

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Has God Rejected His People?

Passages: Romans 11:1-10

Introduction: Today, John focused on the key question Paul answers in Romans 11: Has God rejected His people? —given that many of Jewish descent rejected Jesus in his day. John noted the promise God gives to Abraham in Genesis 12: those who bless your people will be blessed and those who curse your people will be cursed, which has been prominent in the national media of late. John touched on if this promise has any connection to the modern nation/state of Israel or if God fulfills that promise to Abraham in a different way.

Additional passages: Deuteronomy 7:6-9 & Ephesians 1:3-8, 17-19; Galatians 3:7-9, 16, 23-29; Romans 2:28-29, 3:29-30.

Questions:

1. John started by reminding us of God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3), how Moses gives more detail on it (Deut 7:6-9), how God promised David there would be an everlasting king in his line (2 Sam 7), how Isaiah talks about a suffering servant who would die for His people (Is 53:4-7). The New Testament reveals that these promises are all fulfilled in one man: Jesus Christ. John said he believes there is one people of God: those who are connected to Jesus by faith. **Discuss this flow of thought and interpretation of Scripture: did it raise questions for you? If so, what questions?**
2. Jesus clearly understood Himself to be the king in David's line who would lead God's everlasting kingdom (Matt 22:41-45, Luke 22:29-30). When Jesus came, He said repent for the kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15). What do Jesus' words teach us about how someone becomes part of the people of God (Cf. Rom 10:9-10, Eph 2:8-9)?
3. Read Deuteronomy 7:6-9 and Ephesians 1:3-8, 17-19. In Eph. 1:18, this phrase appears: "what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." The pronoun "his" refers to God, so the idea is that God's people are His treasured possession (picking up on the language of Deut 7). **How does the connection between these two passages inform your view of who makes up the people of God (Consider also 1 Peter 2:9-10)?**
4. Based on Romans 11:1-6, especially verses 5-6, John noted that all through the Old Testament, the people of God were not merely those of ethnic descent, *but a portion within the nation of Israel* who God chose and was faithful to even when the nation as a whole was unfaithful to Him. Then in Galatians 3, Paul identifies sons of Abraham as those who have faith and says that ethnicity does not matter in the people of God. **Who makes up God's people now that Christ has come? What do you think the Bible teaches for how we should view the modern nation of Israel in God's saving plan?**
5. Read Isaiah 41:8, 49:3-6, and 53:4-7. What do these verses teach about the identity of the servant in Isaiah? What do these verses say the servant in Isaiah will do? How do these verses inform who make up God's chosen people?
6. Are there any passages you wonder about that you think teach God has a not yet fulfilled plan specific to the nation of Israel or the land of Israel?