

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 4

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we were looking at privileges given to Israel which made them unique.

Notice Romans 9:4-5

Here in these verses Paul lists 8 privileges which God gave to Israel which set them apart from all other nations.

I. Israel's past relationship with God

Romans 9

Part 3

So far, we have looked at 2 and started to look at the third:

1. **To the Israelites pertain the adoption.**
2. **To the Israelites pertain the glory.**

The third privilege mentioned is one that is very important for us to understand.

3. **To the Israelites pertain the Covenants.**

The covenants which God made with the Nation of Israel will help us to understand several important points. As we look at these covenants, we shall see that any teaching which says that God has cast Israel away is inaccurate. As we study the covenants, we shall see that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to cast Israel away. Also, as we study the covenants, we shall get a clear picture of God's plan for the Kingdom Age.

A. The Abrahamic Covenant

Last week we looked at a quick overview of the Abrahamic Covenant but this week I want to go back and examine some of the points of the covenant in a little more detail.

1. The Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The Abrahamic Covenant contains promises to Abraham, Abraham's seed and to the Gentile Nations.

a. Promises to Abraham.

Genesis 12:2

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

1. God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great nation.
2. God promised personal blessings upon Abraham.
3. God promised his name would be great.
4. God promised that he would be a blessing to others.

b. Promises to Abraham's Seed.

1. **The nation would be great and innumerable.**

Genesis 15:5

⁵ *And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*

2. **God promised to Abraham and to his seed the possession of the land.**

Genesis 15:18-21

¹⁸ *In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:*

¹⁹ *The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,*

²⁰ *And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,*

²¹ *And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*

c. Promises to the Gentile Nations

Genesis 12:3

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

The nations have truly been blessed by the Nation of Israel. Through their contributions in the medical field, in the field of science, in the field of technology as well as many other fields. The invention of the "pill cam" came from the Jews. The invention of the "flash drive" came from the Jews. Many life-saving medications came from the Jews. Then above all of this there are two blessings which stand above all else, the writing of the Scriptures through the Jewish pen, and Jesus Christ came from the nation of Israel. When Jesus establishes His Millennial Kingdom, the Nations will truly be blessed by Him.

Now, it is important here to make a clear distinction. The promises in the Abrahamic Covenant to Abraham's seed (the inheritance of the land and the promise to be a great

nation) are directed only toward his **physical seed**. I point this out because we are also called the seed of Abraham, but we are the **spiritual seed**.

Galatians 3:7-9, 29

⁷ Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, **then are ye Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.

The promise which we are the heirs of, is the promise that in Abraham all nations would be blessed. The promises that are intended for his seed are to the physical seed of Abraham and to be more specific, it is only through the line of Isaac.

Genesis 17:17-19

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

¹⁸ And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

¹⁹ And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and **I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.**

Notice Romans 9:6-7

2. The Character of the Covenant

There are two very important points to be made concerning the character of the Abrahamic Covenant. To see these two points of the character we shall consider two questions:

a. Is the Abrahamic Covenant conditional or unconditional?

Let me show you an example of a conditional covenant. In Exodus 19 we find the conditions for the Mosaic Covenant.

Exodus 19:3-8

³ And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

⁷ And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

The Mosaic Covenant rested upon the Nation of Israel to walk in obedience to the Law. They failed terribly.

The Abrahamic Covenant however is unconditional. Israel was not required to "sign on the dotted line". The Abrahamic Covenant rests completely upon the faithfulness of God. We look at this last week in Genesis 15 where Abraham was instructed to kill the animals and set the halves apart. He then waited to walk through to show he had a part in keeping the covenant but instead God walked through while Abraham was in a deep darkness. Therefore, God was letting Abraham know the covenant was unconditional.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The words "I WILL" also show that the covenant rests upon God and not Abraham.

Now we come to the second question:

b. Was the covenant temporary or was it eternal?

The Bible tells us that the Abrahamic Covenant is an "everlasting covenant".

Genesis 17:8

8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

This means that Abraham and his seed will one day possess the land forever. This means that God will need to resurrect Abraham and his seed who died having saving faith and together with the surviving Tribulation Jews God will place them in their land. Amos looks ahead to that day.

Amos 9:13-15

13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Israel has never possessed the entire land which God has promised to them but there will be a day when the promise of the land possession will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. Let me show you when this will be established.

Revelation 20:1-6

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark

upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Conclusion:

It is very important to understand that this covenant is a literal covenant. I say this because there are those who believe this covenant is not literal but that it is spiritual. These people are the Amillennialists. These people do not believe in a literal 1000-year earthly Kingdom in which Jesus Christ will rule. They also teach that Satan was bound at the cross when Jesus died. We however know that Satan will be bound at the end of the Great Tribulation for 1000 years and Jesus Christ will reign on the earth for those 1000 years. That is when Israel will be placed in the land that God promised to them. The Amillennialist believes the Abrahamic Covenant will not be fulfilled in the future because they say it was fulfilled historically.

I point this out because it is so important for us to see that the Abrahamic Covenant was a literal covenant and while some of it has been fulfilled the provision of the land to Israel has not been. Because this fulfillment is yet future, we know that God is not finished with the Nation of Israel.

Romans 11:1a

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.