



# The Controversy Over Israel

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# “The Scandal of Particularity”



Is there only ONE way to an intimate relationship with God?

Is it true that there is only ONE road to Heaven?

Is it fair that God hasn't made a more “universal” way to spirituality?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



The post-modern Western World, including and surprisingly, the post-modern Judeo-Christian culture is one of universalism.

There is no such thing as “chosen”

There is no such thing as “one way” to “heaven”

The Western World revolts against “Particularity”

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



If someone has something, somehow that means that I have something less.

If you believe that God “chooses” someone or something, does that mean that He plays favorites?

Doesn't God love all people equally?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



It is a “scandal” that God chose Abraham among all others.

It is a “scandal” that God chose David over others.

It is a “scandal” that God chose to reveal himself in human form as the “only Way, only Truth, only Life.”

The Scandal of Particularity: “the inexplicable fact that God revealed himself among one particular people in history, the Jews; that God became man at one point in history, and that his revelation in this people and in this person is definitive and final.” – Donald Bloesch

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



The Post-Modern Western World:

“The scandal of particularity” is all of the messy challenges that come about when followers of Jesus say that the God of all creation, “The Source of all Being,” also somehow chose to mysteriously embodied Himself in a vulnerable baby who pooped his diapers.

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



If the Jewish People are the “Chosen People”  
what does that make me as a Gentile believer?

If I am not one of the original Chosen of God,  
does that make me less important in the eyes of  
God?

If the Gospel is to the Jew first, does that mean,  
as a Gentile, I am second class?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



Do I as a Gentile have a love for Jewish “things” because I want to be more loved by God?

Am I Messianic in order to feel more “right” – Godlier – than other “Christians”?

Does my love for the Jewish “roots” of our faith supersede our love for the Jewish people?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



If the Gospel was rejected by the mainstream Jewish nation, does that mean they are now second-class citizens in God's eyes?

Because the Body of Messiah is predominantly Gentile, does that mean that the Jewish people are no longer AS RELEVANT in God's eyes?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



If someone has something, somehow that means that I have something less.

Do the Gentiles have a love for Jewish “things” or do we have a love for the Jewish people? Does our love for the Jewish “roots” of our faith supersede our love for the Jewish people?

# “The Scandal of Particularity”



Evangelical Christians: “Is it fair that God has made me just a pawn in the chess board of Israel’s salvation?”

Jews: “Is it fair that the Jews are the ‘key’ to the return of Messiah?”

# The Dual Responsibility of the Gospel



Romans 11  $\leftrightarrow$  Genesis 12

# Romans 11



11 “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. 12 Moreover, if their stumbling is bringing riches to the world — that is, if Isra’el’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 Isra’el in its fullness bring them!

# Romans 11



25 For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness; 26 and that it is in this way that all Isra'el will be saved. As the Tanakh says, "Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer; he will turn away ungodliness from Ya'akov 27 and this will be my covenant with them, . . .when I take away their sins." 28 With respect to the Good News they are hated for your sake.

# Romans 11



But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarchs' sake, 29 for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable. 30 Just as you yourselves were disobedient to God before but have received mercy now because of Isra'el's disobedience; 31 so also Isra'el has been disobedient now, so that by your showing them the same mercy that God has shown you, they too may now receive God's mercy. 32 For God has shut up all mankind together in disobedience, in order that he might show mercy to all.

# Genesis 12



1 Now Adonai said to Avram, “Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father’s house and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

# Flip The Script



What's my responsibility toward  
"YOUR" deliverance, "YOUR"  
salvation?

Jew  $\leftrightarrow$  Gentile



# Unity With Distinction

“I can’t do your part, and you can’t do my part. But together, if we do our parts, we can bear fruit for eternity.”

# What Does It Mean To Provoke A Jew To Jealousy?



**Negative connotation**

**Jealousy is NOT envy!**

**Envy – I should have what they have!**

**Provoking to Jealousy is the MAINSTAY of your purpose as Gentile believers.**

# What Is The Bible?



It is a book

That tells a story

About a particular people

And a particular place

With a particular purpose

Controversy of Particularity



# What Is The Bible

It is a book

That tells a story

About a relationship

Between The Creator

And a people

Controversy of Covenant

God Gets What He Wants...Period!!!



**Assignment is not identity!!!**

**Jews have an assignment!!**

**Gentiles have an assignment!!**

# Identity & Worth



Our identity and worth in Him and what He is asking us to do are not synonymous.

Understand that our identity and worth in Jesus is based on the execution stake, the blood of the Lamb and is non-negotiable.

AND...

Our assignment in Him is also non-negotiable.