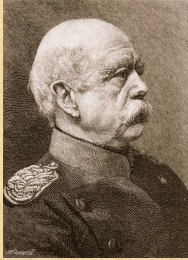


Otto Von Bismarck



There is a famous story in which the Kaiser asks Bismarck, "Can you prove the existence of God?" Bismarck replies, "The Jews, your majesty. The Jews."

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum



"How to destroy the Jews.?"

It is easy, just destroy the world!"

What is the big deal with Israel and God?



1. Israel is set aside **FOR** God - with a holy message, mission, and Messiah.
2. Israel is set aside **FROM** God - to allow the the Gentiles to be blessed.
3. Does Israel have a key "end game" role in God's plan?

Romans

Righteousness and Faith	Righteousness and Israel	Righteousness and Living
(Faith)	(Hope)	(Love)
ch.1-8	ch.9-11	ch.12-16

Hope for Gentiles and Jews

Ch.9 - The nation Israel is set aside.

Ch.10 - True Israel is of faith.

Ch.11 - God hardened the nation Israel in unbelief and set her aside so as to include the Gentiles after which Israel would be repentant and reinstated by faith.

Romans 11

"¹¹ I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be!"

The Israel that was hardened and failed to believe will one day be restored.

". . . But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous."

Israel's rejection of Christ was a part of God's master plan of redemption.

"¹² Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! ¹³ But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?"

- God's rejection of Israel is used to save Gentiles who in turn make Israel jealous and move her to repentance and faith.
- In fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:1-14 God's future acceptance of Israel will take that which is now dead and give it life.

Ezekiel 37

“¹¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘. . . ¹⁴ **I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land.** Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it,” declares the Lord.”

Israel is cut off because of unbelief.

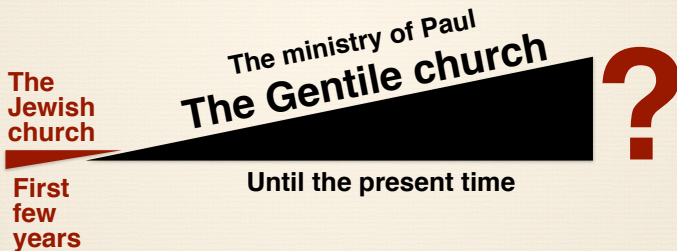
Gentiles are grafted in because of their belief.



“¹⁶ And if the first piece of dough be holy, the lump is also; and if the root be holy, the branches are too. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches;”

“Riches for the Gentiles”

At first the Christian faith was entirely Jewish.
Today the Christian faith is almost entirely Gentile.



Before Pentecost

the mission to Gentiles was forbidden.

Matthew 10:5

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the way of the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans;.”

After Pentecost

the mission to Gentiles was commanded.

Matthew 28

“¹⁹ God therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

“¹⁸ . . . but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ Quite right, they were broken off **for their unbelief**, but **you stand by your faith**. Do not be conceited, but fear; ²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.”

Under the Old Covenant it was Jewish pride that excluded Gentiles.

Under the New Covenant it would be Gentile pride that excluded Jews.

“²² Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, **if you continue in His kindness**; otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?”

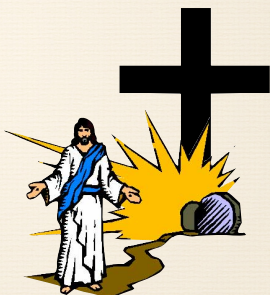
God’s work (grafting in) and man’s work (faith) are both a part of the Gospel.

The Passion Week Principle

Death is the doorway to life!

John 12:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”



Illustrations

The crucifixion of Jesus.

Romans 14:9

“For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living.”

The baptism of believers.

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

The resurrection of the body.

1 Corinthians 15:53

“For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

The finding of a meaningful life.

Matthew 16:25

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

The sanctification of ministry gifts.

Romans 12:1

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

The husband's relationship with his wife.

Ephesians 5

“²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,”

Paul's thorn in the flesh brings strength.

2 Corinthians 12

“⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.””

Paul's suffering the loss of all things to know Christ.

Philippians 3:8

“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,”

Joseph's slavery in Egypt

Genesis 50:20

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about the present result, to preserve many people alive.”

How has God used our losses to work for the good?

- **The pain that drew us to Christ.**
- **The loss of idols that kept us from true peace.**

Lessons to be learned

1. **It's not about you.** Be prepared to live your life in service of a bigger plan than yours - without understanding it.
2. **You cannot change Israel's future.** Don't let this issue distract you from your calling to follow Christ, use your gifts, love those Christ loves.
3. **There is no place for antisemitism among God's people** nor is there a need for uncritical support of Israel.
4. **We stand or fall by our faith.** Our security is not in God's election, our ethnicity, our morality, or our service.