

AF N°68 : Israël according to God

The Lord asks Cain, the older son of Adam, **"Where is your brother?"** Gn 4:8. Today, the Lord is asking the same question to the younger brother, France, about Israel. "You are our dearly beloved brothers and, in a certain way, it could be said that you are our elder brothers," said John Paul II to the Jews. For **"Salvation is from the Jews"** Jn 4: 22, and Jesus, Son of God is JEWISH!

This verse of the Gospel is still true today. "The Judeo-Christian relationship defines the mysterious spiritual link which unites us closely in the person of Abraham, and through Abraham, in God, who has chosen Israel and from which He has given birth to the Church." (John Paul II) For centuries by rejecting Israel and our Jewish roots, we thought we were, as St Paul puts it, "wise in our own estimation". **"For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery-- so that you will not be wise in your own estimation."** Rom 11:25

Each time we have rejected Israel, we have purely and simply rejected the blessings of God through Abraham, choosing to receive the fruit but not the tree. **"And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."** Gn 12:3 God gave His Son to all, but He gave Israel to the nations. Paul affirms clearly that Israel and the nations have the same inheritance. **"Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ ... for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father."** Eph 2:11-18 The Jew, who believes in Yeshua, remains a Jew and has received the circumcision of the heart.

The Holy Spirit gathers in one people, in the unity of their differences, all who confess the Name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are ONE people, who are the image and resemblance of the Trinity. **"Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are."** Jn 17:11 God is one, in Three Persons. The unity of the Trinity is lived in the richness of their differences, for none of the Three Persons assumes possession of the others. For man this unity passes through the cross of Jesus, the place of reconciliation.

“But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John” Luke 7: 30. Thus the Jewish leaders, refusing to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God, brought with them a large part of the Jewish population. They separated themselves, not from the blessing of Abraham (for God still blesses them), but from the fruit of the blessing of Abraham that the Father wanted them to bear and receive in Jesus His son. It is an olive tree which remains green and beautiful, but which does not bear fruit.

Let us never forget that a remainder of the Jewish people has acknowledged Jesus as King and Messiah of Israel. **“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice”** Rom 11:5. Let us always remember the Jewish believers residing in Israel today. These Jewish Christians are often persecuted and pay a great price for their faith. We continue in prayer for Israel so that all may acknowledge Jesus. This event heralds His Second Coming. Throughout the Bible, the continuing theme is that thanks to a little remnant, an entire people are saved.

Paul warns that the veil which has fallen on most of the Jewish people is a mystery for him and for us, until the end of times. **“But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ”** 1Cor 3:14 When Christ will unveil it, it will be the end. **“For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”** Rom 11:15

Then the prophecy of Zechariah will be fulfilled. **“Thus says the LORD of hosts, `In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."”**” Zach 8:23

Today, we in France pray in communion with the Jewish believers and all who confess the Name of God so that Israel may rediscover and puts her trust in the Holy Name of God, and not in her own strength. We can shorten the time by being filled with the spirit of Elijah and with his jealous zeal for the Lord. More than ever before, praise will shorten the time.