

New Covenant Believers and Our Relationship with National Israel

Romans 11:1-27

There is probably no greater evidence over Christians living according to the Old Covenant than the emphasis on protecting “national Israel.” From Christians in the U.S. government who push to recognize Israel as “God’s chosen people,” to evangelical pastors who speak of God placing a curse on any nation who opposes national Israel, modern Christians are confused over Israel.

I. The Old Covenant was made with a *nation* of people.

The agreement between God and man was with national Israel, or the Jews. These men and women who descended from “Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” (the patriarchs) were the chosen people of God who received His special favor and mercy (see Amos 3:2 and Exodus 19:6).

A. This Old agreement was an agreement based on obedience.

*“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant **then** ye shall be a **peculiar treasure** unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine. And you will be to me **a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation**”* (Ex.19:5-6) Israel responded (Ex. 24:7).

B. Within this Old agreement, God singled out individuals to receive saving grace.

Everyone in Israel found they could not measure up to God’s laws. They all rebelled.

Knowing this in advance, God preserved a remnant of people in Israel (I Kg.19:18).

C. This is why in the Old agreement, you have national Israel and believing Israel.

God’s ancient people (Israel) are composed of both believers and unbelievers. He has always had a remnant of people (Micah 2:12), but the masses have stumbled and fell.

II. In the New Covenant, God *strips away unbelieving Israel* and grafts in Gentile believers.

This is the teaching of our text. It is vitally important to understand what Paul is saying:

A. The reminder that the nation of Israel has turned away from God.

There has always been a godly remnant (vs.1-6), but the masses have stumbled (vs.7-11), and the nation is spoken of as stumbling, transgressing and rejecting God (vs. 11-15).

B. The olive tree is Abraham and the patriarchs and all the rich promises to them.

The promises to Abraham (a land, a relationship with God, and untold blessings) were fulfilled in Israel obtaining Canaan (Josh 21:43-45), but were “types” of even greater promises of an eternal land (heaven) and eternal blessings (see Heb. 11:39-40). This is why Israel’s ceremonies, festivals, priests, etc. are types of Jesus’ blood covenant.

Now the question becomes: How does one enter into the “eternal blessings of God?”

C. God’s eternal blessings are found through faith in Christ – the New Covenant.

This is Paul’s point in Romans 11:17-24. Gentiles are grafted into the root (Abrahamic promises) through faith in Christ and unbelieving branches (Jews in national Israel) are cast off. So, that when “all Israel shall be saved” (v.25), it is the elect from all ages.

III. The law of the New Covenant is “the law of Christ” or what is called “the royal law.”

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matt. 28:18). His Word’s final.

A. The Bible must be interpreted through the person & words of Christ (Matt. 5:21,22a,27).

B. There is no higher authority in the believer’s life than the person of Jesus Christ.

C. Our duty is summarized by law of agape love (John 13:34-35; see also James 2:8).