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Faith Is Simple (Romans 10:5-11)

Jews thought attaining righteousness was difficult

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

11 "For this commandment which I command you today, **it is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.** 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Romans 7:14-19

For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Keeping the whole law of God is impossible for man

The Example From Yom Kippur

Romans 10:8-11

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Yom Kippur – Sins forgiven by confession and sacrifice

Salvation by faith is not a new concept

Jews made their traditions more important

Mark 7:8-9

8 "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 And He said to them, "**All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.**"

Biblical Judaism based on the Torah is a faith based religion, it became a religion of works when the religious leaders in trying to "protect the law" made their teachings and their traditions more important than the law itself.



One Law for Both

Romans 10:12-13

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

"Shema" – Deut 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

He is the only God; God of both Jew and Gentile



Jews Need to Believe

Romans 10:14-17

14 How then shall **they** call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? **As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"** 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 **So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**



The Jewish people need to hear the Word so that they can have faith,

Who is responsible for bringing the Word to them?

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, **who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"** NKJV



Israel's Stubbornness – Romans 10:18-21

Deuteronomy 32:21

21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.



Isaiah 65:1-2

65:1 "I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name. 2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people (Israel), Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;



Jews have heard God's voice but did not understand and saw the works of God but did not believe, as Isaiah said:

Isaiah 6:8-9

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'"
NKJV



John 10:36-38

36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? 37 **If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me**; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, **believe the works**, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." NKJV

Isaiah 6:10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."



Renew Your Mind

Romans 12:1-2

12:1 I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be **conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. NKJV

Therefore = conclusion (such as in a math problem)



Present your bodies

Context – no reference to sexual sin mentioned here, so why offer the body?

The problem was food –

Romans 14:15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your **food**, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your **food** the one for whom Christ died. NKJV

Romans 14:20 Do not destroy the work of God (*salvation of the Jews*) **for the sake of food**. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. NKJV



Conforming to this world – Roman mind set towards Jews:

Renew your mind – be humble towards the Jews, to prove to them that it is God's will for Gentiles to believe.



Chapter 11

Have They Fallen? – Romans 11:1-7

The answer – an emphatic No! (God forbid!)

There is still a remnant – God is still in the process of saving the Jewish people

Replacement theology has its roots in the Roman church



Greco-Roman thought system. That system put the Greeks and Romans at the highest level of society while the Jewish people were at the bottom

Paul comes against this saying “no God is not done with us yet”

He points to himself as an example of the remnant



God always keeps a remnant – example of Elijah (1 Kings 19)

God told him that there were another 7000 that had not compromised but God had hidden them.

Elijah thought it was the end of the prophetic era but God had preserved for himself a righteous remnant.

Gentiles in Rome said that God is finished with Israel; that he has not left any witness for himself amongst the Jewish people.



Since the Day of Pentecost there has always been a remnant of believers among the people

Remember Sodom and Gomorrah; it is because of the righteous remnant that God has preserved His people throughout the years.



Is there a remnant of the Gentile church?

Just as there was an Israel within Israel, is there a church within the church?

The book of Esther

Esther 1:19 If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that **Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus**; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.



The calling to the Esther church is to help the rest of the body of Christ understand God's heart for the Jewish people and the roots of our faith.



A Temporary Stumbling – Romans 11:8-12

11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

God caused them to stumble

Isaiah's prophecy - Isaiah 29:9-14

9 Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. 10 **For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes**, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers. 11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed



Their hearts had become hardened toward him

They had a form of religion based on the traditions of man and not the fear of the Lord

God promises here that he will do something so wonderful and marvellous in their eyes something that will make them wonder and be amazed at God.



David's Psalm - Ps 69:22-23

22 Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake (bend their backs NIV) continually

- Table – their traditions (Rabbinic Judaism)
- Well being – the sense that they are safe because of their traditions.



Their traditions have blinded them to the truth of God, it became heavy and burdensome to those who follow them

Luke 11:45-46

45 Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also." 46 And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! **For you load men with burdens hard to bear**, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers



Their stumbling brought salvation to the world
(Romans 11:11-15)

Yeshua went primarily to the Jewish people and told his disciples to do the same.

Mark 7:24-30 (Gentile Woman)

27 But Jesus said to her, "**Let the children be filled first**, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Children = Jews



Matthew 10:5-8

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

When Yeshua sent out the twelve he sent them only to the children of Israel.

Because it was not yet time for the Gentiles



Luke 13:6-9 – Parable of the fig tree

Yeshua was prophesying about Israel and the impending destruction of Jerusalem

God knew that the time was coming for judgment upon Israel and He began to open the door for the Gentiles.

First one through the door was Cornelius and family (Acts 10)

It was not a rejection of Israel, but rather He wanted to make Israel jealous.



Their fullness (acceptance of Messiah) will be a greater blessing

The stumbling of the Jewish people became a blessing for us

Their acceptance will be an even greater blessing

Romans 11:15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Do we want this greater blessing?



Psalm 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.

When we bless them with salvation we will be blessed.

Shalom (Peace) is more than just natural peace i.e. lack of strife but more importantly spiritual peace. It is the promise that God gave to Abraham in Genesis 12:3.



As long as Jewish people are stuck in their traditions they are not at peace with God.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having **been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

They need the same peace we have attained, they need to attain it the same way; by faith



The Olive Tree Analogy – Romans 11:13-18

The plea to the Gentiles

13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

He magnifies his ministry among the Gentiles, i.e. boasts about it to the Jews for the purpose of provoking them to jealousy.



Jewish salvation will result in World salvation

Jewish theology – Olan Habah

Isaiah 49:5-6

5 "And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, **So that Israel is gathered to Him** (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), 6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.**'"



The root sanctifies the tree – Romans 11:16-17

Matthew 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Israel as that first-fruit which is like the yeast that has affected the whole lump, i.e. the church

God used Israel to sanctify the church; how? By making us partakers of the covenants and promises i.e. the Tanakh with them



In-grafted branches get the benefit

Romans 11:17-18

17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,



The Apostle warns the Gentile believers against becoming proud

they are like branches from a wild olive tree

Israel is that tree with all the nutrients in its roots. This speaks of the Tanakh (Old Testament).

The Old Testament came to us through Israel and thus we must not be ungrateful or proud against them

**Watch Your Attitude - Romans 11:19-24**

Pride of Gentiles – reflection of society (Social Darwinism)

God cast the Jewish people aside because of their lack of faith but he warns that God can do the same thing to them as well.

if the Jews would turn and repent from their faithlessness God was able to graft them back into the tree

**Don't Be Ignorant – Romans 11:25-27**

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved

**The mystery**

Blindness; Greek "porosis" describing a hardness of heart.

Israel is waiting for the fullness of the Gentiles

Jacobs prophecy over Ephraim; Genesis 48:17-21

V19 "He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and **his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.**"



Manasseh was older, instead Jacob blesses Ephraim first.

He intentionally did this and gave Ephraim a greater blessing including descendants from among the Gentiles.

Today Gentiles outnumber the Jews in the Kingdom.



God will cause Israel to turn back

Paul emphatically states that all Israel will be saved

1 Kings 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for **all Israel** had gone to Shechem to make him king.

Daniel 9:11 Yes, **all Israel has transgressed Your law**, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice;

A majority of Jewish people



God Wants to Show Mercy - Romans 11:28-33

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

God still loves them – Because of His covenant with them God still chooses to love them



God has not revoked His calling

Vashti remained in the kingdom, still loved by the king but never entered his presence.

He exiled Israel for a time but the time of their exile has ended, the return began in as a trickle in the late 1800s but the flood gates opened in 1948



He is waiting to show mercy to the Jews

Believers are called to be the channel through which God's mercy can come to the Jewish people.

The Wisdom of God – Romans 11:33-36

God's ways are beyond human comprehension

God devised a plan by which they could be saved. That plan involved him turning away from the Jews for a time and turning his attention to the Gentiles.



Give Him glory

Finally what else can we do except to glorify God and live according to His wisdom not our own.

Be what God has called us to be, the channel of blessing to the Jewish people.

Partner with God in what He is doing.

Romans is about the relationship between Jew and Gentile

