

Message #39**Romans 11:13-24**

As most of you know, I was taught doctrine and theology by Mr. John Miles, who was taught by Lewis Sperry Chafer, himself. Mr. Miles used to say to us something that Dr. Chafer taught him and that is when you want to look for something that will determine we are near the coming of Jesus Christ at the Rapture, don't look for signs pertaining to Israel but look at the condition of the Church. The condition of the Church will give us a clear picture that the end of the Church Age is near.

When you see churches that make other things more important than an accurate understanding of God's word and God's doctrines, or when you see churches that make entertaining people more important than truthfully educating people, or when you see churches that promote evil licentious things rather than righteous things, or when you see churches promoting their legalistic rules rather than liberty in Christ, you may know the coming of Jesus Christ is very near. He also said when you see the church downplaying Israel or telling people that the church has replaced Israel, you may know we are near the end of the age.

When Paul wrote this part of Romans, which is a book that reveals the grace gospel of God, it is clear that he never wanted the church to forget about the importance of Israel. Dr. Chafer used to say that 4/5ths of the Bible pertains to Israel and 1/5th pertains to the church.

One of the most serious problems in today's church is that it disregards Israel and does not want to even acknowledge that she has a tremendous future promised by God. Paul was presenting a grace gospel for the world but he makes this point very clear:

THE GENTILE BELIEVER AND GENTILE CHURCH MUST NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATION ISRAEL.

We owe a great debt to Israel. Now it is clear from **verse 13** that Paul is addressing Gentiles as the Apostle to the Gentiles. That was primarily his calling and his ministry. He took the Grace Gospel to the Gentile world. You cannot understand the Bible accurately unless you get this point. **The key teacher and theologian concerning God's program with the Gentiles is the Apostle Paul. Grace Age doctrine and Church Age instruction comes from the Apostle Paul. That was His God-assigned responsibility.**

In Acts 16, he took the Grace Gospel into Europe and eventually that gospel came to the United States. That was his primary ministry. But he never wanted the church to forget about Israel. Paul was always mindful of the fact that the Gentile world was privileged to receive some of the crumbs of the blessings that God gave to Israel.

Now Paul wants to clearly establish the importance of the nation Israel. This is a grammatical maze of things and there are about 11 key thoughts Paul develops and communicates to help establish the importance of Israel:

THOUGHT #1 – Paul’s grace ministry and message to Gentiles has always had Israel’s salvation in view. **11:13-14**

Paul says my ministry to Gentiles has never forgotten about Jews. In fact, Paul says my ministry is in part designed to provoke Jews to a jealousy that will cause them to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.

Paul says when the Jews see the relationship Gentiles have with God and the blessings they are experiencing, that will prompt some of them to believe in Jesus Christ simply because they are jealous of the relationship.

Paul proclaimed a grace gospel that spoke highly of Israel and he also lived a life that reflected the power of God. His message and his life would prompt some of the Jews to realize, we want the same relationship with God he has and would motivate them to believe in Jesus Christ.

Our lives should be one that reflects such a relationship with God that it makes people jealous to want what we have. **We are to create a form of envy evangelism.**

Donald Grey Barnhouse made an interesting observation when he said that there isn’t much in our churches today that would provoke Israel to jealousy. When most Jews look at Christianity, they see that their religion is like their religion. Most have a spirituality that is stagnant and not vibrant and it is comprised of rituals and buildings. Why would a religious Jew want that, when they already have that?

God wants us to have such an intimate relationship with God and such a vibrant testimony that it provokes other people to become jealous of our relationship with God. Truth is many don’t even tell people they have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Keep this in mind this week when you are at your job, at the school or in the store or with other people. Part of our responsibility is to reflect that we have a living relationship with God and we are to display that and when we do, it will be used by God to draw some to saving faith.

THOUGHT #2 – Israel’s rejection of Jesus Christ means reconciliation with God for the rest of the world, then her eventual reception means life from the dead. **11:15**

The “for” of **verse 15** elaborates on the fact that at the present time Paul’s ministry is aimed at Gentiles always with Jews in mind. If Israel’s rejection has given the Gentiles the eternal wealth of God all over the world, how much more will Israel have when God brings her nationally to life from the dead?

If God reconciled Gentiles to Himself, He will eventually reconcile Israel to Himself and accept her. He will give reconciliation life to the nation. In fact, Daniel predicts that there will be a special resurrection for national Israel (Daniel 12:2). In Ezekiel 37:1-10, Ezekiel predicts the dead bones of Israel will live again. The dead, dry bones of the nation Israel will come back to life.

We cannot even begin to fathom what this world will be like when the entire world is reconciled to God.

THOUGHT #3 – Gentiles who are classified by God as holy originate from a holy program God has with Israel. **11:16**

This illustration that Paul gives comes from Numbers 15:19-21. It is the illustration of a dough offering or bread offering. A Jewish person would take a portion of the first part of the dough and offer it to God. That in effect was dedicating the rest of the bread to God. Obviously if God accepts the lump or piece of dough, then He accepts the lump or piece from which it came.

Paul's point is if Gentile believers are set apart unto God, obviously so is the nation Israel because our roots are Jewish. The Bread of Life of which we partook, Jesus Christ, was Jewish.

We are the church and since we have been reconciled to God, it is certain that one day Israel will be since our entire relationship and connection to God came from Israel. Our salvation is proof that one day Israel will be saved.

THOUGHT #4 – Gentile believers have been grafted into a program with Israel. **11:17**

Now grammatically speaking, **verse 17** is subordinate to **verse 18**. But there is a point to see here. We have no right to be arrogant or boast about our relationship with God over Israel because our life and relationship with God is rooted in Israel.

The illustration Paul uses is from the world of horticulture. The “natural branches” in the illustration is Israel and the “wild olive” grafted in branches represents the Church and the believing Gentiles.

What Paul is saying here is that God has grafted us into Israel's program. Israel has not been grafted into our program. The relationship we have with God means we owe Israel a great debt.

THOUGHT #5 – Gentile believers should not be arrogant against Israel, but should always remember we were grafted in to Israel. **11:18**

The words “boasted over” or “arrogant toward” is very rare. Paul only uses the word here. This word is used in the Greek Septuagint to describe a gloating and conquering of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 27:11/50:11).

Actually, when we come to our salvation, there is nothing of which we may boast because God is the One who saved us. It is hard to think that people would boast and be arrogant of their relationship with God, especially over Israel.

Anti-Semitism is anti-godly thinking. No believer should arrogantly think of themselves as replacing Israel or being above Israel. Our entire relationship with God is rooted in her.

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He said this to a Samaritan woman: “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for **salvation is from the Jews.**” (John 4:22)

THOUGHT #6 – Gentiles’ opportunity for salvation originated in Israel’s unbelief. **11:19**

It is true that the grafting in of Gentiles into the program of God did mean that some of the branches of the program of God with Israel were removed.

It is also true that the reason why God cut off some of the program with Israel was so that Gentiles could be brought into the family.

Do you grasp this? We are not in the family of God because we are great but because we have been grafted in by God.

God did make room in His plan for Israel for some Gentiles to get into the program.

But the tree was not chopped down. God did not chop down the tree and put an end to Israel to get us in; He grafted us into her program.

THOUGHT #7 – Gentiles’ salvation was based on belief in Jesus Christ. **11:20**

Do not miss this—our entire relationship with God is not based on our works or our merit; it is totally and completely by faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul warns you stand in a relationship with God based on faith and Israel temporarily lost their favor with God based on unbelief. Don’t be conceited about this but fear God.

THOUGHT #8 – If God did not spare Israel, He will not spare Gentiles if they become arrogant. **11:21**

If any people on this earth could boast about the grace and mercy and blessings of God, it would be Israel. God did things for her that He has never done for any other nation in the world.

If God would cut off a program with Israel, you may be certain He will also cut one off with us.

THOUGHT #9 – Gentile Grace Age believers need to know about the kindness and severity of God. **11:22**

Every person needs to know about this. There are two sides to God. It is not all love and grace; there is justice and judgment. There is Heaven and there is Hell.

If one persists in believing in God and fearing God, and realizing the wonderful relationship one has with God, one will be blessed.

On the other hand, if Gentiles become arrogant, God can and will cut off His program with the Gentiles and go back to Israel.

The idea of cutting off Gentiles is the idea of God ending the program with Gentiles and going back to the Jews.

If Gentiles start doing evil and do not fear God, God can easily reboot His program with Israel and end it with Gentiles, which He will do in the Great Tribulation.

From an eschatological standpoint, God will not cut off His program with the nations until the Rapture of the Church. That will be a major switch from offering His grace to Gentiles to pouring out His wrath on Gentiles.

But He can intervene in any Gentile setting and cut off His grace plan. He has done that before.

THOUGHT #10 – Israel needs to know that if she will believe in Jesus Christ and humble herself to God, God will once again take up a national program with her.
11:23

Notice again the issue that Paul continues to stress—relationship based on faith, not works!

Listen you Jewish people; if you will believe in Jesus Christ as your God/Savior/Messiah/King, you will be immediately grafted back into a wonderful relationship with God. Right now this can happen for you.

THOUGHT #11 – God has done so much for wild Gentiles so He is certainly able to graft in natural branches. **11:24**

Quite frankly, it is Israel who is of national importance. We are a bunch of grafted in wild branches.

Whether one is a Jewish person or not, the entire relationship with God hinges on a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you will believe on Him and call on Him to save you, you will be saved.