

WHY I LOVE ISRAEL

Text: Romans 11:1-2, 7-26

Chapter 11 of the book of Romans deals with the future of Israel as a nation. Paul addresses the question “Has God cast away his people?” In other words, “Is God totally and completely done with the nation of Israel?” He wastes not time in saying “God forbid”. Then the remainder of this chapter explains where Israel is today spiritually, how they got there, how the Gentiles have benefited from their rejection of Christ, and how ultimately God will save them.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas led a massive, surprise cross-border assault from the Gaza Strip into Southern Israel. The coordinated attack killed approximately 1,200 people (mostly civilians) and resulted in 251 hostages being abducted back to Gaza, triggering a devastating and prolonged regional war. Since that time antisemitism in the United States has been at historically high levels. The rising influx of Muslims pouring into this country, along with anti-Israel/pro-Palestinian rhetoric being pushed in the universities. There was a recent Pro- Palestinian demonstration in Dearborn Michigan that if you didn’t know was in the United States, you would have thought you were watching footage from some Middle Eastern country. In April 2023, Minneapolis, Minnesota became the first major U.S. city to allow the Islamic call to prayer to be publicly broadcast over outdoor loudspeakers five times a day, year-round. We have prominent media personalities and political commentators with massive online followings are increasingly anti-Israel.

In the church world in America, I am always surprised at the level of Biblical illiteracy or misunderstanding there is concerning Israel. We have brethren that believe that the Church has replaced Israel, and the promises made to them have become spiritual blessings given to the Church. We have brethren that believe that God has completely disinherited them forever. We have brethren teaching error online because they take verses meant for Israel out of context and misapply them to the Church. We have brethren teaching end-time prophecy leaving out the restoration and redemption of Israel, which is like pulling cards from the bottom of a house of cards...it all comes tumbling down.

Having said all of that, you are looking at a pastor who loves Israel! **Let me make my stance clear:** I am not saying that I love Israel’s government or all that they do. I am not saying that everything they do as a nation is right. I am saying that when enemies would move against Israel, I am in favor of doing what we can to help defend them.

Let me give you some reasons for why I love Israel:

- **God loves them - Deuteronomy 7:6-8** For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
- **Jesus Christ was born of them - Hebrews 2:14-16** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.
- **Salvation is of the Jews** – Jesus made this statement to the Samaritan woman at the well. He meant that God had revealed His truth, covenants, law, and the promised Messiah through the nation of Israel.

The whole relationship between Israel and the Church is shown in illustration in the book Ruth. The spiritual types in Ruth are Ruth is a type of the Church, Boaz is a type of Christ and Naomi is a type of Israel.

- **Naomi leaves Bethlehem-Judaea to live in Moab** – This is a picture of dispersed Israel who because of their rejection of Christ are forced to leave their land.
- **During her time in Moab, she loses her husband and her two sons** – For the Jews their blessings are tied to being in their own land because it's the land God gave them. When they are out of their land, everything dries up.
- **Ruth's journey to redemption starts while Naomi is out of her land** – While in Moab, Ruth marries Naomi's son Mahlon. He dies, but Ruth is now a part of Naomi's family making her eligible for a kinsman redeemer.
- **It's Naomi that tells Ruth who Boaz is** – Ruth gleanes in Boaz's field, but she doesn't know who he is. Naomi tells Ruth who Boaz is and that he is a close relative.
- **Naomi instructs Ruth about approaching Boaz** – She gives detailed instruction about approaching him for marriage.
- **Boaz claims her for his own and redeems Naomi's land** – There was a closer relative that had the right to redeem everything before Boaz which was interested in Naomi's land but when he learned about Ruth needing a husband he said **Ruth 4:6** I

cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*.

The last reason that I love Israel is because of Jesus Christ, we will all be one big happy family:

Ruth 4:13-17 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.