

## **MATTHEW 21: 28-46**

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS?**

Introduction:

My heart grows heavy every time I think about the plight of the Jews. Alice and I spent an interesting afternoon in Prague this year. There are the remains of an old Jewish ghetto in the midst of the old city. The remains are around an old cemetery where the people were buried.

The actual condition of the Jews before the rise of Hitler in Europe is revealing. In major European cities like Prague Jews were forced to live in Ghettos. They were not allowed to move out of the Ghettos, and when the population of the Ghetto grew, they could not secure any additional land. They had to add additional stories on to their houses in order to provide for their children when they married—there was no other alternative. Even in the cemetery, they had to continue to bury their dead in the same confined area. So they buried people for generations on top of each other. They had no political rights, but in spite of them some of them would prosper and would gain influence. Then Hitler came with his demonic hatred for the Jews, and the rest is history.

The United States and Great Brittan led in the establishment of modern Israel in 1948 on land that was a part of their original homeland. But they

have been under attack ever since the new nation began. There are still Arab nations that plot and threaten their extinction as a nation. In today's world the United States and Great Brittan are still about the only friends the little nation has in the world.

Did you ever think about what happened to the Jew? You will never understand the present situation of the Jews if you do not take seriously the words of Jesus. Jesus was one of them and came to be their Savior. But their response to Him they determined their future. Consider some lessons from our Lord. It will help you understand the tragedy of the Jew.

- A. They refused to give God His rightful place in the nation.
- B. Their Messiah came, and they rejected Him.
- C. They abused the privilege of serving in the kingdom.
- D. God took the kingdom from them and gave it to the church.

The history of the Jew should be a warning to the church. Paul used these facts to admonish the Roman believers about the severity of God. If God did not spare His chosen when they abused their privileges, why should we think that He will spare Gentiles like us if we are not faithful to our calling?