CALVARY CHAPEL
MARTIN COUNTY

The Coming Restoration of Israel!
The Lord will Indeed Keep ALL of His Promises
Romans 11:20-27

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. http://netbible.com All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible (NRSVue), Copyright © 2021, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

Scripture taken from the New King James Version (NKJV). Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version (CEV). ©1995 by The American Bible Society, Thomas Nelson, Nashville TN.

Scripture quotations marked (CSB) have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Taken from the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) by David H. Stern. Copyright © 1998. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Messianic Jewish Publishers, 6120 Day Long Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029. www.messianicjewish.net

Paul has been pretty up front with us. God is not done with Israel. All of His promises and plans for them are still in play.

The church has not replaced Israel.

There is still today, a remnant of Israel, those who are Jewish who have also recognized who their Messiah is and are waiting for His soon return in the rapture of the church.

And now Paul moves to the next topic that those who are reading would begin to wonder about. If all of this is indeed true, what about the restoration of Israel? When the nation is restored, it will indeed be glorious.

Psalm 80:17–19
“But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!” (ESV)

Asaph, as he prophetically showed us in Psalm 80 and prayed along with the remnant, wanted and desired the restoration of Israel.

But Ken, aren’t they restored right now and in the land? They are in the land but not in belief. That is the key problem. That is what Paul has been talking about and that is what is his next topic. The restoration of Israel, in belief, and what that means to the world.

Romans 11:20–24
“Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. **Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off.** And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?” (NASB 2020)

Ronald Diprose tells us what most of church history has been like since Augustine up to WWII. “During the early centuries, Israel was thought to be a renegade nation that should be treated with contempt. However, after the Shoah and the birth of the modern State of Israel in 1948, a new view developed according to which Israel’s status as a visible, elect nation exonerated its members from the need to exercise faith in Jesus Christ in order to be saved.” (Diprose 2000, xiii-xiv)

And the reality is simple; both views are false as Paul makes note of especially here in Romans 11.

The requirement is simple for the church, follow the Word of God. We must know and follow the Word and allow the Word to be the hammer that keeps us straight. You cannot take Romans 11 and ignore Romans 10, you can’t allegorize the Old Testament and lose the true Jewishness of what we have in Jesus, who is a Jew by the way.

We must take in the entire Word of God.

Jeremiah 23:29
“**Is My word not like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?**” (NASB 2020)

But when political expediency steps in, as it did for Augustine, then the Word gets tossed. And this still is going on even today. When someone tells you that they have a new take on the scripture, or they rely on history rather than the Word, what truth is being bent?

I find life is so much simpler when I read God’s Word and take what it says seriously.

 © The UnSafe Bible 2026

John 1:1–5
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.” (NASB 2020)

Isaiah 40:8
“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.” (NASB 2020)

We must be Bereans now more than ever before. Listen to what someone says, and then look to the Word and see if it is so.

In order to even come up with the idea of Israel being replaced, one would have to allegorize pretty much the entire Old Testament or not even refer to it at all. That is really the only way you could begin to adjust the conclusion of a promise for Israel now being applied to the church.

But unfortunately, while allegorizing the Old Testament, there were those in the early church who also disconnected the Resurrection from Passover in an attempt to make the idea of God being done with the Jews more palatable giving us the really strange timing of Easter we see today. Moishe Rosen gives us the story.

By AD 325, however, paganism and anti-Jewish sentiment had invaded the Church. Emperor Constantine, who presided over the Council at Nicaea, prohibited Christians from continuing to celebrate the resurrection at exactly the same time as the Jewish Passover. Still, to this day, the two holidays are celebrated at approximately the same time, both being based on the lunar calendar. (Rosen and Rosen 2006, 71)

How bad is it? “The origins of Easter are rooted in European traditions. The name Easter comes from a pagan figure called Eastre (or Eostre) who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. A festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by these people to honor her. The goddess Eastre’s earthly symbol was the rabbit, which was also known as a symbol of fertility. Originally, there were some very pagan (and sometimes utterly evil) practices that went along with the celebration. Today, Easter is almost a completely commercialized holiday, with all the focus on Easter eggs and the Easter bunny being remnants of the goddess worship. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

Here at Calvary Chapel, we tend to refer to this day as Resurrection Sunday rather than Easter. And, yes, biblically speaking, it should be celebrated on the first Sunday after Passover. But the early church, as we have seen, let politics and paganism stop it. Thus, it is now celebrated by the church on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, the first day of spring.

It is too late to flip everything back around, and what we see are centuries of following a tradition that has no real basis in Biblical truth other than a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Which, by the way, the Bible is totally silent on us celebrating. I believe we should celebrate His resurrection, but there is no command to do so.

Amazing as it may be, when you get Israel right, you tend to get everything else right as well. The book of Romans is, at its heart, a systematic theology and here in it, we are wrapping up three chapters that Paul spends reflecting the importance of Israel not only to the Word but also to the church. I agree with Diprose on the point he makes in light of this.

Christian theology must be based on sound hermeneutical principles which presuppose **the Church's essential relationship with Israel. These include taking into account the whole of the biblical Canon, taking seriously the Jewishness of Jesus and of much of the New Testament, recognizing the institutional distinctions between Israel and the Church, avoiding gratuitous allegorization of Scripture, and giving normative value to what the New Testament teaches concerning both the first and second advents of Christ.** In the early Christian centuries, neglect of these five principles favored the development of a theology of the Church and of the Christian ministry in which apostolic teaching was subordinated to Old Testament cultic practice. It also favored a medieval ecclesiastical theocracy in which the qualities of the messianic kingdom described in the Old Testament were notably absent. (Diprose 2000, 172)

Historically speaking, for almost 1,600 years, the conceit Paul warned of in verse 20 was there in the so called "institutional church." And now the newer yet older problem exists that there are those who believe that being a Jew means you are automatically saved. That is nothing more than a repeat of the problem that has been plaguing them since Mount Sinai.

Again, it all boils down to teaching the Word simply and taking it for what it says without trying to force some manmade construct onto it. The one that impacted history was also politically motivated as well falling out of the state recognition of Christianity and making it the official state church.

Rather than be conceited and look down our noses at the Jewish people, we should be working to make disciples of all men and women no matter the background, ethnicity or religion. There really is only one way to God and that is through Jesus Christ.

What we are recipients of, is God's grace. Romans 11 and Ephesians 2 should be read together.

Romans 11:22
"See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off." (NASB 2020)

Ephesians 2:8–9
"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (NASB 2020)

This is an important factor to comprehend, and it will indeed take place in the not-too-distant future. If the Gentile world suddenly ceased to respond to the gospel, for whatever reason, God could simply return His focus to the Jewish nation.

It is only through the grace of God that we have not only been given the extra time to reach the lost, but that even we ourselves are saved.

There is a time coming, and very soon, when Jesus Himself will come and meet us in the air, changing everything.

1 Thessalonians 4:15–17
"For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." (ESV)

And when that event takes place, the church is no longer here. Oh, trust me, there will be numerous churches open the next day fully staffed and folks showing up wondering what happened. Some will repent and become Tribulation saints, but many will not and they will be believing and listening to lies of the enemy.

At an unknown moment after that event, the antichrist will sign a 7-year treaty with Israel and at that point, it is indeed all about Israel.

The church is now gone, and God selects 144,000 Jewish young men to be evangelists for Him going all across the planet communicating the gospel. The Jewish nation once again becomes the instrument that God uses to reach the planet. And that day is not that far away.

Most of the so-called church, no longer teaches or preaches the word. They teach, but it is in response to the marketplace.

2 Timothy 4:3–4
“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” (ESV)

Zane Hodges shows us that that means we are now in danger of also being cut off.

“Today the Gentile world largely rejects the gospel in the form in which it was preached by Paul and by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. That is not the same as saying that Christendom has disappeared. It has not, but its message is no longer really the message that Paul proudly preached “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”” (Romans 1:16–17, NASB 2020).

Much that passes as Christianity today in the Gentile world is not Biblical Christianity at all. Just as the Judaism of Jesus’ day rejected the true Christian gospel, so also does much of Gentile Christianity in our own day and time. The issue for Paul was not whether Judaism continued in his own time (it did), but whether the Gentiles might actually fall into the same pattern of unbelief as Judaism had. If they did, they would lose their present privileged place in the good olive tree.” (Hodges 2013, 336)

I have bad news for all of us; this has indeed taken place. The church we see around us today is either tied up in religious ritual (Thyatira), totally dead while talking about how wrong everyone else is (Sardis), on fire and working hard to to stay that way (Philadelphia), or into the affirmation of sinful lifestyles, the aggregation of resources to the point of obscenity, and a complete denial of Jesus Christ (Laodicea). We are there, and we, the 21st century church, need to once again get serious with the God that we allege to serve. We love to talk about the love of Christ. But we forget, He came here to die for our sin because of that love and for those who reject Him, have rejected that love. But many still presume upon it.

We want to talk of His love, to be encouraged, but please. Don’t talk about my sin or sin at all. That is a serious downer. Faith in Christ means we are obedient to His word, it means we believe He has died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead and it means we live obediently following Him and becoming conformed to Him.

But if we do not talk about sin, and all we do is encourage you, then we are supporting you presuming upon the love of God. 1 John 1:9 is no longer important, what is important is feeling good about yourself.

That is what Paul is saying when he talks about the danger of being cut off. There is another word for this, apostasy.

The apostate church of Laodicea thinks they are saved, but they are not, they have willingly cut themselves off and are presuming upon the love of Christ when they have no basis to do so in reality. As a follower of Jesus Christ, how do you then know, or prove you are in? Biblically speaking, there should be fruit. But if you are in sin, is there any fruit at all? If you are indulging in cut off religion devoid of the reality of Christ, how would you know the difference?

There are those out there who find themselves headed that direction due to a change of staff or a vague but important theological point said from a pulpit. A point that crosses a line and grieves the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30–5:2
“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (ESV)

Being encouraged while in sin or some ungodly lifestyle, not only grieves the Lord but does nothing to give hope to the one who needs to know they are a sinner in need of Christ but are being affirmed in their sin.

Since truth isn’t happening, you won’t repent of your sin because you may not know that what you are doing truly is sin. You may have gone to church because you knew something was wrong, but now, you discover God loves you and your fine just as you are. You aren’t.

When the church you go to will not tell you the truth about your life doing so in obedience to and in the light of the Word of God and instead encourages and supports you in your ungodly lifestyle, they may also set up as few things for you to do to prove you are in, at least to make you feel better about yourself. For many today, they hear and are manipulated into giving to the work of the church, to be guilted to show up to serve, and show up as an attendee. It is all about assimilation and making you part of the herd.

By the way, aside from the manipulation bit, none of that is bad, but none of that on its own saves you. Lying to you about your salvation and then guilting you to serve as a means to “prove up” that all is good between you and the Lord, is nothing more than false religion.

I have heard testimonies of how good someone felt after serving in a feed the poor ministry, but at no time did anyone say the ministry was being done as a means to share the love of Jesus with those who do not know Him in a tangible way by even saying this is being given in the name of Jesus. But they did feel better about themselves and have check marked off social justice for this week.

The disease is sin and Jesus Christ is the only one who can forgive it. But if you are encouraged in your sin and not told what you are doing is sin, then the medicine you are receiving is no better than a placebo. And the danger is being cutoff due to the same problem that the majority of the Jews suffered from, is unbelief. Encountering Jesus Christ for real is a life changing experience. It means realizing that we are sinners and He is the only one who can take care of that problem for us. As we have learned here in Romans, Jesus Christ came to die for our sin and then He walked out of the grave.

Romans 3:21–26
“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe;

for **there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.** This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." (NASB 2020)

For those who continue on in unbelief, whether Jew or Gentile, the result will be the same, eternal separation from God. For the Gentile who believes, they discover they are no longer cut off and here is the thing, the same goes for the Jew who recognizes their Messiah and believe.

Romans 11:23–24
"And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?" (NASB 2020)

And once again Paul returns to his example from agronomy and as he does so, he is expressing the trust that God will indeed continue to call out a remnant from the Jews for Himself. And on top of that, there is a day coming, where the nation, those who remain, will recognize their need and believe (Zechariah 13:9), thus being grafted back in.

Reality, which Replacement Theology totally ignores, means that there are those who believe in every generation from both the Jews and the Gentiles. In God's grace, He indeed can and will graft back in the remnant at the end of the age.

In the world of agronomy, the example ceases making sense because you do not take branches you cut out long ago and then put them back into the tree. They are dead. But we serve a God who takes dead things and makes them live again. The example Ezekiel gives makes it rather clear. And there are two phases, the bringing back to life, and then the Spirit being placed into them.

Ezekiel 37:4–10
"Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and tell them: 'Dry bones, listen to the LORD's message. This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: Look, I am about to infuse breath into you and you will live. I will put tendons on you and muscles over you and will cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' " **So I prophesied as I was commanded. There was a sound when I prophesied—I heard a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to bone. As I watched, I saw tendons on them, then muscles appeared, and skin covered over them from above, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath—prophesy, son of man—and say to the breath: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these corpses so that they may live.' " So I prophesied as I was commanded, and the breath came into them; they lived and stood on their feet, an extremely great army.**" (NET 2nd ed.)

This restoration in unbelief is the one we are seeing take place in the land right now. The reference to the loud noises and the rattling in verse 7 refers to the two events which helped to set the stage for the people to be regathered. First was the noise of WW I which saw the Balfour Declaration as well as the birth of Zionism, the belief that the Jewish people have a right for a land of their own in the land. This was not possible as long as the Ottoman Turk Empire remained in control but WW I ended that as well.
The shaking was WW II and the Shoah which placed the world into a position ready see a Jewish state.
Dr. Fruchtenbaum tells us the result. "The result was the first world wide regathering in unbelief in preparation for judgment, specifically, the judgment of the Great Tribulation." (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 6)

In verse 9, Ezekiel prophesies to the ruach, the wind or breath, an image in the Old Testament of the Spirit.

This refers to a national restoration; Israel was slain as a nation. She ceased to be a nation, but now, Israel is to be restored as a nation. The wind is to breathe upon them for the purpose that they may live. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 7)

And as a large army, the task is complete. First regathered in unbelief, then those who remain are filled with the Spirit, and now the nation has been restored. Life to dead things.

This is counter to what would be natural to expect, in other words, it is indeed God's grace. Mary questioned how God could make her, a virgin, pregnant, and the answer is the same we would see Paul lean on here.

Luke 1:37
"For nothing will be impossible with God."" (NASB 2020)

Paul now moves to make certain that the understanding that God has a future for His people, is obvious. Jeremiah noted this moment.

I am aware that there are those who look at this verse for encouragement, the word is specifically for the nation of Israel as that is who Jeremiah is talking to.

Jeremiah 29:11–14
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile." (ESV)

Paul will say pretty much the same thing.

Romans 11:25–27
"For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be uninformed of this mystery—**so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved**; just as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."" (NASB 2020)

I love how the scriptures have in them, responses for various heresies and false teachings. Paul is responding to the issue that the Jews fell and are unusable. Yes, he is indeed responding to what was coming up over the horizon, Replacement Theology.

How could anyone read this and determine otherwise? It is done by redefining the terms to meet you own personal definition rather than the one of the context of the scriptures. It is done by reading into the scriptures the pretext that you have developed and then putting the two together, you now have a potentially ironclad theology. Until someone reads the entirety of the word and realizes the pretext is totally false.

The stumble, outlined here by Paul, is not the entire story. It is simply a chapter in the story of salvation history. Dr. Moo explains for us.

In this drama Israel and the Gentiles take turns on center stage. Israel, the focus of salvation history throughout the OT, has now, as a result of the gospel, given place to the Gentiles: because of Israel's "trespass," salvation has come to the Gentiles (vv. 11), and God's riches and the blessing of reconciliation have come to the world (vv. 12, 15). But the Gentiles will, in turn, be replaced in the limelight by Israel, as her "defeat" gives way to her "fullness" (v. 12), her rejection to acceptance (v. 15). The Jews, like branches that retain the qualities of the tree from which they were cut, can be grafted back in again (vv. 16–24). (Moo 2018, 728)

We have alluded to this once before, that once the church is gone, the Lord turns back to the Jewish nation as the ones who will be the servants of His for perhaps the largest awakening in the history of the world. Once again, Israel is tasked with telling the planet about Him.

Revelation 7:1–4
"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "**Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed**." (NKJV)

12,000 young men from every tribe of Israel with the very notable exception of the tribe of Dan. They are tasked by the Lord to spread the gospel to the entire globe during the Tribulation, and they will be supernaturally protected by God so they can do just that.

We see them together with Jesus in Jerusalem after the second coming.

Revelation 14:1–5
"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God." (NKJV)

As we examine verse 25, we discover how important this verse is. Paul implies that what he is talking about is unknown to some and apparently intentionally unknown. It could also be said that whenever Paul uses this format to start off a thought, he is also dealing with something that the Holy Spirit has shown him will be misunderstood and twisted later in the history of the church.

This is the phrase, "for I do not want you…to be uniformed."

Earlier in Romans (Romans 1:13), he used that phrase to communicate his desire to come to Rome and how he regrets that not happening yet.

He uses it again in 1 Corinthains 10:3 to talk about the Exodus and how involved Jesus was in that. And then shortly after that in 1 Corinthians 12:1, he touches on a topic that many avoid or have been subjected to poor teaching about today, the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

He uses the term again in 2 Corinthians as confirming the persecution the team was undergoing and thanking them for prayer.

And then in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, he uses this term to introduce a topic that there was then and still is today, a ton of false teaching and misinformation about, the pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

Here, he is indeed tackling Replacement Theology and one more time he brings up the pride problem that, as we have related, was and still is problem for the church. Pride over the so called superior spiritual position at the expense of the Jewish nation, without taking into account everything that Paul has covered here in Romans 10 & 11.

Have you ever listened to someone who is so filled with spiritual pride that they are obnoxious?

I had the privilege during a series of revival meetings. That does not necessarily mean a revival was taking place, it just means that the Southern Baptist Church we were going to at the time was trying to create an atmosphere that they believed would be conducive for one to begin. But to do that, don't bring in a speaker who is filled with spiritual pride.

The speaker had been going for about 15 minutes or so and he was working the crowd naming specific sins that he believed would be problems for those living in West Texas. He had apparently come to the conclusion that we were all boozing smokers.

By the way, the Bible is silent on smoking other than to effectively maintain our body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And when Jesus turned water into wine, He made the really good stuff. But the Bible does indeed tell us not to drink to excess and become drunk.

His approach was that it was all gross immoral sin and must be repented of immediately. Yes, he was also a yeller. But here on the second night of a five-night gig, he lost the audience when he proudly told us, after insinuating we were all indulging, that he had never had a cigarette touch his lips or even had a sip of any alcoholic beverage ever. And the way he said, was done to make you feel inferior to him.

We remained seated, and then never came back the rest of the week. We were not the only ones. A good portion of the audience did not return. It had nothing to do with having a sin called out everyone was doing, it was the speaker being spiritually proud and building up his own hyper spirituality at the expense of everyone else.

He was being wise in his own estimation. In fact, he was rather smug about it. He was not about feeding the flock, but flogging the flock, yep.

Whenever we talk with others about sin, there is a key thing to remember, we too are sinners.

Now there is a phrase Paul uses here saying that the hardening of Israel is only partial and only until the fulness of the Gentiles come in. What in the world is that a reference to?

The word translated fullness is πλήρωμα (pleroma). The word means "a total quantity, with emphasis upon completeness—'full number, full measure, fullness, completeness, totality." (Louw and Nida 1996, 596)

In other words, God has a set number of Gentiles that He has destined to come into the place of blessing of the olive tree (in verses 16–24). After the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, after that set number is reached, then all Israel will be saved. (Fruchtenbaum, TH 293 Israelology: The Doctrine of Israel 2018)

When we studied the book of Acts, we discovered in Acts 15:14, one of the purposes of the church age.

Acts 15:14
"Simon has declared how **God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.**" (NKJV)

There will always be a remnant of the Jewish nation that comes to Jesus Christ. And another purpose of the church is call out those from the Gentiles, all of the nations of the world, those who will be saved. This calling out will continue until the fullness, the total quantity of Gentiles to be saved, is reached. Once that number is reached, that is when the Father leans over to the Son and tells Him to go get His bride, the church.

At that point, God deals with Israel as a nation again.

The timeline looks a bit like this.

Since Pentecost, the job of the Church has been to make disciples.

There is to be a set number of disciples who are Gentile who will become believers during the church age.

We must be getting close to the final number since we are seeing those things Jesus told us would be signs of His second coming are now beginning to cast shadows today.

Sometime in the near future that number is reached, and He comes to get us in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

Now, it is all back on Israel who is once again being dealt with by the Lord.

One of the first things that may, since we are unclear about the actual timing, take place showing God is dealing with His people again is the miracle of His protection from the events we see outlined in Ezekiel 38 & 39. The intent of this event is this.

Ezekiel 38:23
"Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." '" (NKJV)

But once again, a non-prayed over decision takes place and a 7-year treaty is signed with someone who says I will protect you. And if the Temple has not yet started to be rebuilt, it will be for sure at this point. That treaty, per Daniel 27, is the beginning of the Tribulation clock and almost immediately the Lord appoints 144,000 evangelists to get after it. All Jewish.

Yes, during the Tribulation and the Great Tribulation, there will be persecution and for the nation, severe. We learn in Zechariah 13:8 & 9 that only 1/3 of the Jews in the land will survive to the end. Once again, a remnant.

All of Israel requests Messiah to come and save them, and all of Israel, those who remain, are saved. But right now, there is judicial hardening of the Jews to the gospel. Stott tells us "this is a judicial process by which he hands people over to their own stubbornness. The 'hardening' takes the form of spiritual insensitivity. In the case of Israel it is the same as the 'veil' which Paul elsewhere says lies over their hearts and minds." (Stott 2001, 302)

At the end of the Great Tribulation. When the remnant, those who remain ask for their Messiah to come and save them He does so.

That is the “all Israel” that will be saved. That plus the remnant that has been saved all through the centuries.

When Christ returns, He will then regather again, His people and we see that described for us in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 23:3–8
““But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD. “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS “Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”” (NKJV)

And Paul quotes from Isaiah as part of his discussion here about the remnant. Dr. McGee tells us a bit more.

The quotation Paul uses is from Isaiah 59:20 in the Old Testament: “And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.” The message to the individual is that he or she will have to “turn from transgression” to the Lord. There will be a remnant that will turn to Him. All of them will be saved. He speaks of the saved remnant as the nation Israel. (McGee 1997, 725-726)

The good news for us today is simple, it still is the time of the Gentiles. The church is still here and the Lord has not just yet called us home to be with Him, but that is soon.

Make sure you are with us.

Romans 3:21–24
“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13
“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

Works Cited

Diprose, Ronald E. 2000. *Israel and the Church: The Origins and Effects of Replacement Theology*. Kindle Edition. Downers Grove, iL: InterVarsity Press.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. 2018. "TH 293 Israelology: The Doctrine of Israel." *Logos Mobile Education*. Prod. Lexham Press. Bellingham, WA.

—. 1983. *The Messianic Bible Study Collection*. Vol. 157. Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries.

Got Questions Ministries. 2002-2013. *Got Questions? Bible Questins Answered*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Hodges, Zane C. 2013. *Romans: Deliverance from Wrath*. Edited by Robert N. Wilkin. Corinth, TX: Grace Evangelical Society.

Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. 1996. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*. New York, NY: United Bible Societies.

McGee, J. Vernon. 1997. *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic Edition. Vol. 4. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

Moo, Douglas J. 2018. *The Letter to the Romans, The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Second Edition. Edited by Ned B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, Gordon D. Fee and Joel B. Green. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Rosen, Ceil, and Moishe Rosen. 2006. *Christ in the Passover: Why Is This Night Different?* Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Stott, John R. W. 2001. *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World, The Bible Speaks Today*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.