

Q&A question:

Concerning Deuteronomy 30:1-10 –

In the last days, the LORD will gather the remnant of Israel from all the nations, and circumcise their hearts to love the LORD with all their heart and soul.

Given that the remnant of Israel consists of Jews who believe, (1) Why would they need to have their hearts circumcised and (2) How can it be said that the nation of Israel will be gathered in unbelief?

ANSWER:

Let's read **Deuteronomy 30:1-10**.

First of all, we need to keep in mind that the LORD deals with Israel as a nation. He elected the nation.

But that does not mean that all Jews receive the blessings of that election. The blessings are given to believing Israel only, or what the Bible calls the remnant. See **Romans 9:6-8, 27; Isaiah 10:22**.

Therefore, in the end times, the only issue for individual Jews will be whether or not they are in the remnant.

The prophets reveal that there will be a judgment of individual living Israelites near the time that Christ returns. See **Ezekiel 20:33-38; Zechariah 13:8-9; Amos 9:8-12**.

Living Israelites that pass the test will join the Remnant of Israel along with those who became members of the Remnant at other times.

Several categories of Jews will be alive during the Tribulation. These include:

1. *Apostate Jews*. These are the “many” of **Daniel 9:27** who will enter the seven-year covenant that will begin Daniel’s 70th week. These will comprise about 2/3 of the nation and will die in the worldwide persecution in the Great Tribulation, **Zechariah 13:8-9**.
2. *The 144,000 Jews*. These are part of the 1/3 who will survive the Tribulation. **Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5**.
3. *Other Hebrew Christians*. These will receive the Messiah via the preaching of the Two Witnesses or some other way. These are not part of the 144,000. **Revelation 11:3-13; 12:17**.
4. *The Faithful Remnant*. There will be a large segment of the Jewish population that who become members of the Remnant of Israel only at the end of the Tribulation. This group will comprise the majority of the 1/3 of the nation who will survive the Tribulation.
5. *Tribulation martyrs*. These Jews will die in the Lord during the Tribulation and will be resurrected along with the Old Testament saints at the Second Coming of Christ. **Revelation 20:4**.

Groups 2, 3, and 4 make up the Remnant of Israel in the last days.

So with that, we will now examine how the LORD deals with the Remnant to prepare them to enter the Messianic Kingdom.

Remember, by this time, the Remnant and the Nation of Israel will be one and the same.

There are three stages to this preparation:

1. Repentance
2. Regeneration
3. Regathering.

Next time, we will complete this study by examining each of these in turn.