

Links to elsewhere on this Web site: [1. /apologetics.html](#) [/book.html](#)  
[/doctrinal.html](#) [/essays.html](#) [/links.html](#) [/sermonettes.html](#) [/webmaster.html](#)  
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Is the Bible God's Word? Click here: [/Apologeticshtml/Is the Bible the Word of God.htm](#)

Why does God Allow Evil? Click here: [/Apologeticshtml/Why Does God Allow Evil 0908.htm](#)

Is Christian teaching from ancient paganism? [/Bookhtml/Paganism influence issue article Journal 013003.htm](#)

Which is right?: Judaism or Christianity? [/Apologeticshtml/Is Christianity a Fraud vs Conder Round 2.htm](#)

Should God's existence be proven? [/Apologeticshtml/Should the Bible and God Be Proven Fideism vs WCG.htm](#)

Does the Bible teach blind faith? Click here: [/doctrinalhtml/Gospel of John Theory of Knowledge.htm](#)

## Should the Chosen People Be Proud Because They Are Abraham's Children?

Eric V. Snow, sermonette, July 9, 2011, Ann Arbor, MI, UCG-AIA

Many years ago, I casually read through a religious article in the political magazine "Commentary." Historically this magazine has been controlled by neo-Conservative Jews. Its writers normally aren't serious about their Jewish faith. This article was interesting since it described two ways about how Jews could react to their own teaching that they are God's chosen people: 1. Because they know the true God's

ways better, they can become prideful and look down on the more ignorant, inferior gentiles. 2. Because they know the true God's ways better, it increases their burden in life since they have to obey God more compared to other nations. So why bring up this issue? Since we teach the doctrine of the United States and Britain in Prophecy, many of us in the Church of God could react similarly in either way. We need to make sure that we avoid the first possible reaction, and that we embrace the second.

S.P.S.: Let's not allow the doctrine of USBIP to become a source of personal or national pride. By "pride" today I mean that attitude in which someone looks down on others as inferior creatures for any reason. This viewpoint says, "I'm better than you, so then I may ignore you or mistreat you." The main source of the trouble comes from making the comparison: People aren't proud about being rich, smart, or good looking by themselves. Rather, they are proud because they are richer, smarter, or better looking than someone else.

People who believe themselves to be descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph should resist the temptation to look

down on others of different nations and ethnicities.

**I have three points today:**

1. If God's chosen people have received more physical and spiritual blessings, that increases their level of responsibility to God.

Romans 2:17-24+

v. 21: Do we live up to what we know? Since America and Britain have printed and distributed far more Bibles historically than other nations because they are Protestant countries, doesn't that increase their level of responsibility to God? That's true even though the great majority of people in America, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand aren't truly called Christians. A number of social statistics indicate many sins more common in America than many other countries, including ones that have almost no traditional Christians living in them, such as Japan, which is one of the most unbelieving countries on earth. Compare rates of divorce, illegitimacy, abortion, murder, rapes, etc., country to country: What do the physical descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh have to boast about? The violence, sexual scenes, and

bad language portrayed in American movies and TV help to corrupt the world and make us look bad as well. The gay rights movement that seeks to whitewash the promiscuous gay lifestyle also started here as well.

Vs. 24: Hypocrisy is the key problem here. Our sins make other people question the goodness and righteousness of the God that we supposedly believe in and worship nationally. Their logic is bad, of course, as I have explained in past sermonettes: As a matter of logic, no number sins committed by Christians can prove the Bible true or false. After all, what skeptic says that the sins of the atheistic Communists prove that God exists, which is equally good reasoning. But it's still a national embarrassment nonetheless. The descendants of Joseph obviously aren't living up to their spiritual responsibilities even when we admit that that most people aren't called.

Mr. Armstrong's perspective was fundamentally sound: He emphasized that this teaching meant that God would punish America and the other native English speaking peoples. He avoided "triumphalism." He never claimed that God would save us from serious punishment

because we're descendants of Jacob and Joseph: "But, as salvation is given *first* to Israel, so is corrective punishment" (USBIP, p. 171).

2. Spiritual salvation isn't tied to ethnicity, nationality, or race. This should be obvious to Christians of any church, but it's worth bringing up in this context.

Acts 10:34-35

Peter learned this lesson when God told him to visit the Roman army officer Cornelius. And remember, he was the apostle to the Jews, not the gentiles. God doesn't play spiritual favorites or discriminate for or against people because of uncontrollable factors like who their ancestors were. Instead, what matters is their level of faith and obedience after being called salvation by God based upon His grace.

3. Despite the doctrine can be abused, it's still true.

Genesis 35:10-12

Besides America and the British Commonwealth countries that I've mentioned already, what combination of nations could fulfill these verses and similar ones? The land they have can't only be what the modern state of Israel presently has in the Middle East. The Jewish people didn't fulfill this text and others: They are only one nation, not many. They haven't been that blessed materially. Also, the countries that fulfill these texts need some kind of common ethnic tie: One can't just randomly pick two or three nations or groupings of nations of plainly different ethnicities and claim that they fulfilled them. HWA believed that this doctrine could be proven using the Bible alone.

Other teachings can be abused also, and that doesn't prove they are false: Grace can become a license to sin. Honoring parents can lead to child abuse when pushed too far. Wife beating definitely can result from pushing the doctrine of submission too far. Careful Sabbath observance can degenerate into legalism and Pharisaism.

**So in conclusion:** The doctrine of United States and Britain in Prophecy shouldn't be abused. The descendants of Jacob and Joseph

shouldn't have national or personal pride because of their ancestry. That's because our nations haven't lived up to their spiritual responsibilities and because salvation isn't tied to ethnicity. After all, as Mr. Armstrong wrote so many years ago (p. 175), "The Great Tribulation is this sevenfold intensity of corrective punishment which God is now soon going to lay on Britain-America!" Are we going to feel any pride in our physical ancestry then?

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