

We know that the visible church is the people of God, but within the visible church there are those who are saved and those who are lost. And within Israel there were those who were saved and those who were lost. So the true church of God is certainly one through all the ages. Some who put great stress on what you call dispensationalism seem to neglect that to such an extent that you would think that people in ancient times, it was a matter of whether they got the land that mattered ^{and} or not, whether they would go to heaven. They ~~of course would~~ ~~--- they~~ talk as if they believed that. But I don't think they really believe it. Because when you press them they agree that everyone who has ever been saved or will be saved is only through the death of Christ, and it is only by faith that anyone ever was saved or ever will be so the situation is the same ~~a~~ then as now, that there were people who were saved through Christ. I think all true Christians, if pressed, will insist that they believe that. So we have the true people of God through all the ages saved through Christ, ~~one~~ people. On the other hand we have Israel as a nation and God has promises for them as a nation. God has purposes for them as a nation. You can't get away from that in the Scripture. When Paul says, that all Israel will be saved or some try to interpret that as meaning that the only way anybody can be saved is through belief in Christ, so when all Israel ~~shall~~ shall be saved it means that they'll be lost if they don't accept Christ and they will be saved if they do! Well, it doesn't fit the context. The context seems to, and most Reformed, or at least a great many theologians agree that there is to be a national conversion of Israel in the future.