

THE REVELATION & END TIMES (Part 7)

ISRAEL IN THE LAST DAYS

(A Study of Romans 9-11)

The Lord's Day, 9th December 2018

Reading: Romans 9

Today, as we continue in this current series on *The Revelation and End Times*, I want to look at a theme which is very commonly talked about, but is just as commonly misunderstood, and again, the reason is, the prevailing Futuristic perspective on all Bible prophecy – **What is God's purpose for Israel in the Last Days? Does God even have a special purpose for Israel in the last days? And fundamental to this subject, we must also ask, What is Israel (Biblically speaking)?** Our study will be based on Scripture, not popular theory and fantasy, nor will we be groping about for new ideas to answer these questions. Let us simply observe, from Scripture alone, Paul's doctrine on Israel, and the relevance of the doctrine of election, to both Jews and Gentiles, now that the New Covenant has replaced the Old.

FIRSTLY, LET US NOTE THAT THERE ARE ISRAELITES “ACCORDING TO THE FLESH” – 9:3-4, “my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites”. Paul is referring here to **natural** descendants of Jacob or Israel.

SECONDLY, NOTE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE CALLED “ISRAELITES” BECAUSE THEY ARE “CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE” AND GENUINELY “CHILDREN OF GOD” – 9:7-8, “7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.”, (*i.e. children because of “God's purpose according to election”*), **9:11**, “11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)”. These, you might call “**spiritual Israelites.**” The others are **natural** descendants of Abraham; these are spiritual descendants of Abraham, through Christ, His promised “seed.”

THIRDLY, NOTE THAT THERE ARE THOSE NATURAL ISRAELITES WHO ARE NOT CHILDREN OF GOD: 9:6-8, “6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:** 7 Neither,

because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, **They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise** are counted for the seed.”

FOURTHLY, PAUL’S EMPHATIC DOCTRINE OF ELECTION: PAUL’S DISCOURSE MAY SEEM (ON THE SURFACE) TO PERTAIN ONLY TO THE DIVIDING OF TWO NATIONS, AS WE READ HOW GOD LOVED JACOB AND HATED ESAU, HOW HE SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE ONE AND NOT THE OTHER, FOR NO OTHER REASON, EXCEPT THAT HE SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE TO DO SO! BUT THAT IS NOT PAUL’S SUBJECT HERE, NOR IS IT THE CONTEXT IN WHICH HE MENTIONS THESE TWO BROTHERS. Some argue for this national context, in an attempt to overthrow the doctrine of election and predestination, but that is merely a 'red herring,' because the opposite is true, as Paul is using all this information (not just Jacob and Esau, but He refers also to Isaac, and to the Egyptian Pharaoh, and to excerpts from Moses and Isaiah, and the example of the potter and the clay, which he also gleans from *Isaiah 64*), all this, in the one context, and for the one purpose, of teaching the doctrine of election and predestination, teaching that not only the fate of two historic men and nations (Jacob and Esau: Israel and Edom), but **literally everything in creation, everything that comes to pass, is all of God's sovereign choice, and not of man!**

THE SAME APOSTLE TEACHES THE SAME DOCTRINE OF ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION ELSEWHERE: e.g. *Ephesians 1:11*, “11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh **all things** after the counsel of his own will.”** He teaches that God's predestination of all things is an act of His own will, the act of an Absolute Sovereign.

PAUL SHOWS QUITE PLAINLY THAT HIS SUBJECT IS NOT *JACOB AND ESAU*, AS MANY FALSE TEACHERS CLAIM – HIS SUBJECT IS *THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN CHOOSING HIS OWN CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION*, NOT JUST IN ONE CASE, BUT IN EVERY CASE – HE IS SPEAKING HERE OF *ALL GOD'S ELECT CHILDREN: Romans 9:21-24*, “Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, **24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?” SO PAUL'S SUBJECT IS GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY,**

AND IN THESE VERSES, THE APPLICATION OF THAT SUBJECT, (THE APPLICATION OF THAT DOCTRINE), IS THAT GOD CHOOSES HIS OWN CHILDREN (OR *HAS CHOSEN* THEM) FROM BOTH ISRAEL AND THE GENTILES – IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, NATIONALITY AND GENEALOGY MEAN LESS THAN NOTHING!

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ELECT PEOPLE OF GOD ARE NOT THE NATION OF ISRAEL, BUT A MULTITUDE OF INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL NATIONS! This is so basic a fact, that it is seen in all the Scriptures, yet Paul finds it necessary to teach this, systematically, to the Christian Church, because of such a widespread determination of the Jews to subvert and overrun Christianity, to overthrow the New Covenant, which God established in Christ, and to bring the whole world back under their own perverted form of Judaism. (This is why it is so important for us today to understand that the popular term “Judaean-Christian tradition,” or “Judaean-Christian ethic,” is a misnomer – there is no such thing as “Judaean-Christian!” Judaism was a perversion of the Old Covenant. Judaism was basically Phariseism, which Christ worked hard to rebuke and expose in His day, and which was so opposed to Christ that it ultimately had Him crucified! WE MUST REFUTE THIS “JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN” POPPYCOCK THAT POLITICIANS AND IGNORANT CHRISTIANS ARE BANDYING AROUND – IT IS A LIE, AND THE TRUTH IS, AS FAR AS AUSTRALIA AND ITS BRITISH ANCESTORS ARE CONCERNED, WE HAVE A **CHRISTIAN** TRADITION, NOT A JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION! It is all about Christ, not the self-righteousness of the Jews, and it always was from the beginning, even in the time of Moses.) So obvious is this fact, (that God has chosen His elect from among all nations, and that the Israelites as a nation, do not have a special place in God’s end times programme), that Scriptures which refer to the final judgment and the final state of God’s kingdom, just plainly say that God’s elect are gathered from all nations!

LET US OBSERVE THAT THE TERMS “**JEW**” AND “**ISRAELITE**,” IN SCRIPTURE, ARE USED BOTH NATURALLY AND SPIRITUALLY: they can mean either the natural born children of Jacob (Israel) plus those foreigners accepted into the family of Israel on the basis of religion (these are the Covenant people of God under the Old Covenant); or, the same terms, “Jew” and “Israelite,” can refer to the *spiritual* people of God, the *actual* people of God, those who are *really* His people, not by natural birth, but by spiritual birth. Paul begins addressing this early in his epistle to the Romans: **Romans**

2: 28-29, “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 **But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and** not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.”

LET US NOTE OTHER EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURE, SO AS TO SEE THAT THIS IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED DOCTRINE, THAT GOD HAD, FROM THE BEGINNING, PLANNED TO REDEEM FOR HIMSELF, A PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS:

- **Revelation 5: 9-13**, “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;** 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

THIS IS THE GLORIOUS CLIMAX AND CULMINATION OF ALL GOD'S PURPOSES, AND OF ALL CHRIST'S REDEEMING WORK, that all creation should praise Him unrestrained, and the people *are* from every nation! Truly, Christ *is* the saviour of *the world, not just of Israel!*

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING THE DOCTRINE OF PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION, JUST LOOK AT THE END RESULT, AND THIS IS THE PROOF OF IT – WHAT GOD PROMISES HE PERFORMS. THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTAL OUTCOMES IN GOD’S UNFOLDING PLANS; He “worketh all things after the counsel of His own will”. The testimony of these saints in **Revelation 5**, is that it is God Who has redeemed them, and it is God Who made them “kings and priests” etc. They are saying, by implication, that it was not of themselves or their

own works or efforts, it was not a matter of chance or good luck, it was not that some benevolent human being or human society helped them – it was God! This is God's sovereignty in the saving of His own elect children, and He has, from before the foundation of the world, chosen them from every nation. **This is not about the nation of Israel, but about the elect of God from all nations.**

- **Revelation 14:1-5**, “AND after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. **4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.** (He then goes on to mention 12,000 from each tribe) **9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.”**

MUCH CONFUSION AND FALSE DOCTRINE HAS COME FROM THE MISUSE OF THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE, BUT THE TRUTH OF IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. Let us recall what we observed in our studies on the introduction to *The Revelation*, *that the visions were communicated to John by signs or symbols* - “sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw” (*Revelation 1:1-2*).

THE VISION OF THE 144,000, 12,000 FROM EACH TRIBE OF ISRAEL, IS CLEARLY SYMBOLIC. The *exactness of the numbers*, to begin with,

makes that fairly obvious. Likewise, the fact that the twelve tribes mentioned are not all the original twelve tribes is enough to make you wonder. But more so, the fact that, in the next breath, after mentioning the 144,000 of the tribes of Israel, a “great multitude” is mentioned, which “no man could number,” (in stark contrast to the exact numbers from each tribe), an innumerable multitude from all nations of the earth, revealed as the redeemed of the Lord, worshippers of Jesus, worshippers of “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (*John 1:29*), (and notice, He does take away the sin “of the world,” not of Israel only)! **CLEARLY THE 144,000 REPRESENT, IN SYMBOL, THE WHOLE COMPANY OF THE ELECT – THE FIRST VISION IS SYMBOLIC; THE SECOND IS THE REALITY OF WHICH THE SYMBOL SPEAKS.** This is what is called 'typology' (one thing is a type, or symbolic picture, of another. BOTH IN THIS CASE, AND RIGHT THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, ISRAEL IS A TYPE OF THE WHOLE CHURCH AND KINGDOM OF GOD.) Christ did not come to redeem Israel the nation (John records very plainly that, “He came unto his own, and **his own received him not**” - *John 1:11*), *but* He came to redeem all His own elect.

THOSE WHO THINK JESUS DID COME TO REDEEM ISRAEL THE NATION, ARE BELIEVING IN A SAVIOUR WHO HAS FAILED IN HIS MISSION, but Christ did not fail, the idea is preposterous! *Hence those who think God still has a plan for the nation of Israel in the last days, are like a team of builders who sit around gazing at the blueprint, instead of getting on with the work of making the building which that blueprint speaks of! Israel was God’s blueprint – The Christian Church is the very house of God for all eternity! This is just basic Christian doctrine!*

HOW THEN IS HE THE SAVIOUR OF ISRAEL? DOES HE HAVE A TOTALLY SEPARATE AGENDA FOR ISRAEL THAN HE DOES FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD?

No! ISRAEL (THE NATION) IS A TYPE OR SHADOW OF THE WHOLE CHURCH OF GOD, as we have already seen in so many places in Scripture in our studies before. And Christ's redeeming work is “finished” and fully accomplished! He came to introduce and establish a “new covenant,” and to do away with the Old. **The Old Covenant was with Israel the nation (the natural descendants of Jacob), but the New Covenant is about the whole Church of God, a people**

gathered from all nations. See in *Romans 11:27*, Paul shows that God said He would make a New Covenant: “25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to **Israel**, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so **all Israel** shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of **Sion** the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from **Jacob**: 27 For **this is my covenant unto them**, when I shall take away their sins.” It is the nation of Israel which was blinded “in part,” but the “all Israel” which shall be saved is not the nation but the Church! “**This is my covenant unto them**,” unto whom? Unto Israel the nation? No! Unto the Church! Is it a special covenant with Israel, to pick up the pieces after the first one failed? No! It is the New Covenant which is spoken of everywhere in Scripture, and it is nothing to do with the nation of Israel, but the true 'nation' of all God's people – the “holy nation,” the “peculiar people,” the “royal priesthood,” the “chosen generation” Peter spoke of (*1 Peter 2:9*). If you do, for a moment, consider the possibility of these promises of God actually pertaining to the nation of Israel, so that, some time in the future, which the whole earth supposedly eagerly waits for, the whole nation of Israel shall be saved, then you are confronted with the greatest irony, the greatest contradiction in religion that could be imagined! i.e. that God, who has given all these exceeding great and precious promises to Israel, has waited for thousands of years before He has lifted a finger to bring a single word of it to pass, and in the meantime, He has stood by and allowed millions of His own (supposedly covenant people) to perish in hell, people who believed the promises and waited for them, but received no benefit from them whatsoever! **(Remember, those who hold this doctrine say it is a national promise, not just to individuals. Therefore, God's promise to a whole nation has failed to deliver;** the great majority, even millions upon millions of Israelites, over the centuries, have been denied the promise given to them – worse, they are victims of a confidence trick! Because God, who promised, never intended to keep that promise to them, but only to a distant future generation of their descendants! This doctrine is nothing short of blasphemy! Imagine, if your father owned a string of cattle stations, and told you all your life,

that you were to inherit his estate when he died, and when the time came, you discovered it was not given to you at all, but he had leased all his estate to the Chinese for 2,000 years, but that after 2,000 years, one of your descendants would finally take possession of your promised inheritance? Would you say he had kept his promise? I don't think so! Likewise, this idea of an elusive national salvation for Israel, is as fickle as the idea of the Liberal Christians, who say that eternal life consists only in the ongoing memories and influences of those who have died. When they bury their dead they talk this waffle about how their loved one is still with them, like some imaginary fragrance floating in the breeze – it is all in their own minds; it is not reality at all, but fantasy!

How sad that the only comfort unbelievers have when they bury their loved ones, is a fantasy in their own minds! And how sad that theologians, false teachers, continue to teach that the Jews are God's people, and that one day, He will save them, that somehow, in their minds, God will make the blueprint live, when in reality, the blueprint is only a paper model of the real temple, which God is already building!) THIS IS NOT CHRISTIANITY BUT ZIONISM, AND IS NOT ONLY COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE, BUT IT IS BLASPHEMY, TO SAY THAT GOD MADE HIS PEOPLE PROMISES HE NEVER INTENDED TO KEEP, BUT HE ONLY EVER INTENDED TO MAKE THOSE PROMISES GOOD TO A FAR DISTANT GENERATION OF HIS PEOPLE, AND TO HELL WITH THE REST! Whereas, if you read the Scriptures spiritually, because as Paul said, “the things of the Spirit of God” are “spiritually discerned” (*1 Corinthians 2:14*), then **the promises have been good to every believer** since the foundation of the world, because the names of the elect have been written in the Lamb's “book of life” from the beginning, and EVERY SOUL, FROM ADAM DOWN, WHO HAS BELIEVED GOD'S WORD, IS JOINED TO CHRIST FOR ALL ETERNITY, (NOT ONE WORD OF PROMISE HAS FAILED!) “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (*Hebrews 10:14*). So every believer, from Rahab the harlot, to Ruth the Moabitess, to Saul the Pharisee, to the Ethiopian eunuch, regardless of race, or colour, or creed, the moment they believed the Word of God, they became one in Christ Jesus with all the rest of the elect, and Paul says in another place, “10 That **in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one**

all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will** (*Ephesians 1:1011*), so that in the end of the world, God will gather, not the whole nation of Israel, but the whole company of the elect, all the redeemed, all who are “in Christ!” And this is the true Israel!

A POPULAR SCRIPTURE READING FOR FUNERALS IS 1 CORINTHIANS 15:19-26, “19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. **22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24 Then *cometh* the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.” **THE GOSPEL AND THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD ARE ALL ABOUT CHRIST, NOT ISRAEL.** And at the end of the world, or even at the end of your life, it doesn't matter at all whether you are an Israelite, a Jew, a Greek, or Scandinavian, or Australian – you must be “in Christ”; you must be “Christ's at His coming” if you are to be counted among the children of God, and to be so at the last day, “you must be born again” before that day!

Therefore, our text (*Romans 9-11*), reveals what Paul teaches about Israel in the last days:

1. **THE WHOLE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS NOT TO BE SAVED, AND LITERALLY SPEAKING, WAS NOT GOD'S CHILDREN:** “27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **a remnant shall be saved:**” (9:27) – *not a nation but a remnant!*
2. **THE “ALL ISRAEL” PAUL REFERS TO IN 9:6 & 11:26, IS THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL, THE WHOLE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH INCLUDES GENTILES:** “For they *are* not all Israel, which are of

Israel:” And “that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, **24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**” (9:23-24). So that you could say, that the true Israelite is a Christian.

3. **ALL TRUE “ISRAELITES” WERE CHOSEN IN CHRIST FROM THE BEGINNING (9:11)**, “(For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)” ***Therefore,***
4. **NOT ONE OF GOD'S PROMISES HAS FAILED, BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, NOT ISRAEL THE NATION! (9:8)**, “They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Have you ever seen a believer come to Christ and be turned away? Never! In *chapter 10*, we read, “**13 For whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” And this promise is not just to give us all confidence that we won't be turned away; because of its context, we can see that it also means that, whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, the promise is equally to everyone who believes! Let us read it in its context: “**12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **13 For whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

AGAIN AND AGAIN WE FIND, THAT IF WE JUST READ THE SCRIPTURES IN THEIR CONTEXT, THE MEANING IS CLEAR. And if we do so in ***Romans 9***, we shall be ready to understand what flows on in chapters ***10*** and ***11***. Many people would say that this whole discourse of Paul in these three chapters is difficult to understand. **THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE IS ONLY DIFFICULT, IF WE IGNORE WHAT HE REALLY SAYS, AND TRY TO MAKE HIS WORDS FIT SOME HUMAN THEORY, SOME FALSE DOCTRINAL SYSTEM – NAMELY “FUTURISM” OR “DISPENSATIONALISM,” OR “ZIONISM,”** which maintain there is a time for the Jews, then a time for the Gentiles, then a time for the Jews again, in God's grand plan of salvation, but God's plan of redemption was never about nations, never about Jews or Gentiles, but was *always* all about Christ and His Church! **SO, LET US GIVE GOD ALL THE GLORY, FOR BEING TRUE TO HIS EVERY WORD OF PROMISE, EVEN AS THE APOSTLE PAUL DOES IN CLOSING THIS SECTION:**

Romans 11:32-36, “32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.”

THE REVELATION & END TIMES (Part 7)
ISRAEL IN THE LAST DAYS
(A Study of Romans 9-11)

Continued, The Lord's Day, 16th December 2018.

Reading: Romans 10.

We have observed already that, our text (*Romans 9-11*), reveals what Paul teaches about Israel in the last days, which may be summarised as:

1. **THE WHOLE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS NOT TO BE SAVED AND, LITERALLY SPEAKING, WAS NOT ALL GOD'S CHILDREN:** “27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **a remnant shall be saved:**” (9:27).
2. **THE “ALL ISRAEL” PAUL REFERS TO IN 9:6 & 11:26, WHICH “SHALL BE SAVED”, IS THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL, THE WHOLE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH INCLUDES GENTILES AS WELL:** “For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel” (9:6), And in 9:23-24, “that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, **24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**”
3. **ALL TRUE “ISRAELITES” WERE CHOSEN IN CHRIST FROM THE BEGINNING 9:11,** “For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth” *Therefore,*
4. **NOT ONE OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL HAS FAILED, BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, NOT ISRAEL THE NATION! 9:8,** “They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” In *chapter 10*, we read, “**13 For whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” And this promise is not just to give us all confidence that *we* won't be turned away; because of its context, we can see that its intended meaning is that, *whether you are a Jew or a Gentile*, the promise is equally to *everyone who believes!* Let us read it in its context: “**12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **13 For whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” So verse 13 is not a proof text for a Baptist outreach meeting, as if to say, “Raise your hand! Come down to the front! You too can be saved if only you will!” No! This verse is a verse for all

mankind, saying, literally, “You don’t have to be a Jew in order to be a child of God. The gospel is about Jesus Christ, not Israel, and it always was, even in Old Testament times – Christ was always the grand Subject of every Word of Scripture!”

Let us move on to *chapters 10 and 11*, and follow Paul's explanation to the end.

IN ROMANS 10, PAUL CONTINUES TO REINFORCE THE SAME THEME, AND THE SAME DOCTRINE HE DISCUSSED IN CHAPTER 9. Let us observe,

FIRSTLY, PAUL’S LOVE FOR HIS OWN KINSMEN, THE ISRAELITES: (10:1) “BRETHREN, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

HOW MANY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE TODAY ARE DOING WHAT THOSE ISRAELITES DID, “GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS? How many think their own idea of religion is good enough, and when it comes to the crunch, reject any instruction in the Word of God? The Israelites thought they were 'somebody' before God. But, as sinners, who broke His commandments daily, they failed to see they were less than nothing in His sight. Jesus had to teach them it was the mercy of God for them, as sinners, that they needed, not the blessing of God on their own works, their own vain attempts to please Him by human means: ***Matthew 9:13***, “I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” But Paul had a great love for his own people, and so do we today, and like Paul, we lament over them, because they try to establish their own righteousness, and reject the free gift of God’s righteousness to sinners who repent. “I will have mercy and not sacrifice!” many today think they are doing God service if they go to a Christmas or Easter service. How terribly wrong they are! It is not service God wants but submission. It is not contrived worship, based on Pagan traditions God is looking for, but worship “in spirit and in truth” (***John 4:23***), *i.e. from the heart and according to His Word.*

SECONDLY, PAUL TAUGHT THAT THE TRUE “ISRAEL” IS MADE UP OF GOD’S ELECT FROM ALL NATIONS: 10:11-13, “11 For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him** shall not be ashamed. 12 For **there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all

that call upon him. 13 For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

NOTICE THAT THIS ALSO IS A REPETITION OF WHAT PAUL HAS ALREADY SAID IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER! Romans 9:30-33, “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” **Israel (the nation) has sought righteousness by its own works, and has therefore stumbled at the stumblingstone, which is Christ!** It is only Christians who are acceptable before God because only Christ saves sinners. And all who stumble at Christ are lost and destined for eternal fire, whether they are Jews or Gentiles, and there are professing Christians who also stumble at Christ the Cornerstone, who think they are Christians, but are not, because they refuse the very gospel and instruction of Christ. Recently our Christian Prime Minister has announced Australia will be moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem: this has so upset the Palestinians and all the Arab/Moslem nations, including Indonesia, that it has almost provoked a declaration of war against us by all Moslem nations! The Prime Minister is misguided in siding with modern Israel, because modern Israel is no better than the Arabs, but at least this seems to have had one desired effect – that we might have no choice but to be separated from Moslem nations, which of course we should have been all along. Mr Morrison will win ‘brownie points with the USA by following their lead, but he won’t win any ‘brownie points’ with God for siding with the wicked nation called Israel. Even the good king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, was chastised by the prophet and his “Works were broken” (his ships destroyed), because he foolishly went into partnership with the king of backslidden Israel – and that was in the days when the Israelites were actually God’s covenant people, whereas today, it has been proven, by DNA tests, that those who call them selves ‘Jews’ and ‘Israelites’ today, are not what they claim to be at all, but spiritually speaking, we call all see they are “not of Israel”! The Jews and the Arabs are equally the enemies of God, because they all hate Jesus Christ! How is it that Christians cannot see this today? Because they do not read the Scriptures we are reading today, and if they do, they don’t believe them! Jews,

Arabs, and even Christians today, still stumble at the stumbling stone – the Lord Jesus Christ. They have believed the false teachers and not the Word of God.

BUT THE FALSE TEACHERS, THE DISPENSATIONALISTS AND ZIONISTS, ARE DEFEATED BEFORE THEY BEGIN, BECAUSE THEIR WHOLE SCHEME OF DOCTRINE REVOLVES AROUND THE PRE-EMINENCE OF ISRAEL THE NATION. The “whosoever” Paul mentions, means, “whether Jew or Gentile”, for, as he says, “There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek!” That is the context of the “whosoever”!

THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE WIDER CONTEXT OF PAUL'S DISCUSSION HERE IS THE NATION OF ISRAEL, therefore the conclusions drawn (e.g. that “all Israel shall be saved”) must pertain to Israel the nation. But this is just nonsense – ***Firstly***, it completely ignores the fact that “only a remnant shall be saved” not the whole nation, which is plainly stated in Scripture! ***Secondly***, it completely ignores what Paul is really saying, the fact that the greater context, and the very matter of pre-eminence in all this, is Christ and His Church, not Israel the nation.

PAUL IS NOT PROMOTING ISRAEL TO THE ROMANS. HE IS TEACHING THEM ABOUT ISRAEL, IN ORDER TO TEACH THEM ABOUT THEMSELVES (USING ISRAEL AS AN EXAMPLE), TO SHOW THEY ARE ALL SINNERS IN NEED OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE, WHICH IS FOUND IN CHRIST ALONE! He is writing a Christian epistle to a Christian Church, and Christ is his subject, not Israel! **How can the apostle possibly discuss the salvation of anyone *outside of Christ*? What could possibly be the point of a vain discussion about the salvation of a people who have rejected Christ and continue to do so?** And isn't this the same apostle who, in many places in Scripture, denounces vehemently the unbelieving Israelites, and condemns utterly their attempts to Judaize the Christian Church?

PAUL TOOK THE GALATIAN CHURCH TO TASK OVER THESE SAME ISSUES. He began his epistle with a vehement denunciation of those who would preach another gospel: ***Galatians 1:6-8***, “6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” He then quickly proceeds to point out how the Jews had infiltrated and

influenced the Church, and how he confronted even the apostle Peter, and exposed him and Barnabas for their weakness in following the Jews: **Galatians 2:11-21**, “11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. 12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. 14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? 15 We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 **Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. 18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 **I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**” One of the most amazing things I find here, is that the apostle Peter, when he was rebuked by Paul for his error, immediately repented. He did not go on in his error, he had a conscience guided by the Word of God, he knew in his own heart he was wrong, and a rebuke from a brother set him straight immediately! What does this tell you about today’s pastors, who continue to teach lies in the name of Christ, and will not hear any rebuke? Men who prefer Pagan Christmas traditions to the Word of God, who prefer the Pope’s stamp of approval on their modern ‘bibles’, but cast aside the King James Bible, the very Words of God, and when they are rebuked or even gently warned, they turn aside to their Popish idols and will not hear the Truth of God? All this is very easy doctrine. It is not hard to understand. Do the pastors have such a low mental capacity they cannot understand ‘A, B, C’? I don’t think so. I think it is not a matter of mental capacity, but a matter of the will. “Will you accept the Word of God if you hear it?” That is the question, and sadly, it has to be asked of today’s pastors.

SO THE GREAT IMPLICATION IS THAT THE DISPENSATIONALISTS AND THE ZIONISTS ARE GOING AT LEAST HALF WAY TO PROMOTING WHAT PAUL CALLS “ANOTHER GOSPEL”, in fact the pure Zionists care nothing at all for Christ and the gospel, but openly reject Him, whereas the Dispensationalists and others who may be called 'Christian Zionists,' at least give credence to the gospel of Christ in theory, but they deny the pre-eminence of Christ, or as the Reformers put it “Christ alone,” by saying that God still has a special plan for Israel, or for Jews, because they are still His special people – this is a lie, and a false gospel! God's special plan is for one body of people only – the Church of Christ, which includes both Jews and Gentiles.

AND DOESN'T THIS SAME APOSTLE PAUL TAKE GREAT PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT GOD HAS NOT FORSAKEN HIS ELECT FROM AMONG THE ISRAELITES, even citing himself as an example, as we see in *chapter 11*: “I SAY then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. **For I also am an Israelite,** of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God hath not cast away his people **which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of Baal.*

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”?

And so, Paul continues to preach the pure gospel of Christ to all, to Jew and Gentile, right throughout this whole discussion?

THIRDLY, PAUL DOES NOT SAY GOD HAS ANY AGENDA AT ALL FOR ISRAELITES, OTHER THAN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHICH THEY MUST RECEIVE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, IF THEY ARE TO BE SAVED! See how in *11:28-32*, his discussion centres around the elect, and around believing the gospel! Clearly, in all this, the apostle shows that his gospel, and his God, have no place for any imagined “mercy” of God which is somehow disconnected from saving faith in Jesus Christ!

AND DOESN'T PAUL SPELL OUT PLAINLY THAT “THE GIFTS AND CALLING OF GOD ARE WITHOUT REPENTANCE” (11:29), after saying in the previous breath, “as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes,” ***SHOWING THAT THIS IS SPEAKING OF ALL THOSE GOD HAS CHOSEN IN CHRIST?*** Sadly,

there are many, many Christians, who are so ingrained in false doctrine, which they have heard repeated over and over, for so many years, that they are incapable of reading plain English. Let us hear the Word of God! And may God be merciful and give us ears to hear it! ***God's plan is for the kingdom of heaven, not the kingdoms of men, for Christ and His Church, not the nations of this world.***

THE JEWS MADE AN ENORMOUS MISTAKE: THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE RIGHT WITH GOD! THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SPECIAL. They *thought* that they were God's favourites! They *thought* they were the elect people. They *thought* that they were accepted on the basis of their natural relationship to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ***THEY THOUGHT THEY DIDN'T NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN, BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE ALREADY NATURAL-BORN CHILDREN OF GOD!*** (Hence Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again"! ***John 3***). But they were sadly mistaken, and Jesus told them so, and His apostles told them so, and the prophets of old had already told them so: Look! Paul says it here in *Romans*, and he is quoting ***Isaiah***, who prophesied 700 years before Christ! ***Romans 10:20-21***, "20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, **I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. 21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.**" Paul is quoting Isaiah: let us read the full quote: ***Isaiah 65:1-9***, "I AM sought of *them that* asked not *for me*; I am found of *them that* sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation *that* was not called by my name. **2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; 3 A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; 4 Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels; 5 Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.** These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. 6 Behold, *it is* written before me: **I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, 7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. 8 Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not**

destroy them all. 9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.”

NB: IT IS NOT JACOB, BUT “A SEED OUT OF JACOB,” THAT GOD CALLS HIS “ELECT”! But to those who maintain that it is the whole nation of Israel, that God is intent on saving, that He is interested in, then let them hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah, if it is Israel they want to hear about, let them hear this: (from *Romans 10:21*), “But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.” *Isaiah 65:3*, “A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face;” *verses 6-7*, “I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, 7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom.” These Scriptures do not speak of salvation for Israel, but only of its destruction! The Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD is the fulfilment of this prophecy, it has nothing to do with a future golden age for Israel, 2,000 years after Christ sent His armies to destroy it once and for all!

FOURTHLY, CHRIST IS THE “SEED” ISAIAH SPEAKS OF. AND PAUL CONFIRMS THIS TO THE GALATIANS ALSO: Galatians 3:16, “16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” The promise is not about an earthly nation, but in Christ a new nation is born, a spiritual nation – not natural, a heavenly nation – not earthly. No nation on earth has pleased God and been faithful to His Word, not even the chosen people of Israel, the Hebrews, but the Lord is not surprised by this; He had a plan from the beginning, for a people of His own, as Peter says to Christians, “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” (*1 Peter 2:9-10*). *I repeat, this prophecy is applied by the apostle Peter to Christians, not to Jews!*

BALAM THE SOOTHSAYER GAVE A VERY SIMILAR PROPHECY, LONG BEFORE, IN THE DAYS WHEN ISRAEL HAD JUST COME OUT OF EGYPT, AND WAS CAMPED IN THE WILDERNESS: Numbers 24:17-19, “There shall come a Star out of

Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. **19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.”** This speaks of Christ arising out of Israel, and look how marvellously it also speaks of the judgment of the Jews who remained in Jerusalem! In one breath, this prophet speaks of the Saviour coming to rescue His elect (those of the spiritual Israel) and to destroy the natural Israelites who would rejected Him!

FIFTHLY, IN CONCLUSION, EARTHLY PEOPLE ARE REVEALED BY THEIR ALLEGIANCE, AND EQUALLY, HEAVENLY PEOPLE ARE ALSO REVEALED BY THEIR ALLEGIANCE. Do you think you are special before God – because you are white, because you are British, because you are Jewish, because you are indigenous, because you are Catholic, because you belong to a big Church or a popular Church, because you were raised in a Christian family, because you have been baptized, because you say you made a “commitment” to God, because for some reason you think God has blessed you or revealed His power to you? You are mistaken if any of these is your reason.

YOU ARE SPECIAL, ONLY IF YOU ARE CHOSEN IN CHRIST. HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE CHOSEN IN CHRIST? Jesus said, “By their fruits ye shall know them.” It is true we are all sinners, saved by grace alone, we are not perfect outwardly in this life. But do you have the fruit of Christ in you? Do you honour Christ? Do you believe His Word? Do you love to worship with His people? Do you teach your family of Christ and His Word? Do you love Him and His Word above all things on earth? There are many people who think they are Christians, who say their lives are changed, but they are still liars, still thieves, still adulterers, still covetous, still worshippers of other gods, and so on. They are deceived like the Pharisees, because their hearts have not been changed; their religion is outward; they do not bear the mark of the Lord Jesus upon them. You must be born again! May God give us all His grace to receive His gospel from the Scriptures and not “another gospel”, to receive a gospel which speaks of Christ alone – the Christ of the Scriptures, not “another Jesus”, not some human heritage, but the true gospel that speaks of God and not of us, that speaks of His mercy towards sinners, that speaks of His sovereign saving grace, which saves to the uttermost and brings sinners to repentance and to humble themselves at His glorious feet. ***Isaiah 52:7***, “7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good

tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” May God give us grace to believe this and rejoice in it, for His own glory! Amen.

THE REVELATION & END TIMES (Part 7)

ISRAEL IN THE LAST DAYS

(A Study of Romans 9-11)

Continued, The Lord's Day, 23rd December 2018.

Reading: Romans 11.

FIRSTLY, WE SHALL SEE THAT PAUL GOES ON, IN ROMANS 11, TO SHOW HOW GOD HAS HAD TO PUT AN END TO THE OLD COVENANT SYSTEM AND ITS PEOPLE, with their pomp, and pride, and exclusivism, and their “I am holier than thou” attitude, for which the prophet Isaiah rebuked them centuries before (*Isaiah 65:5*), and their presumption that they, (naturally), were the chosen people, regardless of their gross sin and hypocrisy. God, through Paul, used this to reach the Gentiles on a wider scale, and in doing so, He also provoked the Jews to jealousy, in order to gather His chosen children from all nations, both Jews and Gentiles. Paul explains this in our text.

SECONDLY, PAUL SHOWS PLAINLY THAT GOD DID NOT CAST AWAY HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, HE CAST AWAY ONLY THOSE WHO WERE NOT HIS: (11:1-5) “I SAY then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, **3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.** **4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.** **5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” Paul does not say that God “**shall not**” cast away His people of some distant future generation! He does not say that God “**shall not**” cast away His people when the millennium comes but when the millennium comes, He will receive them all, to show He has been faithful all along to His promises! **No! He says, “God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.”****

GOD NEVER HAS CAST AWAY HIS OWN PEOPLE, NOT ONE OF THEM! Because it is only His elect that He ever intended to be the recipients of His blessings. The blessings were never intended or promised to those who despise His Word, but only to believers.

THIRDLY, IT IS ONLY THOSE WHO THINK CARNALLY WHO CANNOT ACCEPT THE SPIRITUAL TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST – ROMANS 9-11 IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! ALL SCRIPTURE IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, HENCE, THE STORY OF ISRAEL IS ALSO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! Unless you think spiritually, unless you see that God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly or national kingdom, you just cannot accept what Paul says – isn't that the very reason Paul was persecuted so hotly by his own people, the Jews? **Because he preached Christ, the risen and reigning King, the Eternal King seated already on heaven's throne, and reigning till He hath put all His enemies under His feet (1 Corinthians 15), but they did not want such a king, just as in the days of Samuel, when they did not want God as their king, but demanded a worldly king like the other nations, and so God gave them King Saul, and the prophet Samuel was deeply grieved that the nation should reject God's order at the time, but the Lord comforted him with these words: 1 Samuel 8:7, “7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”**

IT IS ONLY THOSE NATURAL (OR CARNAL) ISRAELITES WHO HAVE REJECTED THEIR GOD AND REFUSED TO HAVE CHRIST RULE OVER THEM, WHOM HE HAS CAST AWAY! Those who falsely apply the promises of God to nations instead of individuals, make a mockery of the gospel, because the gospel promises of eternal life are not to nations but to “every one that believeth” on the Lord Jesus (*Romans 1:16*), and the blessing upon believers flows to nations, but the promise is to believers – i.e. those who are in Christ, those who were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (*Ephesians 1:4*). ***THE FUTURISTS DENY WHAT THE SCRIPTURES PLAINLY SAY HERE – in order to bolster their false doctrine that the Jews are God's chosen people, and that He will save the whole nation, they have wilfully rejected the Scriptures which say the opposite – that “only a remnant shall be saved”! These false teachers are carnally minded, they reject the plain Spiritual Truth of the Gospel of Christ.***

FOURTHLY, MAN'S ONE GREAT ERROR, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD, HAS BEEN THAT HE REFUSES TO HAVE THE GOD OF HEAVEN RULE OVER HIM:

- **ADAM.** This error began with the very first man (*Genesis 3*). He wanted his own paradise on earth; he wanted to run it his way, not God's way, but what an awful shock it was to Adam, the moment he rebelled against the King of heaven, to find that he was naked! And you are as naked as

Adam today, if you are not clothed with the imputed righteousness of Christ – the only clothing available to naked sinners, whether you are Jew or Gentile. And being a Jew (outwardly) or even being a Christian (outwardly) does not save you from your nakedness. You must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and Christ alone. The apostle John explains that Christ is our advocate – **1 John 2:** “MY little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:** 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world. (i.e. for Gentiles as well as Jews)* 3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” **So, whether Jew or Gentile, the righteousness of Jesus Christ is the only remedy for your sins. But the natural man is naked and unrighteous, and he does not want “Jesus Christ the righteous” to rule over him.**

- **CAIN (Genesis 4)** rejected God's way and refused to worship God acceptably; he murdered his own brother Abel because of it, and went and built cities, and set up his own kingdom elsewhere, away from the people of God, and what a shock it was to Cain, to find that he was judged by the King of heaven, and banished from His kingdom! And sinners today are building their own empires, and killing their brethren in the process, because they refuse to have the King of heaven rule over them.
- **NIMROD** rejected the God of heaven and set up his own earthly empire, and gathered a following by pretending to be spiritual, building a tower for worshipping the sun and moon and stars. This was Babel or Babylon (**Genesis 11**). And what a shock it must have been to Nimrod and his associates, to find that the King of heaven really was in charge, when He confounded their languages and put an end to their satanic conspiracy, sending them as separate nations, to the four corners of the earth, because they could no longer communicate together to bring their devilish plot to fruition! This has been the desire of men and nations ever since: to set up a kingdom on earth which rivals the kingdom of God.

But they all fall, one after another, and their futility and vanity are shown in their own demise. They cannot escape death and the judgment of God – “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (*Hebrews 9:27*). And eventually, Christ will come on the clouds and show the world openly that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

- **THE JEWS.** There are many examples of those who have not wanted the Lord God to rule over them, but we must give the Jews a special mention here, because they have been no different from other men. They are carnal, not spiritual. Only those who are in Christ are spiritual, and “...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” (*1 Corinthians 2:14*). And when it came to the crunch, and their Creator stood in their midst, the Jews rejected Him and chose a rebel, Barabbas, instead, because they wanted to run the world their way, not God’s way – Jesus was more than an inconvenience to them, He was not welcome at all, and He still is not welcome to the Jews today.
- **THE ROMAN ANTICHRIST.** Nimrod was the first man to set up a world-wide, Antichrist kingdom. (Just as a matter of interest, I recently watched a documentary which gave some interesting history on the city of Lisbon, Portugal, and the great prosperity of the Portuguese of the 17th century. The narrator said that Lisbon was a great cosmopolitan city and was the first New World Order city. I don’t know what books or scholars he got his information from, but if he had consulted the Word of God, he would have seen way back in *Genesis 10 & 11*, that Nimrod’s Babel was the first notable New World Order city on earth, about 4,000 years before Lisbon!) The great kingdoms of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome, as great satanic strongholds in the earth, were forerunners of the final kingdom of the Antichrist (which arose after the fall of the Roman Empire), i.e. the Papal Roman Empire, which is flexing its muscles more and more, seeking more control of every nation and soul on earth. Popery has many tentacles of its power, reaching all corners of the earth, many puppets whose strings it pulls in every walk of life: the United Nations, multinational companies, banks, trade deals and treaties, governments, political parties, secret societies, and last but not least, churches that are not Protestant, churches that neither expose the Roman Antichrist’s errors and lies, nor teach only the Word of God.

The allegiance of men is revealed in whether they love the Word of God or not, and those who don't love the Word of God, naturally gravitate towards the Roman "beast" (In fact they are already unwitting victims of the beast's propaganda! It is that very propaganda, the false doctrines and false prophecies and false bibles which groom them and guide them into the waiting arms of the "Mother of Harlots"! – these are all those who do not want the God of heaven to rule over them, but have contrived their own Devil-inspired schemes and systems. They are like the dregs of the fisherman's catch, which are all scooped up into the one bucket, to be thrown away, and the one bucket is the Church of Rome. This the Scriptures plainly teach. This is why it is so foolish and futile to try to reform the false church which God has pointed out to us as condemned. Those who reject the gospel of Christ must not be part of His Churches. Don't be too disturbed by the many who reject the gospel. God is sorting out the goats and the sheep. All we are required to do is preach and teach His Truth and keep ourselves from error.

A Word of caution: To some who are immature or unstable, while the message of salvation in Scripture, is directed at individual souls, the whole counsel of God in Scripture is given to the Church – many don't understand this! So when I say we are to teach and preach Jesus Christ and keep ourselves pure – I say this as an elder in God's Church and to the Church. It is not for individuals to set themselves up as personally autonomous independents, and judge everything by themselves and judge God's Church as well. God's Church is to stand together and stick together, and, Hear this very carefully – those who despise God's Church (His true Church which does preach and teach His Words faithfully), all gravitate to the Roman Antichrist (If you doubt what I say, read ***1 John***, where John warns of Antichrists, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us" – that is how Antichrist's corrupt church began, by dissenters from the true Church!); and so today also, the supposed independence of dissenters becomes dependence on the "beast", because they have all be duped by the foul Spirit which duped Esau, who soul his birthright to self-will. We must understand that the legitimate autonomy of the local Church is not self-autonomy, it is a collective autonomy in Christ and in His Word, which He mightily provides, upholds, and protects: "If God

be for us, who can be against us?” (**Romans 8:31**), was spoken by the apostle Paul on behalf of the Church!

- BY CONTRAST TO THESE CARNAL MEN (ADAM, CAIN, NIMROD, AND THE ROMAN ANTICHRIST AND HIS FOLLOWERS TODAY), ABRAHAM WAS CALLED BY GOD AWAY FROM BABYLON, NOT AWAY FROM THE CHURCH BUT TO THE CHURCH (Genesis 12)**, away from his kindred, to a place God prepared for him. He dwelt in tents with his children, Isaac and Jacob, and worshipped God, but in later generations they continually backslid into the idolatry of the heathen around them. Even when they went into the promised land of Canaan, they learned the ways of the Canaanites and the Egyptians. They were taken into captivity in Egypt for their sins, and when God brought them out, no sooner was Moses out of sight and they made golden calves to worship, like the Egyptians and Canaanites – again and again, the Israelites behaved like the nations around them and forsook their God! The continual cry of the Jews was, “We will not have this *man* to reign over us” (**Luke 19:14**), even as Jesus taught about the Jews, the 'parable of the pounds,' as He made His final approach to Jerusalem. The insidious false teaching of the Charismatic churches has done much harm to the faith of many souls, by applying every Word of Scripture to the individual, and losing the doctrine of the Church in the process, so, it is, “God spoke to me!, and therefore, that sets me up to judge the whole Church and the whole world”. Well, the truth is that God speaks to His Church – we shall see how wonderfully He does so, (through the Scriptures), as later on, God willing, we look at the seven churches of Asia in **Revelation 2 & 3**. *To some, these words might seem harsh or even bigoted, but I cannot apologise for the Word of God, nor for fighting tooth and nail for His Words and His Church, and although I never want to be an alarmist, if I am faithful to the Word of God, in today’s spiritual climate, I must be an alarmist, if there is any help for this generation which despises the Word of God and largely, cannot even read it with any degree of understanding.*
- AND SO IT IS TODAY, EVEN IN OUR OWN NATION, EVEN IN THE CHURCHES!** The majority of professing believers would rather follow sinners to their destruction, than agree with the Word of God, and openly confess, “Jesus Christ is the eternal, reigning King!” And, “Of his kingdom there shall be no end!” (**Luke 1:33**) And, “Let all the house of Israel know

assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (*Acts 2:36*).

FIFTHLY, FOR MANY OF GOD’S PEOPLE, A SYSTEM OF FALSE DOCTRINE CALLED DISPENSATIONALISM OR FUTURISM HAS, FOR MANY, COMPLETELY DESTROYED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANS 11. This error has become so influential among Evangelicals and even in Reformed circles, that many who hold to a soundly Reformed system of doctrine in most other respects, still cannot seem to rid their minds of the Dispensationalist confusion on Scriptures such as *Romans 11*.

IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE TO REALITY OF THIS TODAY, LET ME POINT OUT THAT A STRONG REFORMED CHURCH, CALLED, “THE BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH”, HOLDS TO THIS DISPENSATIONALIST, ZIONIST VIEW OF BIBLE PROPHECY. This is probably because that church originated in America, which is just full of Zionist propaganda – most Presbyterian Churches hold the reformed view of prophecy as we do, but the Bible Presbyterians are an odd exception to this rule. Our friends of the “Faith and Freedom Bookshop” in Western Australia are an example. Maybe that’s why they have to get publications like the Westminster Confession from other sources like The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland? You might remember, until his death a few years ago, John Mackenzie was the editor of the magazine and ran the bookshop in Adelaide. He was a Bible Presbyterian minister, but the wonderful thing about John Mackenzie was that, he saw the light on Bible prophecy, and had the backbone to distance himself from this Zionist mania – John Mackenzie is sadly missed in this country as a “faithful man who was able to teach others also”!

IN DISPENSATIONALISM (WHICH IS ZIONIST IN FOCUS), ISRAEL THE NATION HAS BEEN GIVEN ALL THE PRE-EMINENCE IN GOD’S OVERALL PLAN, INSTEAD OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH: These false teachers accuse us of what they call ‘*replacement theology*’, meaning that we *replace* Israel with the Christian Church, but they will not admit that it is God who has replaced Israel with the Christian Church, it is God who has replaced the Old Covenant with the New, and those who are truly guilty of ‘*replacement theology*’ are the Dispensationalists, not us – they replace Christ and His Church with Israel, an ungodly, Christ-rejecting, carnal nation! They say the olive tree is Israel, and when the Gentiles are grafted into that tree, we become part of Israel, and they then follow through to *11:26*, and misread it, and even re-translate it to **falsely teach that the “branches” are the whole tree, representing the**

Israelites in total and the Gentiles in total, whereas Paul makes it plain that the branches are individuals (although it may well include nations), and then again they re-translate Scripture to say, “and **then** all Israel shall be saved,” meaning that after a time when Israel shall seem to be forsaken, when the Church is predominantly Gentile, God will again open the floodgates of salvation to the Jews, and then He will literally save the whole nation! **BUT THE SCRIPTURES DO NOT SAY THIS!** Some of their fake modern translations say this, but not the faithfully preserved King James Bible.

NOR IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IN SCRIPTURE TO INDICATE THIS STRANGE DOCTRINE OF DISPENSATIONALISM; IT ONLY COMES FROM A MANIPULATION OF THESE VERSES IN ROMANS 11 TO MAKE THEM FIT IN WITH THE “JEWISH FABLES” THAT SOME ARE HOPELESSLY ADDICTED TO. Let us observe:

FIRSTLY, THEY HAVE TO RE-TRANSLATE THE SCRIPTURE TO GET THIS DISPENSATIONALIST IDEA, because it does not say, “and **then** all Israel shall be saved,” it says, “and **so** all Israel shall be saved” - meaning, “This is **how** all Israel shall be saved,” not **when** all Israel shall be saved; and

SECONDLY, THEY MISTAKE WHAT IS MEANT BY “ALL ISRAEL.” They mistake God's whole plan and purpose by not being able to let go of the Old Covenant and its people. We have just showed abundantly from the Scriptures that **the last days are the end of Israel**, as far as the covenant people of God are concerned, and the reason is very simple – they (as a nation) were always intended to be merely a type and a shadow of the New Covenant Church. ***ISRAEL WAS NEVER CENTRAL TO GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES; IT WAS THE BLUEPRINT FOR A GREATER TEMPLE! AND WHEN THE GLORIOUS TEMPLE IS BUILT ACCORDING TO THE BLUEPRINT, YOU DON'T GO BACK TO THE BLUEPRINT AND TRY TO OCCUPY a piece of paper AND PRETEND IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE TEMPLE – DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT AND SAY, “A PIECE OF PAPER WITH LINES DRAWN ON IT IS NOT A BUILDING!”?!*** The Futurists, Dispensationalists and Judaizers are taking their unwary victims back to the Old Testament (not really the Old Testament, but a perversion of it!), and in doing so they are an affront to the risen and reigning Christ! You can argue till the cows come home that Israel is important and unique in God's plan, and that Israel gave us the Messiah, and it is true, but **GOD'S PLAN WAS NEVER ABOUT ISRAEL (THE NATION) – IT WAS ALWAYS, ONLY, EVER, ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH! SO THE “ALL ISRAEL,” WHICH PAUL REFERS TO HERE IN ROMANS 11:26, IS THE WHOLE CHURCH OF GOD.**

THIRDLY, THE DISPENSATIONALISTS SEEM TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT BOTH JEWS' AND GENTILES' BEING GRAFTED INTO THAT TREE! “23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these.” **AND PAUL USES HIMSELF AS AN EXAMPLE OF A JEW WHO WAS SAVED BY GRACE, HE DOES SO FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF PROVING GOD IS RECEIVING BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES IN CHRIST.** And to cap it all off, he says it plainly, in *verse 32*, “**For God hath concluded them *all* in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon *all*.**” That is, He has concluded both Jews and Gentiles in unbelief, so He might have mercy on his elect people from among both the Jews and the Gentiles. What can be plainer than this? What does the apostle have to say to get through to this generation? And he is saying, this is *HOW* all Israel shall be saved – it is *HOW* the whole Church of God shall be saved, out of Jews and Gentiles, *NOT WHEN* the nation of Israel shall be saved! He does not say, “And then all Israel shall be saved,” He says, “And so all Israel shall be saved”!

How many plain Scriptures does one have to deliberately set aside, in order to believe (falsely) that this is about the Jews and not the Christian Church?

THE DISPENSATIONALISTS ARE JUDAIZERS AND ZIONISTS, AND THEY HAVE IT ALL BACKWARDS: Christ, not Abraham, was the beginning of all God's plan. Isaac was not the “Lamb of God,” to be sacrificed – God asked Abraham to sacrifice him, but stopped him at the last moment, and provided a lamb instead. Both this lamb and Isaac are types of the true Lamb of God! Abraham's religion was all about Christ, and Christ alone! – Christ is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (*Revelation 13:8*); It is *His* “book of life from the foundation of the world” (*Revelation 17:8*), which our names must be in if we are to be saved, whether Jew or Gentile, and at the end, **God will gather together all things “in Christ” (*Ephesians 1:10*), not in Abraham, not in Israel, but in Christ!** And Paul took great care to explain that God's covenant with Abraham preceded the Law of Moses – i.e. preceded the Old Covenant, so **Abraham's covenant was older than the Old! How? Because it was not about Isaac and Jacob, but it was all about Christ, who has “neither beginning of days nor end of life”!** Christ was the promised seed (*Galatians 3:16*); it was in Christ that “all the kindreds of the earth be blessed,” not in Isaac or Jacob (*Acts 3:24-26*).

AND BRITISH ISRAELISM FALLS ON THE SAME STUMBLING STONE AS DOES DISPENSATIONALISM, because the British Israelites claim the British are sons of Isaac (Saxons) – what they ought to be making sure of is, not being sons of Isaac, but sons of God through Jesus Christ!

BUT SOME WILL HEAR ALL THESE THINGS THAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH US SO PLAINLY, AND STILL SAY, “OH BUT DANIEL SAYS THIS IS ABOUT ISRAEL IN THE LAST DAYS, and Zechariah also says something about Israel in the lasts days,” and so on. Why? Because they are deceived by the false prophets and false teachers that Jesus warned about (*Matthew 24*, “24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”). So, in their blindness, they have no idea what Daniel or Zechariah, or anybody else is saying, if they cannot simply read and accept and believe what the apostle Paul is saying about the same matter. **WE MUST NOT LOOK TO MODERN INTERPRETERS OF PROPHECY – GOD GAVE US THE APOSTLES, AND THEY HAVE FAITHFULLY INTERPRETED ALL THE PROPHETS FOR US**, so that all we have to do is read and accept what God has revealed by those apostles, whom He inspired for that very purpose! Nor do we need Charismatic deceivers to tell us, “God spoke to me, God revealed something new to me”! God has spoken in the Scriptures, “by His Son”, but who is listening? Dispensationalists claim to have special revelation in interpreting the prophecies of Scripture, and in so doing, condemn themselves as false teachers and false prophets – in this respect, they are no different from Ellen G White, the false prophetess of the Seventh Day Adventists, Charles Taze Russell the false prophet of of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Hebert W Armstrong, and other major cult leaders.

NB: IN THE SCRIPTURES, CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED “BELIEVERS.” But the acid test for all who profess to be Christians today is, **DO THEY BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES?** Will they accept the Word of God if it means rejecting popular false doctrine? And we have to conclude, if we are at all honest ourselves, that many simply do not *believe* the Scriptures! They love to *say* they believe the Word of God, but in practice, they deny it daily, by preferring false doctrine, and even idolatry. If you challenge those who love the Roman Catholic Pagan festivals, they will say, Oh, but we must have Christmas! Or, You aren’t Australian if you speak against Christmas! Really? If you challenge them about their corrupt modern bible versions, they will even laugh at you for sticking to the King James! Let us ask them, “Is the King James Bible the Word of God?” That will sort out the goats from the sheep! Because, if the

King James Bible is not the Word of God, then we all should reject it as spurious, but if it is the Word of God, we all should glory in it as such, for Christ's sake, and fight tooth and nail against all who denigrate it! And most of them will not dare to go so far as to condemn the King James as not the Word of God, they stop just short of that degree of blasphemy, some of them, not far short of it.

DO YOU BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD? IF NOT, IT IS A SIGN THAT SOMETHING IS AWFULLY WRONG WITH YOUR HEART. YOU NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN. I do not take lightly the question of absolute allegiance to the Scriptures. Jesus said there will be those who present themselves at the judgment who have called Him “Lord, Lord!” (*Matthew 7:21*), but have not done what He has commanded, and He will cast them away from His presence for all eternity! Those who are born again do not have their own agenda, or their own belief system which they must defend at all costs, they humbly believe the Word of God, and humbly desire to learn more of Him, and be corrected where necessary – let's not beat about the bush here; the very means of our conversion is the Word of God, the very first thing we respond to and learn to love is the Words of God speaking to us as new believers! What is wrong with those who can treat Scripture like some book out of a library? Let me say it loud and clear – CHRISTIANS DO NOT DESPISE THE WORDS OF GOD! And if Christians are deceived in part about the Scriptures, when they are taught the truth, they will repent, like Peter when he denied Christ and wept bitterly.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OF OUR STUDY HERE, IS THAT ZECHARIAH AND DANIEL DO NOT CONTRADICT THE APOSTLE PAUL! SCRIPTURE DOES NOT CONTRADICT SCRIPTURE, and if the old prophets seem to be aligning with some popular *theory* on prophecy, but contradicting Paul at the same time, then the simple answer is that the *theory* is wrong, because ***any theory which contradicts the apostle Paul, is nothing more or less than a false doctrine, a “doctrine of devils”!*** Some will dig their heels in even deeper and just say, “Well, I still maintain that the Bible teaches that God has a plan for Israel in the last days,” (of course, they do this without any actual reference at all to what the Bible really says), and ***if they would only honestly read the Bible, they would see that the plan God has for Israel in the last days, is the same plan He has for the Gentiles in the last days (remember the last days are the Christian era!) – God's plan is the kingdom of heaven, which can only be entered through the one “door” (John 10:9), the one “strait gate” (Matthew 7:13), the one “narrow way”***

(7:14), Jesus Christ! He is God's plan for Israel, and the *Israel*, God has always had in mind, is not the Israel in earthly Canaan or Palestine, but the eternal Israel, “the Jerusalem which is above, which is the mother of us all” (*Galatians 4:26*).

TO FULLY APPRECIATE HOW FAR POPULAR THEOLOGY HAS STRAYED FROM THE TRUTH IN RELATION TO ISRAEL'S PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE DOMINANT ROLE OF A RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON IN THE EARTH – ZIONISM. Zionism is politically correct, in fact it is highly incorrect politically to say anything which might be seen as derogatory against Israel or Jews. In fact, if you question any popular Jewish theory or propaganda, you are labelled 'Anti-Semitic' and put in the same category as Adolph Hitler. Therefore, in this politically-correct climate, it is very difficult to speak the truth without the risk of persecution.

ZIONISM ONLY BEGAN IN THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, yet it seems to have swept more than half the Christian Church off its feet. Zionism is not in the Scriptures. Zionism, like Islam, and Roman Catholicism, is an anti-Christian, political movement, which has a plan for domination of the world, and they all use military force, murder, and intrigue, towards that end.

Let me put it to you very plainly, in conclusion, **God has no plan for the nation of Israel in the last days. He has one plan for the last days, which has been in place since the beginning of time**, since He wrote the names of His chosen in the book of life, and since Christ died for His people and rose again. **The nation of Israel (largely, but not all) has rejected that plan which God actually does have for all mankind – that plan is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

People cry like Esau, who lamented the fact he had sold his birthright to Jacob, when it was too late! They cry, “But God must have a plan for Israel; He cannot just forsake them!” But they wilfully ignore the fact that God did not forsake His *elect from among* the Israelites, as Paul plainly states in ***Romans 11:2***: Simon Peter did *not* reject God's plan! Andrew, James, John, Jude, Bartholomew, did *not* reject God's plan! Nicodemus struggled with the concept for a while, but later revealed his faith by speaking up for Christ. Saul of Tarsus, at first, persecuted the Christians, but after his conversion, was the greatest champion for Christ the world has seen – he did *not* reject God's plan for Israel! And I repeat Paul's explanation: (***11:1-2***) “I SAY then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of

Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.”**

IF YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW, HOW THEY RELATE TO EACH OTHER, ABOUT THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES, ABOUT MOSES AND CHRIST, CONSULT THE BOOK OF HEBREWS. It was the apostle **Paul who wrote *Romans***, which we are presently studying. Earlier on, he was the bigoted Pharisee, the persecutor and murderer of Christians, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, who was suddenly and soundly converted when the risen and reigning Lord Jesus confronted him, and apprehended him in person, on the Damascus road. It was this Saul of Tarsus, who became known as Paul the apostle, whom God had chosen from the foundation of the world to be His master theologian, and author of half the inspired books of the New Testament, who **also wrote *Hebrews***. Let us close with a classic quote from *Hebrews* which puts, in a nutshell, the change of covenants, and change of peoples, in God's unfolding plan of the ages: ***Hebrews 12:18-29***, “**18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)** **22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. 25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not* we *escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven: 26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.”**

THE OLD IS OUT; THE NEW IS IN; CHRIST OUR REDEEMER IS RISEN; CHRIST IS REIGNING FOR EVER AND EVER, AND HE SHALL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. There is neither Jew nor Greek in God's kingdom, but the Church of God is “all one in Christ Jesus” (*Galatians 3:28*). “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (*Galatians 6:15*). “Marvel not that I say unto you, You must be born again” (*John 3:7*).

LET US CONCLUDE BY RECOUNTING THE SUMMARY OF PAUL'S DOCTRINE WHICH WE HAVE OBSERVED FROM THE BEGINNING OF OUR STUDY OF THESE THREE CHAPTERS:

1. **THE WHOLE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS NOT TO BE SAVED, AND LITERALLY, WAS NOT GOD'S CHILDREN:** “27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **a remnant shall be saved:**” (*9:27*).
2. **THE “ALL ISRAEL” PAUL REFERS TO IN 9:6 & 11:26, IS THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL, THE WHOLE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH INCLUDES GENTILES:** “For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:**” And “that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, **24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**” (*9:23-24*).
3. **ALL TRUE “ISRAELITES” WERE CHOSEN IN CHRIST FROM THE BEGINNING (9:11),** “(For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)” ***Therefore,***
4. **NOT ONE OF GOD'S PROMISES HAS FAILED, BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, NOT ABOUT ISRAEL THE NATION! (9:8),** “They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” The promise that (*10:13*), “**whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,” has a context, which means that, whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, the promise is equally to **everyone who believes in Jesus!** NB: “**12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto

all that call upon him. **13 For whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Let us hear the Word of God above the roar of all the false teachers and false prophets, and give Jesus the pre-eminence that is rightfully His. Amen.