



Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963



Kevin Geoffrey
President, MJMI

Salom my friend,
We now come to the end of our journey through Paul's timeless commentary about Israel, found in Romans 9, 10 and 11. Last month, we heard Paul begin his closing statement concerning the mystery of Israel. Calling his Gentile audience "brothers," Jewish Paul proceeded to reveal that despite Israel's present hardness toward Yeshua, it was only "in part"—and more than that, temporary. One day, Paul declared, "the fullness of the [Gentiles would come] in," and somehow, this "fullness"—though we are not entirely certain what it is—would start a spiritual revival clock among Jews worldwide. As many Jews individually accept Yeshua as Messiah, in short order, the Jewish people *as a whole* will constitute the Yeshua-believing nation she was always prophesied to be; "and so all יִשְׂרָאֵל, Yis'rael will be saved."

Concluding his explanation of the mystery of Israel, Paul reveals the final piece of the puzzle. In Romans 11:28-32 he says,

Regarding the Good News, indeed, *THEY ARE* enemies on account of you, but regarding the chosenness, *they are* beloved on account of the fathers; for unregretted-of *ARE* the gifts and the calling of God. Indeed, as you *Goyim* [Gentiles] once did not believe in God, and now find *loving-kindness* by the unbelief of these *Y'hudiyim* [Jews], so also these *Y'hudiyim* now do not believe, so that in *the loving-kindness given* to you, they may also now find *loving-kindness*. For God shut up together the whole *world* to unbelief, so that to the whole *world* He might do *loving-kindness*.

Still speaking to the Gentile members of his Roman audience—within earshot of his Messianic Jewish listeners—Paul does not shy away from calling his unbelieving Jewish brothers "enemies" regarding the Good News.

The reason they are "enemies," Paul says, is not simply because they are hostile toward Yeshua, but rather "on account of" the Gentile believers. Israel's stumbling, misstepping, and partial hardness toward Messiah, then, were not in vain, but rather necessary evils. God needed to be able to consider His own Jewish people "enemies" so that He could instead turn His kindness toward the Gentiles for a time, that they also might "come in." Just as the Father sacrificed His own unique Son to save us from our sins, ADONAI also temporarily "sacrificed" His own unique people Israel to make a path to Himself for all the peoples of the earth.

And yet, despite this somewhat shocking characterization of Jews as "enemies," Paul does not dwell on it. On the contrary. Without hesitation, he immediately contrasts the stark portrayal of his people with a generous affirmation, pointing toward the ultimate conclusion of his treatise. While on the one hand unbelieving Jews are "enemies" regarding the Good News, on the other, they are simultane-



Introducing Sason!

When MJMI began partnering with ministry friends in Israel many years ago, Israel P. (pictured, right) was one of the first people we financially supported,

helping him be able to devote his time to the work of evangelism. Over the years, not only did his ministry grow, but so did his young family. Today, I am happy to share that MJMI is able to sow into a new generation of evangelistic workers in the Land, as we begin sending support to Israel's son Sason (pictured, left).

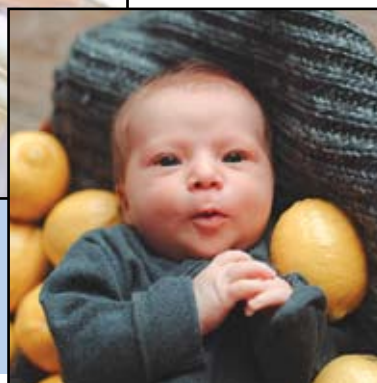
Sason is passionate about doing the work of ministry, saying, "I have fully committed myself to fervently serve the Lord here in Israel for the rest of my life, and with all of my being. My passion is to reach Israelis with the message of Yeshua, and to see many come to salvation, since 99% of Israelis have never heard the gospel message. I also aim to build and strengthen the local body of Israeli believers and

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congregations in order to see the Lord's kingdom come in all its glory here in Israel."

He went on to explain the affect your financial gifts will have, saying, "MJMI's support will help me sustain, nurture, and provide for my growing family, since I currently only receive a minimum wage salary. It is not sufficient to cover the basic expenses of life in Israel, nor for rent, utilities or food bills. Therefore I've been taking on extra jobs on the side just to make ends meet. Your help will enable me to focus on ministry, evangelism, and humanitarian outreach, and to ensure that my wife and new baby daughter are well taken care of spiritually and physically."

Thank you for continuing to support MJMI with your finances so that we can partner together with those doing the work of evangelism in Israel! And please keep Sason and his family in your prayers, as they reach out to many Israelis, young and old, with the Good News of Yeshua.



but that the loving-kindness they now enjoy comes by way of the Jews—albeit through their unbelief. And because God is unwilling to revoke what He has eternally committed to Israel, He sees fit to complete the circle, and return that loving-kindness back to unbelieving Israel by way of the believing Gentiles. This has been God's plan all along: that He would "shut up together the whole world to unbelief, so that to the whole world He might do *loving-kindness*." And this would be impossible for the God of the universe to do were He ever to abandon His Jewish people. For to take away the gifts and calling of God from Israel would be to take away loving-kindness, salvation and the Messiah from the world.

O, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and untraceable His ways! For "Who has known the mind of

ADONAI? or who became His counselor?" or "Who gave first to Him, that it should be given back to him again?" Because from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all the things. To Him is the glory—to the ages. אמן, Amen. (Romans 11:33-36, MJLT)

ously "beloved" regarding their chosenness by God. Though Jewish unbelievers are "enemies on account of" the Gentiles, they are at the same time "beloved on account of the fathers"—on account of their being the descendants of Israel.

And this is the climactic concept of Paul's entire argument, bringing all other points into laser focus: that despite the Jewish people's stumbling and being "broken-off," regardless of their being treated severely and becoming "enemies" of the Messiah, God continues to love them *and choose them* simply because they are—and forever will be—His treasured, covenantal, unreplaceable people.

Paul goes even further to affirm this conclusion by categorically stating that, for the Jewish people, "the gifts and the calling of God" are "unregretted-of." In other words, no matter what the Gentile believer inherits through Messiah, regardless of whatever benefit to Israel the Gentile believer receives, despite any amount of love and forgiveness and favor that God showers upon the children of the nations, God will never rescind nor be regretful of that which He has given to or required of His beloved Israel.

In support of this point, Paul goes on to remind the Gentile believers that, at one time, they "did not believe in God,"

My friend, let us glorify God together that in the depth of His wisdom, ADONAI saw fit to reveal to us the mystery of Israel! The fact that the Jewish people—even in their unbelief—are the conduit through which the whole world will be saved ought to unleash a burden upon the heart of every single follower of the Messiah—that the Jewish people "may also now find *loving-kindness*," restoration to God, and salvation in their Messiah, Yeshua.

Will you join with me to carry on Paul's most important of missions to teach the Body of Messiah of their responsibility toward the Jewish people, and to bring about the salvation of "all Israel"? I invite you to send us your most generous gift of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** to help us fulfill the calling of God that he has placed on MJMI as a Messianic Jewish ministry. Please use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit www.mjmi.org to send your much-needed donation today.

I hope you have been enlightened and encouraged by our walk through Romans 9, 10 and 11. Thank you for allowing me to explore the Scriptures with you, and thank you for your continuing support of MJMI.

For the sake of Messiah,

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI