

## Lesson 22 – The Book of Romans

As we embark upon Romans chapter 10, I must admit the following; you are either willfully ignorant to understanding the truth as it is written, or you have another agenda that is contrary to God's Word.

It is just too plain to misunderstand what is written. It is clear even to those who lack understanding, as to what is being said.

Sorry, I will get off my soap box and continue with the lesson.

As I look at last weeks message, I find it difficult at best for anyone to maintain that they have never seen a miracle from God. ***The state of Israel is definitely a miracle.*** When you view their neighbors and the hatred that they have for the Nation of Israel, you look at all they have done to destroy this small new nation, and you look at the United Nations and all they have done to smash the nation of Israel, and yet you see how they have not only survived, but thrived in such a hostile environment, being the only democratic nation in their surroundings, you must conclude that their existence is nothing short of a **miracle**.

Another side note here beloved. Everyone seems so upset that Iran is going to get a nuclear weapon – the one nation that doesn't seem as upset is Israel. They know it is coming, and are prepared to handle the situation. All that they are requesting is that the United States stay out of the matter. They will handle it themselves. They just don't want us siding with the Iranians in any way.

Please feel free to share this lesson with everyone you meet, especially those in the church that have gone astray.

Looking first at the end of **Chapter 10**, we notice several things. In **verse 19** – speaking to the nation of Israel – Moses is saying, “I will provoke you to jealousy (Israel) by those who are not a nation (Those folks that make up the Church of Jesus Christ from all over the world), I will move you (Israel) to anger by a foolish nation, **verse 20** – But in Isaiah he says “I was found by those who did not seek me (the Gentiles), I was made manifest by those who did not ask for Me,(the Gentiles) **verse 21** – **But to Israel** he says: “*all day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people*”

Now you might ask yourself at this juncture, does this mean that He has forsaken His people, Israel?

Answering this important question in **Chapter 11, verse 1** Paul then writes; “**I say then has God cast away His people?**”

To those in the church today that claim that He has, please note the balance of this verse.” **Certainly not**” (without a doubt the answer is no way).

Paul then explains to whom he is talking lest there be any doubt – “I am also an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin”.

Paul then seriously answers this question – “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew (loved beforehand).

Paul then further underscores His point with – the example of Elijah. **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19: 1& following**, you will recall that Elijah had run into Jezebel who when she had heard what Elijah had done by killing all of her prophets with a sword stated that she would do the same to Elijah by this same time tomorrow.

Elijah upon hearing of the promise of Jezebel to kill him, ran for his life and went to Beersheba. He went to sleep under a broom tree, where an angel of the Lord appeared to him, telling him to arise and eat what had been prepared for him.

Apparently, he went back asleep for the angel of the Lord appeared to him again telling him to eat and drink for the journey he was about to enter, would require great strength.

Scripture says that Elijah went 40 days without eating as he headed for Horeb.

He then hid in a cave – where the angel then again appeared to him asking – Elijah, what are you doing here?

Then Elijah gives his testimony about how faithful he had been to God, how he had done such and such, and they seek his life.

Feeling a bit sorry for himself, Elijah then gives the angel of the Lord the spiel of all that he had done for God and here he was alone left to fend for himself against all of the enemies of God.

God then exclaims to Elijah in verse **19 of Chapter 19** “I have reserved in Israel – 7,000 whose knees have not bowed to Baal, nor kissed him.”

I.e. You Elijah are not the only one left. Arise and go do what you are told.

Verse **5 of Romans 11** then states:” *even so then at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Israelites alive today)*

So, **no** reader, God has not forsaken His people, Israel.

Paul then explains the sovereignty of God with – His grace (that is the Lord’s grace) is not dependent upon anything man does.

He can’t work for it, there is nothing he can do to receive it, merit it, earn it, it is by God and God alone.

However, the elect of God (the Gentiles born into the church of Jesus Christ) have obtained His grace, but the rest (those who are Israelites by birth) He – God – has *blinded their eyes.*

Notice now **verse 8** – “God has given them (the Jewish people) a spirit of *stupor*, eyes that they should not see, and ears unable to hear – TO THIS VERY DAY.”

Why – because He is God. He does what He does, the way He does without input from anyone. He knows what He is doing.

Quoting David in **Psalm 69 vs 22&23** – Paul then states that what has happened to Israel is for the benefit of the Church today.

Side notes here beloved, even though the Church is not mentioned in the Old Testament, the falling away of the nation of Israel certainly is, and how God will remedy this wrong is clearly pointed out.

Ok, **so verse 11** asks the question, “has what has happened to Israel been to their destruction, to their fall to their end”?

Nope, Paul states – not at all. What God is doing in the Church of Jesus Christ today has provoked them to jealousy, and their fall has brought riches for the Gentiles and much more fullness.

Paul then states in provoking some to jealousy, some may be saved. And this is so today. In the Old Testament, the Jews were in view and every now and then a Gentile was added to the righteous, so today, the Gentile is in view and occasionally a Jew enters into the Church.

You see, the casting away of the Jew has been a reconciling for the world to God, and when the Jew is again restored to God it will be as “life from the dead.”

When Paul then speaks about the root and the branches in verses 16&17 He is using the root, the branches, the lump and the olive tree as a metaphor to what is happening today.

To help clarify what we are reading remember this. The root represents God. The branches represent Israel – the lump is represented as the whole matter - i.e. a lump taken from a loaf of bread represents the entire loaf of bread. The lump represents a portion of the loaf that is dedicated to God – **Numbers 15- 19-21**.

Remembering that the olive tree represents the spiritual privilege of the nation of Israel. The Church – **wild olive tree** – represents the spiritual privilege given to the Gentiles.

**Verse 17** – *“and if some of the branches were broken off, and you being a wild olive tree were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, verse 18* – *“do not boast against the branches (Israel), but if you do boast remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.”*

Understand this beloved, **verse 19** – “branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.”

If you say this, you have said Well. For it is the case. Their rejection has been our blessing. Their refusal has been to our benefit.

So do not be haughty, but rather fear. They were rejected because of unbelief; you were grafted in by faith. Don't be puffed up by all of that, God could reject you also.

Also, if they do not continue in unbelief, God will graft them in again as before. As natural branches of the olive tree, they will be grafted in again to their natural olive tree.

This all makes so much sense. It is not hard to understand even to the most basic of understanding.

You must now look very closely at the next verse. **Verse 25** *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery (sacred secret), lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **BLINDNESS IN PART** (Not the whole because Jews are coming into the church daily) **HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL** – the fullness of the Gentiles has come into the church of Jesus Christ.”*

Got it?

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