

## **I. Reviewing the Narrative**

- A. Review of our Series through the lens of the timeline of history
  - 1. Doctrine of God
  - 2. Doctrine of Creation
  - 3. Doctrine of Man
  - 4. Doctrine of Sin/Fall
  - 5. Doctrine of Israel
  - 6. Doctrine of Restorative Promises
  - 7. Doctrine of Cross (Death and Resurrection)
  - 8. Doctrine of Salvation
  - 9. Doctrine of New Covenant Realities (Heart and Mind)
  
- B. We find ourselves midstream in the grand drama of human history. A few have entered the new covenant with God through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. However, they only have a portion and pledge of the salvation promised, and still await the Anointed One to return from heaven and subdue the earth with justice and righteousness.

## **II. Jesus builds His Church**

- A. At the onset of the next chapter in redemptive history Jesus fills with power and commissions 12 young Jewish men to preach to the world through words and deeds the truth of the freedom, nearness, and life found through the new covenant.
  - 1. Preach only to Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism (through circumcision and following of Torah) for the first 10 years – (Acts 2-9)
  
  - 2. Peter sent to Cornelius and other unconverted (Judaism) Gentiles get saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10-11:18)
  
  - 3. Over the next 10 years many more Gentiles believed upon Jesus and were given power by the Holy Spirit. In fact, there is a noticeable receptiveness and hunger of the Gentile peoples compared to Jews. (Acts 11:18-15)

4. The young men that Jesus commissioned are now in their 40's. They are faced with many questions they are unsure about concerning all the Gentiles coming to faith in Jesus. There is no small dissention among them as they try to understand what Jesus is doing. The primary vehicle of Gods redemption plan has always been Israel, but a shift seems to be happening. (Acts 15-15:35)
- B. Throughout the next 20 years the Apostles would be faced with some of the same questions that face us today concerning the mystery of Jew and Gentile believer. It would serve us well to ultimately embrace mystery as they did as we seek to answer some of these same questions.

### **III. Current Reality of Travesty**

- A. Today there are roughly 14.5 million Jews worldwide. Out of that number roughly only 1 million believe upon Jesus as their Lord and Savior. That means that 6.8% of the people who should have a greater propensity to respond to the New Covenant have responded in our day. On the Gentile side 32 % of the worldwide population believe upon Jesus.
- B. This mystery takes up many chapters of our New Testament but there is probably none more precise and clear than in Paul's letter to the Romans. God in His wisdom took one of the most prominent Jewish leaders of His day and made him the apostle to the Gentile people.
- C. In the first portion of chapter 9 God reveals His heart for all Israel to be saved and we find 10 Reasons to honor Israel (Rom. 9:1-5):
1. The privileged place of inheritance and authority as sons of God was to them first.
  2. The knowledge of God (glory) was shown and given uniquely to them.
  3. God's initial reaching out for relationship was to them first.
  4. The understanding of God's ways through His word was given to them.
  5. They were the first commissioned ones of humanity to do ministry.
  6. God established His promises with and through them.
  7. The great men and women of the scriptures are Jewish. We have them as our inspiration and friends on our own journey in God.
  8. They preserved the Faith through the keeping and treasuring of the Scriptures.
  9. They carried the promise of the Anointed One through longing and intercession.
  10. Jesus our beloved is ethnically Jewish, they are his family and culture.

D. The questions about God's dealings with Israel.

1. Has the purpose of God for Israel failed? (Rom. 9:6)
  - a) God chose Israel to reveal His Glory in a unique way to the earth. Through this purpose Israel was called by God to carry and fulfill many different promises. Israel had failed to carry out some of God's purposes for her and consequently had suffered His discipline. It looked as though the word that God had spoken concerning Israel's purpose had failed. The Greek word translated "taken no effect" (ekkeptoken) means "gone off its course," as a ship.
  - b) Israel's disobedience cannot nullify God's sovereign purpose for the nation. The failure has fallen upon those who were of the ethnic line of Israel but not of the spiritual line. Paul answers this by telling us that not all of ethnic Israel were called to carry out every purpose of Israel. He gives the example of how He chose Isaac over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau (all children of Abraham) to be the one in which He would fulfill the promise of creating a nation unto Himself. (Rom. 9:6-13)
  
2. Is it unjust that God would give special privilege and calling to Israel to display His glory and not to all other nations? (Rom. 9:14)
  - a) This question is answered easily through the lens of mercy. We must remember that mercy is getting what we don't deserve. We all deserve the fullness of God's wrath. No one deserves any aspect of salvation (forgiveness of sins, inheritance, authority, special callings, etc.). All the gifts and callings of God are through mercy alone
  
  - "As to 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated,' a woman once said to Mr. Spurgeon, 'I cannot understand why God should say that He hated Esau.' 'That,' Spurgeon replied, 'is not my difficulty, madam. My trouble is to understand how God could love Jacob!'"*
  
  - b) If God is unjust in anything it is in His great mercy. He gives special callings on some and not on others simply based on His mercy not on who wants special callings. You do not merit your uniqueness in God personally or nationally.
  
3. If God chooses what Israel's callings will be, is it right that He holds them accountable to uphold their calling? (Rom. 9:19)

- a) If God says He chooses, and if God also says that we are responsible before Him, who are we to question Him? The potter has power over the clay. God has the right that any Creator has over his creation. Therefore, if God also declares that we have an eternal responsibility before Him, then it is so.
  - b) God chose Israel to be a unique beacon of His Glory to the earth and to bring forth His redemptive plan to humanity. Many times they have said in one way or another “We didn’t sign up for this!”. The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29) and Israel will constantly be kicking against the leadership of the Shepherd as He brings them into their destiny unless they embrace who they are meant to be.
4. If the calling of God upon Israel is based upon mercy and irrevocable then why are they not responding to the gospel and the Gentiles are? (Rom. 9:30)
- a) Israel seemed to work for the righteousness of God with everything they had, but did not find it. Why did the unlikely Gentiles find righteousness, when the likely Jews did not? Because the Gentiles pursued the righteousness of faith, and the Jews pursued the law of righteousness. The Gentiles who were saved came to God through faith, receiving His righteousness. The Jews tried to justify themselves before God by performing works according to the law of righteousness.
5. How is God going to restore Israel to their proper calling if they have rejected the gospel of Salvation through faith? (Rom. 10:14)
- a) Both Jews and Gentiles are only saved by grace through faith. There is no distinction the same God is rich in mercy to all who call upon His name. Israel must call upon Jesus to be made right with God and come back into their rightful unique calling.
  - b) Paul makes it clear that God’s plan is to fill the Gentile believers with His heart for Israel. Then to send them as intercessors and preachers filled with the love of Jesus for His unique people. He will stretch out His hands continually to them awaiting their response to His mercy.