

BENEFITS OF BEING A JEW / *Romans 9:4-5*

- They are sons of God by adoption.
 - “Israel is my first born son” (Exodus 4:22).
 - “Yet the time will come when Israel will prosper and become a great nation. In that day its people will be like the sands of the seashore—too many to count! Then, at the place where they were told, ‘You are not my people,’ it will be said, ‘You are children of the living God’” (Hosea 1:10).
 - “When Israel was a child, I loved him as a son, and I called my son out of Egypt” (Hosea 11:1).
- They had divine glory, or visible presence of God, dwelling among them.
 - “The LORD guided them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. That way they could travel whether it was day or night. And the LORD did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from their sight” (Exodus 13:21-22).
 - “Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glorious presence of the LORD filled it. Moses was no longer able to enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the Tabernacle was filled with the awesome glory of the LORD” (Exodus 40:34-35).
 - “. . . the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple” (1 Kings 8:11).
- They were given the covenants. God made covenants with his people. God’s promises never go unfilled. The Old Testament records five covenants:
 - The Abrahamic Covenant—So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, “I have given this land to your descendants” (Genesis 15:18, see also 17:4-21).
 - The Mosaic Covenant—The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17).
 - The Reestablished Covenant—“But you are not the only ones with whom the LORD is making this covenant with its obligations. The LORD your God is making this covenant with you who stand in his presence today and also with all future generations of Israel” (Deuteronomy 29:14-15).
 - The Davidic Covenant—“Your dynasty and your kingdom will continue for all time before me, and your throne will be secure forever” (2 Samuel 7:16).
 - The New Covenant through Jeremiah—“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the LORD. “I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33).
- They received the law. God gave his law to Israel (see Exodus 20:1ff.; Deuteronomy 5:1-22).
- They worshiped in the Temple. Israel also was given the worship ceremony prescribed for the Tabernacle and the Temple (see especially the book of Leviticus).
- They were given God’s promises. This refers especially to the promised Messiah—promises of his arrival are found throughout the Old Testament (see Luke 24:27).
- Last in this list of blessings are the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob’s twelve sons. From the patriarchs is traced the human ancestry of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1-16; Romans 1:3), thus all Israel is in line to receive God’s promises. And it is in Christ that all of God’s promises to Israel are fulfilled.
- They have Christ, who is God over all and will be forever praised! For some, Christ is not really a separate benefit but the reason behind all the other benefits. Everything that God had given the Jews prepared the way for Christ.