

## The Israel Story

### Chapter 7 – Restoration: What the Jewish People Lost

“Not only did the Jewish people lose their land as a result of sin, the majority of the Jewish people also lost God’s face: His presence, intimate relationship with Him, and recognition of God’s face to mankind, the Messiah, Yeshua.” (Myers)

1. Read Deuteronomy 31:16–18. Is God limited by space and time? No. Does He know what will happen before it happens? Yes. What attribute of God comes to mind when you know this? Omniscient or All-Knowing. He knew that the Moses would die (and exactly when) and He knew that the Jewish people would turn away from Him.
2. What was God going to take away from the Jewish people in verse 18? His face. Back in Chapter 5, we read the Aaronic Blessing (Numbers 6:24-27). It starts with, “May the Lord bless you and keep. May He make His face to shine on you.” What does “make His face to shine on you” mean? Identity, attention, recognition of God’s face to mankind, favor, God’s presence, intimate relationship
3. Most Jewish rabbis believe that they are living in a time of the “hester panim”. Panim is Hebrew for ‘face’ and hester means ‘hidden’, so it is a time for Jews living in God’s hidden face.
4. Read Exodus 33:18–23. When Moses wanted to look upon God’s glory, God would not allow Moses to see His face. God’s face is too amazing for man to look at. He shows them His face in other ways, can you name some of them? The fire and the cloud. Blessings, His presence.
5. Another way that He has shown us His face is by sending His Son, Jesus. John 14:8–9 says, “8 *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”* We may not have been alive to see Jesus but we can read about Him in God’s Word. We can know who He was and what He did.
6. Myers says that by losing God’s face as punishment, they also lost the ability to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus is the face of God. Even though God continues to bless some Jews with the saving knowledge that Jesus is the

Messiah, the Son of the Living God, God has not opened the eyes of all Jews. Many believe that the prophecy in Revelation about the Jews is the lifting of the veil or cloud from their eyes and they will be the witnesses of Jesus to the dying world.

7. 2 Corinthians 3:14–15 says, “*14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*” This is the same veil that keeps all of the Jews from accepting Jesus.

“There are more than 300 Messianic prophecies and allegories in the Hebrew Scriptures that reveal many details about Yeshua’s birth, life, death, and eternal reign.” (Myers)

8. Isaiah 9:6 says, “*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*” This is clearly a prophecy about Jesus.


“Who else could this be but Yeshua? What other child born or son given could be called Mighty God or Everlasting Father? Yet the majority of the Jewish people don’t believe that this verse refers to Yeshua because they don’t believe in His divinity.” (Myers)

9. The religious Jews spend their lives studying and memorizing the Torah or our Old Testament. Even in Jesus’ day or today, there is very little that they don’t know about the Messiah. Read Isaiah 53. To me, how could they read Isaiah 53 and not see Jesus? Calling it a veil makes sense.
10. What did John the Baptist call Jesus in John 1:29? “*The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” Jesus was the ultimate Passover Lamb. What was the Passover Lamb? The blood of an unblemished lamb was put on the doorposts to spare the Israelites from the final plague in Egypt or essentially telling death to pass by. Jesus’ resurrection shows us that death has been defeated. Faith in Jesus as the Messiah gives us everlasting life.

*Exodus 12:7 – And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two*

*doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*

*Exodus 12:13 – Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

11. Myers says, “The children of Israel had to select a lamb without blemish.” Exodus 12:5 says, “*Your lamb shall be without blemish a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.*” Jesus is that unblemished lamb, the only sinless man to walk on this earth.
12. What is the cost to redeem us from our sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT) says, “*18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.*”
13. Exodus 12:6 tells us, “*Take care of them (the unblemished lambs) until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.*” Who is responsible for the death of Jesus on the cross? Not just the Jews, it was all our sins, the sins of the world that is responsible for His death.
14. I have said numerous times, “How could the Jews have missed the fact that Jesus met all the requirements of being the Messiah?” The Jews studied and still study our Old Testament. Myers says, “They majored in our Old Testament.” So how did they miss it, it was the veil. Remember this icon  from my Revelation 20 sermon? It is the Star of David or the Jews under the veil.
15. Luke 24:13-35 tells us a story of two disciples that were going to Emmaus. This occurred after Jesus was raised from the dead. A stranger came up and joined them. This stranger was Jesus and He made it so they did not know Him. Verses 25-27 tells us, “*25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the*

*Scriptures concerning himself.*” These “Scriptures” were what we call the Old Testament. Jesus showed them that He was the Messiah using the Old Testament. The New Testament is all about Jesus and what He has done for us but the Old Testament is full of Jesus too.

16. Read Romans 11:5-8. These verses talk about the veil of the Jewish people but Paul calls it a “spirit of stupor” which is Paul paraphrasing Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10. Paul says that there is a remnant (NASB and NKJV). There are some Jewish people that recognize Jesus as the Messiah and they are called Messianic Jews. So not all Jews are in this “spirit of stupor” or are veiled.
17. God hiding of His face from the Jewish people is also mentioned in the New Testament. As God said in Isaiah 6:9-10, the Jews were “*ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.*” Whether God was punishing the Jews or saving them, He always left a remnant. Even when it comes to the blindness of the Jews there was a remnant that He showed grace. He never completely shuts the door.
18. There have always been Jews who believe in Jesus as the Messiah. They are referred to as the remnant in these verses. It’s a good thing that there were Jewish believers at that time because almost all of those that wrote the New Testament were Jews (not Luke). All of 12 of the disciples, as well as the apostle Paul were Jews.
19. How long does Paul say that God will keep this veil over the Jewish people? “until the full number of the Gentiles has come in”. Romans 11: 25 “*I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved.*” This is the 144,000 shown in Revelation 7:1-8 and 14:1-5. The presence of the veil is not permanent.

Myers says, “The Hebrews had to spread the blood of the Passover lambs on the doorposts and lintels of their houses. When God judged Egypt with the death of the firstborn, He passed over the houses where the blood of the Passover lamb had been applied. Those within the houses were protected from judgment by the blood of the Passover lamb. Yeshua's sacrificial death and the blood He shed for us rescues and redeems us from the judgment of death our sins deserved.”

20. Ephesians 1:7 says *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”* My mind always goes back to the Christian song, “Who Am I”. “Not because of who I am, but because of what you've done. Not because of what I've done, but because of who you are.” He redeemed us through His work on the cross. “He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay.” My sin debt is paid in full!

21. Romans 5:8–9 says, *” 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”* We are justified by His blood. He has made it “Just as if I’d never sin.” If my salvation hinged on whether I am good or not, then I will never make it into Heaven. It required His work on the cross. He paid my sin debt.

“There are many examples like these of both Messianic prophecies and allegorical foreshadowing of Yeshua in the Hebrew Scriptures, but when the majority of the Jewish people read them, they don’t see Him.” (Myers)

22. In Zechariah 2:8, God calls the Jews *“the apple of His eye”*. They are still His chosen people. He hasn’t started over since Noah and the flood. The Jewish people are just that, people. Because God is allowing the Gentiles to be His children doesn’t mean the Jewish people are any less important to God. You still cannot separate the story of Israel from the story of God. Myers says that since God has hidden His face from the Jewish people, it “does not mean that Gentiles are more spiritual, more loved by God, or are superior to the Jewish people in any way. This should never be used as an excuse to reject, belittle, or disrespect them. God has a special place in His heart for the Jewish people.”

23. The veiling of the Jewish people is part of God’s plan to redeem all people, Jew and Gentile. Romans 11:30–33 – *For as you (Gentiles) were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Jews) disobedience, even so these (Jews) also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you (Gentiles) they (Jews) also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all (Gentiles and Jews) to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and*

*knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out.”*

### Video 17.27 minutes

“Please do not use this idea of the Jewish people being veiled as one more reason to be critical of the Jewish people, to feel superior somehow, better than, that is not what we're talking about. And I will say this, the Jewish people have a lot of light. I mean, a lot of light, a lot of revelation. They have contributed amazingly to life on earth and continue to do so.”

“And so you know, I'll give you some idea about this. Albert Einstein was not blinded to physics, in case you wondered. Jonas Salk was not blinded to medicine or polio. Galileo was not blinded to astronomy. Isaac Singer was not blinded to sewing machines, for that matter. Levi Strauss was not blinded to denim jeans, and the Mossad is not blinded to intelligence.”

“And in addition, let me just tell you what we wouldn't have without Jews. There's a really long list, but I just made a few things. Flashlights, remote controls, flash drives, drip irrigation, lasers, pacemakers, ballpoint pens, insulin, aspirin, camera phones, traffic lights, color television, videotape, faxes, microphones, cellular technology, blimps, stainless steel. Now we get to the important part. Drinking straws, lipstick, cheesecake, and teddy bears. So think, what would life be like without cheesecake and teddy bears? It would be empty.”

“Okay, anyway, so that was a lot of stuff, you know, the inventions we talked about and so on. And that's just a little bit, you know, I mean, that's a tiny bit of what the Jews have done. But understand that all of those things, you know, all of those inventions, they were invented by a people group that comprises 0.2% of the world's population.”

### Discussion QUESTIONS

The most precious gift the Jewish people lost was God's face (His presence, intimacy with Him, and recognition of Who He is). Do you have the gift of God's face? If yes, what made that possible? If no, why not? Do you think that it is possible to grow in intimacy with God? If so, how?