

REVIVE CHURCH-ROMANS 9 (ISRAEL)

When understanding a topic like Israel we should have a primary goal of growing in the Fathers heart, His eternal purposes, His covenants and His unchanging nature. Israel is and always will be a controversial topic and we want to make sure as believers that we are on God's side.

The Bible's most concise yet comprehensive teaching on the relationship between Israel and the Church is found in **Romans 9–11**. It is in the flow of this incredible book that we turn to a primary theme of Gods heart and purpose for a people.

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV) 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Significantly, it is in this context that we begin reading, in the very next sentence, about Israel:

Romans 9:1-5. I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

This flow of Scripture is strategic by the Spirit. Just as we are assured of our Fathers love for the Church in *Romans 8:38–39*, we are reminded of the unquenchable flame in His heart for the Jews in Romans 9:1. As you may know, the original letter to the Roman church contained no chapter breaks; they were added later for our convenience. The New Covenant's primary message on Israel is rooted in the revelation of God's merciful, gracious love.

It is important to catch God's heart and prioritize what is important to Him. To grow in understanding of His full scriptural narrative. We are probably all over the spectrum when it comes to our knowledge and heart for Israel based upon the environment you were raised, your understanding of God's word and how you allow culture to shape your thoughts. *It is sometimes difficult to care about what God cares about when we do not feel directly impacted. Often we simply don't know how are we supposed to align ourselves with this passion of God's heart so we let others carry passions and burdens that we are all meant to participate in.*

Some have attempted to change the original interpretation of Scripture by replacing ancient promises specifically pertaining to Israel and deconstructing them in such a way that they now only apply to the church. Let me warn you to be very careful who you are

listening to and how you being shaped. This divisive topic within the church must be settled in the hearts of true believers and we must be unshakable because we stand on the eternal word of God. We need to be careful we don't interpret scripture through a western paradigm in such a way that we adapt the word of God to be something it is not.

- Adherents of replacement theology believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and that God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. *There are 79 instances in the New Testament, where the words, Israel or Israelite occurs. Derek Prince says after examining them all I conclude that the apostles never used Israel as a synonym for the church.*
- We reject replacement theology. It is not Biblical and goes against God's character as the covenant keeping God. **The New Testament confirms God's continuing election of and will to save the Jewish people** **The apostle Paul says:** "I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! ...God has not rejected his people ..." (**Rom 11:1f**).

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Consider every one of your Old Testament promises that you have loved.

- **Jeremiah 29:11** (NIV)-For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- **Zephaniah 3:17-** (NKJV) The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet [you] with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."
- **Hosea 2:19-20** (NKJV) 19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.

Every promise made was first for the Jew. Praise God for His grace and our adoption but understand this is first a Jewish promise.

The Bible is a collection of ancient texts written primarily by Jewish authors for Jewish audiences over a span of about 1500 yrs. It is Steeped in Middle Eastern geography, history, and culture,

Old Testament (Hebrew Bible): The books of the Old Testament, or *Tanakh*, were composed by ancient Israelites and Jewish scribes **all inspired by God and God breathed.** They were

written primarily in Hebrew and some Aramaic to record the history, laws, and prophetic messages of the Jewish people.

New Testament: The New Testament writings authored by Jewish individuals with the possible exception of Luke. The authors were steeped in Jewish traditions and the Hebrew scriptures, and they wrote to address the earliest Christian communities, which originated as a Jewish movement.

Understanding this cultural background is essential for grasping the Bible in context.

God makes the following promise to Abram. That is still fully alive and not just to one man but a nation.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 ⁶ “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Exodus 4:22 (NKJV) Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.

When you begin to see Israel as God’s firstborn among all of the other affectionate terms He uses it helps us to begin to **cultivate His love** for them! To see that God is the Father waiting for this son (nation) to come home to receive Jeshua as their Messiah; Parallels **the parable of the prodigal son and the joy of the Father when the son comes to his senses and returns home.** *When we partner with Israel we are partnering with The Father’s heart for His children to come to their senses and come home. As we make room in our hearts, pray, support and give financially to them, we are promised blessing. He will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel! (Gen. 12:3)(individually, nationally)*

- There is a common theme throughout Scripture of God’s passionate and jealous love for his people, His children. In spite of their breaking all the conditions. He refers to Israel as his **“special treasure”** and the **“apple of his eye”** among other tender and

affectionate designations. His anger and fury is aroused if they are hurt, and their unfaithfulness pains him like no other.

- This Old Testament theme carries over to the New Testament. Jesus states that he was sent to “the lost sheep of Israel”, His primary mission was first and foremost to Israel. Matthew 15:24 (NKJV) But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Paul says the gospel should go first to the Jew, then to the Gentile (Rom 1:16). We see God’s distinct choice of Israel right to the end of Revelation, because his calling and gifts are irrevocable (Rom 11:28-29).

Psalm 147: 19-20a He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation.”

God wanted us all to have access to the scriptures – the “oracles of God” as Paul calls them – the precious words of God to the world. He also wanted to bring his Messiah into the world through a people group. Through humanity itself. The Jewish people are trustees, guardians and messengers of these gifts to the world.

Romans 9: ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

- God wanted a ‘flagship/forerunner nation that was an example to the world – not of how they behave, but of how he behaves. Israel may be the nation that was chosen, but they have been chosen for a reason. The reason is not merited by themselves, but God’s reason is to bless all the nations on the earth.
- We can learn by observing this love story between God and Israel what His character is like. We can see his faithfulness. His standards. His compassionate love and mercy, as well as his jealousy and wrath when he is rejected for other lovers.

The Bible cannot be fully understood without appreciating the place of Israel in his grand scheme – from beginning to end. Indeed, looking through the lens of his dealings with Israel is like a key that unlocks the scriptures.

Jews have been targeted with a unique hatred – the unquenchable, Satanic drive to annihilate them continues throughout the generations. This makes perfect sense that the enemy of our souls longs to destroy God’s chosen.

The Body of Jesus Christ depends upon each one embracing their unique calling, giftings, privileges and responsibilities, and celebrating those of others (1 Corinthians 12). We recognize that we are part of His redemption story that started with a people group whom He chose. We get to choose to partner with God's plan and rejoice that we are apart of it, remembering it is by faith in a Jewish Messiah that saved us by faith and keeps us still.

Jesus maintains His identity as the Lion of the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David for all eternity.

Revelation 5:5 – NKJV But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

Jeremiah 3:17 -“At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord , to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

We must trust God with his choice of Israel and rejoice in His divine plans for us all. It's a beautiful thing to draw alongside our Father and join him by sharing his heart for his people. It requires that we refuse to believe the lie that we are rejected or second best – or that God's grace and favor must be merited. All those who have come to love the God of Israel and have been forgiven by Jesus the Messiah have been brought into the commonwealth of Israel to share in God's riches, and have been grafted into the chosen people.

- Through the blood of Jesus We all have equal standing before God and free access to the Father through his son, Jesus. Yet the tribes of Israel are still there right to the end of Revelation, just as God promised that they always would be (Romans 9-11, Jeremiah 31:35-36).
- It is easy to see the unique role that God had for Israel in the past, bringing us the Scriptures and the Messiah, the story of God... but we have the amazing privilege today of seeing God's faithfulness in action as we see his ancient promises to Israel coming to pass. We must not sit idle proclaiming ignorance but grow in love, understanding and partnership.
- **Jesus will not give up on Israel, he will not renege on his promises (despite Israel's unfaithfulness). If Jesus says he will do something, He will do it.** Israel is our concrete proof of this truth, and will continue to testify to the certainty of God's word by being a living example of it. **The fact that God is a covenant-keeping God is good news for everyone**

Free book online-why good still cares about Israel. Written by a Messianic Jew
Derek Prince-The Destiny of Israel and the church

