

THE JEWISH ADVANTAGE

ROMANS 3:1-8

Last time: The Wrong Security—the Jewish people are not simply saved by being Jewish.

**LET ME STATE CLEARLY: GOD LOVES THE JEWS
AND SO DO WE AS CALVARY CHAPEL.**

- The Church and the world will be judged one day for how it does or does not show that love and support.
- Yet, looking at the rather tragic **HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE**, one is not inclined to think there has ever been any advantage in being a Jew.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In spite of the reality that they are such a noble strain of humanity and chosen by God **TO BE HIS PEOPLE**, *their history* has been a saga of slavery, warfare, persecution, slander, captivity, dispersion, and humiliation.

- They were menial slaves in Egypt for some 400 years.
- When they entered the land God had promised them, they had to fight to gain and keep every square foot of it.
- Tens of thousands of Jewish rebels were publicly crucified under Herod the Great.
- In A.D. 70, the Roman general Titus Vespasian carried out Caesar's order to utterly destroy Jerusalem, its temple, and most of its citizens.

HISTORY CONTINUED

- According to Josephus, over a million Jews of all ages were mercilessly butchered, and some 100,000 of those who survived were sold into slavery or sent to Rome to die in the gladiator games.
- In A.D. 115, the Jews of Cyrene, Egypt, Cyprus, and Mesopotamia rebelled against Rome. When they failed, Emperor Hadrian destroyed 985 towns in Palestine and killed at least 600,000 Jewish men.
- For some two centuries, the Jews were oppressed by the Byzantine branch of the divided Roman Empire.

THE LAST 1,000 YEARS

- During the first Crusade in 1096 to recapture the Holy Land from the Ottoman Turks, the crusaders slaughtered countless thousands of Jews on their way to Palestine.
- During the Spanish Inquisition in 1485, 200,000 died.
- 16,000 Jews were massacred in the Ukraine in 1818.
- The Zionist movement was born in 1897 and by 1914, some 90,000 Jews had settled in Palestine.
- In the **HORROR OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST OF WWII (1939-45)**, at least **6,000,000** Jews were exterminated.
- On May 14, 1948, Israel became the Jewish homeland—and they have fought for every square inch of the land since that day up to tonight.

WHAT GIVES, GOD?

WAS PAUL ACTUALLY ATTACKING GOD'S PEOPLE? **ROM. 3:1-2**

- Not at all, Paul continues, the advantage of being Jewish was great in every respect.
- Although it did not bring salvation, it bestowed many privileges that Gentiles did not have.
- God had made that clear through Moses, Isaiah, and Amos (**EX. 19:6; DEUT. 10:14-15; ISA. 43:21; DEUT. 4:1-2; AMOS 3:2**). *THE JEWS* were entrusted with the very words of the one and only true God (**DEUT. 4:1-2, 6:1-2**)—great privilege brings great responsibility!

2. WAS PAUL ATTACKING GOD'S PROMISES? v. 3-4

As any student of the Old Testament knows, God's promises to His chosen people are numerous.

- How then could Paul maintain that it was possible for a Jew not to be secure in those promises?
- Paul's answer reflected both the explicit and implicit teaching of the Jewish scriptures themselves.
- No Jew—nor Gentile—could claim security in God's promises apart from repentance and personal faith in God resulting in obedience from the heart. **ISA. 55:6-7**

THE MAIN IDEA IN REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY—that the church has replaced Israel in God’s plan of redemption—presumes God’s faithlessness in keeping His **UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES TO ISRAEL. PATENTLY FALSE!**

- This is the driving force for B.D.S. (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) raging against Israel today, which many denominations have bought into—including E.L.C.A., P.C.U.S.A., United Methodist, and many others.
- **BUT IN REALITY**, because of Israel’s rejection of Jesus Christ the Messiah, God has simply postponed the fulfillment of His promise to redeem and restore Israel as a nation. But that day is coming according to **ROM. 11!**

3. THE OBJECTION THAT PAUL ATTACKED GOD'S PURITY v. 5-8

This was clearly a charge of Antinomianism: A disregard of God's moral law—spitting on grace—of the worst sort.

- *God is too good to damn anybody to hell and I can't help myself, so let's just sin it up. THIS IS HERESY.*
- Bluntly, Beloved: For a professed Christian to live in continual, persistent, unrepentant sin is a mark that he/she may not be saved at all.
- Jew or Gentile—the grace that saves is also the grace that keeps us. The Jewish advantage: Great Grace!