

“Does the Church Replace Israel?”

Romans 11

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- We live in a disposable society.
- The church as a “mystery”, a new entity that did not exist in Old Testament times.
 - Galatians 3:28 -- *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 -- *“by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jew or Greek, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into the one Spirit.”*
- Many believe that the church does replace Israel and that God is finished with the nation of Israel. No future plans for them.
 - **“Replacement Theology” and A-millennialism**
 - God has only one redeemed people.
 - Promises to Abraham made to believing Jews, not ethnic Jews.
 - The church inherits the promises made to Abraham but not literally, but figuratively fulfilled.
 - AD 70 and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple marks the end of God’s working with Israel.
 - All of the prophecies of Revelation fulfilled in an allegorical sense by AD 70
 - No future kingdom by Christ on earth. Next prophetic event will be the second coming of Jesus Christ, the judgment of mankind, the destruction and recreation of the heavens and earth.
 - Bottom line: God is finished with the ethnic Jew and thus national Israel.
 - **Post-Millennialism**
 - The view of German theologians who supported Adolph Hitler and the holocaust.
 - The church is the true Israel and will bring in the kingdom of God on earth. To do so the church needs to rid the world of those who rejected Christ.
 - **Charismatic “Kingdom” teaching**
- All contribute to a rise of antisemitism in our world today!

“Does the Church Replace Israel?” **Romans 11**

A. Paul’s Initial, Emotional Response—Romans 11:1 “Certainly not!”

- Romans 11:1-- *“I say then has God cast off His people? Certainly not! For I am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.” “Has God cast off His People?”*
- Romans 9:3-5-- *“For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ from my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.”*

B. Paul’s Reasoned Response—Romans 11:1-27

1. Israel’s rejection of the Gospel is only PARTIAL

- Romans 11:1-10 -- *“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ‘LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life?’ But what does the Divine response say to him, ‘I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to*

Baal.' Even so then, at this present time, there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. Just as it is written, 'God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.' And David says: 'Let their tables become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their eyes be darkened so that they do not see, and bow down their back always'

- a. Personal example of Paul.
- b. God's has always had a REMNANT of believers in Israel.

2. Israel's rejection is TEMPORARY

- Romans 11:11-27 -- "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now, if their fall is riches for the world, and their failures riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their casting away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

For if the first fruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of the God: on those who fell, severity; but towards you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafter contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion. And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'"

- a. **God hardens Israel so that salvation can come to the Gentiles.**
 - Acts 13:46 -- "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."
 - Acts 28:28 -- "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it!"
- b. **When the "fullness of the Gentiles" is come, God will once again turn his attention toward the nation of Israel**
 - Romans 11:25-- "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."
 - 1) Meaning of the "Fullness of the Gentiles"
 - 2) The full number of the Gentiles will come in at the end of the tribulation period when all the martyred tribulation saints are added to the number.
 - 3) At the second coming of Christ, at the end of the tribulation, God will once again turn his attention to the ethnic Jew, and the fullness of the Jews will come in.
 - Romans 11:26 -- "All Israel will be saved!"

- c. **At His second coming, Jesus Christ will establish the new dispensation of the KINGDOM.**
- Romans 11:12--*"Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!"*
 - Romans 11:15 -- *"For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead!"*

C. **What should be our attitude toward Jewish people today?**

1. **Be humble for we are recipients of God's grace.**

- Romans 11:17-24-- *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of the God: on those who fell, severity; but towards you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafter contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

- Explanation of the illustration of the engrafted vine
 - The "root" is Abraham, and the promised blessing of salvation through his Seed.
 - Galatians 3:7-9 -- *"Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."*
 - Those of faith are children of Abraham—his offshoots!
 - We Gentiles are the "wild olive shoots" that have been grafted in to the root of salvation blessings!
 - Ethnic Jews are the "natural branches" that have been removed to make room for you and I
- It's only by God's grace and mercy that we are grafted in.

2. **Develop a compassionate heart and compelling love for Jewish people.**

- Romans 9:1-4a -- *"I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have a great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites."*
- Romans 10:1 -- *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved."*

3. **Live in such a way that others are envious of what we have.**

- Romans 11:13-14 -- *"For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them."*

4. **Praise God for His marvelous plan!**

- Romans 11:33-36-- *"Oh the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out. For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."*