

I. Introduction

- A. We see a glimpse of God’s heart for Jewish people in Paul’s words in Romans 9:1-5:

“¹I am speaking the truth in Christ – I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit – ²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.”

II. *Chesed* Love: The Foundation of God’s Heart for Israel

- A. God chose Israel for one main reason: love (Deut. 7:6-8b).
B. Israel is God’s firstborn (Ex. 4:22).
C. God’s love for Israel summarized:

“Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the LORD.” (Jer. 31:20)

- D. God’s love for His Jewish people will not stay silent (Is. 62:1).

III. A Zealous (Jealous) Love for Israel

- A. Paul’s love for Israel is actually born out of God’s heart (Rom. 9:2; 10:1).
B. God – whose very name is “Jealous” (Ex. 34:14) – has a deep zeal for His people. He will always look out for the Jewish people. If you come against Israel, you come against God (Zech. 2:8; 8:2).
C. God’s zealous love is strong, yet more tender than that of a mother with her newborn child (Is. 49:14-16).

IV. A Faithful Love for Israel

- A. According to Paul, God has not rejected Israel but through His steadfast love and mercy will continue His faithfulness to her (Jer. 31:3; Lam. 3:22-23).

“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.” (Rom. 11:1)

- B. God’s faithfulness to Israel will cause Him to send His only Son, Jesus, to take away Israel’s sin and re-establish His relationship with the Jewish people (Jer. 31:31-34; Rom. 11:26-27).
- C. According to the Creator of the universe, although Israel has done much against God, He will never abandon Israel from being His people:

“³⁵Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the LORD of hosts is his name: ³⁶‘If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.’ ³⁷Thus says the LORD: ‘If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done’, declares the LORD.” (Jer. 31:35-37)

V. A Restorative Love for Israel

- A. Although Paul felt sorrow and anguish for his Jewish brothers and sisters, he held onto hope because he understood God had a plan to restore them (Rom. 11:25-27).
- B. Jesus was sent first to the lost sheep of Israel. Through their rejection of Him, salvation came to the Gentiles to help restore Israel back to her rightful place (Mt. 15:24; Jn. 10).

“So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.” (Rom. 11:11)

- C. God promised to scatter Israel for their disobedience, but He also promised to restore and gather them again as a shepherd (Jer. 31:10; Eze. 34:11-31).
- D. What is God rejoicing to do with all His heart and all His soul? Restore the Jewish people back to the Land He promised them from all corners of the earth.

“I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.” (Jer. 32:41)

- E. Israel, who God created and redeemed, is precious, honoured, and loved in His eyes. Out of this love, God will restore them from the four corners of the earth back to the Land of Israel (Is. 43:1-6).
- F. God restoring Israel is ultimately for the purpose of making His name great, through their acceptance of their Messiah (Eze. 36:22; Rom. 11:15).

VI. Conclusion

- A. Although an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul carried a deep hope for Israel’s redemption that was unified with the heart of God (Acts 28:20).
- B. One of the greatest signs of God’s everlasting love and mercy for Israel is His plan to marry her forever after she had done so much against Him (Hos. 2:14-16,19-20).
- C. Do you carry the heart that Paul had, and that Jesus has for the Jewish people? Be prepared: it is a love that will suffer but will also be rewarded.