



September 6, 2009

Romans 9 – 11

“Why Israel Matters”

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The main topic in [Romans 9–11](#) is Israel and God’s plan for the Jewish people. When the focus is on these subjects, the tendency for most would be to wonder what in the world these chapters have to do with me? The fact is, Israel and God’s plan for them has everything to do with all Christians, both Gentile and Jew. The reason is simple; the Bible really is a Jewish book. It’s rich in Israel’s history and prophecy. God raised up the nation of Israel through Abraham to reveal himself to man, and through whom Jesus the Messiah would come. What is God’s plan and purpose for Israel and how does it impact us?

It’s interesting to note that in the New Testament God instructs us to not be ignorant about something. The first is [1 Thessalonians 4:13](#), concerning the rapture and the second coming. Second, [1 Corinthians 12:1](#) says don’t be ignorant about spiritual gifts. Thirdly, [Romans 11:25](#) says don’t be ignorant about the Israel and the way the fit into God’s divine purposes. If you think about it, it’s easy to come to the conclusion that many Christians are extremely uninformed about these three topics!

In this study we’ll see why Israel matters and how Israel’s mistakes should be a reminder for us, plus we’ll get a better understanding of the ways their structure supports us, their future affects us and their story should inspire us.

Their Mistakes Reminds Us

1. Righteousness cannot be achieved through a system, only received through a Savior.
 - a. Their religious “trappings,” by and large, put them in a place where they relied on the system rather than the Savior.
2. Paul was deeply concerned for his people, the Jews, to the point of having “*deep sorrow*” and “*unceasing anguish.*” ([Romans 9:2](#))

- a. He knew they were going to perish because they consciously chose to reject Christ, and he went so far as to say in **Romans 9:3** that he wished he would be cursed on their behalf that they might come to faith in Jesus!
3. Israel enjoyed a “most favored nation” status with God. (**Romans 9:4–5**)
 4. The Jews had a tremendous advantage over everyone else because they had been God’s chosen people.
 5. God chose to raise up a nation of people through whom he would reveal himself, his plan of salvation and a Savior.
 6. They also had a tremendous disadvantage in that the very system that God put in place for them to practice, which was intended to point them to the Messiah, the ultimate sacrifice, became something other than a temporary sacrificial system.
 - a. **Romans 10:4** – *“Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”*
 7. The Jews made the law an end to itself, because they believed they could achieve righteousness through obedience to a system rather than faith in a Savior.
 8. Paul went so far as to say that the Gentiles were better off never having had the law! (**Romans 9:30–33**)

Their Structure Supports Us

9. We have a Jewish Messiah, so Christianity has Jewish roots, which means we should have a greater appreciation about the connection.
10. The Christian church is not to be considered a separate entity arising out of Judaism.
11. Paul wrote to Gentile believers to let them know that they *“share in the nourishing sap of the olive root...”* (**Romans 11:13; 17-21**)
12. Paul encouraged the Gentile believers to know that they *“do not support the root, but the root supports [them].”* (**Romans 11:18**)

Their Future Affects Us

13. Prophecies about Israel have global implications.
14. The gospel will continue to be proclaimed until *“the full number”* of Gentiles comes in. (**Romans 11:25**)

15. Israel's people were hard hearted about the Lord, so the gospel was given to the Gentiles, which provoked the Jews to jealousy. ([Romans 11:14](#))
16. God, however, is not done with the Jews.
17. God not only has a count concerning the Gentiles; he also has a clock! ([Luke 21:24](#))
18. Israel became a nation again on May 14, 1948, when Israel declared her independence from British rule and statehood, which was the fulfillment of [Ezekiel 37:21-22](#).
19. While there are many more prophecies yet to be fulfilled, this was the only one that was necessary before the return of Christ.

Their Story Inspires Us

20. God has never given up on the Jewish people, and he will never give up on us!
21. [Romans 11:26-27](#) tells us that one day all Israel will be saved. (See [Zechariah 12 and 13](#))
22. Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation according to [Zechariah 12:10](#).
23. [Zechariah 13:8-9](#) tells us that those Jews who survive the Great Tribulation will be saved (1/3 will be saved and 2/3 will die).

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Romans 9:1-5](#); [10:1-4](#); [11:1, 11, 25-27](#) to provide an overview of today's study.
3. The religious traditions that the Jews relied upon (which hindered them from coming to faith in Jesus) are not unlike a lot of what hinders people today. It's not about penance, sacraments, baptism, confirmation, speaking in tongues, first communion, the doxology, the Lord's prayer, it's not about the Apostle's Creed or the Nicene Creed; it's about Jesus!
 - a. Allow the people in your group to discuss their church or faith background.
 - i. For people who grew up in the church, what are some of the traditions they would have experienced that would be an advantage?
 1. One example would be being exposed to the Lord at an early age.
 - ii. What are some of the traditions that would be a disadvantage?
 1. One example would be incorrect theology or things that were Biblically inaccurate.

4. Spend time talking about the idea that some have that the Christian church is distinctly separate from Judaism. (**Romans 11:13; 17-21**)
5. When you watch the news or read about things like Russia and Iran forming an alliance, what is your reaction?
 - a. Are you the kind of person who reads the Bible and the newspaper to see what's going on regarding prophecy?
 - b. What about groups like the European Union or the United Nations, which is assuming a greater degree of power?
 - i. There seems to be a fit with the Confederation of Nations, out of which will come the Antichrist, who will make a bogus covenant of peace with Israel. (**Daniel 9:27**)
 - c. Provide an overview of **Ezekiel 38**, which tells about the day when such an alliance will be formed against Israel.
 - d. There seems to be a never-ending move toward one-world government, economy and religion. (**Revelation 17**)
6. When you consider a teaching like this, do you consider it a blessing to have been saved in the post 1948 window of grace?
7. Read and discuss **Romans 10:9–13**, focusing on the simplicity of the Good News and the fact that coming to faith in Christ is just that – believing by faith *“[t]hat if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”*
8. Close your time by allowing everyone in your group to: ask the Lord to help them have a better understanding of the three things Scripture tells us not to be ignorant about; thank the Lord for the blessing and the miracle of salvation, especially considering the point Pastor Gary made about everyone coming to salvation being a miracle in the window of grace (since the rebirth of the nation of Israel in 1948), because all prophecies have been fulfilled preceding the Second Coming of Christ; and pray for the lost, that they would see their need for the Lord.