

Chosen People 7

Future Israel

Romans 11:23-36

Memory Verses: Romans 11:29

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

For the past two months, we have been painstakingly walking through three of the most theologically deep passages of scripture that you will find. I say this because Romans 9-11 deals with two of the most complicated and culturally relevant doctrines there are today! Election and Israel. What are they and what is their place in today's church? And we've tried to answer some of the most complicated questions one could ask in biblical studies. Questions like, "does God choose us or do we choose him?," or "how can God be fair if he does what he wants regardless of what we do?," or "what exactly has God chosen us for in the first place?"

And then last week asked one of the biggest questions on people's minds today; "has God rejected Israel and replaced her with the Church?" Either God has abandoned her, replaced her, or he has chosen to remain faithful to her and fulfill her purposes. And of course we believe that, Yes, God is faithful and true. He has not, nor will he ever abandon those whom he has chosen. Israel continues as the means by which the world will know Christ and be redeemed. Together with believing Gentiles, believing Jews lead the way through the vehicle of the church of Jesus Christ, the Israel of God!

But again that leads us to another question. If Christ has fulfilled the purposes of Israel through a remnant of believing Jews and the Church... does the nation of Israel, the ethnic people of Israel still have a future place? Has God finished writing Ethnic / National / The Kingdom of Israel's story? Or is there still another chapter to come?

Many of you know that during the darkest days of World War 2, Britain stood almost alone against Nazi Germany. The bombs were falling, the cities were burning, the body count was rising. Many believed defeat was inevitable and that they should surrender to Hitler. But there was one man who would never surrender; Prime Minister and leader of Britain, Winston Churchill, who in two separate speeches implored: "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never in nothing, great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. Many seemed that our account was closed, we were finished... but this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Why do I tell you this here? Because few men could see what Churchill could see. Though they were dissipated and were a thread away from annihilation, Churchill knew that this was not the end... but a mere transition. Britain's story was not over.

Nor is Israel's! Though the temple is destroyed, though the people are scattered, though they have rejected the Messiah, the covenant promises of God are not finished. I believe that 2000 years ago was merely the end of the beginning... but the beginning of the end bares something different.

Yes there is a future for Israel, not because they deserve it. They don't. And, not because they are needed, they aren't. But for one simple reason... God's covenant promises don't expire. God has promised that the people will return... and they are. And God has promised that they will be saved... and they will. The future of Israel isn't primarily about Israel. The future of Israel is about God's character. Will he keep his word? Does he finish what he starts? The same God who called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The same God who gave them the land as an everlasting covenant. The same God who said, forgive them for they know not what they do. The same God who preserved a remnant of believing Jews. The same God who grafted the Gentiles into his covenant family. The same God who has been faithful for thousands of years.... is not finished displaying his faithfulness yet! Here's the beautiful truth of God's chosen people all wrapped up in a nice little bow; election, predestination, free will, mercy, calling, Jews, Gentiles, the Church, and Israel... they are all pointing to one glorious reality: **God always keeps his covenant promises**. The main point this morning is simple... **The Covenant Choices of God Are Unchangeable**. If you are chosen, you are chosen... end of story. If Israel is chosen... they are chosen... end of story. Today we are going to discover three reasons why we can be confident that Israel still has a future.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first reason we can be confident that Israel still has a future is... **God's Grace Still Invites Israel In**. Look with me at **Romans 11:23-26**. People talk all the time about the peace of Israel and the hope of Israel. Look at **vs23**. Here's some peace and hope for you! If they repent of their unbelief... they will be grafted back into the olive tree! God has not rejected them... instead he remains patient with them, desiring to see them all come to repentance and salvation in Christ! The same grace that was offered to us heathen Gentiles is always available to all Jewish people everywhere. And get this... in **vs24**. If his grace is strong enough to reach unnatural branches like us... how much more so is his grace able to graft back in natural branches like Israel?

Now let's look again at **Romans 11:25 & 26**. Last week we saw clearly that Israel's ultimate salvation, or fulfilled purpose, is found through

the remnant of believing Jews inside the Church. In this way, all Israel will be saved. But notice... there is a partial hardening for a time. **Meaning, those who are not a part of the small remnant... will be hardened towards the messiah for a time... but then that will change. When will it change? When most of the Gentiles who are going to be saved... are saved. How will it change?... The deliverer from Zion will banish their ungodliness and change their hearts! The grace of God for Israel is so great, that before it is all over with... Jesus himself is going to go full court press and overwhelm the people of Israel with his goodness and grace. And I believe many will be saved!**

This is exactly what Moses anticipated in **Deuteronomy 30:1-6**. God, through the prophet Moses, said that the people of Israel would come back to the land of Canaan. They are. In 1947 there were less than a million Jewish people in Palestine. But In 1948 Israel became a bonafide country for the purpose of a safe place for the persecuted Jewish people. Now, of the 16 million Jews across the globe, over 8 million of them live in Israel. And after the people come back, what does Moses say will happen next? God will circumcise their hearts so that they love the Lord with all their souls.

This is exactly what God said through the prophet Ezekiel in **Ezekiel 36:24-27**. And in **Jeremiah 31:33-34**. Suffice to say... in the last days, Jesus is going to pursue Israel with a crazy stalker like vigor. **He's going to go after them like the Dodgers after a 20 game winner. He's going to go after them like Biden goes after Ice Cream. He's going to woo them like your Pastor's good looks wooed the lovely Lisa Mitchell to chase him around Liberty University for four years and finally put a ring on it.** In the end days, Jesus is going to pursue the Jewish people to the point that many of them will come to repentance and faith in Christ!

In the story of the Prodigal Son the father never stopped being the father, even though the son stopped acting like a son. But the father watched the road every day. And the moment he returned... the father ran to him, slaughtered the calf for him, held a feast and party for him, gave him his ring and coat... he wooed him back into his love! In **Romans 11:23-36**... God is watching the road... ready to for Israel to come home! Listen, **Grace never locks the front door. If grace found us, grace can find Israel!** The bottom line is this... God has chosen Israel... and **The Covenant Choices of God Are Unchangeable.**

The second reason we can be confident that Israel still has a future is... **God's Plan For Israel Is Still Unfolding**. Look with me at **Romans 11:27-35**. Three things. First, God again reminds us in **vs29** that his choices are irrevocable. He has chosen Israel and in the end this will be clearer than ever before. But secondly, there is a plan for Israel's rejection of the Messiah... and it is still taking shape. What we can tell

though is here for us in **Romans 11. Vs28** tells us that Israel is the enemy of the church for a time. Why? We see this in **vs30**. So their disobedience would open the door for the salvation of the Gentiles and the ministry of the church. And then the Gentiles are saved to? Go back to **vs11**. To make the Jewish people jealous and desire to come back to the Messiah. But in the end, **vs31**, they will also be shown the mercy we have been shown.

Thirdly, according to **vs33-35**... we can't really know the mysteries of God's work with Israel in the end times... just that he is working! Regardless, it seems that our God is setting up something big for the end of this age. In the beginning Israel was his plan to reveal his glory to the world... so Israel seems to be his plan for the same in the end. Again, we've seen this time and time again as we've been in this study. **God's plans don't fail when his people do.** God's plans for Israel will go on, regardless of the current state of the Jews. The salvation of the Gentiles and Jews depend on it. **The Covenant Choices of God Are Unchangeable.**

The third reason we can be confident that Israel still has a future is... **God's Glory Is Still Tied To Israel**. Look with me at **Romans 11:36**. Everything God is still doing for Israel is for his glory! Israel's mercy is from him. Israel's mercy is through him. And Israel's glory is to him. In the end... if God doesn't make good on his promise to give them the land forever... or if God doesn't make good on his promise to establish them again as a part of the kingdom... or if God doesn't make good on his promise to see many of them come to salvation... then God is a liar. But if God does... then it's the greatest comeback of all time and God gets the glory! And he will do it... because **The Covenant Choices of God Are Unchangeable.**

Application

Church, don't miss the heart of what we are talking about today. This sermon isn't ultimately about Israel... it's about a God who always keeps his promises. If God would simply abandon Israel after making covenant promises to them then what confidence would you or I have in him to keep his promises of salvation to us? But that's not who God is. He has always been faithful and true. And he is the same today as he was back then. Israel has a future, not because they deserve it... but because of how faithful our God is!

And some of you say... not fair! Israel has rejected Christ! They killed Jesus. They hate Christians. They hate the church. They are the ire of the world. They only exist to make war. Why should God show mercy on them and forgive them? Exactly! Why? Because your sin killed Jesus. Your anger towards your brothers often looks like hatred. Sometimes you make a fool of yourself and you draw the ire of many around you. And yet... God has forgiven you and saved you! Why? Cause he chose you! And he

has chosen Israel!

Conclusion

Church, Romans 11 can seem like a road full of twists and turns that ends up at an unfinished bridge. How you feel about that unfinished bridge is determined by the accompanying signage. If you roll up to the unfinished bridge and there are no signs... then you may be like... hey... stupid bridge! Whats the point of a broken bridge that doesn't meet in the middle! Someone's going to die! But if you roll up to the bridge and there are signs everywhere telling you that the bridge is still under construction! Well, then you think... "hey... its not finished... I can deal with that!" The bridge isn't abandoned... the builder isn't finished! The bottom line is this... God isn't finished with Israel... and some day soon the bridge will be complete. **God's delays are not God's denials.** He's still working on Israel and He's still working on us. Why? Because... **The Covenant Choices of God Are Unchangeable.**