

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
13 September 2020
Romans 11:25-26 (KJV)

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. **26** And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Window for World Mission

(1) Window for World Mission

***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 period of Israel's blindness is the window that God allows for the evangelization of the nations of the world. This window for Gentile or world mission is highlighted in the Book of Acts with the conversion of the Roman centurion called Cornelius. This inauguration of world mission is recorded herein in Acts 10:

***Acts 10:34-35** Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **35** But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*

Mark Kolchin, in Voice for Christ, made an interesting observation, "Cornelius' conversion was the third in a line of three prominent conversions extending back to Acts 8. Each conversion represents salvation through three different means to three different people groups originating from the sons of Noah. The first was an Ethiopian eunuch who came from the line of Ham, progenitor of the black race. He came to the Lord through personal means, the result of the faithful witness of Philip the evangelist. The second was Saul of Tarsus who came from the line of Shem (Acts 9). He came to the Lord through providential means, being struck down on the road to Damascus, apparently without any human instrumentality. The third was Cornelius, a white man from the line of Japheth. He came to know the Saviour through Peter's preaching of the Word. Taken together, they remind us that the Gospel is for all people; that we have been commissioned to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all nations through a variety of means."

The Apostle Peter made this observation at the close of his life concerning the apparent delay in Christ's Second Coming where Israel will become the leading nation of the world. It was to usher in the chosen of God in the Gentile world to be saved. When the last of Gentiles is save, our text tells us, then Christ will return, Israel shall be saved!

2 Peter 3:5-12 *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

What are the Christians to do after they are saved? Peter advised in **2 Peter 3:13-14** *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.* They are to live humbly and hoily awaiting the consummation at Christ return.

(2) Israel's Blindness

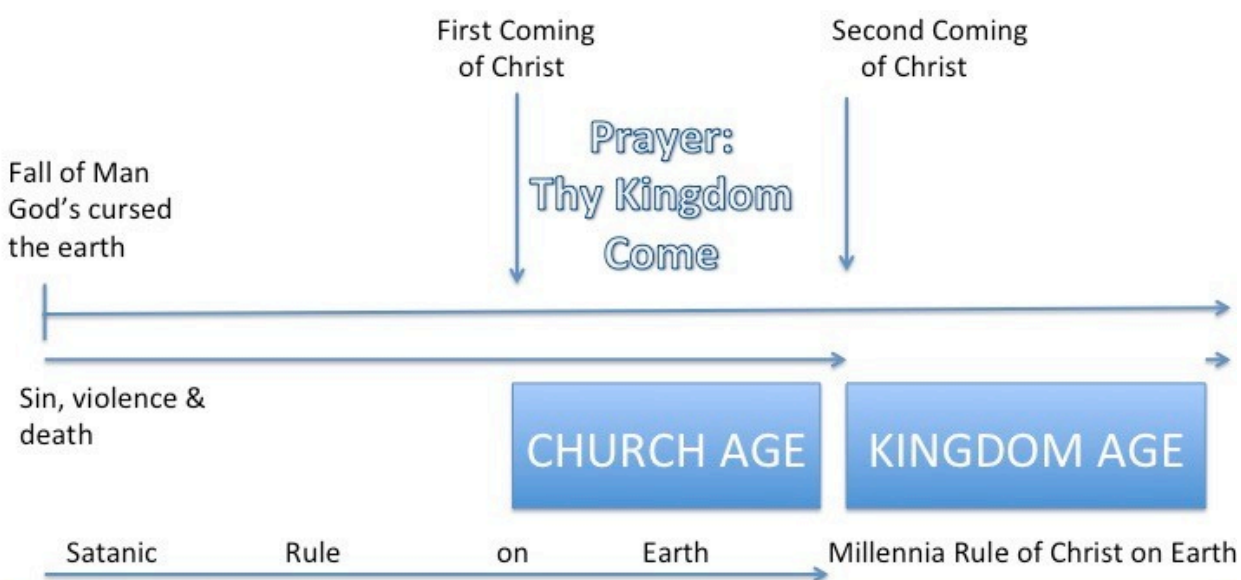
25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The word "blindness" means "hardness, obstinacy." There seemed to be that rebelliousness from a section of Israel choosing to reject Jesus Christ, their Messiah. The text is not saying that no Jews will be saved. The Apostle Paul is saying that he cannot offer any logical explanation why his countrymen behaved in this way. He was like them before his conversion to the extent of persecution Christians by putting them to death. The hatred is so great from a section of the Jewish establishment who utterly rejected Jesus Christ.

He is saying that God has His higher plan for the redemption of all mankind that He is enacting during the Church Age where Israel is set aside. Thinking carefully, it is a two prong approach that God has taken; the gospel allows both Jews and Gentiles to be saved! The nations of the world since the destruction of Israel in A.D. 70 till today in 2020 is given an opportunity to be evangelised through missionaries like the Apostle Paul.

Perhaps God is showing mankind the impossibility of prosperous self-government without God. Man's existence has been plagued with violence, destruction, and war till now with no solution of real peace in sight. The nations of the world will appreciate the time better when God will bound Satan and God in Christ will physically rule the earth during the millennium. It will be the real golden age for Israel as true representatives of God. The time when Israel will fulfil their God-given role. This role of pointing the nations of the world to worship the living and true God, Creator of heaven and earth. While God is allowing time for Gentile conversion, may we be up and about the gospel work. Amen.

Chart: World Empires culminating in Christ's Rule on earth



World Empires at a Glance					
Babylon	Medo-Persian	Greece	Rome	Revived Roman Empire	God's Kingdom (Christ's Millennia Rule)
612-539 B.C.	539-331 B.C.	331-63 B.C.	63 B.C. - ?		
Gold	Silver	Brass	Iron	Iron/Clay	Diamond
Head	Chest and Arms	Belly and Thighs	Legs	Feet - Ten Toes	Stone Breaks Image and fills the earth
Dan. 2:38	Dan. 2:39	Dan. 2:39	Dan. 2:40	Dan. 2:42-43	Dan. 2:44-45
2-Winged Lion	Bear with 3 ribs in mouth	Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads	Fierce Beast	10 Horn Beast/Little Horn	
Dan. 7:4	Dan. 7:5	Dan. 7:6	Dan. 7:7	Dan. 7:8	Dan. 7:9

(3) All Israel Shall Be Saved

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. **26** And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

When Jesus Christ returns, He shall defeat the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon to save Israel from total annihilation. At that time, the whole nation will receive Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Messiah. This will be at the end of the 7-Year Tribulation commonly called the Great Tribulation. The nation will enter the millennium as a nation of believers.

This was what the Jews were looking to see during Christ's first coming. The Jews were looking to see the power and glory of Christ leading the nation to be strong again. They had hoped He would overthrow the Roman authorities and establish His rule in Israel as her true King. This is not God's sovereign plan for Christ's first coming. Jesus' first coming was as a Suffering Servant to win salvation for mankind by His suffering, death and resurrection (Isa. 53).

Here in verse 26, the Apostle Paul is alluding to this truth first spoken by the prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 59:20** "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." When Jesus Christ returns, all Israel will have their sins forgiven and cleansed having acknowledged Him as their Saviour and God. What a blessed prospect for Israel. God has not forsaken His chosen nation! He never will forsake His own. Amen.

