Israel – the Olive Tree
Israel’s Calling

You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation..

Exodus 19:6

The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself ... So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD

Deut 28:9-10
God‘s Plan for Israel

You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory.

Isaiah 49:3

...that they might be for Me a people, for renown, for praise and for glory...

Jeremia 13:11
Israel – the chosen people?

Why precisely Israel?

It was God’s sovereign choice. He is accountable to none else.

Deut 7:7-9
God keeps His promises

Deut 7:7-9

The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.
Israel disobeyed again and again,
And till to this day is disobedient.

Is its election nevertheless still valid?
Israel is abandoned

Isaiah 2:6  You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with influences from the east

Jeremia 7:30 the sons of Judah have done that which is evil in My sight," declares the LORD, "they have set their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it.
God has abandoned Israel

Psalm 77:8  Has His lovingkindness ceased forever? Has His promise come to an end forever?

Psalm 78:59 He was filled with wrath And greatly abhorred Israel; So that He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, The tent which He had pitched among men

Jeremia 7:15 I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the offspring of Ephraim.
God has rejected Israel

Jeremia 7:29
'Cut off your hair and cast it away, And take up a lamentation on the bare heights; For the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.'

Jeremia 12:7
I have forsaken My house, I have abandoned My inheritance; I have given the beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies.
Jeremia asks God Jeremia 14:19-22

- Have You completely rejected Judah? Or have You loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that we are beyond healing? We waited for peace, but nothing good came; And for a time of healing, but behold, terror!
- We know our wickedness, O LORD, The iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You.
- Do not despise us, for Your own name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory; Remember and do not annul Your covenant with us.
- Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O LORD our God? Therefore we hope in You, For You are the one who has done all these things.
The Lord, God replies  Jeremia 15,6

„You who have forsaken Me,“ declares the LORD, „you keep going backward. So I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am tired of relenting!“

This also is a quote used in defense of Replacement Theology
Jesus to the Pharisees:
Matthew 21:43

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

This word is supposed to be a proof that God has rejected Israel and has substituted it with the Gentile Church to receive Israel's purpose and calling.
Replacement - Theology

Here is its argument:

The people of Israel was disobedient and crucified the Messiah.

Therefore God removed the promises from his people and substitutes them with the Gentiles who come to believe in Jesus.
Definitively abandoned and cast out?

Irrevocably?

Let us pursue this question!
Isaiah 24:13

For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, as the shaking of an olive tree.

Isaiah here describes how the land of Israel will look after the Babylonian conquest.
Isaiah 24:13

For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, as the shaking of an olive tree.

„shaking, striking off": fruits, leaves, even branches; but the trunk and the roots remain.
„shaking, striking off": fruits, leaves, even branches; but the trunk and the roots remain
The LORD called your name, "A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form"; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its branches are worthless.

Jeremia 11:16
Can a trunk like this sprout again?

Its elaborate root system in the ground is still there and will cause it to produce shoots and leaves and it will blossom again.
Promises to Israel

Isaiah 41:9, 10, 14

"You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you," declares the LORD, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."
God has promised an eternal marriage contract

Hosea 2:19-20

- I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion,
- And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.
How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? ... My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled. I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.
God says:
Israel is not eternally abandoned

Hosea 14:4

I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.
I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon...

Hosea 14:5
His shoots will sprout, And his beauty will be like the olive tree And his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

Hosea 14:6
God says:
Israel is not eternally forsaken
Isaiah 54:6-7

- For the LORD has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected," Says your God.
- For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you.
God says: Israel is not eternally forsaken
Psalm 105: 8-9

- He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,
- The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac.
God says:
Israel is not eternally forsaken
Psalm 105: 8-9

He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,

- The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac.
God says:
Israel is not eternally forsaken
Jeremia 33:9

'It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'
God says:
Israel is not eternally forsaken

Jeremiah 33:19 - 26

Zechariah 2:12 - 16

And many other quotes from the OT
Jesus in John 10:16

"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd."

Believers from Israel AND from the Gentile nations will become ONE flock.
God says: Israel is not eternally forsaken

References in the NT

Romans 11:1 - 2

- I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.
God says: Israel is not eternally forsaken

References in the NT

Romans 11:15 - 24

11: 25
For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery - so that you will not be wise in your own estimation:

that a partial hardening has happened to Israel,
until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
God says: Israel is not eternally forsaken

References in the NT

Romans 11:26 - 27

- and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, „THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.“
- „THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.“
Christ confirms the old promises

Romans 15:8

For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers.
The Gentiles are fellow heirs

Paul in Ephesians 3:6

The Gentiles are **fellow** heirs and **fellow** members of the body, and **fellow** partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
God’s Word is true. We have to admit:

- Israel is the olive tree mentioned in the OT and the NT.
- Israel is the people from whom Jesus came. Jesus was a Jew.
- Israel is called and chosen by God to bring salvation to all peoples.
- Salvation comes from the Jews.
- God has often been severe with Israel, in order to call it back to Himself.
- Other nations have long disappeared. God has not forgotten Israel during 2000 years and is about to gather it in.
God's word is true. Israel does have a future:

Jesus will come again as King in all His glory and will put His foot on the Mount of Olives in the midst of the people and the nation of Israel
Replacement Theology?

- It has no basis in the Word of God.
- It has brought a lot of suffering for the Jews.
- Regrettably, Luther the Reformer also became guilty of it.
- It is a heresy...
- ...and has deprived many assemblies and churches of their blessing.
Where do I stand?

I must make a decision...

... before it is too late
My relationship to God’s Word

- Do I accept it all as God’s Word?
- Do I admit my sinfulfulness and lostness before God?
- Have I accepted Jesus/Yeshua and his salvation as valid for myself?
- Do I have peace with God?
- Do I maintain a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah as God?
My relationship to the people of Israel

- Do I accept that Israel is God’s chosen people?
- Do I accept that we as Gentiles, as Non-Jews, are only “grafted in“?
- Do I accept, that we depend on Israel as the “stump and roots“ and are lost without it?
My relationship to the nation of Israel

- Do I accept that the old 'land promises' are still valid?
- Do I accept that Israel has a right to exist in the Land that God promised it?
- Do I place myself under God's blessing in blessing Israel, wishing it all the best and interceding on Israel's behalf?
Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet are standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem,

Jerusalem, that is built As a city that is compact together;

To which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD - An ordinance for Israel - To give thanks to the name of the LORD.
Psalm 122

For there thrones were set for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you"
- "May peace be within your walls, And prosperity within your palaces."
- For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, "May peace be within you."
- For the sake of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.
God wrote His name into the mountains of Juda
God writes History...

... with His chosen people

ISRAEL

The very touchstone on which the future of the nations will be decided is Israel.