

“Thinking Biblically About the Jewish People”

Romans 11

October 15, 2023

I. Do Reformed Christians believe in “Replacement Theology”? No!

- A. We believe the New Testament Church is a *continuation* of God’s Old Testament people.
1. Because of the Messiah and the New Covenant, Gentile believers have been included *alongside* believing Jews.

Galatians 3:7 - Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

2. In the New Covenant era, true Israel is now called the Church (Gal. 6:16)
- B. The New Covenant Church is *not* Old Testament Israel *replaced*; it is Old Testament Israel *completed* and *fulfilled*.

II. How are we to view the Jewish people today?

- A. As individuals:
1. If they are a believer in Jesus, a Jewish Christian is our brother or sister in Christ.
 2. If not a believer, a Jewish person is as lost as any unbeliever.

John 5:22–23 - ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- B. As a collective people -- There are two aspects to how the scriptures view them:

Romans 11:28 - As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

1. As enemies of the gospel.
 - a. 1st century Jews were opposed to Christ and the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 - ¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶ by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

- b. Unbelieving Jews today are still opposed to the gospel (though often in different ways).
2. As beloved for the sake of God’s promises to their forefathers.

- a. Not that every Jew today is saved (see above).
 - b. But Rom. 11 teaches that one day the Lord will bring a full generation of Jews to Christ and His Church.
 - c. This will result in untold blessing for them and the world!
 - d. None of this *necessarily* requires the modern state of Israel.
3. We can view the Jewish people with humble, Biblical sobriety but also with tremendous Biblical hope!