

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 20

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study of Romans, we are about to step into chapter 11. We have already considered how chapters 9-11 are focused completely upon God's Relationship with the nation of Israel. In chapter 11 we are going to see God's relationship with Israel in the future. We have already looked at God's relationship with Israel in the past (Romans 9), and we have looked at God's relationship with Israel in the present (Romans 10). In Romans 10 we were able to see in Paul's words that God has manifest Himself to Israel through creation.

Notice Romans 10:18

This was a quote from Psalm 19.

Psalm 19:1-4a

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

² *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

³ *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

⁴ *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

God had manifest Himself to Israel, but Israel continued to suppress the revelation. God went to great lengths to save Israel. He tried to provoke them to jealousy by turning to the Gentiles.

Notice Romans 10:19-20

Israel knew God would turn to the Gentiles for it was foretold in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 65:1

I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

God has made Himself known to the Gentiles who never sought Him but were found by Him because God placed Himself in our path so that we would find Him. We were on a path that was taking us straight away from God. Our hearts were depraved, and we were living to fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

Paul then closed this chapter with a verse that tells of Israel's response toward God's longsuffering and grace.

Notice Romans 10:21

This verse tells of Israel's rejection of God and therefore this then leaves us with a question:

"Has God then rejected Israel?"

As we now move on Paul will answer this very question.

"God's Relationship with Israel in the Future"

Part 1

Notice Romans 11:1

Paul asks the question here, "Has God **CAST AWAY** His people? The words "**CAST AWAY**" mean "**to thrust away or push away**". The question is, "Has God disowned His people?" Paul then answers the question with a very strong statement, "GOD FORBID!" The idea here is, "Don't even consider the thought!"

He then goes on to point to himself as an example of how God has not cast away His people. Paul states that he is an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, and of the tribe of Benjamin. Paul was a Jew who had come to Jesus Christ and he would NEVER be cast out.

John 6:37

³⁷ *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

Notice Romans 11:1 again.

It is very important to notice here how Paul defines a true Israelite. They must be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They must be from one of the twelve tribes. I point this out because there are those who teach that ANYONE who gets saved is a true Israelite. This teaching is wrong. God has never changed His definition of an Israelite. A TRUE Israelite MUST descend from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and MUST have God as his Father.

An Israelite who comes to Jesus Christ becomes a member of the church. But becoming a member of the church does NOT make a person an Israelite. A person is born an Israelite and a person is born again into the church.

Getting back to the thought of verse 1, the Bible teaches us that God will never cast away the nation of Israel.

Jeremiah 31:35-37

³⁵ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

³⁶ If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

³⁷ Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 33:25-26

²⁵ Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

²⁶ Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Application:

I need to pause here for a moment and remind you who know Jesus Christ as your Savior, that God will never cast you away either.

John 6:37-40

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and my Father are one.

God will NEVER cast us out and no one can ever pluck us out. We are forever secure in Christ.

Getting back to our text, people may say, "Well, if God has not cast away the Israelites then why do we not see them coming to Jesus Christ?" Some would say, "I don't know any Jews who have come to Jesus for salvation. So, where are they all at if God has not cast them away?"

Notice Romans 11:2-3

Now Paul points back to the life and words of Elijah in 1 Kings 19. Elijah was in the middle of a spiritual battle because of the darkness of his day. Let me show you the setting.

1 Kings 19:1-4

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

² *Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.*

³ *And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

⁴ *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

The threat from Jezebel was used by the Devil to strike fear in Elijah and to push him into a state of depression. I want to pause here for a moment and gather a few lessons.

1. Spiritual battles are real.
2. Even those whom we see as great in the faith can be bruised and battered in the battles.
3. We must put on the entire armor of God.
4. We have no chance against the Devil in our own strength.

Now let us get back to our text again. So, Elijah is spiritually down and feels as though he can not take anymore. Let me show another deception the enemy used against him.

1 Kings 19:7-10

⁷ *And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.*

⁸ *And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.*

⁹ *And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

¹⁰ *And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

Elijah could see no evidence of any believers in his day. He saw himself as the only one who had not forsaken God. But he was wrong.

Notice Romans 11:4

Paul is sharing God's response to Elijah's prayer.

1 Kings 19:18

¹⁸ *Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

Elijah did not know that God had a faithful remnant. God knew exactly how many had faith in him. These may have been silent about their faith because Elijah was not aware of them.

The majority of Israel had turned from God to follow after Jezebel's god, but in the midst of the apostasy there was a light, for God had His faithful. Paul will now apply this to the present.

Notice Romans 11:5

Just like in Elijah's day so it was in Paul's day and even in our day that God has a remnant. It is true that the majority of the Jews have rejected Jesus Christ but there is a small remnant who are saved. There are some points in this verse that we need to look at closely. The phrase "AT THIS PRESENT TIME" is very important. I am going to borrow from the teaching of George Zellar concerning this phrase. We especially live in a day when there are many questions about what God is doing. This will help us to better understand.

It is very important that we understand God's purpose and program right now, "at this present time." Many people fix their eyes upon what is taking place in the world today and they get all frustrated and flustered and even frightened because they fail to understand God's purpose and program for this present age.

What Is God Doing in The World Today?

1. **God is visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.**

Acts 15:14

¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

What is God doing in the world today? He is visiting the Gentiles (the nations) to take out of them a people for His Name ("for His Name" = to show the greatness of His person, and in particular, to show the greatness of His grace. See Eph.2:7 where we learn that the church is the eternal display case or showcase for God's matchless grace).

2. **God is building His church.**

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What is God doing in the world today? He is building His church. The Greek word for church refers to God's CALLED OUT assembly. God is visiting the nations taking out of them a people for His Name (Acts 15:14). Who are these people? They are God's CALLED-OUT ones, His church!

3. **God is baptizing believers into the body of Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

What is God doing in the world today? He is baptizing (placing) people (believers) into the body of Christ, thus making them members of God's unique and special organism.

4. God is adding to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:47

⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

*What is God doing in the world today? He is adding to the church daily such as should be saved. Notice that God is saving individuals, He is not saving the world. The world system headed by Satan is condemned and is appointed to destruction. God graciously saves individuals out of this world system (John 15:19; 17:14). **Illustration:** Consider the Titanic when it was sinking. Efforts were made to save individuals who were on lifeboats or in the icy waters, but no efforts were made to save the ship which was sinking. God's purpose is not to save the world (which is sinking-- 1 John 2:17). God's purpose is not to Christianize the world so that the governments, businesses, schools, and homes of the world operate according to Biblical principles. No, God's purpose is to add to His church daily such as should be saved. God has told us to catch fish, not to clean the fishbowl.*

5. God is doing a special work among the Gentiles until the church is complete.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For 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.

What is God doing in the world today? He is doing a special work among the Gentiles until the full number has come in. God is daily adding more and more persons to His church (Acts 2:47) as the Church is being built (Matt. 16:18). There is coming a day when the building will be completed, and the final individual will be saved and made a member of Christ's body. At that time Christ will return to receive His believers unto Himself, an event known as the rapture.

Conclusion:

We can be sure that God is very much in control with all that is happening in our world and He is at work building the church at "THIS PRESENT TIME".

