

MISUSED

### The Spiritual Heritage of Israel!

#### Nine Unique, God-given Privileges (Romans 9:4-5) ...

- 1) They are **Israelites**,
- 2) And to them belong the **adoption**,
- 3) The (Shekinah) **glory**,
- 4) The **covenants** to and through them,
- 5) The giving of God's divine **law**,
- 6) The (temple) **worship**,
- 7) And the **promises**.
- 8) To them belong the **paternal rights**,
- 9) And from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ**.

SQUANDERED

LOST

- (Romans 9:4-5 NCV) They are **the people** of Israel, God's **chosen children**. They have seen **the glory** of God, and they have **the agreements** that God made between himself and his people. God gave them **the law** of Moses and the right way of **worship** and his **promises**. 5 They are the descendants of our **great ancestors**, and they are the earthly family into which **Christ** was born, who is God over all. Praise him forever! Amen.

WASTED

#### How did it happen that Israel "lost" the Story of God?

- They didn't know who they were because they didn't listen to God. Refusing to listen to God, they clung to their traditions over the word of God.
- It should come as no surprise then that they did not receive God's Messiah.

#### How did the Jews miss these blessings of God?

- They didn't receive God's words. They didn't receive the teaching of Moses. They didn't receive the teaching of Jesus Christ.

#### Receiving the words ...

- (Proverbs 2:1 ESV) My son, **if you receive my words** and treasure up my commandments with you.
- (Ezekiel 3:7 ESV) But the house of Israel will **not be willing to listen** to you, for they are **not willing to listen** to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.
- (John 12:48 ESV) The one who rejects me and **does not receive my words** has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- (Jeremiah 35:13 ESV) Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words?** declares the LORD.
- (John 17:8 ESV) For I have given them the words that you gave me, and **they have received them** and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

#### If you believed Moses ...

- ➔ **Moses ...** (John 5:46-47 ESV) For **if you believed Moses**, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?
- ➔ **Moses ...** (Luke 24:27 ESV) And **beginning with Moses** and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- ➔ **Moses ...** (Luke 24:44 ESV) Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me in the Law of Moses** and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- ➔ **Moses ...** (John 7:19 ESV) Has not **Moses** given you the law? **Yet none of you keeps the law**. Why do you seek to kill me?
- ➔ **Moses ...** (John 9:28-30 ESV) And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are **disciples of Moses**. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is **an amazing thing!** You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."

#### ▶ Israel chose their story over the Story of God.

- Missing God's Story was not new to the Jewish people.
- At one time Elijah wondered if he was the only one left true to God (1 Kings 19:10, Romans 11:2-4).
- The people of Israel (north and south kingdoms) were ravaged and sent off to foreign lands as captives as God's judgment on their rebellion.

#### ▶ But ... They tried to keep the parts of God's Story that fit their story.

- They kept the teaching of Moses but not really ...

#### ▶ And in the process ... They lost God's Story.

- (Jeremiah 23:36 NCV) But you will never again say, 'The message of the LORD,' because **the only message you speak is your own words**. You have changed the words of our God, the living God, the LORD All-Powerful.
- (Jeremiah 23:36 NKJV) And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. **For every man's word will be his oracle**, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

#### ▶ How do we learn from their mistakes?

- We **receive** our "information" from God, and we **deliver** what we **receive** from God.
- **No editing**. No adding or subtracting.
- (Deuteronomy 4:2 ESV) You **shall not add** to the word that I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.
- (Deuteronomy 12:32 ESV) Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. **You shall not add to it or take from it**.

