

## Romans 13 - What about the Jews? (Part 2)

As we have seen the progress Romans, we have covered salvation without the Law in chapters 1-8. Beginning with chapter 9, we have been looking at the Jews, the people of the Law, to consider what was to become of them. If the Law has no place in effecting salvation, does that make it irrelevant? And, if it is irrelevant, then does that make the people of the Law irrelevant? Have the Jews been cast away and the church put in their place to enjoy the blessings that were promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David?

With regard to salvation, the Law is not irrelevant. The Law served to convict people of their sin. No one will have any excuse to claim ignorance of what God's righteous standards are. With regard to the people of the Law, we have examined two principles, so far.

The first principle in chapter 9 is that being born a Jew might place you under the protection of God's grace, so that those who bless the Jews will be blessed and those who curse the Jews will be cursed. But the fulness of God's grace would only be realized by those who were *true*, or *spiritual* Israel. This would include those Jews and Gentiles who accepted the suffering Messiah and His sacrifice for them and their sin.

The second principle in chapter 10 is that God had given the Gospel through His people, the Jews, so that the word of faith which we preach is nigh, even in the mouths, of people as we saw in chapter 10. For that, both Jews and Gentiles are so close to salvation, just a prayer away from having a salvation secured for all eternity.

In chapter 11, we are going to continue the question, "What about the Jews?" If there is a true Israel of grace, then does that mean that the nation of Israel has no more place in God's plan?

### 1. Israel is still in God's plans -

Rom 11:1-6 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God

forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.

2God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, **[When Elijah was running from Jezebel, he mourned how there seemed to be no one left to stand for God.]**

3Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. **[Even though there seemed to be no one left, God pointed out that there is a always a remnant of true Israel who stand by grace as opposed to the rest.]**

4But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.

5Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Although *true* Israel stands by grace, the rest have been blinded in a spirit of slumber, waiting to be awakened.

Rom 11:7-10 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

8(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

9And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

10Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

From the time that Jesus came first to Israel and was rejected, God has allowed Israel to be put on hold. In verses 11-13 Paul explained that because of their "stumbling, Jesus was crucified so that salvation was provided for all mankind.

Rom 11:11-13 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? **[By their stumbling, Jesus was crucified so that salvation was provided for all mankind.]**

There are those in Protestant and Reformed circles who don't understand the Revelation and the role of the Jews during the Tribulation (they don't even understand the Tribulation). There are those of this sort who think that God has done away with the Jews and practically boast about how the church has inherited their place of blessing. Paul has a warning for them. He went on to explain that this Dispensation of Grace was given so that the fullness of the Gentiles might come in. But this does not mean that the Lord is finished working with the Jews.

Paul represents the Jews as the cultivated olive tree. In husbandry, a farmer would sometimes make a slice in the branch of a strong and healthy tree. He would then cut a branch from a lesser wild tree, and bind it in the healthy tree. As the branches grew together, the wild branch would get life from the healthy tree. In this illustration, the Gentiles have been grafted in to true Israel. Paul's argument is that if the stumbling of the Jews meant the reconciling of the world, then the reviving of Israel will be

glorious like springing back to life from the dead.

Rom 11:15-25 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead?

16For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

17And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

18Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

19Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

22Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

23And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.

24For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

25For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. **[The Gentiles should**

**not be so high and mighty. *The Natural* branches, when grafted back in will be even *more* glorious.]**

God's plan will be for Israel to be saved.

Rom 11:26-32 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

28As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.

29For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. **[God has not changed His mind about the calling of Israel. For the time being, they might be sidelined, but His plan for them is yet to be fulfilled.]**

30For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

31Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

32For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

## 2. The boasting of the world -

If any saved Gentiles were to make the mistake of being boastful about how they have taken the place of the Jews, you can expect that the world would go much further. We are witnessing the brazen glorifying of anti-Semitism that mirrors the holocaust of Hitler, the pogroms of Russia, and the terror of the Spanish Inquisition.

Not long ago we kept hearing about the Neo-Nazi's of Charlottesville with their torches and veins-popping out of their necks as part of a political

campaign. Where is their outcry against Anti-Semitism today? The problem is not just a Nazi problem. The problem is a Satanically inspired hatred for God and those whom God has chosen. This is true whether it is the people chosen by His grace to provide the Messiah and the Word of God, or God's true believers who serve Him in this Dispensation of Grace. Currently, the hatred for Israel is so blatant and on such a large scale that it defies the temptation to not take it seriously. It is downright Satanic.

All of this brings into crystal clear focus the apocalyptic visions of the end times. The nations aligning against Israel as it moves to defend itself sounds like the gathering of the nations to war against Israel in Ezekiel 38-39. Zechariah describes the salvation of Israel:

Zech 12:2-11 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah *and* against Jerusalem.

3And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

4In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

5And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem *shall be* my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

6In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place,

*even* in Jerusalem.

7The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify *themselves* against Judah.

8In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David *shall be* as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

9And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

11In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

These are perilous times, but this all points to the fact that Jesus is coming back! From time to time, we enjoy having Missionary Stewart Weinisch from the Jews for Jesus. He has written about how this has been an open door to reach his friend Rabbi S.

It was a couple of days after the Hamas attack in Israel. I was thinking of my friend, Rabbi S, a Hasidic Rabbi with whom I continue to have intense Bible studies. Remembering most of his family lives in Israel, I decided to call him. Rabbi S. was touched that I thought of him and expressed concern for his large family in Israel. We had a hard conversation about current events

in Israel and the horrific loss of lives. Rabbi S. said, "The prophets actually wrote this will happen." This was an open door to a spiritual/biblical conversation. We went directly to the book of Zechariah. Rabbi S. and I went through an overview of Zechariah Chapters 9-14 concerning the end times and the future hope of Israel in the coming of Messiah. We agreed Zechariah Chapter 14 is about the Messiah, who will defeat the enemies of Israel and establish the Messianic Kingdom and that Messiah will bring lasting peace and sit on David's throne to rule with righteousness. As we continued talking, there was only one thing we *disagreed on*. I said that this would take place when Yeshua (Messiah) *returns*. Rabbi S. said, "This will be Messiah coming for *the first time* and he will be recognized by all of Israel and the nations." We spoke a bit more, but it is too much to write. *You know how to pray!*

— Stewart Weinsch

Some speculate that Iran, the power behind Hamas, could use all that has happened to claim this as a provocation that brings us into World War III. I don't know if *this* is part of being ready for the rapture, but the Biblically informed Christian is not shocked or surprised by all that is going on.

As the Jews fight this latest war, whatever the results, never count them out. Whether it be by Christian naivete or Satanic delusion, nobody should think the Jews have been or should be eliminated.

### 3. The call to wake up -

The terrors of our times call into focus the fact that you are either going to stand with God or with the world. Satan's success is seen in the crazed madness of people supporting the brutal attacks of Hamas against Israel. Brutality exists in



the world, but the dimensions of the attacks on Israel reveal there is something demonically greater going on. The end might or might not be near, but it surely isn't far. Now is the time to act to make sure that you belong to God if you are not saved. Now is the time for the child of God to get his spiritual life in order.

Rom 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Vs. 25 does not mean that we should make sure to get together for coffee. Vs. 24 makes it clear that the purpose is to exhort each other and then get to work. Then we are given the motivation: as we see the day of Christ approaching. Certainly our times cry out to us that the day of Christ's return is coming fast! How will we respond to this great wake up call?

1. Israel is still in God's plans - Rom 11
2. The boasting of the world - Zech 12:2-11
3. The call to wake up - Rom 13:11-14, Heb 10:23-25