



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began a study on Israel and the last days. We have seen and heard many professing Christians speak negatively about Israel and attempt to influence others through social media to arrive at a conclusion that says the Church has replaced Israel.

We studied the Bible to gain a biblical understanding of the issue and to prove:

1. Israel's **unbelief** did *not* surprise God.
2. Israel's **blindness** is partial and temporary during the Church Age.
3. Israel will be **restored** through Tribulation and Christ's return (1 of 7 NT mysteries).

Tonight, we will look at many objections that people have in the world today to Bible truth. We will study *to be ready always to give an answer to every man...* of the hope that is in us.

1. THE OLIVE TREE

Romans 9 – Israel's Past, Romans 10 – Israel's Present, Romans 11 – Israel's Future

The key to end times prophecy and Israel is the olive tree. When Paul wrote Romans 11, he did not describe God planting a new olive tree. He described one olive tree still standing. The tree represents God's redemption plan in history. Its roots are deep into covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Its life comes through Jesus Christ because every covenant promise finds fulfillment in Him. As the Church, we got adopted into that tree!

The Biblical doctrinal picture:

- The tree is *not* Israel alone.
- The tree is *not* the Church alone.
- The tree is God's redemptive covenant structure in history.

The Root	Jesus Christ is the root in the Bible. The root is HOLY because God established it, promised it, and sustains it through Jesus Christ.
Natural Branches	Israel belongs naturally to that covenant structure. God chose them.
Broken Branches	Unbelieving Jews were removed because of unbelief .
Wild Branches	Believing Gentiles were grafted in by faith in Jesus Christ.
Future Regrafting	Israel shall yet be grafted in again – back into their OWN tree!
Paul's Warning	Paul's warning is clear – Gentiles were added to blessing, not appointed to <u>replace</u> the tree!
Truth Summarized	The olive tree lives because Jesus Christ is its sustaining life! Israel is its natural branch system – Jesus is the Jewish Messiah! Gentiles have been grafted into blessings they never originally had!

2. Common Objections

Objection #1 “Israel forfeited all future promises when they crucified Jesus.”

Romans 11:1 – ...Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.

Considerations:

- ✓ Paul wrote Romans **AFTER** the crucifixion, resurrection, and decades of gospel rejection.
- ✓ That means the cross did not cancel God’s covenant promises to Israel.

Comparing Scriptures

*Romans 11:28 – ... but as touching **the election**, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes.*

*Romans 11:29 – For the gifts and calling of God are **without repentance**.*

*Acts 3:17-21 – ... And he **shall send** Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you...*

Answer

- ✓ No. God did not cancel the covenant promises to Israel. **All** who **reject** Jesus Christ during the Church Age and Tribulation Period will die and go to hell as the Bible says.

Objection #2 “The Church has replaced Israel.” [a.k.a. Replacement Theology]

Comparing Scriptures

*Romans 11:17-24 – And if **SOME of the branches** be broken off, and **THOU, being a wild olive tree**, wert grafted in among them... Boast not against the branches... how much more shall these... **THE NATURAL BRANCHES**, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

“Replacement” creates arrogance God forbids!

Why warn against boasting if the Church replaced them?!?

Considerations:

- ✓ **Romans 11** uses olive branches. Gentiles are temporarily grafted in – not a replacement.
- ✓ **Romans 11:25** says blindness in part **UNTIL** the temporary door is closed – it will end.
- ✓ In **1 Corinth 10:32**, Paul speak of 3 groups of people – Jews, Gentiles, and the Church.

Answer

- ✓ No. You cannot replace something God says is only temporarily blinded.

Objection #3 “All Israel shall be saved means the Church.”

Comparing Scriptures

*Romans 11:25 – ... blindness in part is happened to **ISRAEL**, until...fulness of the Gentiles...*

*Romans 11:26 – And so all **ISRAEL** shall be saved: as it is written...*

*Zechariah 12:10 – ... the house of David... Jerusalem... **they** shall look upon me...*

Considerations:

- ✓ People say these kinds of things because they **spiritualize** “Israel.”
- ✓ In Romans 9-11 every use of “Israel” refers to ethnic Israel unless context changes.
- ✓ The same Israel blinded in verse 25 (Jews) is the same Israel saved in verse 26 (Jews).

Answer

- ✓ No. Israel in Romans 9-11 means the Jews.

Objection #4 “Modern Israel is secular and anti-Christ – not biblical Israel.”

Comparing Scriptures

Ezekiel 37:3 – ... can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

Considerations:

- ✓ People say this because modern Israel often appears spiritually cold and wicked.
- ✓ Prophecy never says Israel returns **spiritually** first. First bones gather, then breath!
- ✓ The Jews will be spiritually broken during the Tribulation Period – “Jacob’s Trouble.”

Answer

- ✓ No. National restoration comes before spiritual restoration. That is what we **NOW** see!

Objection #5 “Jews hate Christians – why should we care about their future?”

Comparing Scriptures

*Romans 11:28 – As concerning the gospel, they are **enemies**... beloved for the fathers’ sakes.*

*John 15:18 – If the world hate you, ye know that **it hated me** before it hated you.*

Considerations:

- ✓ In **Romans 11:28**, two truths exist at the **SAME** time – enemies and beloved.
- ✓ We do not excuse rejection of Christ or deny hostility towards Christians and Christ.

Answer

- ✓ No. God cares, and so do we. We do not deny the Scriptures.

Objection #6 “The promises were fulfilled spiritually, not literally.”

Comparing Scriptures

*Luke 1:32-33 – ... the throne of his father David... reign over **the house of Jacob** for ever...*

*Zechariah 14:4 – And his feet shall stand in that day upon **the mount of Olives**...*

*Isaiah 2:2-4 – ... let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to **the house of Jacob**...*

Considerations:

- ✓ If Jerusalem becomes symbolic, David’s throne becomes symbolic... where does it end?
- ✓ Prophecy repeatedly names: Jerusalem, Zion, David’s throne, nations coming, etc.

Answer

- ✓ No. Bethlehem was literal. Calvary was literal. Jerusalem will be literal also.

3. Summarizing

God repeatedly tied His promises to **literal** creation and geography.

*Jeremiah 31:35-37 ... **If those ordinances** [sun and moon] **depart from me**...*

*Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take YOU... and will bring YOU into **your own land**.*

*Amos 9:14-15 ... And I will plant THEM in **their own land**... saith the LORD thy God.*

The issue is not politics. **The issue is: Does God keep covenant promises?**

The olive tree proves that God disciplines branches but preserves the covenant root!

The olive tree still stands because the God who planted it is still working His PLAN!