



Romans 11:1-16

The Future of Israel and The Gospel | June 22nd - 28th, 2014

Warm-up: Overall, how well do you feel you understand God’s plan for the nation of Israel? How could you become more conversant on this topic?

“It is the LORD who provides the sun to light the day
and the moon and stars to light the night,
and who stirs the sea into roaring waves.

His name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies,
and this is what he says:

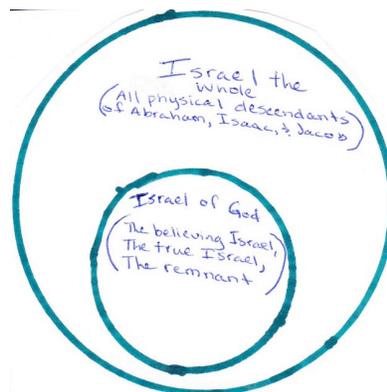
³⁶ “I am as likely to reject my people Israel
as I am to abolish the laws of nature!”

³⁷ This is what the LORD says:

“Just as the heavens cannot be measured
and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored,
so I will not consider casting them away
for the evil they have done.

I, the LORD, have spoken!”- Jeremiah 31:35-37

- Read Romans 11:1-4 aloud. What does Paul point out to prove that God had not rejected the Jewish people?
- Paul belonged to the remnant of Israel. He was a Jew who believed Jesus was the promised Messiah of Israel. Let’s remember back to **chapter 9** when we first talked about the Doctrine of the Remnant. The Doctrine of the Remnant of Israel means that there are always some who believe within the Jewish nation as a whole, and all those who believe constitute the Remnant of Israel. Thus, there are two “Israels”: Israel the Whole and Israel the Remnant. Ethnically, the two are the same, but spiritually, they are not. Review the diagram below from a few weeks ago to help clarify:



“Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves.” - Romans 11:11 NLT

- Romans 11:11 gives us *one* of the reasons Gentiles are saved. What is it?
- One of the reasons the Gentiles were saved was to make Israel envious. If we aren’t making Jews jealous then we are not fully fulfilling the purpose God has for us. If God has put any Jewish people in your life how might you be able to make them jealous of your relationships with God through Messiah Jesus?

Most Jews do not know the truth about Jesus--who he was, what he claimed and what he did. In addition, they are weary of Christians and could possibly have walls built up. The reason for this is because many Jews know their history all too well. They remember for the last 2,000 years that some of the greatest persecutions they have faced as a people have been at the hands of so called “Christians” (The Crusades, Spanish Inquisitions, the Holocaust).

- How important do you think it is to know the sensitivities a Jewish person might have with regard to the gospel?
- Do you know enough about these sensitivities that you can gently share with a Jewish person the gospel? If not, will you commit to learning about them?
- “Disobedience never leaves a person in the same condition. Obedience draws the believer into an increasingly intimate relationship with the Lord, but disobedience separates and hardens. The tragic aspect of hardening is that disobedient people are increasingly unable to grasp the serious nature of their spiritual apostasy.” - Mounce, R.H. (1995). Romans.
 - Discuss this commentary and how you have seen these things to be true?
 - How does it instruct you personally?

Wrap-up: In closing, pray for the peace of Israel (Psalm 122:6-9). In addition, pray for opportunities to hold out the grace of God through Jesus Messiah to Jewish people through *appreciation* and *friendship*.