

Has The Church Replaced Israel? (Part 2)

Romans 11:11-24

Thought for the Day: With her rejection of the Messiah—the Lord Jesus Christ—God has *temporarily* set aside the nation of Israel and is now carrying out His program of reconciliation on the earth through the Church.

Practical and Relevant Applications from Romans 11:1-24:

1. The character and reputation of God are at stake: If God does not keep His promises to national Israel, then we who are in the Church have no assurance that He will keep His promises to us.
2. God's gift of salvation is entirely by grace apart from any good works on our part: We are not saved by being good, religious or sincere.
3. We must come to God on His terms as revealed in His Word: We do not have the privilege of determining the ways and means by which we are saved.
4. It is extremely dangerous to resist God when He is calling us to Himself: God progressively hardens in unbelief the hearts and minds of those who resist and rebel.
5. We should have no part in the satanically-inspired Anti-Semitism that is on the increase in our nation and world today: God blesses those who bless Israel and He curses those who curse Israel. (Genesis 12:3; John 4:22)
6. In these last days of the Church Age, we must be very careful that we are not led astray by false teachers and deceptive doctrines of demons: We should search the Scriptures daily to see if what we are being taught is true.
7. The way we live as Christians should make others hungry for what we have: If that is not happening, we need to ask ourselves, "Why not?"
8. Self-righteousness, pride and arrogance toward others, least of all the Jews, have no place in the Christian life.
9. A very important evidence of genuine, saving faith in Jesus Christ is perseverance to the very end; it is our responsibility to "stand by faith" and to "continue" in the faith.
10. We should be eternally grateful for the grace and kindness of God and continually fearful of our own unbelief and disobedience to God.
11. If we have been "put on the shelf" because of sin, God can and will restore us when we confess and repent and humbly seek His face. (2 Timothy 2:20-22; 2 Chronicles 7:14)

Romans 11:11-12

- Vs. 11 – Paul acknowledges that Israel stumbled by rejecting her Messiah.
 - But "did they fall beyond recovery?"
 - Is there no hope for Israel? "God forbid!"
- Vss. 11-12 – Paul explains how Israel's rejection of the Messiah fits into the redemptive program of God: "Because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles."

- It was always God's intention for Israel to carry the message of salvation to the Gentile nations. But with very few exceptions, the Jews kept the Good News to themselves and the Gentiles perished in spiritual darkness.
- Israel not only rejected her Messiah, she also rejected her God-given Mission to be a channel of God's blessing to the nations.
- Through Israel's rejection of Jesus Christ, God made a way for the Gentiles to be saved.
- God is seeking to use the Church to make Israel envious so that she will return to the Lord and experience His salvation.
- Today, Israel is in transgression against the Lord and therefore experiencing spiritual loss, but the day is coming when she will return to the Lord and experience fullness!
- This will happen at the conclusion of the seven-year Tribulation and beginning of the Millennium, Christ's literal 1,000 year reign on the earth, when God fulfills His promises to national Israel.
- During the Millennium, the Gentiles will experience even greater spiritual riches because of Israel's return to the Lord.

Romans 11:13-24

- Vs. 13 – Paul is addressing the Gentiles in the Church.
- Vs. 14 – God is using the Church to arouse envy among the Jews.
 - Does anyone want what we have because of what they observe in our lives?
- Vs. 15 – God is using the rejection of Israel to bring about the reconciliation of the world to Himself.
 - Verse 1 – "reject" means "to completely abandon or permanently forsake."
 - Verse 15 – "rejection" means "to temporarily set aside."
 - God has temporarily set Israel aside so that the Gentiles may come to faith in Christ.
- Vss. 16-24: The analogy of the olive tree; the relationship between the root and branches.
 - The root of the tree is Abraham, who was saved by faith (Rom. 4 & 9), the physical father of Israel, but the spiritual father of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
 - The natural branches that are broken off are the physical descendants of Abraham, the Jews, the nation of Israel, who do not place their faith in Jesus Christ.
 - The wild branches that are grafted in are the believing Gentiles who place their faith in Jesus Christ.
- Vss. 18, 20 – "Do not boast... do not be arrogant, but be afraid."
 - The unbelief of Israel was manifested in the failure to share the truth and the way of salvation with the Gentiles.
 - We must never lose sight of the fact that God wants to use the Church to reach the world with the Gospel of salvation!
 - Just as Israel was broken off, so too the Church can be broken off due to unbelief manifested in disobedience.
 - We fulfill the Mission (glorifying God and advancing His kingdom) by obeying the Mandate (make disciples of all the nations)!