

# Has the Church replaced Israel?

“Shaking the Olive Tree”

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# Introduction

- The Church as a whole regards two Jews (Paul and Peter) as authoritative leaders of “the early Church.”
- They wrote and spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit, and today we believe that the New Testament is the inspired word of G-d.
- So let’s look to the New Testament to answer some very important questions...

# Introduction (cont'd)

- Did Paul and Peter teach that G-d has rejected Israel?
- Are the Jews still heirs of the covenants?
- Has the Church replaced Israel as the “Chosen People,” or as the “New Israel?”

# Did Paul (Rav Shaul) write off the Jews? Romans 9:1-3

- “I am speaking the truth --- as one who belongs to the Messiah, I do not lie; and also bearing witness is my conscience, governed by the Ruach HaKodesh:
- My grief is so great, the pain in my heart so constant, that I could wish myself actually under G-d’s curse and separated from the Messiah, if it would help my brothers, my own flesh and blood, the People of Israel!

## Romans 9:4-6

- “They were made G-d’s children,
- the Sh’khinah has been with them,
- the covenants **are** theirs,
- likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;
- the Patriarchs **are** theirs; and from them, as far as His physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all.
- Praised be ADONAI forever! Amen.”

## Sons of the Prophets; Heirs of the Covenants

- Kefa (Peter) says in Acts 3:25-26
- “You **are** the sons of the prophets; and
- you **are included in the covenant** which G-d make with our fathers when he said to Avraham,
- ‘**by your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.**’
- So it is **to you first** that G-d has sent his servant who He has raised up, **so that He might bless you** by turning each one of you from your evil ways.”

# Did G-d change His Plan?

- Romans 11:28-29
- “With respect to being chosen
- they are loved for the Patriarch’s sake,
- for G-d’s free gifts and His calling are irrevocable.”
- Present tense

# Did G-d reject His People?

- Romans 11:1-2
- “Isn’t it that G-d has repudiated His People?”
- Heaven forbid!
- For I myself (“Saint Paul”) am
  - son of Israel
  - from the seed of Avraham
  - of the tribe of Binyamin.
- **God has not repudiated His People, whom He chose in advance.”**

# Has Israel permanently fallen away?

- Romans 11:11-12
- “In that case, I say, isn’t it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?”
- **Heaven forbid!**
- **Quite the contrary**, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy.

# Israel in it's Fullness

- “Moreover, if their stumbling is bringing riches to the world ---
- that is, if Israel’s being placed temporarily in a condition less favored than that of the Gentiles is bringing riches to the latter ---
- How much greater riches will Israel in its fullness bring them!” (future tense)

# Life from the Dead!

- Romans 11:13-15
- “However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this:
- since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them!
- For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean?
- It will be life from the dead!”

# The Wild Olive Branches

- Romans 11:16-18
- “Now if the challah offered as firstfruits is holy, then so is the whole loaf. And if the root is holy, so are the branches.
- But if some of the branches were broken off, and you -- a wild olive --- were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,
- Then don't boast as if you were better than the branches!

# The ROOT is supporting YOU!

- Romans 11:18-21
- “However, if you do boast, remember
- that **you are not supporting the root,**
- **the root is supporting you.**
- So you will say, *‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’*
- True, but so what?
- They were broken off because of their lack of trust.
- However, you keep you place only because of your trust.
- **So don’t be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified!**
- **For if G-d did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won’t spare you!”**

# Kindness & Severity

- Romans 11:22
- “So take a good look at G-d’s kindness and his severity:
- On the one hand, severity toward those who fell off;
- On the other hand, G-d’s kindness toward you
- --- provided you maintain yourself in that kindness!
- Otherwise, you too will be cut off!

# The Cultivated Olive Tree

- Romans 11:23-24
- “Moreover, the others, if they do not persist in their lack of trust will be grafted in;
- because G-d is able to graft them back in.
- For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree,
- how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree!

# All Israel will be Saved

- Romans 11:25-26
- “For, Brothers, I want you to understand this truth which G-d formerly concealed but has now revealed,
- so that you won’t imagine you know more than you actually do.
- It is that this stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Israel, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness;
- and **it is in this way that all Israel will be saved.**

## ...For as the Tanakh says

- **“Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer;**
- **He will turn away ungodliness from Ya’akov**
- **and this will be my covenant with them,**
- **when I take away their sins.’**
- With respect to the Good News they are hated for your sake.
- **But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarch’s sake,**
- **for G-d’s free gifts are calling are irrevocable.**

# Showing Israel Mercy

- “Just as you yourselves were disobedient to G-d before but have received mercy now because of Israel’s disobedience;
- so also Israel has been disobedient now,
- so that **by your showing them the same mercy that G-d has shown you,**
- **they too may now receive G-d’s mercy.**
- For G-d has shut up all mankind together in disobedience, **in order that He might show mercy to all.**

# Equal Sharers

- All believers, **Jews & Gentiles** are equal sharers of the nourishing root of the Olive Tree.
- But the Scripture tells us that (for both Jews & Gentiles) **Israel is the root of the Olive Tree.**
- Romans 10:12-13
- **“ADONAI is the same for everyone, *rich toward everyone who calls on him*, since everyone who calls on the name of ADONAI will be delivered.”**