

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | Final Things Lesson 8
April 15, 2026 | “The Church and Israel”

Who is Israel?

- 1) The physical _____ of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- 2) Known _____ as Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews
- 3) A people _____ from the Gentiles and set apart unto God
- 4) A covenant people _____ by God in the OT
- 5) The people who were _____ a world-saving Messiah

What is God’s plan for Israel after the first coming of Christ?

- 1) God is preserving a believing _____ of Israel in the present church age (Rom 11:1–6)
- 2) Israel is experiencing a spiritual _____ because of unbelief (Rom 11:7–10)
- 3) Israel’s stumbling has opened the door for _____ salvation (Rom 11:11)
- 4) Gentile salvation is meant to provoke Israel to _____ (Rom 11:11–15)
- 5) The church shares in Israel’s spiritual _____ but does not replace Israel (Rom 11:16–24)
- 6) God will one day bring about a future large-scale _____ of Israel (Rom 11:25–27)
- 7) God remains faithful to his _____ promises toward Israel (Rom 11:28–32)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Answer the following question in your own words: Who is Israel? How is the modern-day nation-state of Israel different from ethnic Israel? Should we distinguish between the two?

Read Romans 11:1–31. Should we distinguish between Israel and the NT church? Has the church replaced Israel in the NT? What future role does God have for the church? What future role does God have for Israel? How does Romans 11 help us to distinguish between the church and Israel? See John MacArthur’s comments on the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtue2oFiIMQ>

At the end of Romans 10, Paul, quoting Isaiah, says that the Israelites are “a disobedient and contrary people” (10:21). Does that mean that Israelites, or Jews, can never be saved? How does Paul answer the question, “Has God rejected his people?” in 11:1–6? What evidence do we have in the NT, and even throughout history, that Jews are not completely rejected by God as a people?

GET PERSONAL

According to Paul in Romans 11, God provokes jealousy among the Jewish people. Explain how God used the Gentiles to make the Jews jealous. Would an unbeliever (Jew or Gentile) looking at your life become jealous of the benefits of the gospel that you enjoy? Why or why not?

Read Romans 9:1–5. Would you (like Paul) be willing to be “cut off from Christ” so that others could be saved? Do you think Paul was hyperbolizing in 9:3? Who are you heartbroken about? Who are you agonizing over because of their unbelief and rebellion towards God?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul said, “My heart’s desire and prayer to God for them [Jews] is that they may be saved” (Rom 10:1). For whom are you praying right now that they may be saved? Did Paul only pray for others to be saved, or did he also boldly share the gospel? With whom are you boldly sharing the gospel in your life?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS

What does Paul mean in Romans 9:6 when he says, “Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”? Were all ethnic Israelites in the OT saved? If all the ethnic Israelites weren’t saved, does that mean that God’s word (i.e., his promises) failed?

Explain the metaphor of the olive tree in Romans 11:16–24. What is the “root” of the tree? What are the branches? Who are the natural (native) branches? Who are the wild branches? How were the natural branches hewn off (i.e., what is Paul explaining with that use of metaphor)? How were the wild branches grafted in? Can the natural branches that were hewn off be grafted in again?