

ROMANS 9-11

AN INTRODUCTION OF GOD'S PURPOSE WITH ISRAEL

by Abri Brancken, 27 Aug 2017

SCRIPTURE

Romans 9:3-5, ESV (God's Sovereign Choice)

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Romans 9-11 is all about Israel and God's plan with Israel.

In chapter 9 we will look at God's Sovereign Choices as well as Israel's unbelief. In chapter 10 we will look at the message of salvation that is to all.

In chapter 11 we will look at the remnant of Israel and how the gentiles are grafted into God's purposes. We will also study the mystery of Israel's salvation.

In the church today, there is a great confusion about Israel and its role in God's purpose. Many people are asking the question, "Is Israel still important to God?" "Did God reject Israel because they rejected the Messiah, Jesus?". In studying Romans 9-11 we will answer these and other similar and important questions.

ISRAEL'S IMPORTANCE TO GOD

In order to help you understand Romans 9-11, we will begin by laying a foundation in looking at Israel's history. In the Bible, we see that God focuses a lot on Israel. This reflects the importance that He places on Israel. Sadly, many churches are 'falling' for the media's propaganda regarding Israel and more and more nations are becoming hostile towards Israel, forgetting God's purposes as revealed in the bible. Unless we understand God's heart for Israel we will struggle to resonate His Kingdom's agenda on earth.

STATISTICS ON ISRAEL

- Israel or Israelite occurs about 2567 times in OT, more than any other subject next to the Lord Himself
- The name Israel occurs over 70 times in NT

- In Romans 9-11, Israel is mentioned about 29 times.
- The word "Jew" occurs 84 times in OT & 192 times in NT
- The word Christian occurs only 3 times in NT
- Church occurs 78 times
- 64 of the 66 books of the Bible were written by Jewish writers
- God refers to Himself as "the LORD God of Israel" about 108 times, and as the "God of Israel" about 203 times.
- God said that the nation of Israel will never cease to exist, Jeremiah 31:35-37.
- To no other nation has God given/revealed Himself as much as to the Jewish nation

IMPORTANT SCRIPTURES ABOUT ISRAEL

Let's look at a number of important Scriptures about Israel and God's plan for them.

Gen 17:7-8 (an everlasting covenant)

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

1 Chronicles 17:21-22 (A prayer of David)

"And who is like Your people Israel - the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for himself, and to take a name for Yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? You made Your people Israel Your very own forever, and You, O Lord, have become their God."

Exodus 19:6 (a promise God gave to Israel)

"you (speaking of Israel) will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.."

John 4:22 (Jesus and the Samaritan woman)

"You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews"

Revelation 5:5 (scene in heaven at the end of the age)

"Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.'"

JEWISH HISTORY FORETOLD

From Abraham onward, the history of the Jewish people was foretold in prophecy. This is not true of any other nation. Let's take a closer look at 16 stages or events in the outworking of prophecy that was predicted concerning Israel.

16 Predictions Concerning Israel

First 3 was given to Abraham.

1. Enslavement in Egypt

2. Deliverance with wealth from Egypt

3. Possession on Canaan

Genesis 15:13-16

13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Israel's history happened exactly as God said it would hundreds of years before.

4. Turn to idolatry in promise land

Read the books of Hosea 2, Jeremiah, etc.)

5. Jerusalem will be the centre of worship

King David worshipped there, King Solomon built the magnificent Temple and made it a house of prayer for all nations, etc. Jerusalem was the birthplace of the 'Christian Church' and from Jerusalem God's word went forth to the nations.

6. Northern kingdom (Israel) taken captive Assyria

Assyria's conquest of the northern kingdom of Israel began approximately 740 BC under King Pul. First Chronicles 5:26 notes, "So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he took them into exile, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, to this day." Nearly 20 years later, about 722 BC, the capital city, Samaria, was overtaken by the Assyrians under Shalmaneser V. Read also 2 Kings 17:5-6.

7. Southern kingdom (Judah) taken captive Babylon

The Babylonian captivity or exile refers to the time period in Israel's history when Jews were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon. It is an important period of biblical history because both the captivity/exile and the return and restoration of the Jewish nation were fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies. (Date: 607-586 B.C.)

8. Destruction of the first Temple (Solomon)

According to the Hebrew Bible, Solomon's Temple, also known as the First Temple, was the Holy Temple (Hebrew: בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ: Beit HaMikdash) in ancient Jerusalem before its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar II after the Siege of Jerusalem of 587 BCE.

9. Return of small remnant from Babylon

Cyrus would be used by God to guarantee the return of a remnant. Jerusalem would & the Temple would be rebuilt.

'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,' declares Yahweh, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

-Jeremiah 29:10-11. See also Ezra 1:1-4.

10. Destruction of second Temple (70 A.D.)

11. Scattered among Gentiles

"And the LORD shall scatter you among all people, from the one end of the earth even to the other; and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known, even wood and stone." - Deuteronomy 28:64

12. Persecution and oppression from Gentiles

13. Gathered from all nations

Hosea 3:4-5 - "For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days."

Ezekiel 20:34 - "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath."

Isaiah 66:8 NIV - "Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."

Isaiah 43:5-6,21 - "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..."

14. Gathering of all nations against Jerusalem in war

There are several prophecies predicting that the latter-day events will end with the nations gathered against Jerusalem. Read Daniel 11:40-44, Ezekiel 38:2, etc.

15. Supernatural revelation of Messiah (to Jews)

"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in," Romans 11:25

Zac 12:10 - "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."

16. Coming of Messiah in Glory and Power!

Acts 1:11, Acts 3:19-21, 1 Corinthians 1:7, Philippians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, etc.

If so many things were predicted and fulfilled in Israel's history, it is important that we give serious consideration to the last few prophecies not yet fulfilled.

WHAT CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE?

In Romans 8 we read that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:38

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us

from God's love. The question is now, what about Israel? What about the people God chose to be His vessel in spreading His message to the Gentiles?

SO, WHAT ABOUT THE JEWS?

Is God done with them? Have God rejected them as a people? Paul makes it very clear, no, God is not finish with them, because He is faithful to His promises. It does not depend on us, but on God.

Romans 9:4-5

4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

No Jews = no patriarchs, no prophets, no apostles, no Bible, no Messiah.
God chose to bless the world through the Jewish people and He still have a purpose for them.