

"Israel's Hope"

April 2, 2017

In **Romans 11:1**, Paul asks the question: **"Did God reject His people (Israel)?"**

Some would answer, **"YES!"** (**REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY**—since the Jews rejected Jesus—God rejected them! The promises He made to them He has now transferred to the Church, His "spiritual Israel." God no longer has a purpose for the Jews.)

But Paul's answer is an emphatic, **"By no means...God did not reject His people!"** (**Romans 11:1,2**).

1. HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE—REJECTED HIM

John 1:11- "(Jesus) came to His own, and His own did not receive him."

Though they have suffered the consequences of rejecting Jesus as Messiah—God has never rejected His covenant people.

2. HIS LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE—is a fiery, unquenchable love.

- He told Abraham He would *"bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel"* (Genesis 12:3)
- He told Zechariah whoever would touch Israel *"touches the apple of His eye"* (Zechariah 2:8).
- Isaiah declared God would never forget Israel because He has *"inscribed them on the palms of His hands"* (Isaiah 49:14-16).
- Jeremiah stated that Israel would exist as a nation forever (Jer. 31:36)
- And 9 OT prophets announced that a great "remnant of Israel" will accept Jesus as their Messiah (Isa. 10; Jer. 31; Hosea 2; Joel 2; Micah 7)

NOTE: For some, Israel's rebellion was so great—all promises are annulled!
However...

3. Romans 11—a chapter full of HOPE for ISRAEL (& all of us)

- (1:16)- *"The Gospel is God's power of salvation...for the Jew first."*
- Romans 3:2- *"They were entrusted with the oracles of God"* (NOTE: Every book of the Bible was written by a Jewish person)
- ISRAEL is a powerful example of God's MERCY & GRACE!
 - Despite their history of rebellion against God's will:
 - God never stopped loving them
 - Still has a purpose for them
 - And He is determined to bring them into a dynamic relationship w/ Jesus!

- To the question: *“has God rejected the Jews?”* Paul answers: *“May it never be! God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.”* (Romans 11:1-2)
- HIS PROPHETIC DECLARATION: *“A remnant will be saved”* (Romans 11:5) *“after the fullness of the Gentiles has come in!”* (Romans 11:25).

4. Three SIGNIFICANT EVENTS in the life of Israel

- **THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL-**
 - After 1,900 years of being globally dispersed—on May 14, 1948 Israel was repopulated and reestablished as an independent state
 - The 1st step in bringing about the salvation of a remnant (Isaiah 11:10-12- *“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.”*
- **THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH WILL OPPOSE ISRAEL OVER WHO CONTROLS JERUSALEM-**
 - Hatred of and opposition toward Israel will only increase
 - Spoken of in Zechariah 12:2-3- *“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathering against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.”*
- **HEARTS OF MANY IN ISRAEL WILL TURN TO MESSIAH JESUS:**
 - *“They will look upon Him whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only Son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first born.”* (Zechariah 12:10)
 - *“They will call upon the name of the Lord”* (Joel 2:31-32)
 - *“They will cry out, ‘Baruch Haba Bashem Adonai!’ meaning, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”* (Matthew 23:38-39)

NOTE: God’s continuing love for His people, Israel, is one of the greatest demonstrations of His amazing mercy & grace!