



**God is Not Done with the Jews!
The Church has not Replaced Them!
And Antisemitism is Satanic, Get Over it Already!
Romans 10:16-11:10**

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In these last days, a topic that has not gone away and in fact has developed different theologies behind it is the question of, now that Jesus has come, what about the Jew? We have heard how simple it is to be saved, and that there are gentiles and Jews who are saved, but what about the Jewish nation?

Why the rejection?



I could also ask the same question, what about the gentiles, why the rejection. But those who are leaning into Satanically inspired antisemitism want to provide themselves some kind of theological cover for their heretical viewpoint. Paul will not provide help here for that as it is Satanic.

Paul has now informed us about how simple it is to be saved, and yet he is still struggling with the fact that his own people, the majority of the Jews, have not recognized Jesus as their Messiah since they were misled through poor teaching, to be looking for someone who would meet their requirements rather than those of the scriptures. The failure to learn and the failure to be obedient has now reached a final point of determination for the Lord.

We caught a hint of it last time but now Paul moves to the discussion which will also put to death, at least in my mind, replacement theology.

Just to make sure we remember, here is what the Got Questions staff defined it as. "Replacement theology (also known as supersessionism) essentially teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. Adherents of replacement theology believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. Among the different views of the relationship between the church and Israel are the church has replaced Israel (replacement theology), the church is an expansion of Israel (covenant theology), or the church is completely different and distinct from Israel (dispensationalism/premillennialism)." (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

Here at Calvary Chapel, we would fall under the dispensationalism/premillennialism view. As the church, we are awaiting the pre-tribulation rapture when Jesus returns for us (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and once we are removed, God will indeed turn His attention back to the nation of Israel. This is why the church ceases to be referenced in Revelation after the end of Revelation 3 and is not referenced again until after the second coming of Jesus.

Both the Old Testament and New Testament, I believe, clearly support the view we hold here at Calvary Chapel.

After the Tribulation, Jesus Christ returns to rescue the remnant of His people, He establishes His kingdom with the nation of Israel ruling and reigning over the earth from Jerusalem for a literal 1,000 years. The church will reign with Him; Israel will be the leader of the nations. A Jew, Jesus Christ, will rule the world and do so from Jerusalem.

The church has not replaced Israel and here in this section of Romans, Paul drives long nails into the coffin of replacement theology.

Backing up a couple of verses from where we stopped last time, let's examine the argument that Paul presents concerning his kinsmen, they really did indeed hear and rejected what they have heard.

Romans 10:16-21

"However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? On the contrary: 'THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.' But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, 'I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION, WITH A FOOLISH NATION I WILL ANGER YOU.' And Isaiah is very bold and says, 'I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I REVEALED MYSELF TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME.' But as for Israel, He says, 'I HAVE SPREAD OUT MY HANDS ALL DAY LONG TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.'" (NASB 2020)



Paul makes three specific points here by asking and answering the question he sees that others will ask.

The first point he makes is that not everyone took note of the Good News that the Gospel is all about. Where does faith come from, not from doing anything other than hearing the Gospel and believing it. The Gospel; Paul clearly defined that in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:1–5

“Now I make known to you, brothers and sisters, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you also are saved, if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” (NASB 2020)

Pretty simple stuff and as we have reviewed earlier here in Romans, not complicated to absorb or to accept and believe in. By faith, easily done, but you do have to believe.

But again, that is only possible by faith which arises from hearing the truth of God’s word. His fellow Jews, for the most part have not believed the gospel. They prefer religion on their terms.

Paul then proposes the question, that must mean then that they never heard the gospel? Salvation only comes as a result of faith which comes as a result of hearing the word of God, so that must mean they have not heard yet. Doctor Moo makes note of the Greek construction here. “The question is put in a negative form (οὐκ ἤκουσαν) and introduced with another negative particle (μή), implying that the question should be answered in the negative: “it is not the case, then, that they have ‘not heard,’ is it?” (Moo 2018)

Where μή negatives the whole sentence the verb alone may already be negated by οὐ (Paul, as class.), and so μή ... οὐ stands with a sentence which expects a positive answer: Ro 10:17f μή οὐκ ἤκουσαν surely you haven’t not-heard it (missed hearing it). (Moulton and Turner 1963-, 283)

By constructing the sentence in the Greek, the way that he has, Paul is asserting that they allege to have not heard, but they have indeed heard.

And then in answer he quotes from Psalm 19:4. But that verse talks about God’s general revelation of Himself in nature, just as Paul had previously discussed back in Romans 1. Paul is asserting, here in 57 or so AD, that the word had gone out and is as pervasive as general revelation is. Paul though, knows what his evangelism plans are.

He is saying a thing that was recognized by the Magi, who were watching the skies, using general revelation, and determined the arrival of the King. Michael Heiser says the following.

“Paul was not speaking of the gospel per se (there is no sense that he thought Psalm 19 exempted him from preaching Christ). Rather, the idea that signs in the sky portended the arrival of a divine king was in view. This idea was connected to both astronomy and chronological systems (e.g., the mathematical calendar at Qumran) that anticipated a messianic birth. Gentiles (like the Magi) also “read” certain signs the same way. Theologically conservative Jews and Christians believed God did communicate through the heavens. God had created the heavenly objects by which “times and seasons” were measured and was the lone sovereign of human destiny. He could indeed signal his intentions.” (Heiser 2020, 223)



Paul also may be speaking prophetically as well. He was planning to go further west in Spain so at the moment he writes this, he knows the word has not yet gone everywhere. But it will. Paul would later hint at this future reality in Colossians.

Colossians 1:5–6

“because of the hope reserved for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, **the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth;**” (NASB 2020)

F. F. Bruce calls what Paul is doing, eschatological universalism.

There is an unmistakable universalism in Paul's language here, even if it be an eschatological universalism and not a present one, or a representative rather than an individual universalism. (Bruce 1985, 219)

Paul is living, breathing and seeing the world as Jesus sees it and there is indeed an element of already but not yet that goes throughout the entirety of the scriptures.

Thus, the answer to the assertion they have not heard, yes they have heard and they cannot avoid or deny the hearing.

There is also that element of general revelation that Paul discussed in chapter 1, no free pass for not knowing because, at the end of the day, we all do indeed know, and we all have indeed heard. Meaning, we are all, to include the Jewish nation, are held accountable for what we have done with that knowledge. Bringing us to another straw man presented by Paul for, he has answered the proposed “they did not hear” question. Now he goes to propose a follow-on next step, “they did not know.” Again, Paul's comments on that from Romans 1.

Romans 1:20–21

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. **For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened.**” (NASB 2020)

Paul continues by quoting from Deuteronomy 32:21.

Deuteronomy 32:21

“They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,” (NASB 2020)

Romans 10:19–20

“But I say, **surely Israel did not know, did they?** First Moses says, “**I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION, WITH A FOOLISH NATION I WILL ANGER YOU.**” And Isaiah is very bold and says, “**I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I REVEALED MYSELF TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME.**”” (NASB 2020)

What Paul quotes from is a section of Deuteronomy where it is God who is speaking. The reference gives us the reason why. The nation had earlier provoked God to judge them as a result of their worshipping a “no god.”



How was that reflected throughout the history of the nation? Who is it that God used to judge them? Gentile nations, “no people” were used to judge just as God said He would do in Hosea, and Paul has already alluded to that back in chapter 9. In Hosea, we now pick up why the unusual names for his children.

Hosea 1:8–10

“When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, because you are not My people, and I am not your God.” Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or counted; And in the place Where it is said to them, “You are not My people,” It will be said to them, “You are the sons of the living God.”” (NASB 2020)

The people chased after no gods and were judged by gentiles, who were no people. God had made a people of the Jews but the nations, the gentiles, predominately do not have the same strong ethnic unity that the Jewish people have. And now we read that God intends to make them jealous by bringing salvation to those “no people” and those “no people” who believe will make the people of Israel jealous because of their new relationship with the God of the universe. That same relationship they once had before they sinned and turned to “no gods.”

And yes, they are no longer following idols, now it is worse, they have turned to empty religion and essentially are right back at “no gods” again, instead thinking they can make the conditions for relationship through religion.

This is so similar to what we see in the culture around us. We see people go chasing after what they believe will bring them satisfaction. That could be religion, it could be money, things, politics or just out and out hedonism. We would not identify those things as gods, yet 2000 years ago, those would all be identified as gods.

Again, Solomon was right, there is indeed nothing new under the sun.

I find it amazing, but one of the emotions I have detected from the world, as they chase after what they want, is jealousy of what we have in Christ.

And what we are now seeing today is rather than try and search out the reason why they do not have what we have, peace for example. Today, they instead attack and try to mandate legally or in other ways to remove it from us. If we take your freedom, then you will not have peace and we win. If we take your church, then you will not have peace and we win. If we take your life, then you will not have peace and we win.

There is indeed a serious lack of understanding of just who it is we serve on the part of the world.

1 John 4:4–6

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. **They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**” (ESV)

Just as Paul here tells them that with a foolish nation God will anger them, make them jealous, this is also the case for us as followers of Jesus as we deal with the culture.



1 Corinthians 1:26–29

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.**” (ESV)

The problem for the nation, as Paul is outlining it here in Romans, is that they had the word of God, they heard and knew and rejected. And it was predicted a long time ago that this salvation of the Gentiles would indeed be used to provoke them.

Those who the Jews would have considered to be foolish since they didn't have God's word, now have God's word and believe. And that angers them. So, by quoting from Deuteronomy 32, David Stern tells us “God is using eye-for-eye justice with Israel—the rest of the verse says that because Israel has made God jealous and angry, therefore God will make Israel jealous and angry.” (Stern 1996, Ro. 10:19)

And then Paul quotes from Isaiah, and the idea is the same, Gentiles, a “no people,” those who did not seek for God, have had Him reveal Himself to them in the person of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:20–21

“And Isaiah is very bold and says, “I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I REVEALED MYSELF TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME.” But as for Israel, He says, “I HAVE SPREAD OUT MY HANDS ALL DAY LONG TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.”” (NASB 2020)

What God is doing, and what Paul is telling them, is all deliberate on the part of God. John Stott tells us that “God deliberately reverses the roles between himself and the Gentiles. It would normally be for them to ask, seek and knock (as Jesus was later to put it), and to adopt towards him the respectful attitude of a servant at his master's disposal, saying, ‘Here I am.’ Instead, although they did not ask or seek or offer themselves to his service, he allowed himself to be found by them, he revealed himself to them, and he even offered himself to them, saying humbly to them, ‘Here am I.’ This is dramatic imagery for grace, God taking the initiative to make himself known.” (Stott 2001, 289)

This is where many stop reading. They have concluded that God is done with the Jewish people and that is not the case at all.

There is a time coming where Israel will turn to Him. What we learn here I think Dr. Fruchtenbaum makes clear.

“God continuously keeps His hands open, and anytime Israel wants to respond, He will accept them. Israel has rejected the Lord, but the Lord is still waiting to receive Israel.” (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 739)

God loves His people, but most of His people have rejected their own Messiah. Note, I said most and not all, the rejection is not total as we are about to learn.

Romans 11:1–10

“I say then, **God has not rejected His people, has He? Far from it! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.** Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? “Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.” But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.” **In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according**



to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, since otherwise grace is no longer grace. What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written: "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY." And David says, "MAY THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM. "MAY THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS CONTINUALLY." (NASB 2020)

As Paul continues, verse one is a continuation of the thought in Romans 10:21.

Yes, this is indeed another of those places where I do not entirely agree with the chapter division. It is God's word that is inspired, the chapter and verse divisions we have are tools added later but are not inspired themselves. Let me divert for a moment into a little history.

Duffield and Van Cleave report to us "it was once assumed that chapter divisions were first introduced by Cardinal Hugo (died 1263). Later investigations attribute the divisions to Stephen Langton (died 1228), Archbishop of Canterbury. The New Testament was first published with verse divisions by Robert Stephens in 1551. The first Bible to be published entirely divided into verse was the Geneva Bible of 1560. It is important to realize these divisions were not in the original texts and were not inspired. Most of the divisions are very helpful, but some have proven to be quite misleading, especially when a division comes in the middle of a specific event, idea, or flow of thought." (Duffield and Van Cleave 2016, 5) And we are in one of those places.

Since verse 21 talks of Israel, we then know that 11:1 is also talking about Israel.

Paul asked the next question as a continuation of what he has been doing in chapter 10, and now there is an obvious answer based on earlier history he has provided. Has God rejected His people, the answer is no. If God had rejected His people, then why did Jesus select all Jews to be those who would communicate the gospel to the world. Why Paul, and why the thousands of Jews who had already been saved by the time Paul is writing this?

The rejection of Jesus as Messiah is not total and complete. There are today as there has been for centuries, a remnant of His people who have realized that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah and they have believed. Rabbi Asher Levy is one of those. Here is his testimony.

"Outwardly I was happy and successful in my ministry but in my heart I was restless and discontented because I suffered much as a result of the emptiness of life in general. Six years ago I met a Jewish man with whom I discussed this matter.

I did not know that he was a believer in Jesus Christ: His advice was: "Read Isaiah 53." I then read this well known chapter concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which says that "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities." I felt urged further to examine the Hebrew Scriptures and found these words written by the same prophet: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Is. 9:6,7). I also read: "Hear ye now, O house of David; is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Is. 7:13,14). "Immanuel" means "God with us".



This proved to me that Jesus was and is the Messiah in Whom all the prophecies were fulfilled. Meanwhile I had found a clear portrait of the Messiah in a small book which I had the privilege of getting into my hands. It was my first introduction to the New Testament. I started reading it like any other book, from the beginning: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham," and found to my amazement that I was reading a Jewish book about a Jew. By reading it carefully I came to the conclusion that Jesus Christ was a Jew of the race of Abraham and David; that He was born of a Jewish virgin in the Jewish town of Bethlehem; of a Jewish tribe, the tribe of Judah. Because He knew the Law and the Prophets I followed Him on His journeys through the Holy Land, listened to His beautiful sayings and teaching, observed and admired His compassion and healings. It became my spiritual food. His promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who believe in Him, drew me till I trusted Him as my Messiah and my personal Saviour." (Levy 2012)

Here in the last days of planet earth, there are those of the Jewish nation who are recognizing who their Messiah is. And that includes in Israel. David Sterner and Alec Goldberg report the following from 2020.

"In 1999, 5,000 believers worshiped in Messianic congregations in Israel. Numbers of believers are 3.1 times higher today...David Serner, director of international studies, and Alec Goldberg, director of the Caspari Center, conducted the survey of messianic churches in Israel...The number of Israeli Messianic believers in 2020 stood at 15,323 people based on the collected data, of which Russian-speaking fellowships comprise the biggest group with their 136 congregations. Hebrew-speaking groups came in second, with 83 congregations. Other languages were Amharic (spoken in Ethiopia, 30 groups), English (16), Spanish (6) and Romanian (2). Only 17 percent of the fellowships had leaders who were native-born Israelis.

The movement has grown, says Alec Goldberg on the organization's website caspari.com. Although the total number of messianic believers may not seem so striking, the encouraging truth is that they have grown proportionately more than the general population." (Israel Report 2022)

Not only in Israel, but globally, there is indeed something going on. Joel Rosenberg said the following during a podcast at The Joshua Fund. "More Jewish people have come to faith in Jesus Christ over the last 60, 55, 60 years than at any other time in human history. We're now worldwide at about one million followers of Jesus Christ as Messiah who are Jewish, like Jewish followers of Jesus, a million. That's really quite extraordinary when you think of the history of the Jewish people. And I will add in a world of only 16 or 17 million Jewish people to have a million Jewish people who believe that Jesus is Messiah is pretty dramatic in terms of just of a pure percentage. (Rosenberg 2026)

Here in these last days, the Lord is indeed doing a work. There as always been a remnant, and it appears to be growing these days. Paul did use himself as an example.

Paul uses himself as exhibit 1, God does indeed save Jews through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Dr. Fruchtenbaum adds that "the fact that Paul himself was a Jewish believer shows two things: first, that Israel's rejection of the Messiah was not total, because Paul was a Jewish person and he believed; and, second, it showed that God has not rejected or cast off His people. Otherwise, Paul would not have been saved." (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 740)

I also want to zoom in on verse 2.

Romans 11:2

"God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?" (NASB 2020)



The phrase at the very beginning of verse 2 is THE nail that should do away with replacement theology. Here is Paul, after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and after the church is born on Pentecost telling us that here in the church age, the Jews **ARE** His people chosen by Him. The are still the chosen people at the beginning of the church age and they are still the chosen people here at the end of the church age.

The majority are still in unbelief however, close to a million globally have discovered who their Messiah is. There is a term in verse 2 that is also used in a Hebrew sense, and I believe Dr. Fruchtenbaum explains it for us.

“God had, in His foreknowledge, chosen Israel in spite of His knowledge that Israel would reject the Messiahship of Jesus. The reason God knew this was because of His foreknowledge, and His foreknowledge was based upon His foreordination. The fact that God foreknew His people, then chose His people, shows that God has not cast off his people. The very concept of the foreknowledge of God forbids the concept of the casting off of Israel. Foreknowledge is not merely “to know beforehand.” The verb “to foreknow” should be understood in its Old Testament Hebrew sense, “to choose in advance.” Since Israel was chosen, God could not cast off Israel.” Paul will reinforce that in Romans 11:29. (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 740)

And right after making this affirmative statement about Israel, Paul begins to discuss a concept, a doctrine that is not new, the Doctrine of the Remnant of Israel.

Prior to the arrival of Jesus, what made the difference? Dan Cohen-Sherbok gives us a Messianic Jewish perspective.

“The Remnant believed that which was revealed to Moses and the Prophets, while the non-Remnant rejected it and pursued idolatry (Isa. 8:9–17). However, the same prophet predicted that when Messiah Immanuel arrives, he would be the new point of division between the Remnant and the non-Remnant. For the Remnant, he will prove to be a Sanctuary, but for the non-Remnant, he will prove to be the Stone of Stumbling and the Rock of Offense.’ (Cohen-Sherbok 2001, 212)

And that is indeed a real reality for many who live in Israel today and name the name of Jesus. The authors of the survey I related earlier stated that they had difficulty getting responses due to the potential for persecution in Israel of all places.

Jews for Judaism has stated the following, “Messianic Judaism...how many of them are there? Let's find out. Today, there are over 1,000 Hebrew-Christian missionary groups that spend over \$300 million annually, targeting Jewish people for conversion. In recent years, these missionary groups have succeeded in converting 350,000 Jews...It is these trends that drives Jews for Judaism's work to inspire and keep Jews Jewish.” (Jews for Judaism 2026)

Pray for those who have come to Christ and are Messianic Jews. And pray for those who are living for Jesus and also live in Israel as well. There is indeed a point coming where they will realize who Jesus is.

Zechariah 12:10

““And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.” (ESV)

And as Paul has gone to great lengths to detail for us, Jesus Christ is indeed that rock and has become the point of division between the remnant of Israel versus those who are not.



Israel failed, multiple times and in multiple ways resulting in the diaspora which only since 1948 has begun to reverse, as prophesied by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36). We also see this return in Zephaniah.

As we take a look at Zephaniah 2, the first thing you will see is the call of the Lord to His people to return, and this is an event that is to take place prior to the Day of the Lord.

Zephaniah 2:1–3

“Gather yourselves together, yes, join together, You nation without shame, Before the decree takes effect— The day passes like chaff— Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD’S anger comes upon you. Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have practiced His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will remain hidden On the day of the LORD’S anger.” (NASB 2020)

Dr. Fruchtenbaum tells us “It is clear from this verse that this is a gathering in unbelief. In verse 2, the word “before” is used three times in relation to the preceding passage regarding the tribulation.

One of these “befores” is “before the day of Jehovah” itself. While other texts speak of a regathering in unbelief in preparation for judgment, this passage clearly states that this regathering in unbelief will occur before the tribulation begins. (Fruchtenbaum, What the Bible Teaches About Israel: Past, Present and Future 2019, 5)

And did you see the call to His people to seek the Lord. He is talking to those who are being regathered in unbelief that there will be some who will return to the Lord prior to the Day of the Lord. They are referred to as the humble of the earth who are now in obedience to Him. In other words, Messianic Jews. And as a result, will remain hidden, think pre-tribulation rapture.

Those of Israel who have come to recognize their Messiah, Jesus Christ, are fulfilling the calling of the nation, even in this present day.

The restoration of the Jewish state of Israel is a fulfillment of scriptures, of the regathering of His people in preparation for judgment. One other thing, all of Jerusalem also must be under the control of Israel and since 1967, that too has been the case.

To reflect further that God is not done with Israel yet, there are also scriptures that for them to be fulfilled, Israel must be back in the land and in unbelief, as they are currently. Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:33-4 and Revelation 11:1-2.

What those scriptures point to is that prior to the Second Coming of Jesus, the Temple will be rebuilt and will be functioning. Whether that happens before or after the pre-tribulation rapture of the church is unclear.

So, the question from Rabbi Eliezer Wolf in Miami. “Are we going to build a Third Temple? In 1948, we Jews finally reclaimed control over our homeland – or at least some of it. Only in 1967 did we gain control over Jerusalem’s Old City and the Temple Mount. That is when this question became realistic. (Wolf 2026)

And why is this now a topic of discussion in Israel and the Jewish community? October 7, 2023. Israel 365 News reports the following.

“Twelve years ago, only 30% of Israeli Jews supported rebuilding the Beit HaMikdash, the Holy Temple, on Har HaBayit, the Temple Mount. Today, that number stands at 55%. The shift did not happen gradually or quietly. It happened on October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists massacred 1,200 Israelis and



shattered whatever remained of the Israeli public's assumptions about security, sovereignty, and the spiritual stakes of this conflict. A new survey commissioned by the Temple Mount Heritage Foundation and conducted by the Direct Polls Institute under pollster Shlomo Filber reveals a nation whose relationship to its holiest site has been transformed by trauma and war.

The survey, drawn from a representative sample of 1,010 Israeli adults aged 18 and older, found that 55% of Jewish Israelis now support the establishment of the Third Temple, with only 29% opposed and 16% undecided." (Berkowitz 2026)

This has not been lost on the political establishment of Israel today. On the lead up to Tisha B'av, in fact the day prior to the remembrance of the destruction of the 1st and 2nd Temples, the Prime Minister claimed that the actions of the nation dealing with Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis as well as Iran, that "Israelis had prevented "the destruction of the Third Temple. Instead of a civil war, we were brothers fighting shoulder to shoulder to repel those who seek our lives," he said, pointing out that the nation "saved Israel together." (Holoman 2026)

Obviously, God is not done with Israel yet and we have more than enough evidence to point too, most in prophetic fulfillment, to prove that point.

Returning to our text, we see Paul still talking about the existence of a remnant and ot prove up His point, He goes to the hotbed of idolatry and apostasy, the northern kingdom during the reign of Ahab and the time of the prophet Elijah, who was a prophet to the northern kingdom.

Romans 11:3–4

““Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.” But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.”” (NASB 2020)

This is Elijah speaking, just days after the huge victory achieved over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The morning after that victory in the Lord, Jezebel heard what had happened and threatened to have Elijah killed.

1 Kings 19:2–3

“Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.” (ESV)

Elijah did not stop there. He was so seriously upset that he was asking to die. God did not abandon him; God had an angel come and feed him and then he continued all the way, for 40 days, from the border with Lebanon into what is today Saudi Arabia and Mount Horeb.

No matter how bad it may seem to get as we serve the Lord, remember who you are serving and what He has led you in so far. I review this story quite frequently since disillusionment is not hard to obtain if you step out for the Lord and then take your eyes off of Him as Elijah did. He felt all alone, and that is indeed where many of us sometimes come to. Elijah was provided some intel from God that he needed to know, and it was about the remnant. This is important for Paul's discussion here as well.

Remember how many believers there were in Israel in 1999, less than even the seven thousand that Elijah was able to rest in.



A remnant of 7,000 out of a population of maybe 1 million or so. Suddenly the comparison to the remnant today doesn't seem that far-fetched. The point that Paul is making though, is that there has always been a remnant.

That becomes clear as he continues. Nad even his Greek word choice reflects this.

Romans 11:5–6

"In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, since otherwise grace is no longer grace." (NASB 2020)

But everything is by grace, not the law. By declaring that it is grace, Dr Fruchtenbaum tells us "Paul gave the standard according to which the remnant comes into existence. It is not on the basis of the Law of Moses (10:4), but on the basis of grace. Paul uses the Greek perfect tense, which shows the remnant has existed in the past and still does exist in the present." (Fruchtenbaum, Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology 1994, 741)

Looking back at what Paul has just said, here is a question that should be asked. Did the decision of the majority of those living in the northern kingdom invalidate the grace of God? Not at all, a remnant had not bowed the knee to Baal. And now, in these last days, He has done the same by bringing into existence the Remnant of Israel and once again it does not invalidate anything that God has previously said or promised to His people. It does add grace in and points out to us that Israel is still important and significant, but this has nothing to do with anything other than the grace of God. No works at all.

If it did involve works, as Paul points out, grace is no longer grace.

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)

As Paul continues on in verse 7, he asks the question, "What then?" In other words, based on what I have just taught, what is the implication of this, what does it mean? What it means is simple per his answer. What the nation is seeking it is unable to find or obtain since it is doing so based on works and religion. Jesus Christ, their Messiah, has made provision for all of us and it is by faith only. Only the remnant will be saved, but the entirety of the nation is still chosen of God.

But the reality of what he is saying is tough to contemplate. Only the remnant, by implication the few, will be saved. That means the rest of the nation, will not be. The remnant are indeed receiving the full benefits outlined as the new covenant, so are gentiles who are saved.

Here in verse 7, Paul combines Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10. The verse from Deuteronomy was provided to the nation by Moses as a reflection that they have been eyewitnesses to all the signs and wonders done by God to bring them out of Egypt, yet they still did not understand or see or hear what it all was really about.

Romans 11:7–8

"What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written: "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."" (NASB 2020)



This is not a new story for the nation. The second longest Psalm, Psalm 78, is all about this same problem. Not remembering the things that God has done for them and not telling the next generation of those things either.

Israel was looking for the right thing, the wrong way. They wanted to obtain it based on their own works and terms and conditions.

The only T&C's that matter, are those that God has laid out in His word. To ignore those is to invite what we see being referenced here, the hardening of heart process. Paul intensifies the wording of Deuteronomy 29:4 and throws this in on top.

Isaiah 29:10

"For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes—the prophets; And He has covered your heads—the seers." (NASB 2020)

As they were making decisions and rejecting their Messiah, they began a process of hardening. It reaches a point where they see, but they do not see.

They wanted God's righteousness. We saw that referenced back in Romans 9.

Romans 9:31

"however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law." (NASB 2020)

They sought for this but did so their way. But God, in His grace, has made this available for all through the blood of Jesus Christ. The situation is the same though as we have discussed in the past. When you reject what God has done in favor of looking for it your own way, you are hardening your heart to the Lord. The more you do that, the harder you make your heart to the Holy Spirit who is working hard to present Jesus to you.

Nope, not today. Nope not today, nope not what I want. Then the point is reached where God does as God always had with those who reject Him, He gives them exactly what they want. At one point, that nation of Israel in the wilderness wanted meat, and wouldn't take no for an answer. Rebellion for sure. Rejection of God and insisting on your own way, that too. So, God says, ok.

Numbers 11:18–20

"And you shall say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt." **Therefore the LORD will give you meat and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nose and makes you nauseated; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"**' " (NASB 2020)

So, just as the nation was given what they wanted there in the wilderness until it came out of their noses, now they are being given exactly what they want, but the impact is severe, it impacts generations and as Paul tells us, "down to this very day."

Romans 11:9–10

"And David says, "MAY THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM. "MAY THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS CONTINUALLY."" (NASB 2020)

Paul is quoting from Psalm 69:22-23 here.



Psalm 69:22–23

“May their table before them become a snare; And when they are at peace, may it become a trap. May their eyes grow dim so that they cannot see, And make their hips shake continually.” (NASB 2020)

Some look at this as an imprecatory prayer of David, no, it is one from the Messiah. “These imprecations are not David’s prayers against his enemies, but prophecies of the destruction of Christ’s persecutors, especially the Jewish nation, which our Lord himself foretold with tears, and which was accomplished about forty years after the death of Christ.” (Henry 1994, 842)

Verse 22 and 23 are expressly used by Paul, as he quotes them in Romans 11:9-10, of judgments of God upon the unbelieving Jews.

The table is understood to be the altar, a sign of God’s blessing in good times, but it will not be so going into the future. Malichi ties these two together for us as he condemns the people for sacrificing the worst of the flock rather than the best.

Malachi 1:7

“You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is to be despised.’” (NASB 2020)

The Lord will instead ensnare them and trap them. Which did indeed happen during the fall of Jerusalem at the hands of the Roman Empire in 70 AD.

This should have been for their welfare or peace (for they were peace-offerings), but it became a snare and a trap to them; for by their affection and adherence to the altar they were held fast in their infidelity and hardened in their prejudices against Christ...Or it may be understood of their common creature-comforts, even their necessary food; they had given Christ gall and vinegar, and therefore justly shall their meat and drink be made gall and vinegar to them. (Henry 1994, 842)

And that part about their eyes being darkened, that is judicial blindness which Paul is here beginning to talk about.

The reality is not that God has abrogated the covenant, Israel did. And that is visible today with a Talmudic Judaism that does nothing about atonement for sin. Chuck Smith continues on this.

“Israel has been blinded by God. Those Jews still trying to relate to God through the Law haven’t yet received His grace. In fact, the Jews don’t even keep the covenant of the Law anymore. You say, “They observe the Sabbath, light their candles, eat their kosher meals, have their washings, and such.” Yes, but where are the sacrifices for their sins? They have none. They seek to approach God totally through works. Their religion is the same as Cain’s, presenting the works of their hands. As God rejected Cain, so He’s rejecting the Jews and the works offered in atonement for their sins. Good works never cover a man’s sins. The Jews have been blinded, because they have rejected the grace offered by God through Jesus the Messiah. (Smith 1981, 78)

Hosea 5:15

“I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their distress they will search for Me.” (NASB 2020)

Here at the end of the age, it is increasingly obvious to me that God is not done with Israel yet and in fact, Is busy preparing them for the next prophetic thing to begin, the 70th week of Daniel.

You do not want to be here for that and praise the Lord He has already provided for us to not be here, just as He has for the remnant of Israel who follows their Messiah today.



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.

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