



-- Chapter 6 ends with this question: *"The great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

Chapter 7 is that answer to that question.

-- Revelation 7 presents two different ways of describing the same group.

-- To understand what is really taking place in

Revelation 7, we need to obtain a sound biblical theology of Israel.

1.) Israel is the name given to God's CHOSEN people (Deut. 7:6-8).

2.) Israel was never restricted solely to ethnic Jews.

-- From the very beginning, not every native Jew was right with God, and not every Gentile was at odds with Him (Genesis 17:12-13).

3.) Israel is dependent upon OBEDIENCE to the covenant.

(Deuteronomy 28:14-15, 63; Psalm 37:9, 22)

-- Israel's identity as Israel depends entirely upon obedience to the commands of God.

-- God's blessings upon Israel can be both absolute and conditional only in Christ, in whom the covenant is fulfilled completely.

4.) Israel is FULFILLED in Christ.

-- Since being a true Israelite demands obedience to the covenant, then only those who are in Christ can be true spiritual Israelites because only in Him is obedience to the covenant perfectly fulfilled.

-- The NT confirms that God's plan is still for Israel, but the identity of Israel is now centered entirely in Christ and His people, the church.

-- Israel was never meant to stand alone, but to point forward to and be fulfilled in Christ.

5.) Israel is radically RECONSTITUTED in Christ.

- The kingdom comes only in Christ and through Him (John 5:23, 14:6).
- Jesus reenacted what Israel did, but without sin (Hos. 11:1, Mat. 2:15).
- Both in His perfect obedience to the covenant and in His real-life experience, Jesus is the **EMBODIMENT** of all Israel was meant to be.
- To be in Israel is to be in Christ, and to be in Christ is to be in the church. Israel and the church are inseparable spiritual entities (1 Peter 2:9, Exodus 19:5-6, Galatians 6:15-16, Eph. 1:11-14, 2:19-21).
- *If true Israel has been reconstituted as the true church of Jesus Christ, then what are God's plans for ethnic Israel? Is there hope for the Jews?*

Romans 9-11

- Romans 9 – It is not **NATURAL** Israelites that are God's children, but those who come to Him by faith in Christ. Christ alone saves; nothing else is sufficient.
- Romans 10 – Native Jews can be saved, but only through personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Romans 11 – *Since salvation comes only in Christ, what will become of ethnic Israel?*
 - v. 5-10 – There remains a **REMNANT** of ethnic Israel who will receive Jesus Christ as Lord, while the rest will persist in stubborn unbelief.
 - v. 11-15 – Because of the hard hearts of ethnic Israel, Christ has been magnified among the Gentiles, and the salvation of Gentiles produces a useful jealousy among the Jews that leads them to faith in Christ.
 - v. 16-22 – Paul illustrates the **SHARED** salvation of both Jews and Gentiles through the image of a tree.
 - v. 23-24 – Native Jews can be grafted back into this new Israel, but only in Christ, because being a part of Israel now requires being part of Christ.
 - v. 25-26 – **What does Paul mean by “All Israel will be saved.”**
 - If the phrase “all Israel” refers to ethnic Israel, then what Paul declares there seems convoluted.

- The only way this verse makes sense is with the understanding that the **CHURCH** is the fulfillment of Israel. The New Testament makes clear that every sincere believer in Christ is part of the church.
- Paul is saying that all of God's chosen people who come to Him through Christ will be grafted into the church, whether they are natively Jewish or Gentile.

Application

- 1.) Preach the **GOSPEL** to all people, whether Gentile or Jew.
 - There is always a remnant of native Jews who will listen and respond.
- 2.) There is not a **THEOLOGICAL** imperative to protect the nation of Israel.
 - Opinion: There are good political, historical, moral, and common sense reasons to support Israel, but not theological.
- 3.) Recognize the central significance of the **CHURCH**
 - God's purposes on earth are centered in and focused upon the church.