

Romans 11

Read Romans 11:1-10: Where does this information from Paul leave us? He has been making a case that all men have failed God. Paul emphasized that his own people, the Hebrews, have failed to launch any successful campaign to share the most important essentials about knowing God.

He was despised and abandoned by men, A man of great pain and familiar with sickness; And like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we had no regard for Him. (Isaiah 53)

“For My people have committed two evils: They have abandoned Me, The fountain of living waters, To carve out for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That do not hold water. (Jeremiah 2:13)

God succeeded despite the Jews, not because of them.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. (Exodus 32:9)

Only a very small group of the Hebrew people actually entered into a personal relationship with God.

¹³ *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7)*

Now on that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will no longer rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

²¹ *A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. ²² For though your people, Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, Only a remnant within them will return (Isaiah 10)*

Read Romans 10:11-24: One thing that becomes clearer the more years that I spend in the scriptures is that God always wins. It may seem like the world is going to hell in a handbasket; but God is using these ignorant forces of evil to make his moves. In this case, Paul is illustrating how God’s assigned agents of change (12 tribes of Israel) quit and forfeited the project. Remember that God never loses, ever. It was not the Jews strategy to save Gentiles, but God’s prophets and apostles moved onto the Gentiles as the Jews became entrenched in their ways. The result is that a massive number of souls have been added to God’s family through Gentile faith.

In the tribulation 144,000 Hebrews (12,000 per tribe) will be super powered by the Holy Spirit to become an army of Billy Grahams.

*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. ³ And they *sang ^[a] a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. (Revelation 7)*

The result was a worldwide salvation like no time in history:

*⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they *cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7)*

2/3 of the Jews will be killed in the tribulation, but the remainder will all be saved.

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; (Romans 9:6)

And it will come about in all the land, "Declares the Lord, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it."⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people, 'And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"(Zechariah 13)

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These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. (Revelation 14)

I have also seen an unwelcomed but beautiful law in my own life. I call it *failing forward*. I can end up on my back and helpless (metaphorically speaking); and God will use it to draw souls to him. Much more so than in normal life circumstances. This yet another Way that God gets the glory due his name.

Read Romans 11:25-36: The Jews were built to become lights to the world. They do a far better job than Gentiles do. God knows how to build and select his best flashlights. We can get the job done, as God empowers and anoints us in his own power, through his holy Spirit. When God's team went on strike we came in as stand ins. There were a lot of us Gentiles. How much better would it have been if the Jews fully embraced the message of God? The world would be so much better off.

It is so critical to take the scriptures verbatim. Historically, some in the church felt that the church had replaced Israel. The Bible never says that at all. To the contrary, the Jews will come back in a magnificent way.

Replacement theology teaches that the Church has replaced Israel in God's plan, which is considered erroneous by many scholars. This doctrine undermines the biblical significance of Israel and can lead to harmful attitudes, including antisemitism, as it dismisses God's ongoing covenant with the Jewish people

Understanding Replacement Theology

Replacement theology posits that the Church has supplanted Israel in God's divine plan. This belief is widely criticized for several reasons, particularly its implications for the understanding of biblical covenants and the ongoing significance of Israel.

Key Errors of Replacement Theology

- **Misinterpretation of Scripture:** Proponents often misread biblical texts, failing to recognize that references to Israel in the New Testament typically refer to the nation of Israel, not the Church. For example, the term "Israel" appears numerous times in the New Testament, and substituting "Church" in these contexts often leads to nonsensical interpretations.
- **Dismissal of God's Promises:** This theology suggests that God's promises to Israel have been nullified, which contradicts the biblical narrative that emphasizes God's enduring covenant with the Jewish people. The belief that

Israel has lost its spiritual privileges undermines the significance of God's ongoing relationship with Israel.

- **Encouragement of Antisemitism:** Historically, replacement theology has contributed to antisemitic attitudes within Christianity. By asserting that the Church has replaced Israel, it fosters a sense of superiority over the Jewish people, which can lead to discrimination and hostility.