

Are the Jews still special to God? Simple



By Yvonne Evans

If someone says 'Israel' to us, the word will conjure up various images and associations, whether from the media or the Bible. God the Father, however, does not dwell in time. Obvious statement, I know, but we need to understand that to Him, the word has millennia of associations with the nation he formed, starting with Abraham, and chose to reveal himself to; a nation that would be His ambassadors and would fear him enough to nurture His son, their Messiah. He will think of those who were particularly close to Him, like Moses, Abraham, David and Elijah, Simeon- the list is endless.

Today's society knows very little about lasting allegiances. To hear some people talk you would think that God's relationship with the Jews was like that of an ex- wife, cast off for a younger model- i.e, the Church. This conceit is something Paul wams specifically against earlier in chapter 11 of Romans (verse 25).

In the same chapter, which is one we need to read more than once to understand His heart, Paul says, *'many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.'* (Romans 11:28-29)

The people he is referring to here are not Jews that have recognised their Messiah (Messianic Jews) but Paul is referring to those who may be enemies of the good news, yet they are still 'the people he loves. Hmmm! How does that fit in with your theology?

Not convinced? Maybe we should take a look at what Jeremiah says would be proof that God had rejected Israel and they had ceased to be a nation before him- Jeremiah 31:35-37. Basically, if we paraphrase it, he is saying, only if the Sun, Moon and stars stop shining, the heavens can be measured and the Earth's foundations searched will this be the case. So, on a daily basis we can check. Is the Sun shining? Yes? Ok then, they have not stopped being a nation before Him. Simple, as the meerkat would say.

In human terms it's perhaps helpful to think of His relationship with the Jews in terms of that of a blood relative. In fact, they are Jesus' natural family. He was born a Jew, was circumcised, attended synagogue, was a rabbi, and died as 'King of the Jews'. But what about now? I hear you ask. Well, to the risen Jesus his Jewish disciples

were His brethren (Matthew 28:10) and in the book of Revelation, the only one worthy to open the scroll – the Lamb of God- is referred to as ‘The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David’ (Revelation 5:5). Has the risen Jesus done away with His past Jewish identity? Apparently not.

Jesus is risen and ascended and awaits the preparation of His Bride, the Church. Amen! Meanwhile, however, his unsaved Jewish brethren still occupy a special place in His heart- as do our natural families to us, whether they be part of the Church or not. There are unfulfilled prophecies in scripture relating to the Jewish nation (e.g in Zechariah 12) and Paul says that we should not be ignorant of this or else we will be conceited (Romans 11:25). One day, when the full number of Gentiles have been added to the church, ‘all Israel will be saved’ (Romans 11:26)