

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 25

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we were looking at Paul's illustration of the olive tree.

Notice Romans 11:16-17

Believing Gentiles have been grafted into the place of blessing and privilege which is what the olive tree represents. The root of the tree represents Abraham and through him flows the promises of God. As believers we are the spiritual seed of Abraham in that we are recipients of the spiritual blessings.

Galatians 3:13-14, 28-29

¹³ *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

¹⁴ **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

²⁹ *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

As the spiritual seed of Abraham, we are made partakers of the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that 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 bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Ezekiel 11:19-20

¹⁹ *And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

²⁰ *That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

Before we were saved we were branches on the wild olive tree and we had no hope.

Ephesians 2:11-16

¹¹ *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

¹² *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

Paul then gave a warning to the Gentiles in Romans 11.

Notice Romans 11:18-22

The warning was to unbelieving Gentiles who were occupying the place of blessing but were not saved. This now brings us to where we are tonight.

"God's Relationship with Israel in the Future"

Part 6

Notice Romans 11:23

The words "and they also" let us know that just as the unbelieving Gentiles situation can change so can the unbelieving Jew's situation change. If they accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah God will graft them back into the place of blessing again. This tells us that the branches which have been cut off have not been cast away. God has not cast away His people as many teach. He has not replaced them with the church. The Jews can still be saved if they are willing. Let us remember what Paul wrote in Romans 10.

Romans 10:12-13

¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Notice Romans 11:24

Here is a very interesting verse. Paul tells us that what happened to us was contrary to nature. If we were going to graft from one tree to another, we would take the branches from the good tree and graft them onto the wild tree so that the good branches would produce their fruit on the wild tree. But God did the opposite with us. He took the wild branches/Gentiles and He grafted us onto the cultivated tree/place of blessing and privilege so that we would receive the goodness and the fatness from the root of the good tree.

The idea is that this is unnatural so if God can do what is unnatural by grafting the wild branches into the place of blessings how much more can He graft in the natural branches, that is the branches that belong there, the branches that started there? He can graft us into the place of blessing which is unnatural so He can surely graft in the natural branches.

"Israel's Salvation"

Notice Romans 11:25

Paul now explains that what he is teaching is a mystery that means it was not known previously in the Old Testament. The revealed mystery is that Israel's blindness is only temporary and that at this time God is taking for Himself a people from among the Gentiles. This will continue until the fulness of the Gentiles is come in.

Now, we need to understand that there is a difference between "The fulness of the Gentiles" and "The times of the Gentiles". I want to take a few moments and help you to understand the difference between the two.

➤ The Times of the Gentiles

Luke 21:24

²⁴ And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Let us notice Scofield's definition of The Times of the Gentiles:

"The Times of the Gentiles is that long period beginning with the Babylonian captivity of Judah, under Nebuchadnezzar, and to be brought to an end by the destruction of Gentile world-power by the 'stone cut out without hands.'"

Daniel 2:34-35, 44

³⁴ Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

The Times of the Gentiles began when Babylon invaded Jerusalem in 586 BC and they will end when Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom at the end of the Great Tribulation.

➤ **The Fulness of the Gentiles**

This is referring to the time we are currently in. It is in this time that God is taking from the Gentiles a people for Himself. It points to this current time when Gentiles are being saved and added to the church. The Fulness of the Gentiles will happen when the church is complete, and the Rapture happens.

Notice Romans 11:25 again.

Understanding The Fulness of the Gentiles we can then understand that after the Rapture of the church God will work with Israel in the 7-year Tribulation. We need to also notice two points about Israel's blindness here.

1. It is in PART.

It is in part because there are some Jews who have turned to Jesus Christ and accepted Him as their Messiah and Savior.

Notice Romans 11:5

This remnant is saved and so the blindness is in PART.

2. It is TEMPORARY.

The blindness will only last until The Fulness of the Gentiles.

Notice Romans 11:26

This verse does not mean that every single Jew will be saved in the Tribulation. This means that every Jew who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah will be saved. There will be a Jewish Nation at the end of the Tribulation.

Zechariah also spoke of this group.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Notice Romans 11:26 again.

Ezekiel helps us to know that not every Jew in the Tribulation will be saved.

Ezekiel 20:34-38

³⁴ And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

³⁶ Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

³⁷ And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

*³⁸ And **I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me**: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

Notice Romans 11:27

Not only will there be a Nation of Jews at the end of the Tribulation, but we can also add that it will be to these Jews who are saved in the Tribulation God will fulfill His promised covenants. They will enjoy the Abrahamic Covenant, the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and the New covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that 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 bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Conclusion:

The point which Paul is making is that there will be a Nation of Israel that will survive the Tribulation, they will accept their Messiah and they will see the fulfillment of the covenants in the Millennial Kingdom.