feast of the Lord. I have included these words below, without editing, just as they were given. The first word given was as follows:

“For the Lord would say unto you, Richard and Peggy, that a greater anointing and a greater open door stands before you. For the Lord says, As you have been faithful in small things, I will bless you in greater things. And you shall minister to thousands where you have ministered to hundreds. And where you have ministered to tens, you shall minister to hundreds. For the Lord has said for the hour of your message has come for you to go forward.

“And be not discouraged by the opposition and disinterest that you may find among My people, says the Lord. For there are those who care nothing about the message you bring. Yes, I say unto you that I see their hearts.

“But I have raised you up for such an hour as this in which you must take the message that I have burned and branded into your soul. And you will give it forth without seeking to please man or win the favor of man. And though there be only a fraction of the people who will hear, you shall still give My message. For it is better that you be faithful with few things than you miss the perfect plan of God among many.

“For the Lord says unto you, For this day and for this hour and for this moment have you been born and you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this. And I will give you wings like eagles, yes swift as an eagle says the Lord. And you shall indeed see the fulfillment of the prophetic word that you did speak this night.

“For the Lord has said, I have put within you, not only the teaching ministry, but I have put within you the word, the sure word of prophecy. And I will stand behind you to confirm it so that not one word shall fall to the ground. I planted in your heart a love for My people and for Israel. And that love shall be used by the Holy Spirit to draw many of My people to Me, says the Lord. For you shall be as a bugle call to Israel.”

This word was immediately followed by the second word which was like a confirmation of the first one.

“The Lord further says, I shall cause that you shall plant seeds. You shall drop one here and drop one there. For many times you have thought, are we really planting anything at all? But know that you are planting.

“And you shall plant seed among my church, says the Lord. Seeds among those that before thought they were Israel, not knowing that I had a true people Israel and that I have a parallel people, My own church. And you shall drop the seed into them to straighten out their thinking. You shall put a seed into them to cause them to have a love for the nation of Israel. You shall plant a seed into them which will cause the two to become one. Yes, you shall break down the middle wall of partition that flesh has built and that tradition has built.

“And know not but that one day when you sow the seed, it shall fall upon ground and bring forth another Haym Salomon (a Jewish man who financed the American Revolution). It shall bring forth another Hyam Salomon that you know not of who shall bless with finances, not only My people Israel, but will bless My church with multitudes in the end times, says the Lord. For there are those who have the millions. Yes, you shall plant the seed in one of them unknowingly and the millions shall be loosed for My kingdom in the end times, says the Lord.”

My purpose for writing *No Longer Strangers* is to explain to Western Christians the connection between the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament from a biblical cultural and historical perspective with an emphasis on how Jesus is pictured in Jewish customs and traditions. My prayer is that this book will revolutionize your understanding of the Bible and the biblical Hebraic/Jewish roots of Christianity.

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