

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: June 28, 2020

Title: "Has the Church Replaced Israel?"

Text: Acts 28:17-31; Romans 11:1-32

INTRODUCTION: Please open your Bibles to Acts 28 (verses 17-31). As you read through these closing verses of Acts (as well as through the whole book itself) two attitudes (reactions) become crystal clear:

1. Jewish _____
2. Gentile _____
3. Outcome: This led to theological questions regarding the status of the Jews before God. Has God rejected the Jews? The relationship between Israel and the church became a controversial issue then; and continues to be a controversial issue today. At the heart of the controversy is the question:

HAS THE CHURCH _____ ISRAEL?

"Does the church replace, supersede, or fulfill the nation Israel in God's plan, **OR** will "all Israel" be saved, replanted in their land, restored as a national entity, and given a unique role and mission to the nations?"

The position that the church is the "new" or "true" Israel that replaces or supersedes national Israel's place in the plan of God has often been called "Replacement Theology" or "Supersessionism".

1. "**Supersessionism**" is based on two core beliefs:
 - the nation Israel has somehow completed or forfeited its status as the people of God and will never again possess a unique role or function apart from the church.
 - the church is now the true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded national Israel as the people of God.
2. Definition: Supersessionism or Replacement Theology is the view that the NT Church is the new and/or true Israel that has forever superseded the nation Israel as the people of God. The result is that the church has become the sole inheritor of God's covenant blessings originally promised to national Israel in the Old Testament. This rules-out a future restoration of the nation Israel with a unique identity, role, and purpose.

THE _____ OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

The rise of '**supersessionism**' can be traced to events in the first two centuries of the church. Three factors contributed . . .

1. The increasing Gentile composition of the Early Church.
2. The two destructions of Jerusalem (A.D. 70 and A.D. 135).
Both destructions were viewed by many in the church as evidence of God's final and permanent rejection of Israel.
3. The _____ method of interpretation.
Tertullian allegorically interpreted *Gen. 25:21-23* and its statement that "the older will serve the younger." He saw a deeper spiritual teaching in the text, . . . that national Israel would become subservient to the church.

IS THERE A _____ FOR ISRAEL? (see Romans 11:1, 11)

Rom. 9-11 is the most detailed discussion about Israel in the NT. Central to this section is the question asked by Paul in Rom. 11:1 "Has God rejected His people?" and 11:11 "Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?" Paul's answer: "By no means!" (v. 1) and "Not at all" (v. 11).

1. Israel's rejection is not _____ (11:1-10)
2. Israel's rejection is not _____ (11:11-24)
3. Israel's restoration is _____ (11:25-32)

MAKING IT PERSONAL:

1. Commit to "rightly divide" the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15). How? Utilize the literal-grammatical-historical method of Bible interpretation!
2. Appreciate the positive contributions (past/present) those committed to Reformed and Covenant Theology have made to the church.
3. Renew your commitment to bless Israel (*Gen. 12:3*). After all, Israel is the conduit thru which all our blessings (past & future) flow.

Anti-Semitism

Over 2,000 years, anti-Semitism in the name of Christ has inflicted much pain and suffering on the Jewish people.

Anti-Zionism (since WWII)

The church's delegitimization of Israel greatly threatens the nation today.

4. Remember, Israel is the conduit thru which all our blessings flow!