

引言 INTRODUCTION

The Jews are blessed by God in many ways. For example, of the over 900 Nobel Prize winners, 20% of them are Jews. Your boss in the office may be a Jew. They are wise in various areas. A true story was told that a pastor went to see a Jewish rabbi. He wanted to understand the Old Testament the way a Jew reads it. The rabbi said if the pastor could answer three questions correctly, then he would be able to think like a Jew. Question number one, “Two men fall down a chimney. One of them comes out dirty. The other one comes out clean. Which of the two men needs to wash himself?” The pastor said, “Well, that’s pretty simple. The dirty one should wash himself.” The rabbi said, “Wrong. What happens is the clean one looks at the dirty one and thinks he is dirty. The dirty one looks at the clean one and he thinks he is clean. So, it’s the clean one who washes himself.” The rabbi went on, “Let me ask you another question. Two men fall down a chimney. One comes out clean; one comes out dirty. Which one need to wash himself?” The pastor replied, “The clean one.” The rabbi said, “Wrong. What happens is that the clean one looks at the dirty one and says to him, ‘You’re dirty.’ The dirty one looks at himself and sees he is dirty, so he cleans himself.” The pastor was quite confused. The rabbi said, “One more question. Two men fall down a chimney. One comes out dirty; the other one comes out clean. Which one cleans himself?” The pastor did not know how to answer. So, he said, “It’s either both of them or neither of them.” The rabbi replied, “Wrong again. See, you are not thinking like a Jewish rabbi. The answer to that question is impossible. How can one of them comes out clean and the other comes out dirty?” The pastor was dumbfounded and admitted, “I will never be able to understand the Old Testament the way a Jew does.” Sometimes, the answer makes you wonder if you are asking a right question. In the book of Romans, Paul asks if God had rejected the Jews. The answer is a definite no. God will use His ways to call back His people. God’s salvation plan reveals His supreme wisdom.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 同樣的恩典 The Same Grace (v. 1-10)

God has not forgotten His covenant to Israel. He has reserved some remnants for Himself. At the proper time, God will show them the same grace and call those elected people to salvation. In this passage, Paul uses three evidences to support his argument. The first proof is about himself. Paul was a pure-breed Jew born of Jewish parents. But he became a Christian not because of his background, but due to God’s grace. You may remember his testimony in [Philippians 3:5-6](#) – 5 Circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness, faultless. Paul was a good kid grew up from a prestigious family, he received the best training from a renowned law school, he had a promising career of prosecuting the followers of Jesus and he received many awards for being a noble citizen. But none of those honors made him a Christian. It was God’s grace. In fact, Paul was saved when he was on his way to arrest some Christians. Jesus revealed Himself to Paul and granted Paul His grace. Proof number 2 is about the experience of prophet Elijah. His stories are recorded in 1 Kings chapters 17-19. God

called Elijah to convict a wicked Israel king Ahab. He married a pagan woman named Jezebel who brought in idol worship. Elijah summoned 450 false prophets for a contest on Mount Carmel. There were two altars for animal sacrifice, one for Jehovah and one for the false god Baal. The deity that sent fire to burn up the offering would be a real God. Jehovah won. Then Elijah asked the people on the scene to kill all the false prophets. It was a spectacular victory for Elijah. The queen was enraged when she heard the news. She then asked for Elijah's head. Thus, a national hero became a fugitive. Elijah was so afraid and depressed that he asked God to take his life. He thought he was the last man standing for the Lord in the country. But God assured Elijah that He had preserved 7,000 people who were faithful to Him. By quoting Elijah's story, Paul shows that God's grace remains unchanged even when no more follower of God seems to exist. The third proof Paul uses is about Israel. He cites from the books of Deuteronomy, Isaiah and Psalm to demonstrate that God had hardened the Israelites' hearts because of their disobedience. The three references represent the key divisions of the Hebrew Bible, namely, the books of the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. Paul's point is that the whole Old Testament testifies to the stubbornness of the Israelites. A common notion in verses 8 and 10 is that God shut the eyes of His people. Therefore, they did not understand God's plan nor were they sensitive to His truth. The result was that most of the Jews were not saved. Paul uses a negative example to bring out a positive point. If God can harden the hearts of His people, then only He can soften them. Salvation is all God's grace! Sandwiched between the three examples is Paul's conclusion. Look at **verses 5-6**: 5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. God's plan has never changed since the Old Testament time. He has preserved some remnants out of His grace. God's wonderful grace supersedes any human condition or endeavor. Paul was not saved because of his awesome resume. God reserved 7,000 loyal followers despite a wicked king. We should find comfort that throughout history God continues to show the same grace regardless of our life circumstances. There have been some dark times in the world history. Even to this day, there are severe religious persecutions in many countries. Tyrants and pagan governments have tried but failed to eradicate Christianity. God will protect His remnants. In other parts of the world, people misuse their freedom to indulge in pleasure, materialism and idol worship. Our government leaders are getting more hostile to our faith too. Non-believing friends and family members of yours are stone-cold toward the truth. But our Lord is still granting His grace. Only He can soften people's hearts and lead them to repentance.

2. 嶄新的群體 A New Group (v. 11-15)

God has never changed. He uses the same grace to deal with the people in the Old Testament till now. His goal in the salvation plan is to form a new group of people. That new group consists of both the Jews and the Gentiles. We read from chapter 10 that the Jews got jealous when they saw that Gentiles were saved. We find the same sentiment of jealousy mentioned in verses 11 and 14 of this chapter. God changed the course of Paul to help him understand His plan to save the Gentiles. Paul faced resistance when he tried to reach out to his Jewish peers. They rejected the notion that Jesus was the Messiah. In contrast, some Gentile listeners gladly accepted the good news. Paul then realized that God was calling him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Since then, Paul shifted his focus in future mission trips. However, Paul also knew that God had not abandoned the Jews. God intended to stir up jealousy in the Jews as a means to draw them to the gospel. Eventually, there will be a great awakening when God removes the hardness in their

hearts. Paul says in **verse 12**: But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! Because the Jews rejected the gospel, salvation grace was made available to the Gentiles. One day when the remnants of Israel come back to God, then a greater blessing will come upon the Gentiles. Paul states a similar point in **verse 15**: For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? When a large number of Jews accept the Lord, it will be like resurrection of the dead. The promise God made to Abraham that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” will finally be fulfilled. But for now, the channel of blessing is reversed. God is using the salvation of the Gentiles to call back the Jews. We do not know when that day will come when the Jews widely embrace the gospel. Some Bible scholars predict that it may happen closer to the second coming of our Lord. A lot of evangelistic work still needs to be done for the Jews. Census statistics from 2016 showed that there was only 2% population of Christian in the country Israel. In comparison, there were 41% people claimed to practice Judaism, and another 40% described themselves as secular Jews. This last group of people may still observe the sabbath and other Old Testament festivals. But they may look at those special days as part of their traditional customs. It is like many westerners celebrate Christmas only because it is a time for party. They do not care much that it is a day to commemorate the birth of Jesus. I told you before that there are some Christian organizations that target the Jews. In fact, some Chinese believers back in the 1920’s started a “Back to Jerusalem” movement. Their goal was to take the gospel from China westward to evangelize Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim people between China and Jerusalem. Now it has its own website and offices in U.K., Canada and the Netherlands. I do not know enough of the organization to comment its approach and ministries. But we should appreciate the zeal to bring the gospel to people of various ethnicities and religious backgrounds, and eventually to the Jews in Israel. It is natural for us to feel more comfortable to talk to strangers of similar background. But we should keep in mind that God’s heart is to form a new group from people all over the world. Every person is a sinner and so each of them needs Jesus. We should look forward to the future glory in heaven when people of every nation, tongue and skin color worship together. While God may not send you to another country as a missionary, He gives you a lot of opportunities to run into people of different races. Your colleagues, neighbors and parents of your kids’ classmates may be from other places. Ask the Lord to give you courage and wisdom to tell them about Jesus. They may want to know why you became a Christian. If you are like me, you may be shy to speak English to Americans. But I feel more comfortable to have dialogues with non-native speakers. We understand that English is not our first language. If you do not tell them about Jesus, then they may never know Him.

3. 異常的連接 An Odd Graft (v. 16-24)

God saves everyone with the same grace. By calling the Gentiles, God forms a new group as His chosen people. In the subsequent context, Paul describes the Gentile believers as an odd graft to an olive tree. To understand Paul’s arguments, first we need to figure out the meanings of two metaphors he uses in **verse 16**: If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. The background for the first analogy comes from Numbers chapter 15. God gave a new command. After the Israelites entered Canaan, they would make a dough out of the first grains they harvested in the season. It is a way of giving thanks to God for His provision. The portion that is offered to God will be treated as holy. In turn, it will sanctify the whole dough. What is Paul trying to illustrate? We find the answer in the

second metaphor if we assume that Paul uses both imageries to explain the same truth. The root-and-branches analogy is used throughout the remaining verses. The branches clearly refer to the Jews. But what does the root represent? Some Bible scholars say the root is Christ, for He is the foundation of our faith. Another possible answer that I agree with is that it refers to Abraham and the early patriarchs. A support is found in Romans chapter 4, when Paul says that Abraham is the father of those who are circumcised and those who are not circumcised. It was also through Abraham that God promised future blessings to Israel. Therefore, God bestows His blessing through the grain sacrifice and the root (the forefathers) to the dough and the branches (Israel). However, since the Jews forsake Christ, God's promises are now extended to the Gentiles. Paul uses an analogy of grafting olive shoots to present his point. The Jews are the original branches. Due to their disbelief, they are cut off by God. Some wild branches, which symbolize the Gentile Christians, are grafted to the tree. Paul warns the Gentiles not to take pride in themselves. He gives three reasons. First, we look at **verse 18**: ... consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. The wild branches are an odd graft. They do not have the capability to produce fruits. They are blessed because they are now connected to the tree. The second reason is in **verse 21**: For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. If God can chop off the original branches, He has the full right to remove the wild shoots. That speaks of God's absolute sovereignty. Paul's last argument is in **verse 24**: After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! If God can graft wild branches against their nature to the olive tree, it would be much easier to reconnect the original branches. God can and will call back the Jewish remnant. It is a common human nature to take pride in the things we possess and others do not have. If the Gentiles boast about their privilege as God's people, they will fall into the same trap like the Israelites when they brag about their relationship with Abraham. But salvation is completely out of God's grace. All that we can do is to thank God for choosing us and attaching us to the olive tree. In the church history, this problem of pride does exist. Some Christians believe that the church has replaced the Jewish race to become the true Israel. Such boasting ignores God's grand scheme. Many Jews will eventually be saved. Even though we are not Jews, we are connected to the same tree with the Jewish believers. We share the same spiritual father Abraham. When we read the Old Testament, we should not treat it like foreign history. Rather, we should read it through the lens of Christ and be amazed at how God fulfilled His prophecies. We are now in a completely different era, but the same truths still apply to our lives. We see the same sinful nature in us just like the Israelites. If it is not because of God's grace, we too will be condemned forever.

結論 CONCLUSION

God's salvation plan reveals His supreme wisdom. God is always faithful even when we are blind and faithless. He has showed us the final picture. He will bring many Jews back into His family. We may not know how and when it will take place. But since God says so, then it will be done. We need to wait patiently. Once I ordered something online. It took longer than usual to arrive. When I looked up the tracking record, it showed that the package was sent out near our downtown region. I could have driven there in 40 minutes to pick it up myself! But somehow it was taken to another city 5 hours away and rerouted back 10 days later. We may think that God is running in circles. But His ways are always higher than ours. Everything will happen at the proper time according to His schedule. God shows us His unfailing love. His name be praised.

引言 INTRODUCTION

猶太人在許多方面得到神的祝福。例如，在 900 多位諾貝爾獎得獎者中，有百分之 20 是猶太人。你在辦公室的老闆可能是個猶太人。他們在許多領域都是有智慧的。有一個真實的故事，說一位牧師去請教一個猶太的拉比。他想要像猶太人那樣閱讀舊約。拉比說，如果牧師能夠正確回答三個問題，那麼他就能夠像猶太人一樣地思考。第一個問題是：「有兩個人從煙囪掉下來。其中一個人全身被弄髒了。另一個人仍然是乾淨的。這兩個人中的哪一個需要去清潔自己？」牧師說：「嗯，這很簡單。當然是髒的那個人要去清潔。拉比說：「錯。情形是這樣的：乾淨的人看著骯髒的人，以為自己很髒。骯髒的人看著乾淨的人，以為自己很乾淨。所以，是乾淨的人去清潔自己。」拉比繼續說：「我再問你一個問題。兩個人從煙囪掉下。一個是乾淨的，另一個是髒的。哪一個需要去清潔自己？」牧師回答說：「乾淨的那個。」拉比說：「錯。情形是這樣的：乾淨的人看到骯髒的人，說他很髒。骯髒的人看看自己，發現他很髒，所以他就去清潔自己。」這個時候牧師很困惑。拉比說：「還有一個問題。兩個人從煙囪掉下。一個是乾淨的，另一個是髒的。哪一個需要去清潔自己？」牧師不知道該怎麼回答。因此，他說：「要不然兩個都要去清潔，要不然兩個都不需要。」拉比回答：「又錯了。看，你的思考方式不像一個猶太拉比。這個問題的答案是不可能的。怎可能一個乾淨的，而另一個卻是髒的呢？」牧師傻眼了，他不得不承認：「我永遠無法像猶太人那樣理解舊約。」有時，答案會讓你懷疑自己是否在問一個正確的問題。保羅在羅馬書中問神是否拒絕了猶太人。答案是否定的。神會用祂的方式召回祂的子民。神的救贖計劃彰顯了祂至高無上的智慧。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 同樣的恩典 The Same Grace (v. 1-10)

神並沒有忘記祂對以色列的約。祂為自己保留了一些餘民。在適當的時候，神會給他們同樣的恩典，並呼召那些祂所揀選的人得救。保羅在這段經文中引用了三個證據來支持他的論點。第一個證據是關於他自己的。保羅是一個正統的猶太人，出生於猶太父母。但是他成為基督徒不是因為他的背景，而是由於神的恩典。你可能還記得他在腓立比書 3:5-6 中的見證。**5 我第八天受割禮；我是以色列族、便雅憫支派的人，是希伯來人所生的希伯來人。就律法說，我是法利賽人；6 就熱心說，我是逼迫教會的；就律法上的義說，我是無可指摘的。**保羅是在一個有名望的家庭長大的好孩子，他從一所名校的法學院畢業，他有一份有前途的職業，就是控告基督徒，他也是個良好公民，拿了不少的獎。但是這些榮譽都沒有使他成為基督徒。一切都是神的恩典。實際上，保羅是在準備抓基督徒的途中得救的。耶穌向保羅顯示了自己，並賜予保羅恩典。第二個證明是關於先知以利亞的經歷。他的故事記載在列王紀上第 17-19 章中。

神呼召以利亞去定一個邪惡的以色列王亞哈的罪。他娶了一位名叫耶洗別的異教女子，結果把偶像崇拜帶進了國家。以利亞召集了 450 個假先知到迦密山鬥法。他們設立了兩個祭壇，一個給耶和華，另一個給假神巴力。哪一個能夠從天上降火燒毀祭品的就是真神。耶和華贏了。然後以利亞要求現場的人殺死所有假先知。對於以利亞來說，這是一次了不起的勝利。王后聽到這個消息後很生氣。於是，她下令要殺死以利亞。因此，一個民族英雄變成了逃犯。以利亞是如此的恐懼和沮喪，他甚至求神拿走他的性命。他以為自己是全國最後一個對耶和華忠心的人。但是神向以利亞保證，他已經保存了 7,000 個跟隨祂的人。通過引用以利亞的故事，保羅表明即使似乎不再有神的追隨者，神的恩典也不會改變。保羅用的第三個證據是關於以色列的。他從《申命記》、《以賽亞書》和《詩篇》中引用經文，證明神因以色列人的不順服而使他們的心剛硬。這三卷書代表了希伯來文聖經的主要部分，即律法、先知和寫作。保羅的觀點是，整個舊約都指證了以色列人的頑梗。在第 8 節和第 10 節中，一個共同的概念是神關閉了祂子民的眼睛。因此，他們不了解神的計劃，也不明白真理。結果是大多數猶太人沒有得救。保羅用一個負面的例子來表達一個正面的觀點。如果神能夠使祂子民的心剛硬，那麼只有祂才能使他們的心變柔軟。救恩完全是神的恩典！保羅的結論夾在三個例子之間。看第 5-6 節：**5 如今也是這樣，照著揀選的恩典，還有所留的餘數。6 既是出於恩典，就不在乎行為；不然，恩典就不是恩典了。**自舊約時代以來，神的計劃從未改變。基於神的恩典，祂保留了一些餘民。神奇妙的恩典超越過人的狀況或努力。保羅沒有因為他出色的履歷而得救。儘管亞哈王邪惡，神仍然保留了 7,000 名忠心的追隨者。我們應該感到安慰，在整個歷史中，無論我們的生活狀況如何，神都繼續表現出同樣的恩典。歷史上曾經有過一些黑暗的時期。直到今天，許多國家還是有嚴重的宗教迫害。暴君和異教徒政府曾嘗試但沒有成功地剷除基督信仰。神會保護祂的餘民。今天在世界的其他地區，人們濫用自己的自由沉迷於享樂、物質主義和偶像崇拜。我們的政府領袖們也越來越對我們的信仰充滿敵意。我們一些不信主的朋友和家人對真理毫無興趣。但是我們的主仍然會賜下祂的恩典。只有祂才能軟化人們的心靈，使他們悔改。

2. 嶄新的群體 A New Group (v. 11-15)

神從未改變。從舊約直到現在，祂以同樣的恩典對待人。祂在救贖計劃中的目標是要建立一個嶄新的群體。這個群體包括猶太人和外邦人。我們在第十章讀到，猶太人看到外邦人得救時就嫉妒。我們發現本章第 11 節和第 14 節也提到了相同的嫉妒情緒。神改變了保羅的事奉道路，幫助他了解神打算拯救外邦人的心意。保羅在嘗試傳福音給猶太同胞時面對阻力。他們拒絕接受耶穌是彌賽亞。相反，一些外邦人聽眾欣然地接受了這個好消息。保羅然後意識到神在呼召他成為外邦人的使徒。從那時起，保羅在未來的宣教旅程中轉移了重點。但是，保羅也知道神沒有遺棄猶太人。神打算激起猶太人的嫉妒，將他們吸引到福音中。最終，當神挪走他們內心的剛硬時，就會有巨大的覺醒。保羅在第 12 節說：**若他們的過失，為天下的富足，他們的缺乏，為外邦人的富足；何況他們的豐滿呢？**由於猶太人拒絕了福音，外邦人獲得了救贖的恩典。有一天，當以色列的餘民回到神面前時，外邦人將蒙受更大的祝福。保羅在第 15 節

中指出了類似的重點：**若他們被丟棄，天下就得與神和好；他們被收納，豈不是死而復生嗎？**當大批的猶太人接受主時，就像死人復活一樣。神答應亞伯拉罕「地上的萬族都要因你得福。」的應許最終將實現。但就目前而言，神把祝福的管道倒過來。神利用外邦人的救贖來召回猶太人。我們不知道猶太人何時會廣泛地接受福音。一些聖經學者預言，這可能會在我們主再來時發生。我們對猶太人仍然需要做很多佈道工作。根據 2016 年的人口普查統計，以色列全國的基督徒人口只有百分之 2。相比之下，有百分之 41 的人聲稱自己信奉猶太教，另有百分之 40 的人說自己是世俗的猶太人。最後一群人可能仍然遵守安息日和其他舊約節期。但是他們可能將那些特別的日子視為他們傳統習俗的一部分。就像許多西方人慶祝聖誕節只是因為它是開派對的節日。他們並不在乎那一天是紀念耶穌誕生的日子。我之前告訴過你，有一些專門向猶太人傳福音的基督徒機構。實際上，早在 1920 年代的一些中國信徒就發起了「回歸耶路撒冷」運動。他們的目標是將福音從中國帶到西面，向中國和耶路撒冷之間的佛教徒、印度教徒和穆斯林傳福音。現在，它擁有自己的網站，並在英國、加拿大和荷蘭設有辦事處。我對那個機構的了解不多，無法評論它的策略和事工。但是我們應該欣賞他們的熱情，希望把福音帶給不同種族和宗教背景的人們，並最終把福音傳給以色列的猶太人。我們一般人比較習慣與背景相似的陌生人交談。但是，我們應該牢記，神的心意是盼望世界各地的人組成一個嶄新的群體。每個人都是罪人，所以每個人都需要耶穌。我們應該期待未來天堂的榮耀，到時會有來自不同國家、語言和膚色的人一起敬拜神。雖然神可能不會差遣你到海外成為宣教士，但你会在生活中遇到很多不同種族的人。你的同事、鄰居和小孩同學的家長可能是來自其他地方。求主賜予你勇氣和智慧，向他們講述耶穌。他們可能想知道你為什麼成為基督徒。如果你像我一樣，可能不好意思與美國人說英語。但是，與來自於別的國家的人講話可能會感覺比較自在。因為我們都了解英語不是我們的母語。如果你不告訴他們有關耶穌的信息，那麼他們可能永遠不會認識主。

3. 異常的連接 An Odd Graft (v. 16-24)

神以同樣的恩典拯救任何人。通過呼召外邦人，神組成了一個嶄新的群體，成為祂的選民。在隨後的經文中，保羅將外邦信徒形容為橄欖樹上異常連接的枝子。要理解保羅的論點，首先我們需要弄清楚他在第 16 節中使用的兩個比喻的含義：**所獻的新麵若是聖潔，全團也就聖潔了；樹根若是聖潔，樹枝也就聖潔了。**第一個類比的背景是《民數記》第 15 章。神發出了新的命令。以色列人進入迦南之後，他們要用第一批收割的穀物製成麵團。這是表達感謝神的供應。獻給神的那團麵將被視為聖潔。於是，整個麵團也就成聖了。保羅想說明什麼？如果我們假設保羅使用兩個圖像來解釋相同的真理，那麼我們在第二個隱喻中找到答案。在其餘的經文中都出現了樹根與枝子的類比。這些原來的枝子顯然是指猶太人。但是根代表什麼呢？一些聖經學者說，根是指基督，因為祂是我們信仰的基礎。我同意的另一個可能的答案是，樹根是代表亞伯拉罕和其他列祖。在羅馬書第 4 章中，保羅說亞伯拉罕是受割禮的人和未割禮的人之父。神也是通過亞伯拉罕，向以色列應許將來的祝福。因此，神通過獻上的素祭和根（祖先）使麵團和樹枝（以色列）得到祝福。但是，因為猶太人拒絕基督，神的

應許現在擴展到外邦人。保羅用連接橄欖枝的類比來表達他的論點。猶太人是樹上原來的枝子。由於他們的不信，被神砍下來了。一些象徵外邦基督徒的野橄欖枝被連接到樹上。保羅警告外邦人不要因此驕傲。他提出了三個理由。首先，我們看第 18 節：…當知道不是你托著根，乃是根托著你。野橄欖枝是一些異常的连接。它們沒有出產果子的能力。它們之所以受到祝福，是因為它們現在連接到樹上了。第二個理由是在第 21 節中：神既不愛惜原來的枝子，也必不愛惜你。如果神能砍掉原來的樹枝，祂也有權利剪斷野橄欖枝。這說明了神的絕對主權。保羅最後的論點是在第 24 節中：你是從那天生的野橄欖上砍下來的，尚且逆著性得接在好橄欖上，何況這本樹的枝子，要接在本樹上呢！如果神能夠將野生樹枝違反它們的本性連接到橄欖樹上，那麼重新連接原來的樹枝就更不是問題了。神可以並且將會召回猶太人的餘民。對我們擁有他人沒有的東西感到自豪是人的常態。如果外邦人吹噓自己作為神子民的特權，他們就陷入與以色列人一樣的自誇陷阱裡，因為猶太人誇自己與亞伯拉罕的關係。但是得救完全是出於神的恩典。我們所能做的就是感謝神揀選我們，並將我們連接到橄欖樹上。在教會歷史上，確實存在這種驕傲的情況。一些基督徒認為，教會已經取代了猶太人成為真正的以色列。這種誇口忽視了神的整體計劃。許多猶太人最終將得救。即使我們不是猶太人，我們也與猶太信徒連在一起。我們有同一個屬靈的父親亞伯拉罕。當我們閱讀舊約時，我們不應該把它看為外國歷史。相反，我們應該通過基督的角度閱讀它，並對神如何實現祂的預言感到驚訝。我們現在處於一個與聖經完全不同的時代，但是同樣的真理仍然適用於我們的生活。我們在自己身上看到像以色列人一樣的罪性。如果不是因為神的恩典，我們也將永遠沉淪。

結論 CONCLUSION

神的救贖計劃彰顯了祂至高無上的智慧。儘管我們瞎眼和不信，神總是信實的。祂讓我們看到了最後的情景。祂會把許多猶太人帶回祂的家。我們可能不知道神的計劃將如何及何時實現。但是既然神是如此說的，那麼事情就一定會達成的。我們必須耐心等待。有一次我在網上訂購了東西。結果貨物花了比平時更長的時間才寄到。當我查看跟踪記錄時，發現包裹其實是從我們的市中心附近送出來的。要是我開 40 分鐘車到那裡，我當天就可以拿到！但是不知何故，郵包被送到 5 小時路程之外的另一個城市，我在 10 天後收到。有時候看起來神好像是在繞圈子。但是祂的道路總是高過我們的道路。一切事情都會按照祂的時間表在適當的時候發生。神向我們展示出祂不捨棄的愛。祂的名配得稱頌。