



Examining God’s Strategy for reaching the Nations as revealed in the Biblical mandate to take the Gospel to the Jews first

Rev Alex Jacob | The Church’s Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ)
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- **Start at the beginning** - but where is the beginning?
 - *“Jewish evangelism is historically and theologically the first area of evangelism, it is the catalyst for all subsequent wider evangelistic initiatives (to the nations) and actions undertaken by the Church” :1 (Lausanne Occasional Paper: Jewish Evangelism, 2021)*
- **Theologically (to the Jew first) the message is part of the continuous revelation of God’s faithfulness** – the Gospel message (ministry of Jesus) is rooted in the promises and prophecies of God, and in God’s faithfulness reaching back through covenantal history of Israel and back to creation itself.
- **Romans 1:16 is in the present tense.** The word translated ‘first’ (or especially) implies a priority not just a sequence.
 - In terms of reaching the nations (mission calling) – *“Gentile faith rests on the gospel which belongs to the Jews. The apostle intends for Gentiles to look backward not only to Abraham and his faith, but also to the faith of the earliest Jewish Believers in the Gospel message in Jerusalem and to recognize our present indebtedness to them. He also intends for us to look forward to the salvation of Israel in which God’s saving purposes for the world shall be consummated.”* (To The Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History; 2008, Kregel)
- **Jewish “No” embedded in the ‘Parting of the Ways’** (see the Olive Press Research Paper – issue 31, 2017, available to download for free from the CMJ UK website – click on the resources page www.cmj.org.uk)
- **Twin foundational missional pillars:** Jewish evangelism (to the Jew first) and Israel’s restoration as a nation.
 - **Out of Zion, Salvation comes**

- **There is a clear link between the restoration/salvation of Israel and the return of the Messiah** (Second Coming of Jesus)
- **We enter a deep mystery here and a deep truth.** We glimpse here the cycle of grace (Romans 11:28-32). The election of Israel and the ministry blessings of Israel (Romans 9:2-5) leads to the salvation of many from the nations which in turn leads to a renewed Jewish “Yes” and the consummation of all things.
 - *“In all of this Scripture points to a deep mystery and a profound reality, namely the interdependence and mutuality between Jews and Gentiles, and between Israel and the Church in the redemptive purposes of God. It is to these redemptive purposes and for the glory of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that Jewish evangelism (to the Jew first) has sought to bear witness in the past and seeks to bear witness to in this generation and those to come.” :10* (Lausanne Occasional Paper: Jewish Evangelism, 2021)

For Further Study Reflection:

- *Lausanne Occasional Paper: Jewish Evangelism* (2021)
- *The Emergence of the Hebrew Christian Movement in Nineteenth-Century Britain* - Michael Darby, Brill, (2010)
- *To The Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History* - Darrell Bock & Mitch Glaser (editors), Kregel, (2008)

Reach out to Alex with questions: alexj@cmj.org.uk

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