

John Hannah  
ISRAEL'S RESTORATION Romans 10

REVIEW

• Romans 9 – Israel's Election (Past situation). 4000 yrs ago, in fulfilment of His own sovereign purposes, God chose one man (Abraham) through whom he would create a nation. Those purposes continued through Abraham's child (Isaac) and then through Isaac's younger child, Jacob. Jacob (renamed Israel) became the father of the nation of the same name. Exodus 19:5,6 and Malachi 2:7 spell out God's overarching purposes for this nation.  
Romans 10 – Israel's Rejection (Present situation). Israel rejects God's truth. They fail to understand that God wants a people who would "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). They also fail to understand that the heart of their relationship with God has to do with obedience, faith and trust. Instead of living under the great guiding principles of the 10 commandments and loving God with all their heart, mind and strength and their neighbour as themselves, they devise their own code of conduct (the Torah) and substitute law and legalism as the basis for relationship. They seek to become acceptable to God on the basis of what they do, and not on the basis of faith. They not only ignore the spirit of the law, but they reject God's voice over and over again as Isaiah predicted (c.f., Rom. 10:21). Truth rejected became truth lost!

INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 11, Paul begins to shift his attention to the future. We will see:  
vs 1–10 A Remnant remain in Israel, a few continue to follow the living God.  
vs 11-24 A Reminder of both the kindness and severity of God – a present kindness toward the gentiles but also a severity toward those who persist in unbelief.  
vs 25-32 A Reconciliation will occur. Israel will be saved!  
vs 33-36 A Response of praise to God for His wisdom and insight.

A REMNANT (vs. 1–10)

In this passage, Paul starts with another rhetorical question.

v.1-6 "Did God reject His people?"

The reason for this question is found in Ch.10 where we find that Israel has rejected God despite His holding out His hands to them all day long. Could it be that God has rejected them?

Three O.T. passages provide the context for Paul's answer: I Sam. 12:22; Ps 94:14; Jer. 31:37. It is on this basis that Paul answers, "By no means". Recall Num. 23:19 - God cannot break His promise! In order to support this emphatic statement, Paul produces two lines of evidence:

Himself (v.1), as a present day example.

Elijah (vs.2-4) as a past example, c.f., I Kings 19:10-18. In answer to Elijah's fear that he was the only faithful man left in Israel, God assured him that even in the midst of his nation's apostasy there were 7,000 faithful people who had refused to bow to Baal.

"So too" (in the same way), there was in Paul's day and there continues to be in Israel, a remnant, chosen by grace (God's unmerited favour). By logical extension, if this is on the basis of God's unmerited favour, then it CANNOT possibly be earned.

Note:

Salvation, for all people, for all time has always been on the same basis, it has always been an expression of God's grace, in response to faith.

There yet remains within Israel a faithful remnant (e.g., Jews for Jesus).

v.7–10. If God didn't reject His people, what happened? Israel, who had earnestly sought a privileged position in God's eyes failed to obtain it. Only a small minority (the elect), found His favour. How come? Because Israel's disobedience and rejection of truth brought them to a point where God allowed them to reap the consequences of their actions – he responded to them even as they had responded to Him. v.8 He "gave them a spirit of stupor ---" such that they could no longer see him nor hear his voice. Their spiritual eyesight was lost. In his answer, Paul quotes from Deut. 29:4 and Is. 29:10. So it is with our own culture today – do we not hear the echo of Rom. 1:21-27?

In v.9, Paul quotes from Ps. 69:22,23. The very table in the sanctuary that held the symbols of their relationship with God, the things symbolic of His presence became a snare and a trap. They trusted in their rituals rather than placing their faith in the one who stood behind the symbols.

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

**This Morning**

**Speaker** John Hannah  
**AGM** The AGM will follow a pot luck lunch at the Youth Hall 18 Wray Street.

**This Evening**

- JCF 5.00pm
- Creation Evangelism 7.00pm

**Monday**

Planning Meeting at All Saints Hall 7.30pm.

**Next Sunday**

4th October - John Hannah

**Thursday Kidz Club**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

7 - 12 year olds

Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

*Prayer Items*

**Update on the Disaster Relief**

A big thank you to all those who have generously contributed to the disaster relief in Samoa and the Philippines. We have sent initial gifts to both places and will be sending more as funds come to hand. In both places we have excellent contacts who are working to distribute assistance where it is most needed. In time we will be able to report on how aid has been distributed. Please continue to pray for the people in the affected areas, also Indonesia and the flooded regions in India where many lives have been lost and homes destroyed.

Please continue to send gifts through GC Aid (a separate entity, but part of GCiM) to assist with relief in these areas. Please send your gifts to GCiM, PO Box 744 Palmerston North 4440. Cheques can be made out to GC Aid. For internet banking you may send it to 06 0729 0522196 0 (National Bank). Please make it clear in the reference section what it is for. We do not take expenses for monies going through GC Aid and for disaster relief.

Ellen Lapitan (ECPM—Philippines) "We thank GCiM for your support. Please continue to pray for our nation. We are still recovering from the calamity."

## Small Groups

### **Tuesday**

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070
- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

### **Thursday**

- JCF Home Group - see Gideon Chang 488-2118
- Town Home Group - see Dave Smeaton 453 0569

### **Friday**

- Friday morning Home Group - see Bethney Stewart 476-7888

## Prayer Groups

### **Wednesday**

- Men's prayer group meeting at Dan and Stephs from 6:30am till around 8am.

### **Thursday**

- All Saints main church building from 5:15pm

### **Sunday**

- All Saints Hall from 9.00am

### A REMINDER (vs.11-24)

Paul now poses his 10<sup>th</sup> and last question: "*Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?*" Again he replies with an emphatic, "*No*". He amplifies his answer by reminding us of three crucial things. Firstly, that Israel's rejection has led to our reconciliation (v.11-16), secondly, that boasting risks brokenness (v.17-21) and, thirdly, that belief on Israel's part will again lead to blessing (22-24).

### Israel's Rejection has led to our Reconciliation (v.11-16)

Because of Israel's rejection of the gospel, salvation has been offered to the gentiles (Acts 13:46,47). Jesus anticipated this in his parable Matt. 22:1-10. One of the reasons salvation has been offered to us gentiles is to make Israel envious!!! We observe:

The offer of salvation to the Gentiles is not on the basis of merit.

The wisdom of God in the outworking of his gracious purposes. The happy result of Israel's rejection is that the message of Christ, now free of Pharisaic legalism, streams out into a pagan world.

v.12. If Israel's rebellion brings such spiritual riches to the pagan world, how much greater will be the riches when Israel finally returns to him in the age to come. What a wonderful prospect!!

Paul further elaborates upon this thought in vs.13-15.

He deliberately tells the Jews of his ministry to the Gentiles in the hope that some, out of envy, will turn to Christ.

He knows that if Jewish rejection means reconciliation for the world, Jewish acceptance will usher in "*life from the dead*" (a new age of hope - see Is.11:9; 40:1-5)

v.16. Paul now uses two illustrations to explain why Israel's stumbling is temporary not permanent.

Illustration # 1. Drawn from the harvest offering in Num.15:20. If the first part of the dough (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob) is holy (consecrated to God), then the rest of the lump will be also.

Illustration # 2. If the root is holy then the branches (the descendents) must be also.

### APPLICATIONS

Consider the graciousness of God and His faithfulness to His promises. His people reject Him but yet he has kept a remnant through the ages and will again reveal himself to Israel.

It is foolishness to ever believe that we are any better (or more deserving of grace) than Israel!

Even greater blessing lies ahead for all believers when Israel finally returns to their Lord.


### NOTICES

- Crèche Roster  
4th October; Hayley Smeaton, Rosie Pettigrew  
11th October; Jen Pettigrew

We're into a new month! Is there some way you can be a Secret Encourager during October?

- There will be an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church at Woodhaugh Gardens on Sunday 8th November 2009 at 2.30pm. If wet this will be held in Grace Bible Church at Leith Bowling Club 2 Duke Street North Dunedin. All are welcome to attend. Enquiries to Rhoda Woodfield Ph 489- 4142.