

What Was the Advantage of Being an Israelite?

Rom 3.1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? 2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? 4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."

* What was the basic argument the Jewish establishment was making against the Gospel?

* Why do we need to understand this 2000 years later?

* What OT passage is Paul quoting in vs 4, and what is his point?

* What was Paul's response to the Jews in a nutshell?

** Jeremiah 31.31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

– To what does God analogize his covenant relationship with Israel?

– What are the two basic aspects of a marriage union?

– What was the problem with the old covenant? What was

Israel missing?

– How was the new covenant going to fix these problems?

* What are the two aspects of a marriage union, and how are they supposed to relate?

1)

2)

* Stated in terms of a marriage, what were the Jews arguing, and what was Paul's response?

* What did the Old Covenant require? State an example illustrating the point. How did Israel fail?

* Young people coming up in Christian homes and the Church, and with the benefit of Christian education, how does this apply to you? What does God want you to do?

* What about the rest of us?

* Why is responding to God in faith and love not "works" (i.e., not trying to earn our salvation)? How would the marriage analogy apply?