

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 11****Romans 11**

"Has God cast away His people?" This is the question of Romans 11 and this entire section beginning in chapter nine. There is an ever-increasing momentum building within the ranks of the evangelical church, especially with those below the age of forty-five. The movement goes by several names, but in reality, it is "Replacement Theology." Replacement theology by any name teaches that God is finished with the nation of Israel and has replaced the Jewish people and the nation of Israel with the "Church of Jesus," which is predominately Gentile in makeup. This teaching has been popularized by reformed preachers and theologians such as John Piper and the late R.C. Sproul, among others. These are both great men, and great men differ from others. These men love the Lord Jesus, and in other areas of theology, they are accurate, consistent, and Biblical. In this area, they are not. Paul asks, **"Has God cast off his people?"** The answer was an emphatic, **"God forbid!"** Certainly not! Even though now the Jewish people and Israel as a nation have not embraced Jesus as the Messiah, Romans 11 is consistent and confluent with the teachings of the Old Testament and the teachings of the New Testament.

What then? What Israel was seeking, it failed to obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, 8as it is written God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see, and ears that could not hear, to this very day." And David says: May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution to them. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever." I ask then, did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Certainly not! However, because of their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. But if their trespass means riches for the world, and their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"
(Romans 11:7-12)

The Jewish Apostle Paul goes on to say that the rejection of the nation is not permanent and that the God who called them and elected them in the beginning, will keep His end of the bargain, even though they did not. Aren't you glad God does not reject us because most Gentiles do not receive Him?

God is faithful. God is faithful to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! God is faithful to David and His unconditional promises to Him! God is faithful to us! God is faithful to His promises He makes to anyone. ***"Regarding the gospel, they are enemies on your account; but regarding election, they are loved on account of the patriarchs. For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable."*** (Romans 11:28-29, ***emphasis mine***)

God created Israel by a miraculous birth and for a special purpose. God created the Church of Jesus by a miraculous birth and for a special purpose. The purposes of God are never, I repeat, never at odds with the other. God is consistent, and His words are sure. This is why God reminds us through Paul that His call, election, and gifts are irrevocable! They can never be violated. Those who believe that God is finished with Israel are inconsistent in their hermeneutic in many areas. Still, no one is allowed to interpret Scripture to take a clear historical narrative and allegorize it. Never. In order to believe the church replaces Israel, one must allegorize at least one-quarter of the Bible, which was not written as an allegory.

God is not finished with the nation of Israel. God used Israel before the church was born. God used Jews to birth the church through the death of a Jewish Savior. The first decade of the church of Jesus was only Jews, and when the church, which is made up of both Jews and Gentiles, now is taken from the earth, the Jewish people will once again be God's primary evangelist on the earth during the days of the Great Tribulation. Much more to say, but I think you got the message.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank you, Father, for being faithful to Your promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thank You for being faithful to us. Thank You for never casting away Your people whom You called to Yourself. Amen