

PART VI

SUMMARY: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION OF THE EPISTLE

Every epistle is the author's solution to an existing problem in a church or with a person. So, it is always essential to find the problem first and then the solution. If one narrows these to a tight context, then all the parts of the epistle will fit into the author's solution and thus the interpretation will be clear. This process is covered in the Analysis of Epistles¹⁸ and one should understand how the literary structure of epistles works to provide the purpose of the author.

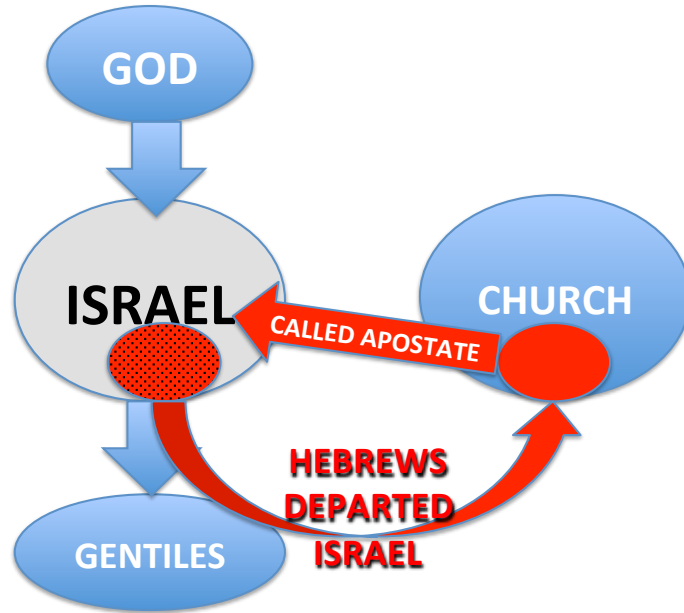
The Reader: Hebrew believers have converted to Jesus as the Christ of Psalm 2 as the One who died for their sins and will be the King over their nation, Israel and the whole world. They have rejected identity with the Nation, Israel, since they reject the Messiah.

The Antagonist: The Nation Israel has rejected the Christ, killing Him as a blasphemer because He claimed to be the Son of God and they felt He was not. They gave Him up to Rome because He claimed that He was the King. They see the readers as apostate from the nation, Israel, since they are calling them cursed.

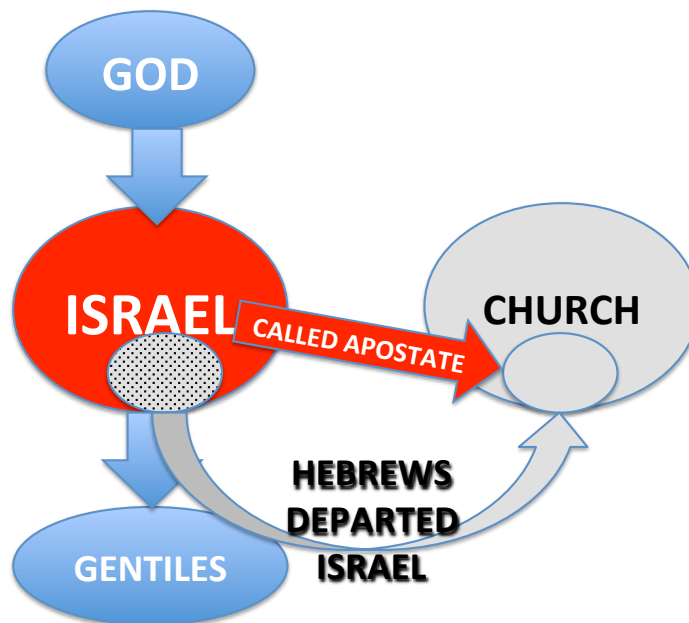
The View of the Author and Hebrew Christians: Israel is apostate and thus is under a curse having rejected their Christ. Jewish believers are in a relationship with the Father (blessed) through their belief in Christ.

When they turned to Christ, these Hebrews, in essence, had to reject their Nation, Israel, as an apostate nation, since they murdered their Christ. Thus, they had joined the church and were calling their nation, apostate with respect to God, and thus Israel was under a curse.

¹⁸ Baylis, Charles P. *The Analysis of Epistles*, 2002. Accessed 2014. Available from <http://thebiblicalstory.org/baylis/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/10702AInterpretingEpistles083109Book.pdf>

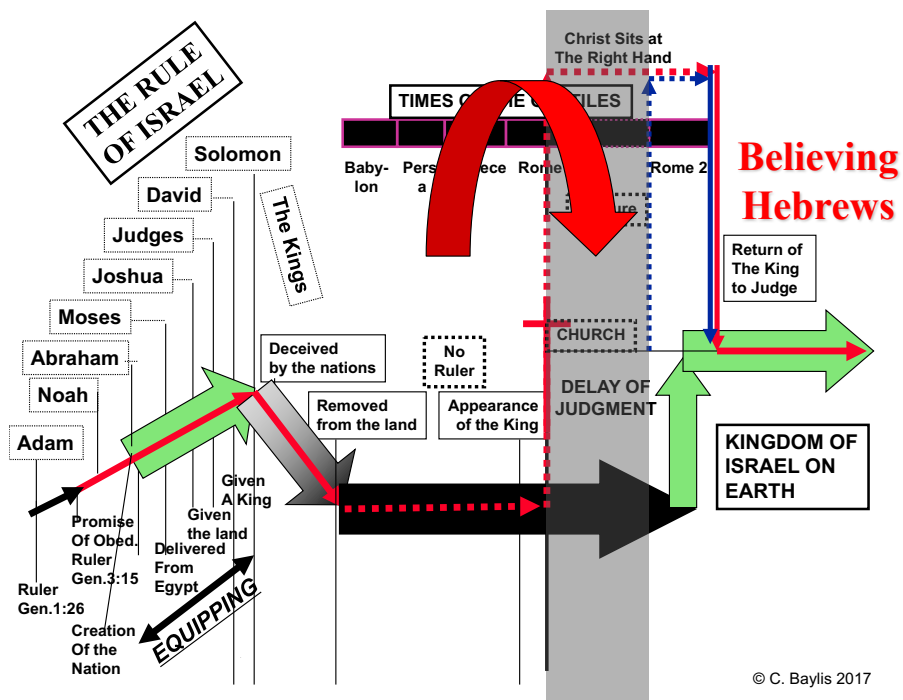


THE VIEW OF THE HEBREW CHRISTIANS:
THEY HAD DEPARTED FROM A CURSED NATION

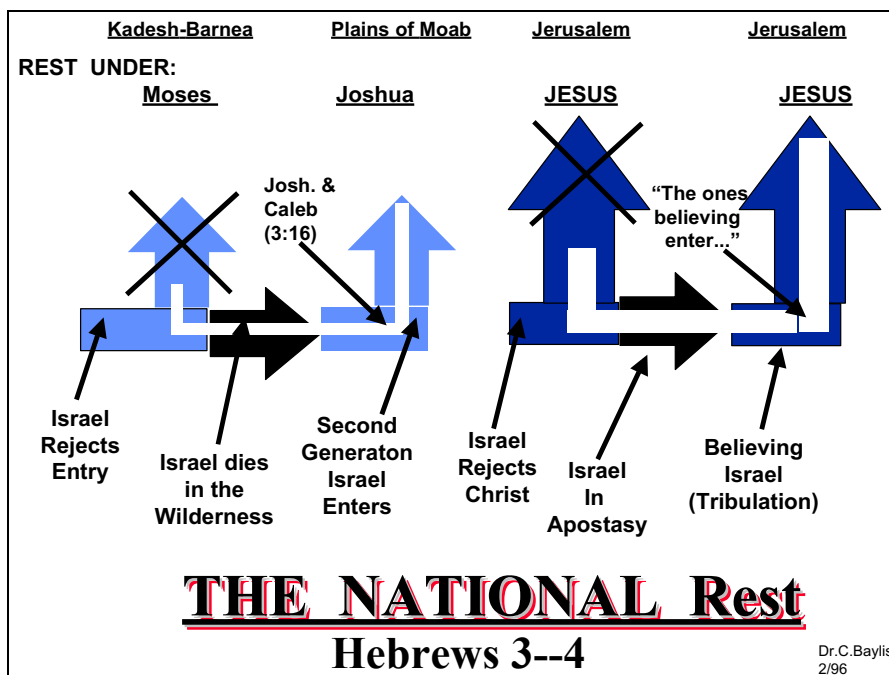


THE VIEW OF THE NATION ISRAEL:
HEBREW CHRISTIANS HAD APOSTASIZED FROM GOD'S NATION

The Problem/Solution in Relationship to the Biblical Story



These believing Hebrews were moving from the Old Testament anticipation of Messiah to the fullness of Christ in Jesus. The Israelites were staying in the Old Testament, holding the sacrifices, etc., were valid.



But the Old Testament prophesied Israel's apostasy when they rejected Moses and that generation was rejected from entering into the land. Now Israel has rejected the Greater Moses, Jesus, and will not enter the land. But like the generation that entered under Joshua, so shall a future generation of Israelites enter in belief under Jesus (same name as Joshua).

The above chart shows Hebrews 3—4 as it describes Israel's failure under Moses as they were delivered from Egypt under Moses and the Passover Lamb. Only Joshua and Caleb entered the land as Israel died in the wilderness.

As Israel proceeds into the fullness of times, they have now rejected the Greater Moses as He delivered them from Rome and now are in apostasy. Like Joshua and Caleb the believing Hebrews will proceed into the Kingdom in the land, but through resurrection as Jesus returns and conquers.