



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



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Shalom my friend! This month we continue our look at Romans 9, 10 and 11. Two months ago, we looked at Romans 9:6-21 and saw Paul issue a strong warning to his Jewish people to not be complacent with their ethnicity and birthright—that Jewishness in and of itself is insufficient for salvation, and that God, in his supreme sovereignty, chooses whom He chooses. In essence, Paul is addressing the headstrong and prideful heart of the Jew, which keeps him from humbly accepting Yeshua as Messiah, and from receiving his calling as the Israel of God.

The Chosen Gentiles

Going on in verse 22, Paul continues to work on the Jew's stony heart by pointing to the Gentile half of his Roman audience as further evidence of God's sovereignty to choose.

Update from Israel

Sometimes the evangelistic work of our ministry friends in Israel takes a long time. I recently heard from Aviel, who spoke about a woman he has been sharing with for many years. He said, "I met Rita in 2009 when I was in offering humanitarian help to members of an organization for war veterans. As an employee of the organization, she was responsible to give me lists of people in need. I handed out food packages in a warehouse, and she used to come along with the veterans. Rita did not like the fact that we believe in Yeshua and talked to people about God, so she always pressured them to get out of there quickly.

"As time passed, she discovered more about my family and me, and we began to develop a friendship. I explained to her that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel, but she did not



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"But *what* if God, wanting to prove the wrath and to make His power known, endured in much patience objects of wrath prepared for destruction? And *this was* so that He would make known the riches of His glory on objects of *loving-kindness* that He prepared beforehand for glory, whom He also called—us—not only out of *the יְהוּדִים*, Y'hudiym, but also out of *the גּוֹיִם*, Goyim, as in *הוֹשֵׁעַ*, Hoshea He also says,

"I will call what *is* not My people, "My people"; and her *who* is not loved, "Loved." "And it will be, in the place where it was said to them, "You *ARE* not My people"—there they will be called sons of the living God." (Romans 9:22-26, MJLT)

Now Paul is pricking the Jewish heart in order to stir up a righteous jealousy over the Gentiles—and he's doing it by invoking Hosea's prophecy to Israel and Judah, found in the second chapter of Hosea. In this passage, Hosea is being shown the restoration of Judah and Israel from their

separated, fallen and estranged state. God is calling back to Him again those whom He sent away because of infidelity. This is a very intimate passage that shows God's mercy and compassion for Israel... which is exactly why it is such a powerful statement when Paul uses it in the context of his current argument.

Just as at one time God considered Israel "not My people"—metaphorically divorcing them for their adultery with other gods—the

Gentiles, too, are considered "not My people," by virtue of their not being God's set-apart nation. Paul is saying here that not only can God choose to call Gentiles "My people" in the same way He restored His broken relationship with His people Israel, but through Yeshua, God also loves and brings Gentiles into the family of God, making them equal in consideration and standing with the Jewish people. This is exactly what the Jewish heart needs to hear to become softened through jealousy: My love for you can be given freely to another.

The Remnant of Israel

To further drive home his point, Paul then cites Isaiah 10:22-23 and 1:9, reminding his Jewish audience of a stark reality.

“And יִשְׂרָאֵל, Y'sha'yahu also shouts concerning יִשְׂרָאֵל, Yis'rael,

'Even if the number of the sons of יִשְׂרָאֵל, Yis'rael may be as the sand of the sea, *only* the remnant will be saved. For He is finishing a matter, and is cutting it short; ADONAI will do it upon the land of *the earth*.'

“And as יִשְׂרָאֵל, Y'sha'yahu says before,

'Unless יהוה צְבָאוֹת, ADONAI Tz'vaot had left a seed to us, we would have become as סֵדֶם, S'dom, and we would have been made like to עֲמֹרָה, 'Amorah.'" (Romans 9:27-29, MJLI)

After provoking his Jewish hearers with the reality of God's willingness to call Messiah-following Gentiles his own, he lets Isaiah speak forcefully of God's wrath as well as His loving-kindness toward the Jew. While God is prepared to allow His Jewish people to be utterly destroyed for their folly and indiscretion, nevertheless, He promises He will save a few. A remnant—a *Messianic Jewish* remnant—will live on. This reminder serves to further humble the Jewish heart—that not only does the



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receive Him as her Savior. Nevertheless, I kept on showing her the love of Messiah over the years.

“A few months ago, I came to the organization to offer the members an opportunity to join me on a sightseeing tour (see photos of this trip, where I was able to present the Good News of Yeshua to forty-five Jewish people). Rita was the only person in the office, and when I started talking to her, she told me that a relative had passed away. I said, 'Do you remember when I told you that each and every one of us will eventually meet the Lord, and it's very important that we turn to him through the Yeshua the Messiah, because he is the only one who paid for our sin.' She said, 'I remember, and I want to turn to the Lord.' I asked if she wanted to do it right now, and she agreed, so I closed the office and prayed with her immediately. Please keep this new believer in your prayers!"



Jew in Messiah share his standing with Gentiles, but that God showed a special mercy upon the Messiah-following Jew, to set him apart even from his fellow Jews.

Humility and Salvation

All put together, Paul is declaring one simple and powerful truth to his Jewish audience: you are indeed a special and blessed people, but not only should it not go to your head, it should instead send you to your knees. When a Jewish person accepts Yeshua, he is being saved not only from death, but also from the overwhelming and destructive wrath awaiting non-believing Israel. A Messiah-following Jew joins the Remnant of Israel who, along with the great multitude of Gentiles in Yeshua, constitutes the new family of God.

My friend, the ministry of MJMI exists to proclaim abundant life and salvation from wrath to the Jewish people, that they may be saved and join the Remnant of Israel. We greatly need not only your prayers, but also your financial assistance, so that we can continue partici-

participating in this crucial work. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help us accomplish our mission and vision to see all Israel come to know their Messiah. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit www.mjmi.org to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren't already, please consider becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we

can count on your support each month.

I look forward to continuing our look at Romans 9, 10 and 11 next month. As always, thank you for your prayers and support, and for your love and dedication to see all Israel saved.

For the sake of the Messiah,

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI