

Introduction:

Today we will continue looking at *God's plan for Israel*.

Things we will look at in this lesson: Israel's Unbelief

Israel's Unbelief:

01. What does our response to Jesus Christ determine?

02. What caused the Jews to stumble and fall?

03. What are the two ways of righteousness set forth by Paul?

04. Even with their extensive knowledge, what were the Jews ignorant of?

05. Why were the Jews blinded?

06. What was the righteousness of the Jews based on?

07. What was Paul's righteousness based on?

08. How do those who are in Christ fulfill the righteous requirements of the law?

09. Why is righteousness by the Law weak?

10. What does biblical faith focus on?

11. What does saving faith center on?

12. What does it mean to believe?

Article 1) "Jesus is Lord" (Romans 10:9):

The earliest creed (i.e., statement of belief) or confession of the NT church was not "Jesus is Savior," but "Jesus is Lord" (Acts 8:16; 19:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3). Jesus Christ is specifically called "Savior" 16 times in the NT and "Lord" more than 450 times.

(1) The teaching in some religious circles that Jesus can be one's Savior (i.e., that a person can receive God's gift of forgiveness and spiritual salvation) without necessarily being one's Lord is not found in the NT. No one can truly receive Jesus as Savior without receiving him as Lord—and then continuing to follow him as the supreme Leader and authority in his or her life. This is a key focus in true Biblical preaching and Christian evangelism (Acts 2:36–40).

(2) "Lord" (Greek *kyrios*) means having power, authority, control and the right to exercise ruling power as Master. To confess "Jesus is Lord" is to declare him to be equal with God (Romans 10:13; John 20:28; Acts 2:36; Hebrews 1:10) worthy of power (Revelation 5:12), worship (Philippians 2:10–11), trust (John 14:1; Hebrews 2:13), obedience (Hebrews 5:9) and prayer (Acts 7:59–60; 2 Corinthians 12:8).

(3) When NT Christians called Jesus "Lord," this was not just an outward profession but an earnest inward attitude of the heart (1 Peter 3:15) by which they recognized Christ and his Word as the highest authority over all of life (Luke 6:46–49; John 15:14). Jesus must be our Lord at home, church, school and on the job. He must be Lord in intellectual, financial, educational and recreational aspects of life—in fact, in all areas of life (Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Anyone who denies Christ's bodily resurrection cannot, in a true spiritual sense, claim to be a Christian. He or she is still an unbeliever, for the death and resurrection of Christ are the central events in salvation (Romans 1:4; 4:25; 5:10, 17; 6:4–10; 8:11, 34).