



God Is Not Done with the Jews

By Ken Terry on June 16, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 11

In our reading this week, we discussed Israel's past with election in Chapter 9 and Israel's present rejection of Jesus due to their self-righteousness in Chapter 10. Now we will discuss Israel's restoration. I think the Jewish people get a bad rap on the world stage. So many cultures look down upon them. Did you realize that Israel is the only nation in the world with a complete history--past, present and future? Therefore, God cannot be finished with them. Paul gives evidence of this by his own conversion, the prophet Elijah, the Gentiles and the patriarchs. The best illustration to me is the olive tree. The olive tree depicts what God has done through that nation of Israel. The root of the tree symbolizes those patriarchs who founded the nation. God made His covenant with them, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These same promises sustain the nation today.

The branches broken off the tree depict the Jewish people who did not believe. However, other branches are grafted into the tree--the Gentiles. They share the life of the tree. Please keep in mind that this is contrary in nature. *But God*, my friends. The wild branches--you and I--are grafted into the tree. Therefore, salvation is of the Jews. Wild, is it not? We are very blessed to share in this remarkable mystery of salvation. This may be hard to understand, but Paul speaks to it very succinctly, *"For I do not want that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion"* (vs. 25a).

My friends, we walk by faith and not by sight. It is not for us to question, but to obey and follow Jesus. All that is occurring now with the Jews and the Gentiles was prophesied and will come to fruition, *"that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in"* (vs. 25b).

We are speaking to the wisdom of God. Only a wise God can take a fall and turn it into salvation for the world. This is His great plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles. No one is any better or on a higher plane than the other. All fall under the Lordship of Jesus, He is Lord over all. This faithful message is how we come to salvation. In this process, we are shown mercy and grace through Christ Jesus. This period will end when the fullness of Gentiles has come. My Bible commentary gives us great insight to this end, *"When Israel*

recovers from her 'fall' and enters her fullness, the world will experience the riches of God's grace as never before."

Are you starting to see the big picture? Nothing happens outside of Israel and the sheer will of God. We are indebted to them, and we should do our best to support them. Please remember they are the olive tree by which we are grafted. There is one last paragraph in my commentary that I would be remiss if not mentioned, "*When Jesus Christ returns and sits on David's throne to reign over His Kingdom, then Israel will be 'reconciled' and 'received,' and it will be like a resurrection.*"

Question: Are you ready to support our Heavenly Father's chosen people? What can you do to help more of them be grafted into the foundation of Christ? Share the gospel narrative.

PRAYER: Father, you alone are maker of flesh and bone. You are not partial in Your love or treatment of people. Father, help me see people as You see people, as the Imago Dei, people made in Your image. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 12

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