



## The Insiders and Outsiders Romans 11

*"But as for Israel He says, "All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people." (Romans 10:21)*

### God has a plan.

#### God's plan includes the Jewish people Romans 11:1-10

*"I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!" (v.1)*

- **God has always kept for Himself a remnant (v.1-4)**
  - Paul, the Israelite, descendant of Abraham, tribe of Benjamin (New Testament) (v.1)
  - Elijah plus 7000 other prophets (Old Testament) (v.2-4)
  - Matt, his family and friends (today) (v.5)
- **This remnant has been according to God's election of grace (v.5-6)**

*"In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice." (v.5)*
- **Not everyone has been selected to be part of the elected (v.7-10)**

*"What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened..." (v.7)*

"Election does not obliterate human responsibility. Men everywhere are commanded to believe (Acts 16:31; 17:30), and no one is saved without believing (Ephesians 2:8-9). Let us put it this way: there are unsaved elect people alive today, who, though elect, are now lost and will not be saved until they believe." ("A Survey of Bible Doctrine" by Charles Ryrie, p.118)  
(A good resource on this topic is available through RightNow Media, search: TULIP by John Piper)

#### God's plan includes the Gentiles Romans 11:11-32

- **Salvation has come to the Gentiles to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy (v.11-16)**

*"I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous." (v.11)*
- **The kindness and severity of God in the tree (v.17-24)**

*"Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off." (v.22)*
- **God's hardening of Israel is not total and not final (v.25-32)**

*"...that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved" (v.25-26)*

#### Good theology should always leads to good worship Romans 11:33-36

*"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" (v.33)*

# Digging Deeper

## What is Replacement Theology (Supersessionism)?

Replacement theology (also known as supersessionism) teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. Supporters of replacement theology believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. All the different views of the relationship between the church and Israel can be divided into two camps: either the church is a continuation of Israel (replacement/covenant theology), or the church is completely different and distinct from Israel (dispensationalism/premillennialism).

Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, to the exclusion of Israel. So, the prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are "spiritualized" or "allegorized" into promises of God's blessing for the church. Major problems exist with this view, such as the continuing existence of the Jewish people throughout the centuries and especially with the revival of the modern state of Israel in the past century. The covenants, promises, and warnings are valid only for Israel. Israel has been temporarily set aside in God's plan during these past 2000 years of dispersion.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament support a premillennial/dispensational understanding of God's plan for Israel. Even so, the strongest support for premillennialism is found in Revelation 20:1-7, where it says six times that Christ's kingdom will last 1000 years. After the tribulation the Lord will return and establish His kingdom with the nation of Israel, Jesus will reign over the whole earth, and Israel will be the leader of the nations. The church will reign with Him for a literal thousand years. The church has not replaced Israel in God's plan. While God may be focusing His attention primarily on the church in this dispensation of grace, God has not forgotten Israel and will one day restore Israel to His intended role as the nation He has chosen (Romans 11). *(Adapted from S. Michael Houdmann)*

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. We sometimes look at God's plan through a very individualistic viewpoint, considering "what is God's plan for me?" While God's unique care for us as individuals is true, how does your view of God change when looking through the lens of His greater plan for both Jews and Gentiles?
2. Paul tells in Romans 11:11, "I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression **salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.**" Is your spiritual life one that is provoking others to jealousy? What does that look like? What needs to change in your relationship with God? Do the lives of others outside of the body of Christ provoke you to jealousy?
3. Studying deep theology is definitely an intellectual ascent. But Paul doesn't allow us to just keep it there. He closes the doctrinal section of Romans with a doxology (praise to God) exclaiming that the ways of God are unsearchable and unfathomable. Have you let your study of God permeate to your heart, allowing it to move from an intellectual ascent to heart transformation and awe of God?

## Next Steps:

1. **Pray for the physical and spiritual peace of Israel.** Pray for the group going to Israel, April 25 - May 6, as we interact with Jewish people. Follow us on our blog and check out our itinerary at [calvarylife.org/israel](http://calvarylife.org/israel)
2. **Join the Bible study on the book of Philippians.** Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Chapel for an 8-week, in-depth Bible study on the book of Philippians as we explore its history, themes and application for our lives today. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/grow](http://calvarylife.org/grow)