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Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 09

Tribulation – 03- Israel: Past, Present & Future: Romans 9-11

Let us turn our focus on the book of romans to understand the Jewish history from one of the well-known Jewish Pharisee, none other than Apostle Paul.

Overview of the book of Romans:

Chapter 1 – 3:10

Sin

3:10 No one is righteous

Chapters 3:10- 5

Salvation

5:20 Where sin abounds Grace abounds more

Chapters 6-8

Sanctification

Dead to the law

7:4 Married to Him who raised from the dead

Chapters 12-16

Service

12:1 Present your bodies as living sacrifice

Chapters 9-11

Sovereignty

Chapter 9	Past	Privilege	Selected
Chapter 10	Present	Problems	Rejected
Chapter 11	Future	Prospect	Resurrected

Romans 9:6, *But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,*

Romans 11:11, *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Replacement Theology:

Replacement theology (also known as supersessionism) mainly teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan.

Replacement theology teaches that the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel.

We saw this in the last lesson, the problem do you know how many denominations or prominent people accept this theology?

Let me give you a list of few.

- Knox Theological seminary,
- Ligonier Ministries,
- Hank Hanegraaff,
- The Catholic Church,
- Most Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and Episcopalians and
- Some Baptists, Brethren and Non- Denominations
- Augustine, said Israel was “cast off.”
- John Chrysostom, bishop of Antioch, called for the burning of Jewish writings.
- Throughout Dark Ages various synods decreed persecutions against Jewish people

Most of all the big attack came from Martin Luther, who wrote the book about “Jews and their lies”. Because of this so many attacks came upon the people.

- Set synagogues on fire
- Jewish homes broken down
- Jewish prayer prohibited
- Rabbis forbidden to teach
- No Jewish people allowed to travel
- The Nazis used his writings to promote their philosophy

But when apostle Paul write to the church in Rome, he takes this point of what role does Israel has in the Kingdom of God.

Promised to them that the Gospel will be preached to them.

Romans 1:2, which He **promised before** through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

They have the **Priority** over others in the Gospel.

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for **the Jew first** and also for the Greek.

They have **the advantage** because of they were Jew.

Romans 3:1, What **advantage** then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

They rejected Jesus as Messiah then they crucified Him. Jesus rose again then the Gospel preached.

There was a revival after the Day of Pentecost, thousands were getting saved then the problem starts.

Acts 2:41, Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about **three thousand souls were added to them.**

Acts 4:4, *However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

Acts 6:7, *Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Then the downward road starts, the persecution and people were killed for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first martyrdom starts with the murder of Stephen in Acts 7, who could give us the answer better than the author of this letter who was instrumental in that murder?

Israel's Past

Chapter 9

Chapter 9	Past	Privilege	Selected
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1. Children of Privilege (9:1-5)
2. Children of Promise (9:6-13)
3. Children of Mercy (9:14-18)
4. God's Sovereignty (9:19-33)
 - Who are we to argue with God?
 - What did the Prophets say?
 - Why has God turned to Gentiles?

1. Children of Privilege (9:1-5)

Romans 9:2-3, ²that I have **great sorrow and continual grief in my heart**. ³For I could wish that I myself were **accursed from Christ for my brethren**, my countrymen according to the flesh,

What a statement!

Continual grief and sorrow!

He was willing to be cursed and go to hell for the sake of his countrymen.

We can see the similar burden in the life of Moses.

Exodus 32:31-32, ³¹ *Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”*

What a way to intercede to the Lord for the sake of his people. Even when God offered him that God will make a great nation out of him.

We can see the similar burden from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 23:37, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*

Special privileges of Israel!

- Israelites = named people of God
- Adopted as sons of God
- Glory of God = Shekinah; (glory=visible manifestation of God, a bright cloud that followed Israel in the wilderness, later filled the Temple)
- Covenants = Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David
- Law given through Moses

- Temple services = worship
- Promises = that still fill the pages of the OT
Promises to a nation, that one day there will be a Kingdom centered in Jerusalem ruled by the Lord Himself to which all nations will go to worship
- Patriarchs - giant figures in Jewish history = Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David “the fathers” of the faith
- Messiah came from Israel by human history.

In spite of these blessings, being children of privilege, Israel failed to follow God.

2. Children of Promise (9:6-13)

Abraham had 2 sons. Ishmael born first, but he was son of the handmaid. Isaac born second, son of the promise, mother was Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

Isaac had 2 sons but God chose Jacob. Not based on merit, but on God’s choosing. Only one of the twins could inherit the family line through which Messiah would come. God chose Jacob over Esau to receive the Promises.

3. Children of Mercy (9:14-18)

Certainly, some of you are asking “Isn’t God being unfair in His choices?”

It is not a question of fairness or justice (God by His nature cannot be unfair) but God’s freedom to choose based solely on His own will, Sovereignty of God. What God does is determined by who God is!

4. Children of Mercy (9:14-18)

Who are we to argue with God?

God chooses us, we did not choose any of the following

- our parents,
- genetic structure,
- time/place of our birth,
- born with some pre-determined facts about us.
- We will all die surely one day, we don’t get to choose that day too...

Then he is like a potter shaping our lives with the clay of our hearts. Just like how the clay can’t complain how it’s shaped, Paul says God has the same authority over our lives.

What did the Prophets say?

God had foretold He would turn away from Jews and will call Gentiles. (Through the prophet Hosea)

God also foretold that He knew only a remnant (You will hear this word often so this meaning is: a small minority of people who will remain faithful to God and so be saved) of Israel would be saved. Believing Remnant of Jews and the believing Gentiles will be called “my people”.

Why has God turned to Gentiles?

Gentiles believed, accepted Jesus as Messiah, Jews stumbled over believing in Him, they rejected Him.

Israel's Present

Romans 10

Chapter 10	Present	Problems	Rejected
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Present: Israel willfully Rejected

1. Reason for their Rejection 10:1-13
2. Remedy 10:14-17
3. Result 10:18-21

1. Reason for their Rejection 10:1-13

They were sincere, but sincerely wrong about Jesus. Their zeal for God was great but without knowledge. They did not know the *“righteousness that comes from God.”*

They were proud and self-righteous. Established their own righteousness, proud of their own good works and would not admit for a need of a Savior to save them from their sins.

Misunderstanding of their own law put them in this position. Everything about the Jewish faith pointed to a coming Messiah.

- the sacrifices,

- priesthood,
- temple services,
- religious festivals and
- covenants.

Law showed them they were sinners, needed a Savior, instead of letting the Law lead them to Messiah, they held on to the Law to make them righteous. It's like looking at yourself in the mirror and trying to correct the mirror rather than the object the mirror shows.

2. Remedy 10:14-17

Only way anyone can be saved is believe. Before they call they must believe, to believe, must hear for its hearing the Word that creates faith. Remedy for rejection is hearing and believing.

3. Result 10:18-21

It makes us to ask this question "Maybe the Jews never heard the gospel? But the answer is yes, they have!

Then you may ask probably they did not understand? No, they do understand but this has been their attitude from the time of Moses. the Jews have refused to accept the plain revelation of God. Paul quotes Moses and Isaiah, concerning Israel.

Romans 11

Chapter 11	Future	Prospect	Resurrected
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1. Partial Rejection 11:1-10
2. Purposeful Rejection 11:11-17
3. Restoration Promised 11:18-36

1. Partial Rejection 11:1-10

Did God reject His people completely?

Paul gives two examples: one himself and Elijah

Paul saying if God had rejected the Jew completely then look at me. I was the one persecuting the church now I am following Jesus.

Elijah was saying only he had alone been saved but God answers him saying I have 7,000 people saved. God concludes that HE has always had a remnant among the Jews, same is today.

Today in 2018 there are over 150 Messianic churches in Jerusalem. Glory to God!

2. Purposeful Rejection 11:11-17

Three purposes God planned to accomplish through the *“transgression of the Jews”*

Salvation would come to Gentiles. When we study Paul’s missionary journeys in the book of Acts we can learn a pattern.

- Paul would go to the synagogues, Jews first.
- Preach Christ and a few will believe,
- Often, he was kicked out,
- after their rejection then he will turn to the Gentiles, who believed, started churches.

Gentile faith would move the Jews to jealousy!

One-day Israel’s fullness will bring greater riches to the entire world.

Paul now turn his attention towards the non-Jewish, Gentiles, that’s you and me.

He gives two illustrations:

1. Baking (Romans 11:16) - Jewish farmer raised a grain crop, he would bring the first shoot to the priest as offering.

Similarly, when baking use the grain, first piece of dough was given as offering. If part is holy, all is holy. "When a representative piece is consecrated to God, the whole belongs to him, so when the first converts believe, the conversion of the rest can be expected to follow"

2. Gardening (Romans 11:16-17) - Allegory of the Olive Tree.

Tree: Israel the people of God, whose root is the patriarchs.

The branches broken off: Unbelieving Jews who have been temporarily discarded.

Grafted in branches: Believing Gentiles.

You Gentiles, don't become prideful, arrogant or prejudiced against the Jews, always be God's chosen people.

Conclusion:

As a nation, God's chosen people they are blinded temporarily so that the fullness of Gentile can come. But remember God had not cast out Israel or Jews from His eternal plan.

- The Israelites were given the privilege of bringing the law of God.
- God made covenant with Israel. They were so privileged.
- Israel was given an adoption.
- Privileged to serve God.
- Most of all they have given the wonderful opportunity of having the Glory of the Lord.

But because of their failure the glory of the Lord left.

God had taken the responsibility of the service and the law from them and hand it over to the Church for a time being, not permanently.

Jesus spoke about this in two parables in the last week before going to the cross.

Matthew 21:33-44, Parable of the wicked wine dressers

Matthew 21:43, “Therefore I say to you, *the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*”

Matthew 22:1-14, Parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:7, *But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

Judgement will come upon Israel.

Matthew 22:9, *Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’*

The others who were not invited will be invited to share the joy.

We are studying about the second coming of Jesus Christ. So, the Israel as nation will go through the tribulation and through that they will be saved.

Zechariah 12:10, “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then *they will look on Me whom they pierced.* Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Hosea 5:15-6:3, *I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.*” Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. ²After two days He will revive us; *On the third day He will raise us up*, That we may live in His sight. ³Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.