

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

How should we, as Christians, think of the Jewish people?

Romans 9-11

Israel's Unbelief and the Promise of God

I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

² God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.

(Romans 11:1-2)

Has God Rejected Israel? No!

"For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself." (1 Samuel 12:22)

Has God Rejected Israel? No!

1. Paul was an Israelite

- Paul himself, as a Jewish Christian, is living evidence that God has not abandoned His people Israel
- Paul's prior unbelief exemplified that of Israel's, and yet, God showed him mercy

¹³ ...I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of *all*. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

(1 Timothy 1:13-16)

Has God Rejected Israel? No!

2. God Foreknew Israel

"You only have I known of all the families of the earth;"
(Amos 3:2)

Has God Rejected Israel? No!

2. God Foreknew Israel

- speaks of God's election of Israel as a whole in distinction from all other nations
- implies the future salvation ("adoption/sonship") of His people

How should we, as Christians, think of the Jewish people?

1. As lost apart from Christ and in danger of eternal judgment, for whom we should have compassion in spite of their antagonism to Christians
2. As uniquely chosen by God as His people for whom there is a great and certain hope

How should we, as Christians, think of the Jewish people?

"From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

(Romans 11:28-29)