

“DON’T BE IGNORANT” (Part 5)

About God’s Plan for Israel

(Romans 11:25)

INTRO: Series continues. TODAY, God’s Plan for Israel – many are ignorant here (prejudiced?). BG on Romans (3 slides) ... This passage helps us understand God’s plan. Many believe God is finished with the Jews – NOT so! The fact they continue to exist after all these years of persecution, hatred, and genocide is a testimony to God’s character and faithfulness. Look at End Times Events (Israel present).

QUESTION: “If the promises of God were originally given to Israel (they were), and if the Messiah Himself came from Israel (He did), and if salvation is now freely offered to all who believe (it is), how is it that Israel not only rejected her Messiah but continues in unbelief to the present day?” Let’s examine Israel’s past selection, present rejection, and future restoration. Their story magnifies God’s character as we see His faithfulness, righteousness, justice, grace. God’s plan for Israel includes several elements:

I. CALLING AND COVENANTS

- A. Calling (Gen. 12:1-3) – God providentially chose a pagan, idolatrous, polygamist Gentile to birth a people. God promised Abram a people, a seed (Messiah), and a land (Gen. 13:14-15; 15:18). All but land promise fulfilled (300k vs 8k). Two Map pics. All by His grace (Rom. 9:6-13; Deut. 7:6-11; 9:4-6).
- B. Covenants (Pledges) –
 - 1. God-initiated covenants – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David. All promises to be kept, else God’s character is in question.
 - 2. Satanic covenant (begins 7 year Great Tribulation) – Antichrist and Israel (Rev. 6:1-4; Dan. 9:26). After 3 ½ years turns on Israel.
- C. But they Rejected and God chastened them. Why rejected? 4 Reasons (Rom. 10:1-13) – sensed no need (v. 6), zeal without knowledge (v. 2), trusted in own righteousness, (v. 3), misunderstood the law (vv. 4-13). Israel failed and became a scattered people 16 mm over the last 2000 years. Israel (7.5 mm), USA (7.5 mm). That dispersion largely remained until early 1900s. Large scale integration 1948 founded as state (630k).

II. REGATHERING

- A. Periodic Regatherings over centuries. All previews to final gathering during Great Tribulation. Overview of End Times chart . . . Israel will still be around when end times arrive – key player! (Matt. 24:15-28; Rev. 6:2; 12:1-6; 2 Th. 2:3-4) So, God is not done yet.
- B. All Predicted Regatherings – 9 OT books (Deut., Isa., Jer., Ez., Dan., Hosea, Amos, Zeph., Zech., and NT (Lk. 21:24; Matt. 24:29-31). All the regatherings are proof God isn’t finished with them. Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:7, 11, 22; 31:8-10; Ez. 20:33-38; 22:17-22; 37; Zech. 13:8; Matt. 23:37-39; 24:3-29; etc.

- C. Even an Israeli cabinet member in charge of regathering! Minister of Absorption to integrate returning Jews.

III. CHASTENINGS

- A. Due to Israel’s present rejection and unbelief, for centuries God has been chastening, refining, and purifying His people, who as a whole largely rejects Him to this day (Rom. 10). Assyrians 700 BC, Babylonians, ..., Romans, Arabs.
- B. When Israel rejected God, He set aside Israel for a season. He turned to the Gentiles (Lk. 21:24; Rom. 9:22-26; 10:18-21; 11:25). “...the times of the Gentiles...” (Gentile rule) - Babylonian exile (586 BC) to S.C. OR, the Church Age beginning at Pentecost. The “mystery” is “all (who believe) Israel will be saved.” When? At the Second Coming of Christ. For the most part the Jewish people have hardened themselves. God turned to the salvation of Gentiles. When that is done (only God knows), a revival of faith will occur within Israel. Through the centuries God has miraculously preserved His people. T. Newton ... W. Churchill ...
- C. CHART... The seven-year tribulation main purpose is to regather and judge the nation of Israel for their unbelief. A remnant will be saved to enter M.K. A great revival led by two witnesses (Rev. 11) and 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev. 7:3-8).

IV. CONVERTING (Rev. 7:4-8)

An unprecedented revival occurs in tribulation (Psa., Jer., Ez., Hosea 6:1-2; Joel, Zech.; Rom. 11:23-29). Are the Jews still God’s chosen people (Rom. 11:29)? God is faithful. He promised – and even human unbelief can’t prevent it. God isn’t finished with the Jewish people. Though there is a temporary hardening (setting aside) for their rejection and unbelief, it is purposeful to reach the Gentiles. When that (only He knows) is over, Christ will return and destroy His enemies, imprison Satan for 1000 years (MK), and rule on earth - and finally Israel will enjoy the LAND promised thousands of years ago.

CONC: God still has a plan for His chosen people Israel. All the way through the Great Tribulation and into eternity. If Israel disappears it makes God a liar (Ps. 89:34). We must not be ignorant about it. How nations treat Israel has always mattered to God (Gen. 12:3). He has consistently judged those who choose to be Israel’s enemies. Almost all have disappeared off the scene as key players. This doesn’t mean Israel is without her share of failures (1 Cor. 10) and mistreatment of her aggressors. Being Jewish does not guarantee heaven. Like everyone each Jew (God saves individuals not nations, families, ...) must choose to believe to receive the salvation and righteousness only available in trusting Christ (Rom. 10:4-17). Christ alone is still the only way to salvation, abundant life, and eternal life with God. Divine Sovereignty vs. Human Responsibility... Rom. 11:33-36