

# **Genesis 12:3 - I Will Bless Those Who Bless You, And I Will Curse Those Who Curse You—A Warning Against Antisemitism**

## **Memory Verse**

Genesis 12:1-3, 7 NKJV—*The unconditional promises given to Abraham*

Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> **I will** bless those who bless you, and **I will** curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants **I will** give this land.”

## **Introduction**

Previously we saw that God unconditionally promised Abraham and the nation of Israel the land of Israel and that they would become a great nation. We saw that several times God did not treat Israel as they deserved (to be destroyed or wiped out) when they completely rebelled against Him. He still gave them the land of Canaan (now the land of Israel) and they are still a nation, despite their disobedience and rebellion against God. What we learned about is grace, that just like God didn’t and still doesn’t treat Israel like they deserved, God doesn’t treat us sinners like we deserve. We will now learn the reason why, or what motivates God, to make and keep promises to an undeserving nation [Israel—the physical picture], and to undeserving individuals [those who choose to receive God’s gift of forgiveness and eternal life—the spiritual reality]. *The glorious reason is that God’s promises are unconditional because God’s love is unconditional.*

We will also learn about antisemitism and why it is so dangerous, especially when it is promoted by the church. God has given the church a special role—we are God’s ambassadors to demonstrate the love of God to a rebellious Israel. God wants rebellious Israel to be jealous of all the blessings we the church enjoy that they don’t—and that will only be demonstrated as we sacrificially love God’s chosen nation. We will learn that this is a difficult task because the majority of the Jews are still in open rebellion against God, and are therefore also our also our enemies with regards to the message of the cross.

## **Outline:**

1. God’s promises are unconditional because God’s love is unconditional
2. A quick summary of 5 of the “I will” promises
3. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you
4. A brief survey through Romans chapter 11 where Paul proves that the nation of Israel, although temporarily set aside, will always be God’s chosen people

## **Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV**

**Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

**<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.”**

## 1. God's promises are unconditional because God's love is unconditional

Why does God choose to make and keep promises to an undeserving nation [Israel—the physical picture], and to undeserving individuals [those who choose to receive God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life—the spiritual reality]? The reason is profound: *God's promises are unconditional because God's love is unconditional.* Here are two scriptures which show that the basis of God choosing Israel to be His chosen people, and individuals for salvation, are both rooted in God's love.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NKJV

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> **The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;** <sup>8</sup> **but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath [unconditional promise] which He swore to your fathers,** the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Titus 3:3-7 NKJV

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> **But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,** <sup>5</sup> **not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,** through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Consider the following quote from David Guzik which explains how we should understand the statement “God loves me”:

*“But we should understand what it means when the Bible says that God loves the ungodly. The significance of the idea that God loves us all has been twisted considerably. Consider the sinner who defends his sinful practice by saying “God loves me just the way I am.” His implication is that “God loves me; I must be pretty good.” Actually, the fact that God loves him is a reflection on God's goodness, not his own. The perspective isn't, “I'm so great that even God loves me,” but “God is so great that He loves even me.”*

*God's love extends everywhere, and nothing can separate us from it. But we can deny ourselves the benefits of God's love. People who don't keep themselves in the love of God end up living as if they are on the dark side of the moon. The sun is always out there, always shining, but they are never in a position to receive its light or warmth. An example of this is the Prodigal Son of Luke 15, who was always loved by the father, but for a time he did not benefit from it.” (David Guzik)*

This is the example of Israel—they were chosen and loved of God, but because of their choices, they often did not experience the blessings of being God's chosen people. Remember, *Israel is a physical picture of a spiritual truth—Israel missed out on physical blessings, but we the church, miss out on spiritual blessings, namely the peace, love and joy that accompanies fellowship with God.*

## 2. A quick summary of 5 of the “I will” promises

In Genesis chapter 11, we saw the tower of Babel rebellion play out where man said, “My will be done”. But after confusing the languages and dispersing the nations, we now see God declaring that He has a plan—that His will, His plan, will be done. Here God sets in motion the next stage of His plan of salvation—the birth of the nation that will in turn give birth to the Messiah! Man thinks that he is in control, but God sets the rules, and God dictates what happens and when it happens on this earth. History is His-story! And this is why these promises are so important.

### **Genesis 12:2-3, 7 NKJV**

**<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

**<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.”**

Let’s quickly revise five of the unconditional promises that God made to Abraham and his descendants, the people of Israel. We will see that God has indeed kept, is keeping, and will keep the unconditional promises that He made to Abraham and his descendants, the nation of Israel. Later we will read the scriptures where it describes in more detail when and what the ultimate fulfilment of these promises will be. We will then look in more detail at the remaining two “I will” promises.

### **1. I will make you a great nation**

This promise has been largely fulfilled. It’s not just about lots of people, though of course that is important. It’s also about status. There have been times in Israel’s history when they really were a great and powerful nation, ruled by godly men like Moses, Joshua, king David, king Solomon, king Uzziah, and King Hezekiah etc. However, the ultimate fulfilment will be when Israel rules the world for the duration of during the 1,000 year Millennium. David will be over them as their prince, and Jesus will be their king reigning from the new temple in Jerusalem (see Ezekiel 34:24 and 37:25).

### **2. I will bless you**

If you look through the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you will see that God materially blessed them with both protection, status, and material wealth. The verse below shows how the people of the land of Canaan had previously recognised that Abraham was blessed, and now recognised that Abraham’s son Isaac was also blessed by God.

### **Genesis 26:28-29 NKJV**

But they said, “**We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you [Isaac].** So we said, ‘Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you, <sup>29</sup> that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. **You are now the blessed of the LORD [since Abraham had died].’ ”**

### **3. I will ... make your name great**

It’s hard to think of anyone who is looked up to by more people on this earth than Abraham. Jews, Christians, and Muslims all honour Abraham as a prophet. God has fulfilled this promise.

#### **4. In you all the the families [nations] of the earth shall be blessed**

This is the promise of the Messiah. There is a lot in Genesis concerning this, with the promise repeated or reiterated to Isaac and then to Jacob (also called Israel). We will cover this in more detail another time. For now we'll just read one passage from the New Testament that proves that this statement is referring to the work that the coming Messiah would do on behalf of the whole world—He would pay the penalty for their sins and make it possible for all people to be saved—all they have to do is repent and believe.

Galatians 3:6-9 NLT

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." <sup>7</sup> The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

<sup>8</sup> What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in His sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "**All nations [families] will be blessed through you [Genesis 12:3].**" <sup>9</sup> So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

#### **5. To your descendants I will give this land**

We covered this promise previously. God says that the land of Israel is His land, and that He wants His people to live there. This is a very relevant promise for today's political situation in the Middle East. Those who believe in the replacement Theology lie deny that the land of Israel belongs to Israel. They are therefore much more likely to believe and support Hamas than Israel. Notice that this promise has not been fulfilled in it's entirety—Israel will only possess this large area of land when Jesus rules over them during the Millennial reign. This is also true for most of the other "I will" promises—their ultimate fulfilment will only come to pass when Jesus Himself rules the earth from Jerusalem.

Joshua 1:2-4 NKJV

"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, **to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.** <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. <sup>4</sup> **From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.**

Ezekiel 36:5-10 NKJV

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave **My land** to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country."

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore prophesy concerning **the land of Israel**, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations." <sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame. <sup>8</sup> **But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel**, for they are about to come. <sup>9</sup> For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. <sup>10</sup> **I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it;** and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

### **3. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you**

#### **Genesis 12:3 NKJV**

**I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse [literally, put under a curse] those who curse [are indifferent towards] you.**

Notice the two different Hebrew words which are both translated as “curse”. God will literally curse or punish those who dare to even just treat Israel with indifference or “lightly esteem them”. This doesn’t mean that we have to agree with everything Israel does or believes. *However, it does mean that we should support and encourage the Jews to go back to their land, and do our best to share the gospel with them.*

#### **How these unconditional promise to bless or curse affect the nations**

Consider how this is true at the level of countries and empires. While it may not be the only reason, there is a very high correlation between how nations and empires treated Israel and how they prospered or didn’t prosper.

“When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler’s Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel.” (Barnhouse)

“This is also one reason why the United States has been so blessed. The United States was one of the first modern nations to grant full citizenship and protection to Jewish people.” (David Guzik)

#### **The replacement theology heresy—how God’s promise to bless or curse affects the church**

The blessing and cursing promise has also affected the church. The times in history when the church decided that it was a good idea to persecute God’s chosen people Israel were dark times for both the church and the Jews. But this is also true for the church today. Many in the church today believe that the church has replaced Israel, that Israel is no longer God’s chosen people. This false doctrine is called “Replacement Theology”. Where in the Bible they read Israel, they think the church. Where they see Israel mentioned in relation the second coming of Christ, especially with the 7 year tribulation and Millennial reign, they spiritualise or allegorise these passages in Daniel, Revelation, Isaiah, and Ezekiel etc, saying that they can’t be taken literally: *Why? Because they believe that Israel is not literally God’s chosen people anymore (since as a nation they rejected Jesus as their messiah at His first coming).*

Again, what’s important to realise is that there are two different words used for curse in verse 3. When God says “*I will curse*”, He literally means “curse” in the sense “to have divine harm or evil invoked upon”. However a different Hebrew word translated as “curse” in “*those who curse you*”, means something different. We don’t just need to literally curse or physically attack the nation of Israel to be cursed by God, but rather just treat them with indifference—demeaning, belittling, or despising Israel is enough to invoke God’s curse upon ourselves, and this is exactly what the replacement theology does. Most Christians who believe the replacement theology heresy don’t go around murdering Jews, but they do lightly esteem them, saying that because they rejected Christ as a nation, then God has permanently rejected them as being His chosen people. Ideas do have consequences. God has warned us that we should not lightly esteem or despise His chosen people.

#### **4. A brief survey through Romans chapter 11 where Paul proves that the nation of Israel, although temporarily set aside, will always be God's chosen people**

A simple, straightforward reading of Romans chapters 9-11 reveals that God has not completely or permanently rejected the people He chose. As we read through parts of Romans chapter 11 we will discuss it, with my explanation of the verses being in *italics*. We will cover several points:

##### **A) Scripture says very clearly that God has not rejected His people, Israel**

Romans 11:1-8, 11-16 AMP

**<sup>1</sup> I ask then: Has God totally rejected and disowned His people? Of course not! Why, I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin! [I Sam. 12:22; Jer. 31:37; 33:24-26; Phil. 3:5.]**

**<sup>2</sup> No, God has not rejected and disowned His people [whose destiny] He had marked out and appointed and foreknown from the beginning.**

*Here we see Paul answering the question, “**Has God totally rejected and disowned His people [the nation of Israel]?**” The answer is a resounding “**Of course not!**” Why? Because God chose Israel with complete foreknowledge of what they would do, all the ways that they would rebel against Him, including them rejecting their own Messiah. Their rejection of their Messiah has consequences of course—God must discipline His own people. But remember that God never completely rejects and disowns anyone that God calls His own. Paul uses himself as evidence of this. Also remember that the initial church was made up almost exclusively of Jews—God did not **totally reject and disown His own people, the nation of Israel.***

*Later in Romans chapter 11, Paul will go on to show two things, that God's rejection of Israel is both only temporary and only partial. Firstly, that God's rejection of Israel is only partial—there will always be a believing remnant. Secondly, that God's rejection of Israel is only temporary—it will last only until the fullness of the gentiles has come in. At that time, when Jesus physically comes back to the earth at the end of the seven year Tribulation with His church at His Second Coming, the vast majority of of the nation of Israel will repent and put their trust in their Messiah, Yeshua, Jesus. Here is a sneak preview of what we will soon read and explain:*

*“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. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written...” (Romans 11:25-26a NKJV).*

*Paul now continues with a past example of how God disciplined His chosen people without completely rejecting or disowning them. He goes back to the time when evil king Ahab was on the throne in northern Israel—it was a very dark and evil time. Elijah was God's prophet at the time.*

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? [Ps. 94:14; I Kings 19.]

<sup>3</sup> Lord, they have killed Your prophets; they have demolished Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.

<sup>4</sup> But what is God's reply to him? I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal! [I Kings 19:18.]

<sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant (a small believing minority), selected (chosen) by grace (by God's unmerited favour and graciousness).

<sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace (His unmerited favour and graciousness), it is no longer conditioned on works or anything men have done. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace [it would be meaningless].

<sup>7</sup> What then [shall we conclude]? Israel failed to obtain what it sought [God's favour by obedience to the Law]. Only the elect (those chosen few) [the remnant] obtained it, while the rest of them became callously indifferent (blinded, hardened, and made insensible to it).

<sup>8</sup> As it is written, God gave them a spirit (an attitude) of stupor, eyes that should not see and ears that should not hear, [that has continued] down to this very day. [Deut. 29:4; Isa. 29:10.]

*Here we learn a valuable lesson from the children of Israel. God will give us what we demand to have, even if it is bad for us. If we won't soften our hearts and listen to God, then God will give us over to a hard heart, and we will have to learn the hard way.*

**<sup>11</sup> So I ask, Have they [Israel] stumbled so as to fall [to their utter spiritual ruin, irretrievably]? By no means!**

*Again Paul emphasises the fact that God's discipline of Israel is not permanent or total—they will recover from their rebellion against God, just like a sick person recovers from a serious disease.*

*B) God has temporarily replaced Israel with the church as His ambassadors to share the good news of the gospel to the world and to Israel*

**But through their false step and transgression salvation [has come] to the Gentiles, so as to arouse Israel [to see and feel what they forfeited] and so to make them jealous.**

<sup>12</sup> Now if their stumbling (their lapse, their transgression) has so enriched the world [at large], and if [Israel's] failure means such riches for the Gentiles, think what an enrichment and greater advantage will follow their full reinstatement!

<sup>13</sup> But now I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I lay great stress on my ministry and magnify my office,

**<sup>14</sup> In the hope of making my fellow Jews jealous [in order to stir them up to imitate, copy, and appropriate], and thus managing to save some of them.**

<sup>15</sup> For if their rejection and exclusion from the benefits of salvation were [overruled] for the reconciliation of a world to God, what will their acceptance and admission mean? [It will be nothing short of] life from the dead!

*Here we see that God's discipline of the nation of Israel was to make salvation available to the gentiles, meaning that God will now use the church to be His light unto the world (see Matthew 5:14), as Israel used to be (see Deuteronomy 26:17-19), and will one day be again (see Revelation 7).*

C) Why did God put Israel aside and use the Church instead? To make Israel Jealous!

These verses also show the glorious purpose of why God chose this discipline for the nation of Israel—it was not punitive, but corrective. God has temporarily replaced Israel with the Church to be His ambassadors to this dark world, for the purpose of making Israel Jealous of what they are missing out on—they should be the ones in fellowship with God, the ones who share the good news of the gospel with a lost world, the ones who enjoy sweet communion and fellowship with God—but they are not. Paul wants them to see what they are missing out on, and to become Jealous. It's like positive peer pressure—**“But through their false step and transgression salvation [has come] to the Gentiles, so as to arouse Israel [to see and feel what they forfeited] and so to make them jealous... In the hope of making my fellow Jews jealous [in order to stir them up to imitate, copy, and appropriate], and thus managing to save some of them.”**

“If by any means I may provoke to jealousy: Yet, Paul’s desire isn’t only that these riches would be enjoyed by the Gentiles only, but that the Jews would be provoked to a good kind of jealousy, motivating them to receive some of the blessings the Gentiles enjoyed.” (David Guzik)

“It is a matter for profound regret that just as Israel refused to accept this salvation when it was offered to them, so the Gentiles have all too often refused to make Israel envious. Instead of showing to God’s ancient people the attractiveness of the Christian way, Christians have characteristically treated the Jews with hatred, prejudice, persecution, malice, and all uncharitableness. Christians should not take this passage calmly.” (Morris)

Links to antisemitism previously covered in Revelation 12.

Audio	<a href="#">Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3</a>
Notes	<a href="#">Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3</a>

D) Paul once again reaffirms that God’s rejection of the people of Israel as His ambassadors is only temporary

Paul also again makes it clear that Israel’s rejection is not permanent—he says that Israel will be **fully reinstated** to their original position or role as being God’s ambassadors to the world. “Now if their stumbling (their lapse, their transgression) has so enriched the world [at large], and if [Israel’s] failure means such riches for the Gentiles, think what an enrichment and greater advantage will follow **their full reinstatement!... what will their acceptance and admission mean?**”

E) Why should the church want God to restore Israel?

Paul is telling us that while Israel’s disobedience resulted in blessing for the church, their inevitable obedience will result in even greater blessing for the world—**“It will be nothing short of] life from the dead!”** This is because Israel’s repentance and acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah makes possible the Second Coming of Christ and the start of the glorious and wonderful Millennial reign of Christ on earth—**“for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’”** (Matthew 23:39 NKJV)

F) The illustration of an offering to show that the physical descendants of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob will once again be holy to God

Romans 11:16 AMP

<sup>16</sup> Now if the first handful of dough offered as the firstfruits [Abraham and the patriarchs] is consecrated (holy), so is the whole mass [the nation of Israel]; and if the root [Abraham] is consecrated (holy), so are the branches. [Num. 15:19-21.]

Under the Old Covenant, once a part of something was offered to the Lord, whatever was left was also considered holy or acceptable to the Lord.

G) The illustration of Israel being grafted back into God's olive tree (a picture of salvation)

Romans 11:17-32 NLT

<sup>17</sup> **But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and His children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree.** <sup>18</sup> But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

<sup>19</sup> **“Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.”**

<sup>20</sup> **Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe.** So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the original branches [the nation of Israel], He won't spare you [the gentile church] either.

<sup>22</sup> Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in His kindness. But if you [the gentile church] stop trusting, you also will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> **And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree.**

<sup>24</sup> You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. **So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you [the gentile church] into His cultivated tree, He will be far more eager to graft the original branches [the nation of Israel] back into the tree where they belong.**

<sup>25</sup> **I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ.** <sup>26</sup> **And so all [the majority of] Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, “The One who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and He will turn Israel away from ungodliness [at the end of the Tribulation].”** <sup>27</sup> **And this is My covenant with them [the nation of Israel], that I will take away their sins.”**

The illustration is plain and simple. The nation of Israel represents the natural or original branches of the cultivated olive tree. But because of unbelief they are removed, and in their place wild olive branches are added, which represent the church. The message is clear. God will, at the end of the seven year Tribulation, reinstate or regraft or reattach the natural branches (Israel), back into their own tree. Again, Israel's removal or rejection is only temporary.

H) Israel, because of their hard heartedness, is an enemy to the gospel

<sup>28</sup> **Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles.**

Remember that in Paul's day the Jews actively persecuted Christians. This still happens to some extent today. The reason is still the same—if they reject the gospel, then they will also reject the messengers or ambassadors (the church) that proclaims the gospel. This makes the church's task to love the Jewish nation quite difficult. However, the church must remember that we would never have been blessed the way we have if not for Israel's disobedience—**and this benefits you Gentiles.**

I) Israel is rejected by God in the sense that they are no longer His ambassadors to the world, but are still the people of God by promise.

**Yet they are still the people He loves because He chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [God is always faithful to keep His promises].<sup>29</sup> For God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn.**

Again, Paul lets us know that God's people will always be His people. God cannot break a promise. God cannot unchoose a nation or person that He has chosen. *This should be such a comfort to us, that no matter how disobedient a child of God is, they will always remain a child of God, just like God's chosen nation will always remain His chosen nation.*

J) The conclusion of Paul's message: All are guilty and all have received mercy.

<sup>30</sup> *Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against Him, God was merciful to you instead.* <sup>31</sup> *Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy.* <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so He could have mercy on everyone.

### **Summary and conclusion**

The church has a very important role with regards to Israel. God has given the church the job of evangelising his chosen, but temporarily rebellious people. He wants gentile (non-Jewish) believers to be so concerned about the spiritual welfare of the Jews that we will seek to bless them and love them, even if they don't deserve it. While the satanic world system hates the Jews, the church has a mandate to love them, to show them by example the love of Christ. This is what Paul did, *"for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them"* (Romans 11:14 NLT).

When a Christian embraces the Replacement Theology lie, they generally no longer show any concern for the Jews, instead only contempt (and often violence like in the early church, starting in the third century with Origen and then later Augustine who invented the Replacement theology lie, and eventually resulted in the physical persecution and killing of Jews by the church). **Instead of the gentile church making the Jews jealous of what we have in Christ by loving them, we cause them to despise Christ by treating them indifferently—a very serious sin indeed—and thus why God says that He will curse those who treat Israel with indifference.**

*"It is a matter for profound regret that just as Israel refused to accept this salvation when it was offered to them, so the Gentiles have all too often refused to make Israel envious. Instead of showing to God's ancient people the attractiveness of the Christian way, Christians have characteristically treated the Jews with hatred, prejudice, persecution, malice, and all uncharitableness. Christians should not take this passage calmly." (Morris)*

Next time I will show how the church came to be the way it is, with much of her cursing or despising or lightly esteeming the nation of Israel. But for us today, we must be faithful to love and evangelise the Jews because it is one of the church's mandates.

Links to antisemitism previously covered in Revelation 12.

Audio	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3</u></a>
Notes	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:1-9 Antisemitism Pt 1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:10 Antisemitism Pt 2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Revelation 12:11-17 Antisemitism Pt 3</u></a>