



REVISITED

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

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Lesson 13

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- ✘ **Romans 1:21-25** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged** the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- ✘ Exchanged: *allasso*: to alter, to substitute one thing for another

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

- ✘ Replacement theology (supersessionism) is the position positing that the Christian church has replaced national Israel regarding the plan, purpose, and promises of God
 1. The Jewish people are no longer God's chosen people; the church is now the chosen people
 2. In the New Testament after Pentecost, "Israel" refers to the church
 3. The Mosaic covenant (Exodus 20) is replaced by the new covenant
 4. Circumcision is replaced by circumcision of the heart
- ✘ **HOW MUCH OF THIS POSITION, IF ANY, IS TRUE?**

THE NEW COVENANT

- × **Luke 22:20** And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”
- × **Romans 2:29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.
- × **Romans 4:13-15** For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

UNRAVELING ROMANS 11

- ✘ **Romans 11:1-2** I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! 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?
- ✘ **Romans 11:25-27** For I do not want you, brethren, 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.”

SONS OF ABRAHAM

- ✘ **Galatians 3:26-29** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.
- ✘ This is a wonderful spiritual promise
- ✘ Does it exclude the biological descendants of Abraham?
- ✘ Noah – **Shem** – Arpachshad – Shelah – **Eber**
(Hebrews)
Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob (**Israelites**)
- ✘ **Promise to Abram – 500 yrs ± before the Law**

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- × **Genesis 15:3-4** And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."
- × **Genesis 15:17-18** It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given *zera*: this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates
- × Descendants: carnal offspring

ISRAEL OR THE WORLD

- × **Romans 4:13** For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.
- × Jesus is a biological descendant of Abraham; Jesus paid the price for redemption of the world
- × **Matthew 21:43** "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."
- × Jesus was speaking to Jewish leaders who challenged His authority; they would not be participants in the kingdom of God; this does not mean that no Jewish person will be part of the kingdom

WHO IS THE OLIVE TREE

- × Claim: the church is now the olive tree
- × **Romans 11:17-21** But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. 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."
- × Conceited: *hupsela*: arrogant

THE HISTORY

- ✘ After the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, the center of church power shifted to Gentile centers like Alexandria, Antioch, Ephesus, Rome, etc
- ✘ Christianity had once been considered a sect of Judaism; the Jerusalem council made a major split
- ✘ **Acts 15:1-2** Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
- ✘ The church made a break with Jewish Law, which Jesus had fulfilled

CHRISTIANITY BECAME ILLEGAL

- ✘ While Judaism was legal under Roman rule of the first century, Christianity was not
- ✘ Christian apologists tried to maintain that Christianity was a sect of Judaism; Jewish scholars refuted this leading to a major rift
- ✘ Justin Martyr: 160 AD “The Scriptures are not yours, but ours.”
- ✘ Irenaeus: 177 AD “Jews are disinherited from the grace of God”
- ✘ Tertullian: 160 AD “Against the Jews” said God had rejected Jews in favor of Christians
- ✘ In 313 AD, The Edict of Milan allowed Christianity and outlawed synagogues
- ✘ In 321, Constantine made Christianity the official religion of Rome

AFTER CONSTANTINE

- × The writings of the church fathers became anti-Jewish
- × Jerome: 350 AD: "Jews are serpents, wearing the image of Judas, their psalms and prayers are the braying of donkeys"
- × **Romans 11:28-29** From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God's* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- × **Jeremiah 31:35-37** Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD.