

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 23

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans 11 we were looking at how God used Israel's rejection of their Messiah to benefit the rest of the world and at the same time to bring some of the Jews to salvation.

Notice Romans 11:11

Israel had stumbled but they did not fall into ruination. God is not finished with the Nation of Israel for He will work with them again in the Tribulation period. Through Israel's rejection God has now brought salvation to the Gentiles and at the same time He is using the salvation of the Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy. Let me explain how this works. The Jews saw themselves as God's special people. They had many blessings from God over the years. Paul wrote of these in Romans 9.

Romans 9:4-5

⁴ *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;*

⁵ *Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.*

But they rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah, so God turned to the Gentiles. Then as the Gentiles came to Jesus and received the blessings of God it caused the Jew to be jealous. The Jew looks at the blessings upon the Gentiles and he becomes jealous and he says, "Those blessings should be ours, but we have lost the blessings of God." The Jews hear the testimony of the Gentiles concerning our peace and our comfort that we have in the midst of a world full of turmoil. They see the blessings we have from the Lord; they hear of the riches we have in Christ and the Jew says, "That is what we are lacking. I am jealous, and so I really desire to have what those Gentiles have." This then has led some of the Jews to seek Jesus Christ and to accept Him as their Savior.

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

"God's Relationship with Israel in the Future"

Part 4

Notice Romans 11:12a

Because of Israel's FALL, that is they have fallen into unbelief, because of their unbelief the offer of salvation has went out into all the world.

Mark 16:14-15

¹⁴ *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Because of Israel's fall into unbelief God now offers to all men everywhere the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:6-8

⁶ *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

⁷ *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

⁸ *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

To the world the spiritual wealth found in Jesus Christ. You see, Jesus Christ died upon the cross not only to pay our sin debt and to set us free from the power of sin but to make us rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Notice Romans 11:12b

The word "diminish" here means "to lessen or to decrease" and it refers to what happened over time in the church. When the church first began it was made up of mostly Jews.

Acts 2:5, 14, 37-38, 41

⁵ *And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.*

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and **all ye that dwell at Jerusalem**, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

⁴¹ **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**

This was the beginning of the church and it was made up of mostly Jews but over time things changed and the Gentiles came to Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Jews diminished from the church. Because of their unbelief the population of Jews in the church decreased. This resulted in Gentiles coming to Jesus Christ and enjoying the spiritual riches in Him. This is what Paul is referring to here in Romans.

Notice Romans 11:12c

Now Paul asks a question. If Israel's fall into unbelief resulted in the people of the world becoming rich as they turned to Jesus Christ and if the diminishing of them in the body of Jesus Christ has resulted in the Gentiles who have come to Jesus Christ becoming spiritually rich then HOW MUCH MORE WILL THEIR FULLNESS DO? What is Paul asking here?

Israel's fullness will come after the tribulation when the Kingdom is set up. Right now, in this present church age God is bringing about the FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

The FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES will be complete when the last Gentile is saved and added to the body of Jesus Christ. The FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES is not to be confused with the TIMES OF THE GENTILES. They are not the same. We will talk more about this when we get to verse 25 in our study. The FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES will be accomplished when the church is complete and the FULLNESS OF ISRAEL will be accomplished in the Millennial Kingdom.

Notice Romans 11:12 again.

When the FULLNESS OF ISRAEL is accomplished, we also will enjoy the blessings of the Kingdom. We will not be the recipients of the covenants as Israel will, but we will truly be blessed as we rule and reign with our Lord in the Kingdom. We shall live under a perfect King and perfect government where there will be perfect justice for all who are in the Kingdom.

Notice Romans 11:13

Paul was an Apostle to the Gentiles, and he magnified his office which means he did as much as he could to reach the Gentiles with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The next verse gives to us one of the reasons.

Notice Romans 11:14

He did all he could to reach the Gentiles because he cared about them and because he desired to provoke Israel to jealousy so as to save some of them.

Notice Romans 11:15

The phrase "LIFE FROM THE DEAD" here could have two meanings.

1. **It may refer to the establishment of the Kingdom and the restoration of the earth.**

The "casting away" spoken of here is referring to how Israel has temporarily been set aside while God gathers a people for His name from the Gentiles and is calling the nations of the world to reconciliation. So, if the world is being reconciled to God as Israel is set aside then when Israel turns to God and the Kingdom is established that will be a time of resurrection or life from the dead.

Paul has in mind here what the entire creation will experience in the Millennial Kingdom. Right now, this planet is under the curse but in the Kingdom, it will be restored back to what it was before sin entered in. It will be Garden of Eden conditions on the earth.

Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the **times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.***

²⁰ *And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:*

²¹ *Whom the heaven must receive until **the times of restitution of all things,** which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. When the Kingdom is established everything will be different.

There will be harmony between the animals and between man and animals. The knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Longevity will return to mankind.

Isaiah 65:20

²⁰ There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

The world will have perfect justice.

Isaiah 65:21-23

²¹ And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

²² *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

²³ *They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

This phrase "LIFE FROM THE DEAD" could also refer to another event.

- 2. It could refer to the resurrection which happens when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation.**

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Conclusion:

Notice Romans 11:15 again.

The Kingdom and the resurrection of the Old Testament and the Tribulation saints all rest upon the salvation of Israel. If Israel is not saved then Jesus would not return at the end of the Tribulation to set up His Kingdom, thus there would be no resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation saints. The promise of the earthly return of Jesus and the Kingdom is made to Israel. If they are cast away and fallen into ruination, then there would be no earthly return of Jesus Christ. The salvation of Israel is far more important than many people realize.