

A MOST PERPLEXING TRADITION

- The bulk of the Church believes that it has replaced Israel as God's chosen (Replacement Theology)
- Cannot be biblically supported
- Is the result of manmade doctrines, political agendas, and anti-Jewish bigotry
- It is thievery to try and take Israel's spiritual heritage from them



LISTEN CAREFULLY !!



- The entire New Testament supports Israel as God's chosen people
- Romans 11 sums up the "how" and "why" of God's plan of redemption
- Overriding message is in Romans 11:2 ***"God has not repudiated His people, whom He chose in advance"***

WHY?

- Why God does what He does is rarely given in the Bible
- A circular endeavor: from the Jews, to the gentiles, back to the Jews
- What have Christians done that would attract Jews to Christ?
- David Stern, Messianic Jew
- ***“...Provoke them to jealousy....a command..”***



WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- Treating Israel and their enemies “even-handedly” does not make Israel “jealous” for Christ
- For us to be silent when we are wronged is one thing; to be silent about pain and injustice for others is another
- We are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and stand up for Israel!



SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN

BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE CHRIST AT THE CHECKPOINT

Theology in the Service of Peace & Justice



- Christ at the Checkpoint: Pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel, and also anti-Zionist
- John Piper is its primary leader
- Underlying belief: God is done with Israel; Palestinians have equal right to Israel's land since they are gentiles
- We must stand against this ministry and any other like it

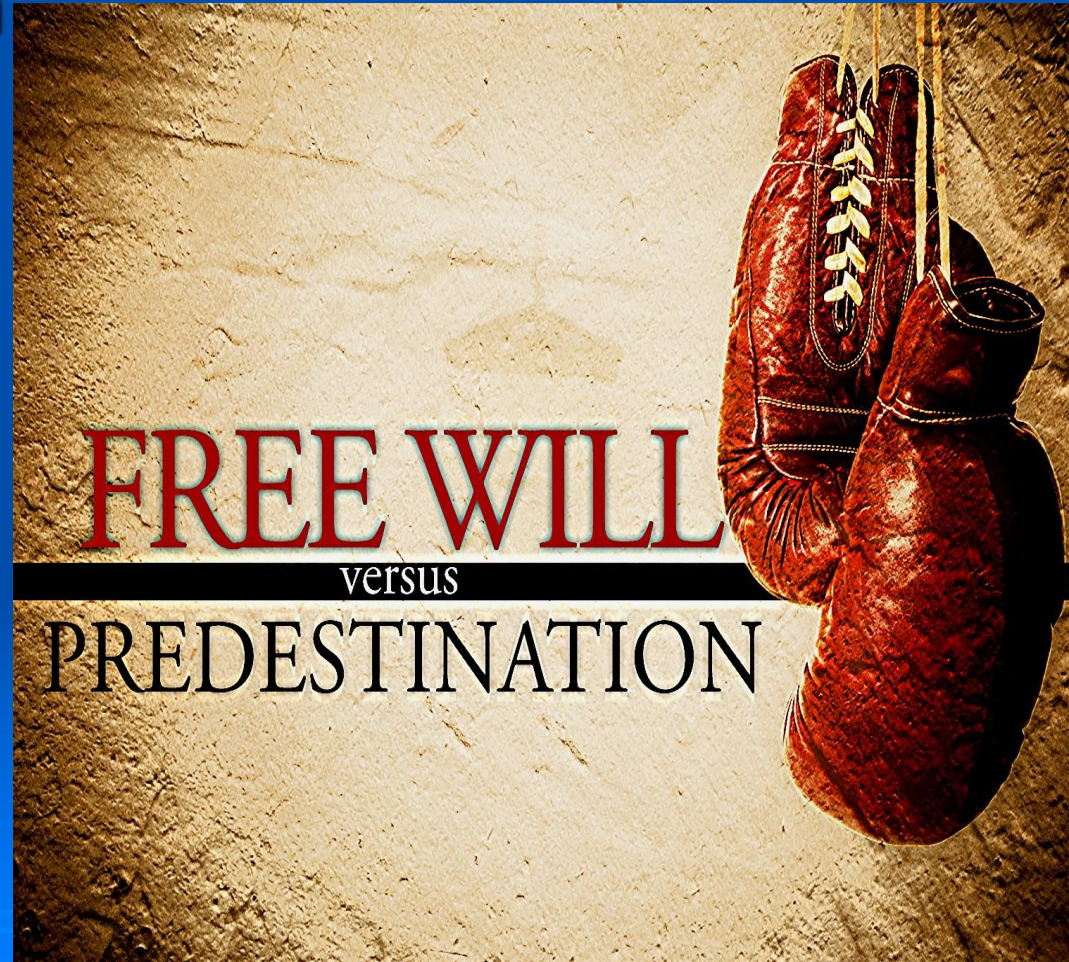
PAUL CALLS UPON ELIJAH

- 1Kings 19
- Elijah running from Queen Jezebel
- In reality, he was running from God and his mission
- Elijah complains that he is probably the only faithful YHWH worshipper left
- 7,000 remnant is to be compared to Paul's day as to the number of Jewish Christ Believers
- 7,000 is a representative number; it is not exact or even an approximate



IS IT REALLY EITHER / OR ?

- Grace, not merit, decides who is true seed of Abraham
- Paul turns the question of Romans 9:30 into a statement in 11:7
- Free will and predestination seem to be opposites
- However they are like food and air; we need both
- We need to be aware of both, and know that we only have control over our own free will





- Seems unfair to Westerners that God can offer a choice, but then harden us to choose wrongly.....and then punish us! But.....GOD IS SOVEREIGN!
- The Good News: This is not God's final word
- Redemption and change are still possible for the hardened because of God's great mercy
- Because of God's circular plan of redemption, Christians owe the hardened Jews a debt of gratitude

The Old Testament

Order of original Hebrew Bible

The Torah

Also referred to as "The Law". Includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

The Prophets

Includes former prophets such as Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Major prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Also 12 minor prophets


The Writings

Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles

Old Testament primarily written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Contained consonants only (no vowels; added later by Masoretes – Jewish scholars – around A.D. 500). Oldest book is Job (not Genesis) with last book written likely being Nehemiah around 424-400 B.C.

- Paul used a Scripture passage from each of the 3 sections of the Bible
- Isaiah 29:1 – 11 and Deuteronomy 29:1-3
- Israel became spiritually insensitive and didn't recognize their Messiah in the Torah
- Caused by 1) their own free will, 2) God's divine intervention

THE OBVIOUS QUESTION



“They stumbled and have permanently fallen away....?”

- Romans 11:9 uses part of Psalm 69
- Paul uses the *Remez* method of interpreting Psalm 69 to make his case
- Paul's point: those Jews who are now stone-like are that way partly at their own fault, and partly due to God's hardening
- In Romans 11:1, God is said to actively reject His people
- In Romans 11:11, it is the people suffering the natural consequences of their refusal to accept Messiah

HAS GOD REJECTED ISRAEL? *“HEAVEN FORBID !”*

- The hardening of the Jews against Messiah is part of God's plan
- Because of that hardening salvation was brought to the Gentiles
- And the purpose of the Gentiles is to make the hardened Jews jealous
- And jealousy leads to the salvation of the stone-like Jews
- Why this strange route?
- Genesis 12:1 - 3



ROMANS 11:11