

“Israel” Part 1 Romans 11:25-32)(10.10.23)

Romans 11:25-32 Amplified Bible

²⁵ I do not want you, believers, to be unaware of this mystery [God’s previously hidden plan]—so that you will not be wise in your own opinion—that a partial hardening has [temporarily] happened to Israel [to last] until the full number of the Gentiles has come in; ²⁶ and so [at that time] all Israel [that is, all Jews who have a personal faith in Jesus as Messiah] will be saved; just as it is written [in Scripture],

“The Deliverer (Messiah) will come from Zion,
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”

²⁷

“This is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”

²⁸ From the standpoint of the gospel, the Jews [at present] are enemies [of God] for your sake [which is for your benefit], but from the standpoint of God’s choice [of the Jews as His people], they are still loved by Him for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable** [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call]. ³⁰ Just as you once were disobedient *and* failed to listen to God, but have now obtained mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient so that they too may one day receive mercy because of the mercy shown to you. ³² For God has

imprisoned all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all [Jew and Gentile alike].

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.

Title: **"Israel" Part 1**

INTRODUCTION:

It is not hard to make a strong argument that Jerusalem is the most important city in the world. The meaning of the name, through history, has had a slight variance, but it has had some form of the city of god. Some of the other names are Moriah, city of David and the Holy City. Ironically enough, it is also known as the City of Peace.

{show the slides of the past week of conflict}

Here are some quotes from bbc.com news:

"The Palestinian militant group Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel on 7 October, with its fighters entering communities near the Gaza Strip, killing at least 1,300 people, and taking scores of hostages.

More than 2,215 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched retaliatory air strikes and a ground offensive is also expected.

Israel has told everyone in the north of the Gaza Strip - about 1.1 million people - to relocate to the south of the territory within 24 hours, a deadline that has now passed. It wants them to be south of a watercourse known as Wadi Gaza.

The UN said this is not possible and asked Israel to withdraw the order, warning of "devastating humanitarian consequences".

The World Health Organization said Gaza's health authorities had told it that it would be impossible to evacuate vulnerable hospital patients.

Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, told civilians to ignore the evacuation order, describing it as "fake propaganda". However, many people have been leaving.

Women and young children were among many killed when a strike hit their convoy fleeing northern Gaza on one of two evacuation routes.

Hamas's military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, is continuing to fire rockets into Israel, claiming to have targeted Ashkelon, in the south of country, with 150 of them."

Here is one quote from reuter.com news:

"The scale of the attack prompted fears that a wider conflict could break out between Israel and other factions opposed to it in the region, including Lebanon's [Hezbollah](#), an armed party backed by Iran that has previously clashed with Israel.

Hezbollah on Sunday said it had launched guided rockets and artillery onto three posts in the Shebaa Farms "in solidarity" with the Palestinian people.

"Our history, our guns and our rockets are with you," said senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine at an

event in the Hezbollah stronghold of Dahieh on Beirut's outskirts in solidarity with the Palestinian fighters.”

Today, Jerusalem is important to the 2.2 billion Christians in the world. Jerusalem is important to the 1.9 billion Muslims in the world. And of course, Jerusalem has been central to the Jewish faith for thousands of years.

BODY:

Jerusalem is crucial to human history because Jesus, the Messiah, was born just six miles away in Bethlehem. That makes it a very close suburb. Even more significantly, Jesus was crucified on that Calvary Hill, just outside the walls of Jerusalem. From that nearby garden grave, Jesus was resurrected three days later. And, all this is according to the scriptures.

But, maybe more important than the historic status of Jerusalem to the different faith groups, is its place in the culmination of human history. Revelation 21:2 (NIV84) I saw the Holy City, **the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. This is a garden-temple where God dwells with His people and the glory of heaven fills the earth. The concept of “The New Jerusalem” expresses a restored world in which God’s chosen people will be secure. It is the fulfillment of the message of the Old Testament prophets and other early Jewish writings.

In today’s scripture from Romans, the Apostle Paul is addressing the relationship between the Jews, the Gentiles (who are everyone who is not a Jew), and salvation. This is individual salvation and corporate

salvation. He explains that it is part of an ancient covenant made by the God of the Jews, the God of all creation.

My key focus is the word 'irrevocable,' irrevocable. The LORD God has established this promise, this covenant, and it MUST come to fruition. In speaking to Abram, the LORD vows in Genesis 17:7 (NIV84) I will establish my covenant as **an everlasting covenant** between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. Hopefully, you remember that God changed Abram's name to Abraham later in chapter 17 of Genesis.

Most Christians are ignorant about this covenant. Others misunderstand and think that somehow it has been superseded. They have not been taught, have forgotten, or ignore what Paul is teaching us here. He actually takes three chapters to flesh out the complicated relationship. Here he is coming to a conclusion.

GOD PROMISES ABRAM



Let us go back to the beginning of the covenant in Genesis 15:1–21 (NIV84) *God's Covenant With Abram*

15 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,
your very great reward."

² But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

⁷ He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

⁸ But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

⁹ So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³ Then

the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

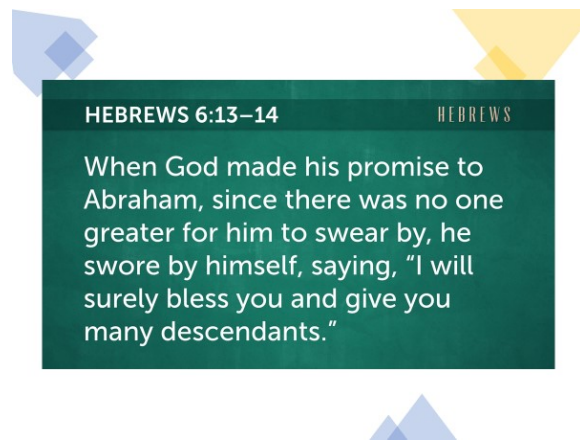
What is going on in this 15th chapter of Genesis? When Abram questions God about how Abram might know these promises will be fulfilled, The Preacher's Commentary explains: "The Lord's response was to direct Abram to set the stage for an ancient ritual wherein parties to a covenant would walk between the divided parts of sacrificed animals with a view to dramatically indicate that they themselves would rather be torn in two like the animals than renege on their agreement."

I want you to take notice of the very significant fact that only God walked between the animals. So, Abram's part was to receive the promise. As God is not a man that He

could lie AND God is Sovereign AND God is omnipotent – the covenant was completely binding. It IS irrevocable. It IS everlasting until God Almighty brings it to completion.

According to one of my theology books, “**The Abrahamic covenant**, made by God with Abraham and his seed, contributes to the restoration of God’s purposes for mankind by singling out Abraham and his seed to be the means by which redemption and its blessings are brought to all the nations.”

“If the Noahic covenant (the promise of the rainbow that God would not destroy the earth by floodwaters again) is the stable foundation on which all of the other covenants are built, the Abrahamic covenant is the cornerstone from which the rest of the building is framed. It reveals God’s intention to restore the original creation blessing. It reveals that this will be done through the nation Israel but that it will be done for the benefit and blessing of all nations.”



Hebrews 6:13–14 (NIV84)

The Certainty of God’s Promise

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will

surely bless you and give you many descendants.”

Even the Psalms testify to Israel's future: Psalm 105:8–11:

*He remembers his covenant for ever,
the word he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.*

*He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as **an everlasting covenant**:*

*To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit.*

I have a book titled *And the Lamb Wins: Why the End of the World is Really Good News* by Simon Ponsonby. There is a chapter, "Israel – Past, Present, Future?" that addresses the critical place of Israel in human history. Here are his conclusions from that chapter:

"There are five reasons why I believe God has a future for the nation of Israel:

1. *I believe God has a future for the Jews because of Scripture.* This has to be the starting point. Many of the prophecies and promises in the Bible remain only partially fulfilled, and cannot easily be emptied of their obvious relevance to the people in the land today.

2. *I believe God has a future for the Jews because of the nature of God. He does not lie, he stands by his word, and his promises are sure.* If Israel has no future, that would make God a liar. Conversely, I would suggest that

the return to the land after two millennia and the establishment of the nation-state is more of a miracle and proof of God, given the Holocaust. If God did not exist, there could never have been a 1948 restoration of Israel to the land, nor a sixty-year prosperity in the land despite numerous efforts to remove them from it.

3. *I believe God has a future for the Jews because they still exist as a distinct people group with Abraham's DNA.* It is a miracle in human history that an identifiable people group who have wandered among the nations for twenty-five hundred years can still trace themselves back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Friedrich the Great once asked the pious statesman Ziethen for proof of the existence of God. He replied, "Your majesty—the Jews!"

4. *I believe God has a future for the Jews because of modern history, which is being sucked powerfully into the Middle East.* Who would have thought that the wasteland scrub of Israel/ Palestine would be regarded as the key to political stability in the world? Whatever the rights or wrongs of Israel in the land, she nevertheless seems to have taken center stage in world politics—as Scripture foretells.

5. *I believe God has a future for the Jews because of the interest Satan has shown in them throughout history, seeking to wipe their memory off the face of the earth—from Pharaoh to Hitler to many others today. Whatever Satan rages against has a special purpose in God's plan."*

The Apostle Paul tells us that the response of Israel was no surprise to the Almighty. He used His foreknowledge

to bring the plan of salvation to completion. In Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well, He said, **You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.** How does this all interconnect?

The Messiah, came unto His own but they did not receive Him. Because they, as a whole, as a nation, did not recognize Him, there was a corporate hardening of their hearts by God. Some individual Jews come to faith even today, but corporately, Jesus is rejected as the Messiah.

Because of this rejection, the Apostle Paul was sent to the Gentiles, the rest of the world. When all the Gentiles who are willing to be saved are saved, the time of the Gentiles will be fulfilled. As we see more and more of the Catholic and Protestant Church fall away from the Word of God, it seems likely that the next phase in God's salvation plan awaits.

Then the Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Israel and God will take away their sins. Our God is a God of mercy. Through Jesus, mercy and forgiveness is offered to the whole world. Why is there so much sin in the world? So that the LORD God may show mercy to all, Jew and Gentile alike.

CONCLUSION:

Pastor John MacArthur preached: " And I really believe there is no better proof of the faithfulness of God than the redemptive history of Israel, no single thing more demonstrates God's faithfulness to His promise than His unfailing love for the nation Israel, a nation which in fact

did everything to negate those promises, everything to violate that love. And still God is true to His promise and true to His love, unchangingly and unwaveringly.

In spite of their sin, in spite of their rejection, in spite of their unbelief, there is still a place for the nation Israel in the plan of God. That is the reality of Romans 9, 10 and 11. That is the message that Paul is communicating in this great great section of the epistle. And he brings it into this epistle which is an epistle on salvation, to demonstrate how faithful God is to His promise. If He promises you salvation, believe me, He will grant it. If He promises you redemption, He will give it. And Israel is a classic illustration."

Romans 11:33–36 (NIV84) *Doxology*

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

{read those 4 verses twice} Amen and amen. Let us pray.