

# What About Israel?

## Part 6

### Did Israel Have A Fair Chance?

(Romans 10:14-21)

Survey of Romans part 40

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**Title: Did Israel have a Fair Chance? – What About Israel? Part 6 -**

**Text: Ro 10:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

<sup>16</sup> However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

<sup>18</sup> But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

<sup>19</sup> But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."

<sup>20</sup> And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT ME NOT, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

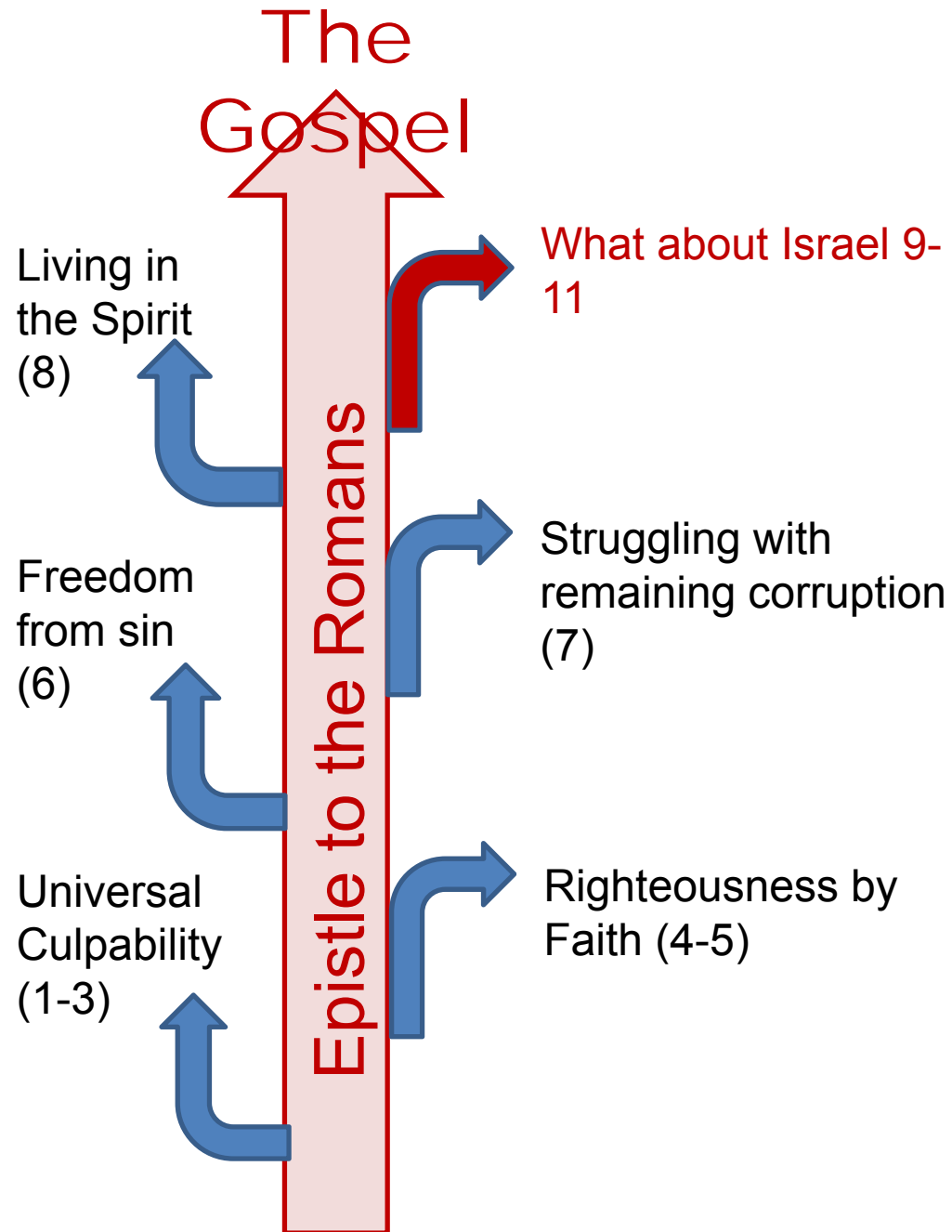
<sup>21</sup> But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

## Title: Did Israel have a Fair Chance? – What About Israel? Part 6 -

### 1. Unpacking a text that leads to confuse or misuse.

- One of the challenges of reading Paul is that he was a Rabi, an Eastern Wisdom Teacher.
- Trying to capture his teaching into wooden, fictitious headings is tedious and may rob the passage from its intended meaning.
- Paul is talking about the place of Israel in God's Redemptive purposes. He has not left this topic.
- **39 Previous Installments? WE ARE HERE!**





## A SUMMARY OF ROMANS 9 to 11:



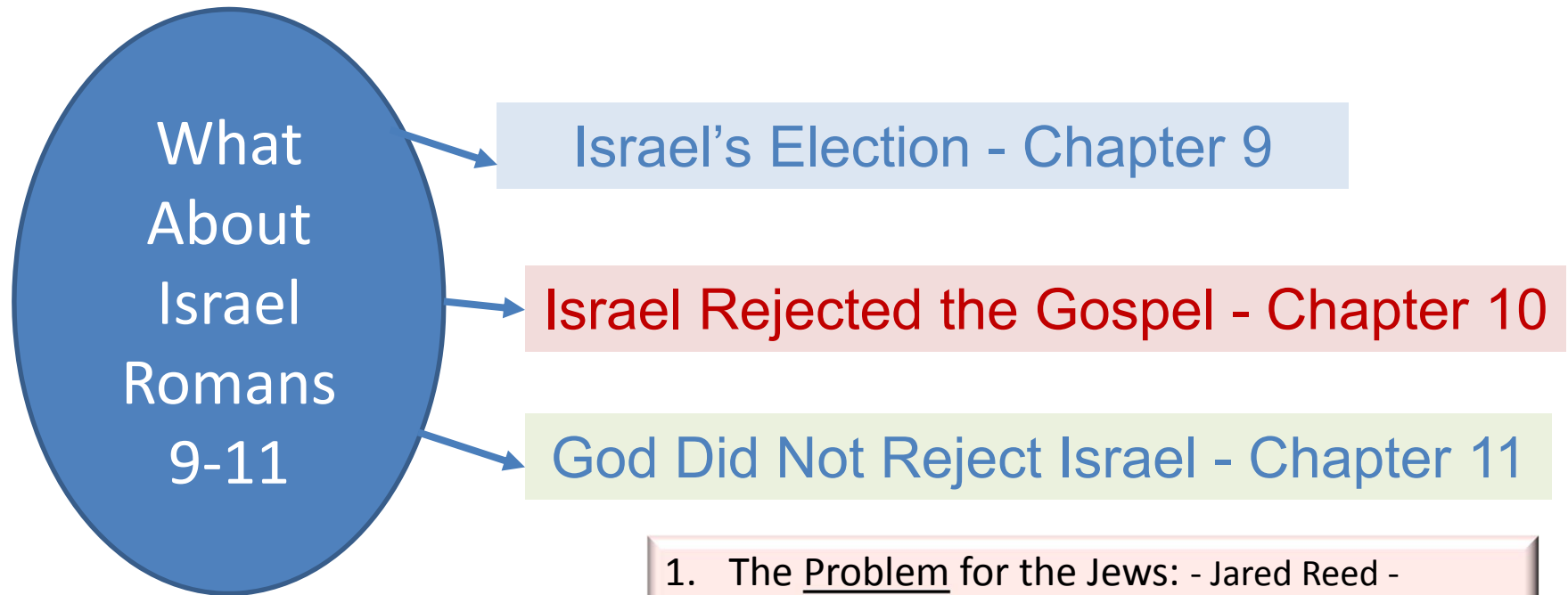
## A SUMMARY OF ROMANS 9 to 11:



### Romans 9 – Israel's Election

1. Israel **Covenantal Privileges** (v. 1-5)
2. Israel **True Identification** (v. 6-8)
3. Israel **Sovereign Election** (v. 9-24)
4. Israel **Remnant and Gentile Inclusion** (v. 25-33)

## A SUMMARY OF ROMANS 9 to 11:



Romans 10 – Israel Rejected the Gospel. (1-13)

1. The Problem for the Jews: - Jared Reed - “the way of righteousness they had followed came from God... How can there be another way apart from the Law?”
2. They missed that the righteousness of the Law is fulfilled in the Gospel (v. 5-8)
3. The Word of Faith Paul & Moses preached was “JESUS” (v. 9-13)

## A SUMMARY OF ROMANS 9 to 11:



Romans 10 – Israel Rejected the Gospel (14-21)

**Today:** Was Israel Given a Fair Chance to hear the Gospel and consequently believe it?



## 1. Unpacking a text that leads to confuse or misuse.

**Link:** A rhetorical question arises in Paul's mind as he considers his Jewish readers in Rome. **Has God given Israel a fair chance to believe?**

**Thesis:** The passage answers “yes, Israel has heard the Word of Christ since the very beginning”.

If you get this, you will understand what Romans 10:14-21 is about.

**This is the context of vs 14:** *“How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!”*

***Ever heard that text preached to kids in a Mission's or Evangelism Conference?***

***That's not the context Paul wrote it.***

## 2. A Chain Reaction that leads to an honest question.

- If to CALL upon the Lord for salvation one must first BELIEVE and,
- If to *believe* in Him one must first HEAR the gospel and,
- If to *hear* the message, there must first be a PREACHER and,
- If for *preachers* to exist, they must first be SENT, then...

Has God given Israel a fair chance to believe?

A sincere Jew could have this question and Paul graciously answers that yes, God gave Israel every opportunity to believe, following the order of verse 14.

### 3. Yes, God gave Israel a fair chance, they have no excuse.

- Vs 15 quotes Isaiah 52:7 → “the beautiful feet of those who announce glad tidings”, a text that speaks about Zion future restoration.

- Vs 16 quotes Isaiah 53 - the suffering servant of the Lord i.e. Jesus – asking “who has believed our report?” The implied answer is, very few.

- Messiah had to come first, this was announced to Israel 750 years before Jesus’ earthly ministry! And His rejection was also foretold.

- Vs 17 when Paul states “17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”, he is affirming Israel had the word of Christ preached to them, but they rejected it!

### 3. Yes, God gave Israel a fair chance, they have no excuse.

- Vs 18 quotes Psalm 19:3 “their voice has gone to the ends of the earth...”. This was way before Isaiah, it goes back to **creation**.
- Psalm 19:1-2 “the heavens declare the Glory of God and the firmament announces His handiwork”.
- It then moves to the **Law of Moses** as a witness of Jesus. For Psalm 19 goes on to say “the Law of the Lord is perfect which converts the soul” and Jesus told the Jews, “if you believed Moses, you believed in Me, for Moses wrote of Me.” John 5:46
- Vs 19 quotes Deuteronomy 32:21 'They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.’ 1600 BC God foretold that because of Israel’s idolatry and rejection, He would provoke them to jealousy by calling gentiles to Himself!

### 3. Yes, God gave Israel a fair chance, they have no excuse.

Side Note: this is why “scholars” argue that Moses couldn’t have written the last part of Deuteronomy, this prophecy was way too accurate to have been foretold, unless God was involved in the penning of these words.

•**Vs 20** quotes Isaiah **Isaiah 65:1** in the context of God’s promise of a future Glory, not only to Israel, *but to the whole world*. “I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name.”

•**Vs 21** quotes **Isaiah 65:2** and this seals the argument of “Has Israel been given a fair chance to hear the Gospel and believe?”  
**You bet they have!**

### 3. Yes, God gave Israel a fair chance, they have no excuse.

•Vs 21 quotes Isaiah 65:2 adding pathos to Israel's rejection: "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, 3 A people who continually provoke Me to My face, Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks."

**Let me quote from Jary Reed's notes on Romans.**

*"Paul's final statement is, The Gentiles have responded to God. They were not looking for God, but when God revealed Himself to them in Jesus, they submitted. The Jews too have heard the message, but when they heard, rather than submit, they disobeyed continually and obstinately. The problem for Israel is that they continue to be rebellious against God—and now it is seen in their reaction to Jesus."*

**Now the story doesn't end there for Israel, for in 11:1-1 Paul states:**

**“I say then, Has God rejected His people? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**

**<sup>2</sup> God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.”**

But that will be for the next lesson, if God allows me to teach it.

I will just advance this. I am Amillennialist in my present understanding of eschatology, but I do not agree with some of the exegetical gymnastics I have heard and read, to hop around verse 2.

## CONCLUSION:

a) We, the Gentiles, were God's excuse to provoke the Jews, and to call a people unto salvation, from every tribe, nation and tongue.

**b) On the Gospel Chain Reaction:** *if hearing is a sine-qua-non condition to believing, and preaching is indispensable to hearing, and for preaching to exist, preachers must be sent...*

- Let us pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to His harvest.

- Let us pray and be grateful for those (present and past) who were sent as preachers to us

c) **Let us treasure Jesus**, He is the subject matter and aim of true preaching.  
“**Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ.**”

d) Preaching Jesus' and His Gospel, is CENTRAL to God's redemptive purposes; it should be CENTRAL in the ministry of every sound church.

e) “**Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.**” Proverbs 23:23

Best you can do for yourself and your children, is buy truth for them, not what they want to hear.



**END**