

REVIVE CHURCH-ROMANS (UNDERSTANDING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH THE LENS OF ISRAEL.

We want to make sure our passion and our primary pursuit is the person of Jesus Christ above all, in all through all. Don't be known for lesser passions if that make sense. We get off balance if anything else is first or foremost. **We love Israel because we love Jesus, we care about what He cares about.**

Understanding God's love through the paradigm of Israel is foundational because Israel is the primary story through which God chose to reveal His heart, His covenant, and His purposes. Rather than explaining His love as an abstract concept, God demonstrated it in history through His relationship with a people.

Romans 1:16 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.

Israel provides the framework for understanding Jesus.

Jesus is:

- the true Israel
- The Seed- **Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)** Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.
- the faithful Son, the promised Messiah, the Bridegroom of Israel.

Without Israel's story, many aspects of Jesus' mission lose their richness. His Last Supper, His role as Passover Lamb, His fulfillment of the covenants, and His promise of the New Covenant all arise from Israel's history.

I pray your heart is expanding for divine purposes **beyond your personal call.** *As part of the Western church we need to repent for how we have made Jesus like us.* **We have made the King of the Jews someone who helps our self esteem, make money and find the perfect parking spot rather than the King of the universe who burns for the life of men and women, burns for justice, longs for the return of the lost with a yearning we do not fully understand, this includes Jew and Gentile.**

Your personal call is important and your Father in heaven designed you to bring him glory through your earthly assignment, but many lose sight of God's bigger plan for humanity because they are so me focused.

- We all have another call upon our lives that is of great importance to the Lord and that is to partner with the divine call of God in His plan and purpose of redemption as part of the bride of Christ, His church. Our purpose in this life includes **being fully surrendered to His plan for Israel.**
- ***We submit to His leadership and in humility enter into this mystery.*** When you look at yourself in the overall scheme and the direct impact it is having it may seem small. If however, you will also view the impact that we have together as billions of Christians

globally as the body and the bride of Jesus Christ we are moved by faith to believe we are part of the plan of God prepared before the foundations of the world.

- **Israel guards us from an individualistic gospel.** Western Christianity often views salvation primarily as “Jesus loves me.” Israel reminds us that God is creating a covenant people. We are grafted into His redemptive story (Romans 11), adopted into His family, and incorporated into the people of God rather than merely entering into a private relationship with Him.

As you grow in understanding concerning God’s love for Israel, you will grow in understanding concerning God’s love for you. Israel was/is the nation chosen by God to show the nations what He is like. There is a strength in understanding God’s faithfulness since the beginning of time and we discover this unfailing love in the (Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament). Coming into a New Testament understanding will bring you into salvation, but coming into the history of God and how He relates with and loves His people unconditionally will bring you into a maturity and depth that moves you into a depth of thankfulness and understanding of grace.

Paul writes in **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.

We hear the heart of a man that would do anything to see his fellow Jews believe in Jesus Christ. *He points out the divine grace given to them in which we learn about the fundamentals of God through their story and how God relates to them. Paul lists 8 specifics related to Gods designation of Israel.*

1. **Adoption**-He chose them first to reveal His longing as a Father to give and receive love, *we see His longing for family!*
2. **Glory**-He revealed the essence of who He was to them. *He did this for no other nation, He provided, protected, tabernacled with them and revealed facets of Himself through personally relating with them.*
3. **Covenants**-The unconditional, initiated promises of God that cannot be stopped, they will be fulfilled exactly as He said. He is a covenant keeping God. The blood covenant of Jesus opened the door to all yet was first to the Jew.
4. **Law**-Showed them how to live holy and set apart, brought revelation of sin.

5. **Service of God**-He showed us through the line of Aaron and the Levitical priesthood what it looks like to minister to Him above all things.
6. **Promises**-He put before them promises that were conditional. These would only be attained if man was obedient
7. **Of whom are the Fathers**-His plan that trustworthy Fathers that had intimate relationship with Him would rule over His people. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob forever. (Exodus 3:15)
8. **Of whom Christ came**-This is a big one! Jesus Christ came through a people group that God sovereignly picked for all eternity and that is the Jewish people.

All of these things listed were initiated by God to bring revelation to mankind through a people group called the Jews. None of these things can be replaced or removed, they are the inheritance of the Jews that we have been grafted into and now experience by grace. **Everything God has done for them we have been grafted into through Yeshua!**

Let's look at how God relates to His people with the understanding this is also how He relates to us because we have put our faith in Jesus. Understand not just the Biblical truth but the feelings/emotions God has for His beloved.

I. Husband

Isaiah 54:5- For your Maker *is* your husband, The Lord of hosts *is* His name; And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. God expresses how He relates to Israel as a husband which is how Jesus will relate to His church through all eternity. This helps our understanding when we look ahead at the prophetic future of the church in Revelation 19 when the marriage of the lamb takes place. The history of redemption reveals the love of God and His ultimate desire for a people that are forever yoked with Him. God has bridegroom love that burns for us, is committed to us and desires that we would return a love that encompasses everything that we are. We will be a people that fulfill the great command of loving Him wholeheartedly in this sacred covenant of grace.

In Hosea we learn of His faithfulness even when his bride longs for other lovers.

Hosea 2:19-20-"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.

This is something about the Lord I do not understand but I love. God's affection for His bride and willingness to be betrothed (engaged) to Israel in the midst of her unfaithfulness. This

attribute of God allows us into the beauty of God's love who can say *Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing*. He sees not just what is, but what is to be. We see, spots and blemishes, the darkness of our past and our decisions and He looks to the future into who we will be in that day. He is committed to His purpose of loving us and remaining faithful to the end.

II. **tender as a mother** toward her baby.

Isaiah 49:14-16- But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."
¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

God expresses His love for Israel in terminology that is meant to grip our hearts. There is no stronger love on this earth than a love a mother has for her baby, who is completely dependent upon the mother's love, affection and willingness to give of herself to ensure the child is taken care of. Even if a nursing mother could forget her nursing child, God says they may forget, yet I won't forget you.

He inscribes Israel on the palms of His hands. We understand this took on a whole new meaning when Jesus Christ was crucified.

Something about the Lord that has marked me concerning the way Jesus feels about me is that even in His discipline we can experience the tenderness of God's affections and His delight in His beloved. How He feels about Israel is how He feels about us and when Jesus Christ is our Lord, He expresses that love to us fully.

III. Father to son

Exodus 4:22-23- Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. ²³ So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."

This is the verse that got me. **The Father states to Pharaoh "Israel is My son, My firstborn"**. Wow God really does take this personal. You touch Israel, you are touching His firstborn. He truly will bless who blesses and curse who curses Israel. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, the Father sends His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of adoption into our hearts and we cry ABBA. The Christian name for God, the family name is Abba, Father! When we see how God responds to Pharaoh on behalf of His firstborn we see how God responds on our behalf to the enemy of our souls. *We also see what will happen prior to the return of Jesus Christ. God will demand that the demonic principalities and the god of this age let go of His beloved.* Satan will obviously not comply, and he will be forced to watch as

the plans of God come to fulfillment knowing his judgment is at hand and there is nothing else he can do.

IV. Israel is God's inheritance

Deuteronomy 32:9 For the Lord's portion *is* His people; Jacob *is* the place of His inheritance.

Israel is God's inheritance, His possession, His portion. They are so significant to God that He has placed a value in them that will reveal His glory. **This treasure within Israel will be used to bless the Lord and His church and ultimately bless the nations in the age to come.** *We may not fully understand all that God has purposed for Israel, but we can trust that there is profound significance woven into His covenant with them. Much remains to be revealed and will come to fulfillment as Israel embraces Jesus Christ as the Messiah and enters the Kingdom of God.*

We can bless the Lord for His inheritance placed inside of Israel. **The full reward of Jesus is woven into the Jews and Gentiles being gathered together as one for He truly has placed an inheritance in both Jewish and Gentile believers that will come into full fruition.**

Israel shows that God's love ultimately triumphs.

Despite centuries of rebellion, the prophets consistently promise Israel's restoration.

- **"I have loved you with an everlasting love." (Jeremiah 31:3)**
- **"All Israel will be saved." (Romans 11:26)**

God's faithfulness to Israel gives believers confidence that He will also complete the work He has begun in us (Philippians 1:6).

When we read Israel's story, we are not just learning about Israel—we are discovering the character of the God who loves us with the same unwavering faithfulness.