

Lesson 18 – The Book of Romans

Before we tackle Romans 9-10 and 11, There is something that I feel we need to settle in our understanding.

I imagine by now that you have seen what I have seen with regard to the first 8 chapters of this wonderful book. As mentioned in chapter 8 it begins with “no condemnation and ends with “nothing can separate us from God – period.

Notice now that Paul shifts his attention from the Church, to “His brethren – the Jew. A careful study of his writings here must be noted.

Firstly, I must say, that 90+ percentage of the Church today have little to no understanding of Chapters 9- 10 and 11. Why? Folks are not taught these important chapters. They do not fit in with the theology of many. These deal entirely with the Jew. When Paul speaks about his “brethren” he is not speaking about the Church. Paul clearly explains to whom he is referring right off the bat in Chapter 9.

For your edification and understanding, **Chapter 9** deals with the **past history** of the Jews. **Chapter 10** deals with the **present history** of the Jews, and **Chapter 11** deals with the **future history** of the Jews.

Well since this portion of the book is written about the Jew, Paul picks up pretty much the same theme as outlined in Chapter 8. That is, how the Jew became God’s special people of all the nations on the earth, - their past – then how the Jew fits into God’s scheme of things today – their present and how He will deal with His people (the Jew) in the future.

Just to remind us of why God chose the Nation of Israel to become His “special people” please note **Deuteronomy Chapter 7** starting in verse 6: *“for you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth – vs 7 “The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were less than all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the had of Pharaoh, king of Egypt – vs 9 “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God. The faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments. Vs 10 “and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with those who hate Him, He will repay him to his face –*

And on you go with the blessings in **verses 11** through the end of the chapter through **verse 26**.

This was His decision, He chose them – period.

We can only understand this portion of scripture as it relates to His covenants with this special people. In other words, if we are to believe that the Jew has a past, present and future, it must be seen through the covenants that God made with His people.

In the minds of most believers today – because the Jews **rejected** the Lord Jesus, God is finished with them as a people. Their belief system sees the Church as the only thing that God is doing on the earth today, and the only thing that He plans to do in the future. They totally neglect and reject any future for the Jew.

Beloved, this is not true.

Romans 9-11 clearly states that as a people – the Jew has been set aside in order for the Church of Jesus Christ to take “center stage”. The emphasis today is on the important thing that God is doing and that is to gather a “bride” out from all of the nations on the earth for His Son Jesus Christ.

As important as this is, it is not the only thing happening.

God because of His everlasting covenants has set the Jew aside while the Church is being gathered together as the “bride of Christ” but, when that event is completed (as clearly stated in Romans 9-11) God will again deal with the Jews.

Side note here beloved - They (the Jews) are what is in focus during the **tribulation period**. They are the reason for the tribulation period. According to **Zechariah 13 vs 8** -, 2/3 of all living Jews will be killed during the tribulation period. This period of time is known as “Jacob’s troubles”

Now as I have said, Romans 8 begins with “No condemnation” and ends with “No separation. So the question arises, “if God is so faithful to His word, that no one justified can be condemned, and no one can be separated, then why have the Israelites who were sovereignly chosen by God and given unconditional promises, completely failed and then be rejected by God?”

Truly the Israelites did utterly fail even though they were the chosen of God. So, the question arises, “Is God through with them because of their failure?”

Paul asks that question in **Romans 3: (vs 1)** “What advantage has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision”?

He then gives the profit- “much in every way” Chiefly being that they were given the oracles of God- (that is the scriptures)

Look at verse 3 – *“For what if some of them did not believe? **Will their unbelief make the promises of God without effect?**”*

His answer – **Certainly Not**. Let God be true and every man a liar.

He then asks the question in **verse 5** “But if in our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust, who inflicts wrath?”

Answer again – **Certainly Not**

Do we understand the argument here?

We in the church have a responsibility to witness to the Jew, requesting that he give himself to the Lord Jesus in the same manner in which we have done.

Should he fail to enter into the Church as we have done, we need to understand that this may or may not be the end for him. Should he reject the Lord Jesus, it is not a fact that he will necessarily split hell wide open when he/she dies. Look at **verse 3** – “what if some did not believe? Would their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?

He answers this question in verse 4 – “certainly not, let God be true and every man a liar”

Now look with me at verse **1&2 of Chapter 9** – “I am not lying, and my conscious also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. **Verse 3** – “for I wish that I myself could be accursed (separated) from Christ for *my brethren, my countrymen, according to the flesh*”

Beloved, this is Paul, the intercessor, at work here. He is willing to be separated from Christ for the sake of the Jew if it were possible to happen. His love for these people reminds us of Moses when the children of Israel fashioned a calf from a piece of Gold to worship while Moses was away with God on the mountain. (Exodus 32)

You remember the story. When Moses saw what the children of Israel had done, he made them grind the golden calf into powder and drink it.

God was very upset with His people. To the point that He told Moses in effect – clear out of my way. I am going to destroy these stiff necked people and start anew with a whole new group of people that will come from your loins Moses.

Moses *interceded* with God over the people. “Blot my name out of your book Lord, but don’t do that to these people. The Egyptians will say that you were able to get them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth” Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel.”

Look again at the discourse between God and Moses when God saw their sin.

So back to **Romans 9** -

He goes on to say in **verse 4** (should we mistake who he is talking about -with) – “who are **Israelites**, *to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God and the promises.*”

Paul then lists the advantages about being a Jew.

1. They received the Word of God

2. They were called Israelites which means *Princes of God*- why were they chosen? As a witness of His reality, all nations on the earth had excluded all knowledge of God- so He called Abram an Assyrian and an idol worshipping Gentile
3. The Jew experienced the “adoption” as sons (Deut 7: 7-9)
4. They received the “shekinah” Glory of God.
5. They received the “covenants” from God to whom belong today. This promise is in the Present tense and continually.

Paul is not referring to his brethren in the Church.

He makes it perfectly clear that he is speaking about the Jew.

Ok, now to this issue of covenants.

Some were conditional, some were without condition.

Now before we tackle the covenants, let me remind us of what the Apostle Paul calls the entire people on the earth.

They are divided into 3 classes of people. They are the Jew, the Gentile and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Confusion comes to us when we add additional classes of people. Same is true of genders. There are only 2 – Male and Female – period.

Likewise, men are divided into 3 classes of people – **the Jew**, The **Gentile or Greek** (which includes everyone outside of the Church of Jesus Christ, and 3rd **the Church**).

3 classes of people- Everyone falls into one of these three. The Egyptians, the Romans, the Spaniards, the Italians, the Mexicans and on you go with it, are all lumped into the Greek or Gentile category, until they come into the Church of Jesus Christ which as you know is made up of all manner of folks – including some Jews. However, the Jews remain a separate class of folks.

That is the reason we never mix Israel and the Church. They are two distinct classes of folks. Promises given to one and not the other, so please do not mix the two. Israel is Israel, and the Church is the Church. If we fail to understand this, much confusion will exist in our thinking.

Covenants in the Old Testament are between two people, and usually require some activity on both parts of the covenant.

There are 4 Unconditional covenants that are essential to understanding both the Old and the New Testament. **Abrahamic**, **The Land**, the **Davidic Covenant** and the **Everlasting Covenant**.

The first covenant we will review is the **Abrahamic Covenant**. Genesis 12: 1& following. In this covenant there are 7 “I will’s” pronounced by God.

Speaking to Abraham, God gives these 7 I will. This covenant is the *most important* of all covenants because it encompasses all of mankind. All of the other covenants build from this one.

1. I will make of thee a great nation
2. I will bless thee
3. And I will make thy name great
4. And thou shall be a blessing
5. And I will bless thee
6. And curse those who curse thee
7. And through thee *all families* of the earth shall be blessed

4 of these statements are direct, and three are understood.

Now, **items 5 & 6** are not yet fulfilled. They however are the basis over which Christ shall reign as He sets up His Kingdom during the 1,000-year millennium reign on the earth. These nations will also be known as the **Sheep** and the **Goat Nations**.

These are mortal people. People who will live through the 7-year tribulation period.

Again, it proves that the Church will not be on the earth during this period of tribulation as there would be no distinction between Jew and Gentile (**Romans 9:5**).

This covenant was cut with Abraham in **Genesis 15**. With the “cutting of the covenant, there had to be blood. So Abraham was instructed to bring a 3 year old heifer, a 3 year old goat, a 3 year old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon (vs 8&9 Genesis 15) wherein he was instructed to cut them in half, down the middle and place each piece opposite the other, but do not cut the birds.

Now, further a covenant was cut between 2 people, but God did something very unusual to Abraham. God put him to sleep. Why? Because Abraham was to receive this and not be a part of it.

Two people moved (as was normal) between the halves in a figure 8 position, but what you had was a “smoking pot”, and a burning torch passing between the halves. These two represent *The Heavenly Father*, and the *Lord Jesus* passing through these bloody parts which lay on the ground. Abraham was the recipient of this covenant made on his behalf by the father and the son (The Lord Jesus)

Abraham was put to sleep for a reason. He couldn’t mess with this. It was between God and God. It was God’s unconditional and unilateral commitment covenant.

The terms of the covenant – God declared it eternal and unconditional- it was reconfirmed by an oath – confirmed by the birth of Isaac and Jacob (despite their acts of disobedience which proves that it is unconditional and In the New Testament **Hebrews 6 13-18** teaches us that it was **immutable** (unable to change over time).

So, **Romans 9 vs 4** mentions “the covenants” that belong to Israel, and that is the reason we are studying them.

The critical issue surrounding the position of the **amillennialism** is the dominant eschatological (the science of end times) position that most denominations uphold. That is that God is through with the Nation of Israel. It has in the past created the hatred of the Jews, and will again in the future raise its ugly and unscriptural head.

Just a note here on #'s **5&6** of the **Abrahamic Covenant** – They are the basis for the judgments upon the nations of the earth during the millennial reign of Christ (1,000 years) Sheep and goat nations – and how they treated God’s sovereign people Israel – today.

As already mentioned, these are mortal people who make it through the 7-year tribulation period,

Matthew 25- 31-46 discusses the judgment on the nations, and according to **Galatians 3:8** the blessings of every family on earth will be as a result of the Abrahamic Covenant before the throne of God (**Revelation 5:9**)

The next covenant we will study is **the land covenant**.

Our scriptural references to this are; **Genesis 12:7, 13.12thru 17, Genesis 15 9-21 and 35: 9-12.**

Deut: 28: 63-68 speak of the dispersion of the Nation of Israel throughout the whole world. This dispersion was the result of their breaking the agreement they had made when Moses came down from the mountain and told them what God wanted of them. You remember their response – “all that God has commanded, we will do.”

Obviously they broke the agreement and God scattered them throughout the entire world.

However, according to **Ezekiel 36, 17-32** (especially vs **25**) they will be re-gathered from their dispersion throughout the world and again return to their land. Not because they repented, *but because of His Holy Name*

Beloved this is what is happening today. The Jews are returning to their land. The result of WWII was the establishment of the Nation of Israel, and since then they are returning to their land. This is an everlasting covenant. God keeps His promises irrespective of their behavior.

Notice that they are re-gathered before their repentance and before God puts His Spirit within them. They will know He is the Lord because He keeps His promises, despite their failures. We will pick up from here next time –

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