

THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL PT. 1 – ALLEN HOOD

Ps. 133 – THE COMMANDED BLESSING AND THE ONE NEW MAN

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. One of our great privileges at IHOPKC over the last 20 years has been to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of Israel.¹ Bob Jones prophesied to Mike Bickle in 1983 that God was going to bring forth a worldwide prayer and worship movement that would pray for the salvation of Israel. Just as Harry S. Truman had politically interceded for formation of the nation of Israel, so this coming prayer movement in Kansas City would spiritually intercede for the salvation of Israel. This coming move of prayer would lead to a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a great harvest of souls, the salvation of Israel, and the second coming of Jesus. As a sign this prophecy's certainty, the Lord would put this fledging prayer movement on the actual property of the Harry S. Truman's farm.
- B. This is a wonderful time to be alive when God is bringing together a remnant saved by the blood of Jesus from every nation who are crying out together with one voice for God to bring forth fullness, the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Church and fullness of God's glory among the nations that will climax at the return of Jesus, and the salvation of Israel that the glory of God might cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.
- C. There are many reasons to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (scriptural command, Jesus kin according to the flesh, Paul's great desire) but ultimately, it is because Jerusalem contains the key for the next stage of redemptive history. God has released the Gospel across the nations of the earth, bringing forth a remnant out of every tribe, tongue, and nation as an international kingdom of priests who would love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This international priesthood will lift an intercessory cry for the salvation of Israel, leading to Israel crying out, "Blessed is He who comes in the Lord"² and their consequent salvation at the second coming of the Lord Jesus.
- D. At the return of the Lord Jesus for the first time in history an entire nation will be saved, not just a remnant out of a nation, but Israel as an entire nation will be saved. Romans 11:12-15 informs us that Israel's salvation will release a blessing upon all the nations.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! . . . 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12-15)

- E. What a grand design?! God has brought salvation to individuals from every tribe and tongue through faith in Christ Jesus, and this remnant of believers from every nation will participate with God in the national redemption of Israel. The salvation of Israel will usher in the fulfillment of her promises and bring national redemption to all the nations of the earth.

¹ Psalm 122:6 and Romans 10:1.

² Matthew 23:37-39.

- F. Salvation is not only an individual reality but is also corporate and national. This is a massive point, but one rarely proclaimed. There are national promises to Israel that must be fulfilled. The scriptures also inform us of other national promises, such as found for Egypt in Is. 19. Scripture also presents us with the picture of national identities being maintained in the millennial reign of Christ. Redemption will unfold in such a way that brings once hostile nations together in love under the leadership of Jesus. Rev. 5:10 displays every tribe, tongue, and nation standing on the sea of glass singing the new song of the worthiness of the Lamb.

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria -- a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Is. 19:23-25)

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:8-10)

And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:2-4)

- G. Entire nations and people groups will be brought into the kingdom at the coming of Jesus and the salvation of Israel. Jesus will rule from Jerusalem, and the place of His rest will be glorious as all the nations stream to Him as the Law goes forth with global blessings.

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. (Is. 2:1-4)

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. 10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." (Is. 11:9-10)

- H. I believe we are living in the hour of human history when we and our children could witness the grand unfolding of God's redemptive purposes for Israel and the nations. Praying for the peace of Jerusalem is a major part of God's strategy to bring about these redemptive purposes.

II. THE COMMANDED BLESSING – ONE NEW MAN AT THE END OF THE AGE

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing -- Life forevermore. (Psalms 133)

- A. **In this session I want to focus in on the commanded blessing, the destiny of the nations and Israel joined together in love under the leadership of Jesus. God in His wisdom has tied the destiny of the nations and the destiny of Israel together, bound together as a wondrous invitation into love.**
- B. Matthew 23:37-39 and 24:14 as the Two Conditions for the Second Coming

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' (Matt 23:37-39)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:14)

1. The Bible informs us that the fulfillment of these two conditions is tied to one another. The Gentile mission depended upon a Jewish remnant taking the gospel to the nations.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

2. The salvation of Israel will depend upon the fullness of the Gentiles provoking Israel to jealousy.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their (Israel's) fall, **to provoke them to jealousy**, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** (Rom. 11:25)

- C. God has a wondrous plan to bring Jews and Gentiles into the next age as one new man filled with gratitude and love by linking our destinies together.

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: (John 17:20-22)

- D. People often ask me, “Why is Israel so important anyway? Aren’t they just like every other nation before God’s eyes?” I tell them that the answer lies in the Incarnation. It has everything to do with the promised seed of Genesis 3:15. After the fall in Genesis 3:15 a promise came forth concerning a seed from Eve that would crush the head of the Serpent. This promise could only be fulfilled through one people group with one young Jewish maiden giving birth to Messiah. God chose a nation of priests as the context to bring forth His Son as the full revelation of God and as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the entire world.

1. The Seed and the Abrahamic Covenant – God chooses an Iraqi to bring to the land of Canaan to bring forth a nation of priests who will bring forth the promised Messiah who would bring forth a faithful remnant from every nation until all of Israel is saved bringing salvation to all the nations of the earth.

I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen. 12:3)

- a. The Messiah couldn’t be born Asian, Latino, and African. It is impossible to be born into multiple people groups. Redemption through One Man necessitated one elected people group chosen to carry the promise and give birth to the Messiah.
- b. The entire Old Testament is concerned with that “Seed” and the people elected to bring forth that male Child who would rule all the nations of the earth. The Old Testament tracks the faithful Jewish remnant who would bear the brunt of Satan as he would try to stop this ruler promised in Genesis 3:15.

- c. Satan continually assaulted the nation of Israel as an attempt to annihilate the blood lines to keep the ruler promised in Genesis 3:15 from coming forth. O Beloved, we must be grateful to Israel. They bore the brunt of every satanic attack to bring forth that precious little Child wrapped in linen in Bethlehem. We do not quite understand the praise of the angels on the day of Jesus' birth. "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, goodwill to men." The wonderful night Jesus was born took 2000 years' worth of assaults to bring it to fruition. That peaceful night was preceded by much suffering and much warfare as Israel bore the assault of the evil one.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, **she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.** 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And **the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.** (Rev. 12:1-4)

2. **The faithful Jewish remnant brought forth the Messiah with great labor and pain. Beloved, God is going to ask us to do our part, too.** He's going to ask us to enter into bearing the brunt of Satan's assault. The Church will be invited into intercession for Israel's salvation and the laying down of our lives as a faithful witness to Jesus and His purposes for Israel. The Lord is calling us to be a faithful witness, even in earth's darkest and most troubling hour.
- E. Well God has a wondrous plan to bring Jews and Gentiles into the next age as one new man filled with gratitude and love by linking our destinies together. This is glorious to think that we will enter into the next age saying, "Thank you Israel for bearing the brunt of Satan for 2,000 years. Thank you for bringing forth the Covenants, the Scriptures, and the Messiah. Thank you." And they will enter into the next age saying to a Gentile remnant from every nation, "Thank you for holding the line on salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone. Thank you for being the faithful witness to the Messiah, Christ Jesus. Thank you for bearing us up in the midst of the great tribulation" Both Jew and Gentile will give thanks for the other's labor and intercession.
- F. God's grand redemptive plan will bring Jew and Gentile into the next age as one new man hand in hand in love with King Jesus and one another. Imagine when entire nations, not just individuals, will work to out serve one another in love. Imagine Korea using all of its resources to make Japan and China great. Imagine Germany working overtime to bring England and France into their national destinies.

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad. (Ps. 126:1-3)

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." (Deut. 32:43)

III. THE DIVISION OF THE BROTHERS/STRIFE BETWEEN THE BROTHERS

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (James 3:14-16)

- A. When we look at God's grand plan for Israel and the nations, we must not be unaware at the enemy's tactics to undermine and prevent this plan. Satan has always attacked the promises of God concerning redemption by creating division among the brethren. The open door for the enemy has always come through the bitter jealousy of the brothers concerning God's election. The evil one sows envy against the one chosen/elected for God's redemptive purposes. All throughout the history of redemption, the elect of God's chosen one for His redemptive purposes incurred the rage of Satan through the jealousy of the brethren.
- B. Cain and Abel – Gen 4:6-11 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."
- C. Isaac and Ishmael – Gen. 16:5; 21:8-9
- D. Jacob and Esau – Gen. 28:10; 32:22; 35:7
- E. Joseph and the Brothers

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" 11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind. (Gen 37:5-11)

- F. Moses and His Brethren Rejecting Him as Their Deliverer – Acts 7:23-29. Also, it is Miriam and Aaron who speak against Moses leadership in Numbers 12. Miriam was struck with leprosy for 7 days.
- G. The Move Against the House of David – Absalom and Adonijah versus Solomon
- H. Northern and Southern Israel
 - Solomon's Idolatry and Jeroboam
 - Jeroboam and Rehoboam
 - Joash overthrows Amaziah in battle – 2 Chron. 25:17
 - Syria and Israel defeat Judah – 2 Chron. 28:5-15
 - Assyrian Exile and Babylonian Exile
 - Ezra and Nehemiah's Reforms and the Samaritan Response of Mt Gerizim
- I. Nazareth's Rejection of Jesus – Luke 4:18-26
 1. Background: Jesus has just walked through Samaria and ministered to the woman at the well.
 2. Jesus enters the synagogue in Nazareth and reads Isaiah 61:1-2a. He then claims that the reading is fulfilled today in their hearing. Jesus is claiming that the Messianic era has been inaugurated. The people gladly receive Jesus.
 3. Jesus then shares His methodology and His plan for inclusion of the Gentiles. The Spirit of prophecy is going to move outside the camp in order to bring repentance to the camp. The anointing will move outside of Israel until a show down comes forth in the land and fire falls from heaven.
 4. Nazareth is enraged by Jesus' statement and attempts to murder Him.

J. The Disciples – Mk. 8:22-10:50 (The competition of the disciples squeezed between two stories of Jesus healing the blind). It is interesting to note that Satan's strategy after Peter's great confession was two-fold. He moved first to redefine Messiah's messianic mission of going to the Cross. Second, he sowed division among the disciples by having them argue over who's the greatest. It was no small thing that the disciples were still arguing over who's the greatest at the Last Supper. Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by His friend.

K. The Book of Acts – Sadly, division and strife among the brethren did not end after Calvary but continued through the early church as Jewish resistance sought Gentile exclusion.

1. Acts 1:6-8 – May 30 A.D.

2. The Neglect of the Hellenist Widows

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. (Acts 6:1)

3. Persecution: Sanhedrin, Saul, and Herod. Peter continued to call Jerusalem to repentance but the apostles had not taken the gospel to the ends of the earth. God converts Saul.

a. Acts 8:1-9:31 – Stephen's Martyrdom and Paul's Conversion 37 A.D.

b. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2)³

4. Acts 15 – Council of Jerusalem 50 A.D.

And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. (Acts 15:1-2)

5. Jewish Resistance throughout Paul's Ministry

But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. (Acts 17:13)

. . . . And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. (Acts 20:3)

³ Herod's death in Acts 12 was in A.D. 44 and Paul and Barnabas' set apart for the apostolic ministry in A.D. 45.

And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. (Acts 23:12)

- L. Early Church Fathers’ Preaching Against Jews
- M. Council of Nicaea – Constantine in 325 A.D.
 - 1. Within the first 100 years you would find some Church fathers speaking against the nation of Israel. This climaxed in one decisive moment under the Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea. The council under the direction of Constantine brought forth two rulings; one glorious, one horrendous.
 - a. There is biblical precedent for the greatest prophetic utterances joined with the worst satanic words. We see this effect in the life of Peter. In one moment, Peter gives the greatest declaration concerning the person of Jesus ever given. Peter declares, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” And Jesus responds, “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in Heaven.” YESSS Peter! After revealing His messianic identity, Jesus then revealed His messianic mission and tells them of His coming suffering and crucifixion. In the very next moment Peter does the unthinkable. He publicly rebukes Jesus by saying, “Never!” Jesus immediately then confirms the hideousness of Peter’s statement, “Get thee behind me Satan.” In a matter of minutes Peter made both the most blessed proclamation concerning Jesus’ identity and a most satanic utterance to stop Jesus’ redemptive purpose. The council of Nicaea did much the same.
 - b. In one moment, the Nicaean Council gave a most blessed ruling concerning the person of Christ – fully God, fully man, Light of Light, God of God. And in the next moment, they chose to remove Jewish elements from Christianity’s history. The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus was removed from being celebrated during Jewish Passover on the 14th of Nissan. Constantine then released a letter calling the Jews a cursed race and excluded Jewish bishops from attending the council.
 - c. In one moment, we had a powerful example of holding to faithful doctrine, and the next moment the seed of anti-Semitism was birthed in the Church. The Church has been an instrument of persecution to the Jews ever since. Well there is good news today. You and I are growing up in a day where God is giving us understanding.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. The evil one comes to sow the message of discord through the brethren to hinder God's redemptive purpose. Replacement theology has not failed with regard to securing Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, yet it has failed to understand Jesus' redemptive purpose for both Jew and Gentile. Thus, we see the brethren attacking the very ones who are to be the very recipient of the blessing. We must understand this lest we be rendered ineffective in the most crucial hour of redemptive history.
- B. Your destiny as a believer is locked up in that nation and its election. Through them the nations of the earth will be blessed. The good news is that the church has a role to play in bringing them to the saving knowledge of Jesus. We must begin to understand that seed of discord that the evil one places that would cause us to resist God's choosing of that nation to bring forth His purposes. We must understand our role and their role, and we must cooperate with the plan of God for both.
- C. Why? Because, Jesus is Lord and the crucified Lamb chose it to be that way and we're in it for him, right? Right?! God has this wonderful invitation the nations of the earth that are steeped in national pride envy, jealousy, and clamoring to get advantage over the others. It is to bring forth a plan that will bring salvation to all the nations of the earth in such a way that brings the brethren together in love through humility. Do you understand how hard this plan is? I am using all my strength to pull off unity with my three sons!
- D. God has sovereignly seen fit and chosen a way through the nation of Israel to release the promise of the millennial blessings. When Israel is saved, glory, peace, righteousness, and joy will cover all the nations of the earth. How is God going to bring them to salvation? A Gentile remnant from every nation will come forth in maturity – fullness in worship, intercession, love, selflessness, and obedience to be purposes of God. The Church will grow up into the Head, reaching the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. This global kingdom of priest will provoke Israel to jealousy, causing them to cry, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" A nation will be born in a day, and the blessings of Messiah will fill the entire earth.
- E. Well there's good news. You and I are growing up in a day where the Church is waking up to the purpose and the plan of God to remove the strife from the brothers and is beginning to understand our role in election and redemption so that we can cooperate with God.
 - 1. Well I just want to point out a few things that correspond to this struggle, because I don't want you to think that it's easy. Clapping at the revelation of it is not the same as attaining the revelation in real life scenarios.
 - 2. Satan will do whatever it takes to keep Israel from calling on the name of the Lord and declaring, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." In fact, he will bring all the nations against Israel. Why? Israel's cry for salvation is the key for the return of Jesus and will end with Satan thrown into the bottomless pit.

3. Beloved, the pressures to not stand with Israel will only increase in the coming days. Zechariah 12 – 14 clearly portrays the nations gathering together against Israel. This coalition will be inspired by Satan and will work to annihilate Israel from existence. We must understand God's purpose and have courage to play our part in standing with Israel.

And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. (Zech. 12:3)

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17, NKJV)

V. THE COMMANDED BLESSING – SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS

A. In the last session, we looked at the commanded blessing, the destiny of the nations and Israel joined together in love under the leadership of Jesus. God in His wisdom has tied the destiny of the nations and the destiny of Israel together, bound together as a wondrous invitation into love.

B. Matthew 23:37-39 and 24:14 as the Two Conditions for the Second Coming

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' (Matt 23:37-39)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:14)

1. The Bible informs us that the fulfillment of these two conditions is tied to one another. The Gentile mission will depend upon a Jewish remnant taking the gospel to the nations.
2. The salvation of Israel will depend upon the fullness of the Gentiles.

C. Ultimately, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, because Jerusalem contains the key for the next stage of redemptive history. God has released the Gospel across the nations of the earth, bringing forth a remnant out of every tribe, tongue, and nation as an international kingdom of priests who would love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This international priesthood will lift an intercessory cry for the salvation of Israel, leading to Israel crying out, "Blessed is He who comes in the Lord."⁴

D. At the return of the Lord Jesus for the first time in history an entire nation will be saved, not just a remnant out of a nation, but Israel as a whole will be saved. Romans 11:12-15 informs us that Israel's salvation will release a blessing upon all the nations.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! . . . 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12-15)

E. Romans 11:11-14 also inform us that Israel's salvation occurs in the context of the Gentiles provoking Israel to jealousy.

⁴ Matthew 23:37-39.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. (Rom. 11:11-14)

- F. In this session, I want us to look at the crisis in the Church in Rome and Paul's apostolic groan for his brethren according to the flesh.

VI. THE CRISIS IN ROME

- A. Romans 8 is a favorite chapter to many believers. Some of the greatest statements of God's love are found there. Yet, few believers understand the context in which this chapter is composed.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1, NKJV)

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11, NKJV)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:14–17, NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:31–32, NKJV)

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37–39, NKJV)

- B. Paul's Letter to the Romans is found in the context of the gospel spreading to the Gentile nations through a Jewish remnant. Within twenty years after Paul's conversion, Antioch had become a vibrant multicultural hub and as a mission base had spread the gospel throughout Asia Minor and Macedonia. The power base of the Church shifted as Gentiles numbers climbed and Jewish believers found themselves in the minority.
- C. The Jewish remnant of believers among the Jewish Diaspora and new Gentile believers were challenged to live together in love with differing approaches to food and festivals. At the same time various groups of Messianic Jews were questioning the validity of Gentile belief and practice while unbelieving Jews were persecuting both Messianic Jews and believing Gentiles.
- D. Gentile believers became challenged to love their fellow Jewish believers while other Jews where creating great upheaval throughout the Roman Empire. Paul was fighting Judaizers within the Church and unbelieving Jews persecuting the Church on the outside while laboring to make Gentiles, prone to Gnostic tendencies, a shining witness of obedience to provoke his fellow countrymen to jealousy. In this tense and complex context Paul addresses a specific pastoral crisis within the Church of Rome.
 - 1. The Context of the Letter – written in approximately A.D. 58 by Paul from Corinth.
 - 2. Initial Jewish Leadership – the tradition is that a group of Jews took the Gospel back to Rome after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
 - 3. The church grows, and Gentiles are added to the church in numbers.
 - 4. In 49 A.D. Claudius expels some 40,000 Jews from Rome due to Jewish conflict. Priscilla and Aquila were expelled in this edict and met up with Paul in Corinth.
 - 5. In 54 A.D. Nero allows the Jews to return. Upon the return of messianic Jews, the Gentile leadership is hesitant to receive the Jews back into fellowship and allow them to enter back into leadership within the church. Paul is addressing this specific issue. The unity of the church is at stake. Jesus prayed that the church would be one as He and the Father are one that the world would know that Jesus was sent be the Father. In the center of the Roman world the church is faced with a crucial question. Will it live the gospel as one new man, Jew and Gentile, redeemed by the Jesus' precious blood – one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all?
- E. The First Eight Chapters

1. Paul begins with his opening statement in Rom. 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For the next 8 chapters, Paul will remind them of their unity in the gospel. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ which makes them one.
2. He then spends the first three chapters establishing their shared sinful state and just deserving of God’s wrath. The Gentiles resisted their God given conscience and worshipped the creation rather than the Creator, thus, God gave them over to their vile passions. The Jews, though, have no room to boast, for although they had the advantage of the Law given to them, they did not obey the Law. In fact, he quotes Ezekiel 16:27 concerning their sinful state, “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” He ends the section with two powerful and unifying truths of the gospel.

- a. Both Jew and Gentile have sinned and stand under the just wrath of God in need of His mercy provided for in Christ..

For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
(Rom. 3:23)

- b. God has provided the same solution for both Jew and Gentile. They are both to be justified and reconciled to God by faith in the atoning death of God’s Son Jesus Christ.

being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
(Romans 3:24, NKJV)

Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. (Romans 3:29–30, NKJV)

3. In chapters 4 and 5 Paul explains that both Jew and Gentile are sons of Abraham through their faith in Jesus Christ. They have been brought together into one household of faith through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. While they all were still sinners, Christ died for them. All are saved from the wrath of God through faith in Him Christ and His atoning work. It is Christ who has brought salvation. For just as through one man came death, so also through one Man, Jesus Christ, came the free gift of eternal life for all those who believe.

4. In chapters 6 and 7 Paul appeals to both the Gentiles and the Jews not to revert back into their former lives before they were justified by Jesus Christ. In Rom. 6 he exhorts the Gentiles to not revert back to their licentiousness. They are to refuse the faulty notion that they might sin all the more that grace may abound all the more. No! They are united in Christ's death and resurrection. They are to die to the sinful lusts of the flesh and be alive to God in Christ Jesus. In Romans 7 Paul exhorts Jews to resist the temptation to fall back into legalism. The law is holy but the law of sin and death is operating in their members. Thus, they serve the law with their mind but with their flesh they serve the law of sin and death. Knowing that it was Christ who saved them from the law of sin and death that operated in their members.
5. In chapter 8 Paul reminds them that it is the life of the indwelling Spirit which enables them to overcome both licentiousness and legalism. The same Spirit which raised Christ from the dead now dwells in them and will give life to their mortal bodies to put to death the deeds of the flesh. And, it is this same Spirit which bears witness to us that we are the children of God.

VII. THE 4 GROANS OF ROMANS 8

- A. In the context of God's longing for Jew and Gentile to live together as one new man in Christ Jesus as a sign of the new creation beginning among the world comes forth 4 groans in chapter 8. Creation is groaning for this. Our own bodies are longing for this consummation. The Holy Spirit is groaning within us, and Jesus is making intercession for us at the Father's right hand. Paul joins with the four and lets us know in the next three chapters what is at stake.
- B. These different groans that are working together in intercession for the redemption of the world. Each groan is fantastic and worthy of long hours of consideration.
 1. V. 22 – Creation groans and labors with birth pangs for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. God subjected creation to futility in order that creation's deliverance would be dependent upon the sons of God walking in their divine calling. The very creation that we were meant to take dominion over and serve is now serving us until we are fully restored in our governmental authority and godly character as those made in God's image to reflect His name and ways to all of creation.

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God . . . For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (Romans 8:19&22, NKJV)

2. V. 23 – We groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Paul declares that even now believers are groaning within themselves, yearning for their bodily redemptions.

Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (Romans 8:23, NKJV)

3. V. 26 – The Holy Spirit groans within us and makes intercession for us when we do not know how to pray as we should. Creation and those made in His image are not alone. God Himself even intercedes for us. Our eternal companion, the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us when we do not know how we ought to pray.

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26, NKJV)

4. V. 34 – Jesus takes all of those groans and joins His own groan for us in intercession at the right hand of the Father, asking for the Father to put all things under His feet.

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Romans 8:34, NKJV)

- C. What an amazing intercessory team! Creation, believers, Holy Spirit, and Jesus are interceding for the fullness of God's purpose in our lives and in the entire world. When I combine the unbelievable statements of God's love to the reality of this amazing intercessory team, I'm overcome by the wealth of God's love for us in Christ Jesus. This is where Romans 8 should leave you, undone by the love of God for you and the commitment of God to you. Now Paul is going to shift us to another aspect of God's love and commitment. The way that God feels about you and is committed to you is the way He feels about unbelieving Israel and is committed to them.

VIII. PAUL'S APOSTOLIC GROAN IN ROMANS 9

- A. The apostle Paul makes himself vulnerable in chapter 9 and shares his personal groan. The apostle to the gentile world is going to share his very personal groan. Beloved, I can remember praying when I was young, “God, I want to be like the apostle Paul. Make me like him.” How many of you prayed the same thing? In chapter 9, Paul shares his most precious groan, and we want to be aware of this precious thing that was in the heart of the Apostle to the Gentiles.
- B. This apostolic groan runs counter to the accusation of the Evil One. Zechariah 3 presents a picture of Satan standing before the Yahweh and bringing an accusation against Jerusalem and its leaders. The Evil One stands in the Lord’s presence to not only accuse the saints but also stands to accuse Jerusalem. The angel of the Lord responds to the accusation, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem.”
- C. And so, the same accuser that accuses you before God night and day, and accuses your heart night and day, and says, “You’ll never measure up, you’ll never make it, He doesn’t love you like you think, you’re disqualified.” That same accuser, that twisted serpent, that foul devil, Satan himself, stands and accuses Israel. Well, the Lord stands against this demonic onslaught and declares with perfect intention the election of Israel and Jerusalem.
- D. The apostle Paul joins in with the Lord’s heart and makes himself vulnerable to the gentile world concerning his love for his own people. He says, ***“I tell you the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart” (Romans 9:1-2).***
- E. And so now the apostle is about to reveal his groan. His great longing. He says, ***“For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (9:3).*** The apostle to the gentile world, whom Jesus said, ***“I will show him how much he must suffer for My sake” (Acts 9:16).*** The one who went to the third heavens, who saw things so great that it was unlawful to mention. The one whom the Bible says, ***“He labored greater than all the apostles” (1 Cor. 13:9)*** opens his heart to the power base of the gentile world – Rome.

- F. Beloved, when a great man of God makes himself vulnerable, you want to hear it. When arguably the greatest apostle that ever walked the earth opens his heart to you, you want to take note of that holy moment. You want to capture every word spoken and every sentiment conveyed. Do you see what is happening in this text? God is allowing for Paul's groan in this scripture to be put on the same level as the Spirit's groan and Jesus' groan. Why? Because Paul's groan *is* Jesus' groan. God is letting His groan be fleshed out through Paul's groan so that God's longing for Israel is not an ethereal concept open for debate. Rather, it is an apostolic groan. It is a God-breathed longing that declares, "If God would let me, I would go to an eternal hell, cut off from God forever, in order that my countrymen could be saved." Paul declares, "This desire to trade my eternity for theirs is not mere rhetoric. The Holy Spirit bears witness with my conscience that I'm telling the truth."
- G. He goes on to give the gentiles understanding of who it is that he would lay down his eternal life over. My countrymen are "Israelites to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came who is overall the eternally blessed God" (9:4-5). Paul states, "My countrymen gave birth to the scriptures, the covenants, the prophetic word, the promises, the glory, they even gave their prayers. Their groans gave birth to Messiah." This whole section is about godly groans. And Paul declares, "My people groaned to bring forth all these blessings to the world. They labored in intercession for the scriptures, for the covenants, for the glory, for the promises, and even for your Messiah who is God Himself."
- H. By stating this Paul is asking a basic question. Was their two-thousand-year groan and intercessory labor that has led to the salvation of the gentiles worth a few minutes of gentiles groaning now for the salvation of Israel? Have you touched the fact that Israel's intercession gave birth to your salvation? Have you connected with their groan? Because when you were in your hour of need, without hope, estranged from God, they labored in intercession for the salvation of the world. Could you let their past groan move your heart, so that in their hour of need, when they are hardened and blinded from the truth of the gospel, you could groan for them?"

IX. PAUL'S APOSTOLIC PRAYER IN ROMANS 10:1

- A. That which began as a completely Messianic Jewish context quickly shifted to a gentile dominated context. Due to the expulsion of the Jews in AD 49, what was a Jewish controlled leadership became a gentile-controlled leadership overnight. Five years later, the Jews were allowed back to Rome, and the now-gentile leadership began to persecute and oppress the Messianic-Jewish believers. Paul, in order to bring the Roman church into mature love, shares his holy heart for his people. "What are you doing? How, in so few years, could your heart harden towards the very people who interceded for your salvation?" And Paul is declaring here that the gentiles don't have his apostolic heart! They don't have his apostolic groan.

- B. Then in chapter 10, he plants the most beautiful prayer right in the heart of the world's most dominant empire. He plants this prayer like a seed. And the Holy Spirit is hovering over the whole earth right now, breathing on Paul's groan in chapter 9 and Paul's prayer in chapter 10.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved (Romans 10:1).

- C. If you want to be in alignment with the apostolic foundations of the faith, you must be in unison with Paul's apostolic groan and apostolic prayer. You must touch Paul's groan, and you must pray Paul's prayer."

X. ROMANS 11 – PAUL'S APOSTOLIC MYSTERY

- A. Paul continues in chapter 11 to address the question of whether or not God has cast Israel away beyond repair. Paul responds with the emphatic, "Certainly not!"
1. No, there is presently a remnant (v. 1-5) according to the election of grace. Beware of the Elijah syndrome. Do not join in with the accuser of the brethren.
 2. The Gentile Call to Provoke Israel to Jealousy and Help Bring Their Salvation – v. 11-15
 3. The Warning Against Arrogance – v. 22

Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. (Rom. 11:20-22)

4. The Mystery v. 25

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:25-36)

5. **The Bible sets forth a four-fold order or aspect to salvation in Messiah that will come through Israel to the nations of the earth.** All the nations of the earth will be blessed through Abraham and His Seed. Israel, as God's chosen people, brought forth the covenants, the scriptures, the prophets, the glory, and ultimately the Messiah. Now that Messiah has come we see a four-fold order of salvation as set forth in Romans 11.
- a. A Jewish remnant according to the election of grace believed in Christ and was commissioned as apostles to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Just as in the days of Elijah a remnant of 7,000 Jews were faithful, so to there is a remnant of faithful Jews who believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. (Rom. 11:5)

- b. A Gentile remnant from every nation will believe in the Gospel, and as a global priesthood of all believers they will be used by God to provoke the nation of Israel to jealousy.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. (Rom. 11:11-14)

- c. The entire nation of Israel will be saved at the return of Jesus Christ. Israel will be the first entire nation on the earth where every single person will be saved and walking in the fullness of the power, fruit, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah asks, "Can a nation be born in a day?" The answer is yes, all Israel will be saved when the redeemer comes to Zion and turns away ungodliness from Jacob.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." (Rom. 11:25-27)

- d. This national salvation will be like life from the dead for the entire world. Jesus will rule from Jerusalem and use Israel to bring His glory to all the nations of the earth.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! . . . 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12, 15)

- B. Paul goes further to explain that the Gentiles are part of God's plan to bring this restoration of Israel. "As a matter of fact, Gentiles, my ministry to you is so that your faith could provoke them to jealousy. The very ones that you are oppressing are the very ones for whom you were saved to provoke in love." Paul then declares, "Let me tell you a great mystery: the regeneration of the whole world— creation's groan, your groan, the Spirit's groan, Jesus' groan, my groan for the redemption of the world is dependent on this nation coming to salvation. All of our groans are fulfilled when they begin to groan for Messiah. When they come to Messiah, it will be like life from the dead for the whole world. So don't be arrogant, you Gentiles. For I tell you a great mystery: out of Zion the Deliverer shall come. All Israel shall be saved.

But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer. This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD. For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth, To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death, To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem, When the peoples are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD. (Psalm 102:12–22, NKJV)

- C. Oh, Beloved, let me tell you a great truth (and this is where we end): it was a remnant of Jews that came to Messiah, believed in Jesus, and they gave their lives to give you the message of salvation. One Jewish apostle was run through with spears. Another Jewish apostle was flayed—skinned alive for your salvation. Another Jewish apostle was impaled on a stake and burned alive. Another was crucified upside down, so that Gentiles could draw near to God. A remnant of Jews offered their lives so that a remnant from every tribe and tongue could worship Yahweh.

- D. Paul reminds us of their labor and then lets us in on a wondrous mystery, the entire nation will be saved. Every Jew will come to Jesus at the return of Messiah. And the salvation of *that* nation will lead to salvation of all the nations. And the glory of the Lord will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. And Messiah will rule from Jerusalem. And Gentiles and Jews will enter into the next age, grateful in love that for two thousand years from Abraham they groaned for your salvation until Messiah came. And now for two thousand years, the apostolic groan among the Gentile world has been groaning for Israel's salvation, and we will walk into the next age madly in love with one another. Look what God has done for us. Look what God has done for them!

XI. ALTAR MINISTRY TIME

- A. The Lord is wanting to rebuke the accuser of the brethren. He's wanting to push back the accuser that accuses your heart, that weighs you down, and He's wanting to push back the accuser that accuses Israel, that we can enter into the groan of God. The groan of creation, our groan, the Spirit's groan, Jesus' groan, and the apostolic groan. The five-fold groan of God in Romans 8-11.
- B. Beloved, He's looking for us to have more than a geo-political opinion. He wants you to receive Paul's burden and apostolic prayer. If you're here, and you go "I want it, I want that groan," come forward. "I want the apostolic groan for Israel." Come forward.
- C. Now just hold your hand out like you're receiving a gift. Just comfortable, like you're receiving a gift. Right in front of you. Now ask the Lord for the apostolic heart. Say, "Give me a heart for Israel. Give me a heart for Paul's countrymen according to the flesh. They bore the rage of Satan for two thousand years to give birth to Messiah. To bring me the news of salvation. Father, give me your heart for them. Jesus, give me your heart for them. I want an apostolic love."
- D. Take me on a journey of love. Save the remnant of Israel. Save the remnant of Israel, Father. Make it my heart's desire and prayer that they be saved. Tenderize my heart, God. Tenderize my heart. You sowed this prayer in the heart of the gentile world. You sent Paul as the apostle to us, the Gentiles. Breathe on this apostolic prayer, Father. Breathe on it, Father. Breathe on it, Father. Breathe on it, Father. Breathe on it, Father. Breathe on it. Let it tear down every high opinion, every lofty thought, everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Tear it down. And produce a love. Produce a love. Produce it. Give me revelation of Your plan and purpose of Israel. Give me revelation, God. Tenderize my heart, Father. I want to feel like You feel, Jesus. Give me a heart of gratitude. Set me as a watchman on the wall for Jerusalem, and let me never hold my peace day or night.

XII. THE COMMANDED BLESSING – SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing -- Life forevermore. (Psalms 133)

- A. In the first session we focused on the commanded blessing as the destiny of the nations and Israel joined together in love under the leadership of Jesus. God in His wisdom has tied the destiny of the nations and the destiny of Israel together, bound together as a wondrous invitation into love.
- B. Ultimately, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, because Jerusalem contains the key for the next stage of redemptive history. God has released the Gospel across the nations of the earth, bringing forth a remnant out of every tribe, tongue, and nation as an international kingdom of priests who would love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This international priesthood will lift an intercessory cry for the salvation of Israel, leading to Israel crying out, “Blessed is He who comes in the Lord.”⁵
- C. At the return of the Lord Jesus for the first time in history an entire nation will be saved, not just a remnant out of a nation, but Israel as a whole will be saved. Romans 11:12-15 informs us that Israel’s salvation will release a blessing upon all the nations.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! . . . 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12-15)

- D. Romans 11:11-14 also inform us that Israel’s salvation occurs in the context of the Gentiles provoking Israel to jealousy.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. (Rom. 11:11-14)

⁵ Matthew 23:37-39.

XIII. TWO GREAT NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

- A. A seven-fold mystery of God is revealed in the New Testament. 1) The convergence between heaven and earth – Ephesians 1:9-10, 2) The incarnation of Christ – 1 Timothy 3:16, 3) The indwelling Christ – Colossians - 1:27, **4) The One New Man – Ephesians 3:9-11, 5) The mystery of Israel – Romans 11:25-26, 6) The mystery of the resurrection and the resurrected body – I Corinthians 15:51, 7) The great mystery of the bride of Christ – Ephesians 5:31-32.**
- B. One of these seven relates to the bringing together of Jews and Gentiles into one new household of God. The other is the mystery of Israel's salvation as a result of being provoked to jealousy by Gentiles. We must understand these two mysteries in order to cooperate with the purposes of God in the last generation.

1. Eph 3:3-7 – One New Man Brought Together in Christ

3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, **you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 **that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel**, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and **to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,** (Ephesians 3:8–10, NKJV)

2. Rom. 11:25-26 – The Salvation of Israel

For I do not desire, brethren, that **you should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "**The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;** (Rom. 11:25-26)

- C. God in His wisdom has tied the destiny of the nations and the destiny of Israel together, bound together as a wondrous invitation into love. God has released the Gospel across the nations of the earth, bringing forth a remnant out of every tribe, tongue, and nation as an international kingdom of priests who would love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This international priesthood will lift an intercessory cry for the salvation of Israel, leading to Israel crying out, “Blessed is He who comes in the Lord.”⁶
- D. At the return of the Lord Jesus for the first time in history an entire nation will be saved, not just a remnant out of a nation, but Israel as a whole will be saved. Romans 11:12-15 informs us that Israel’s salvation will release a blessing upon all the nations.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! . . . 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12-15)

- E. Romans 11:11-14 also inform us that Israel’s salvation occurs in the context of the Gentiles provoking Israel to jealousy.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. (Rom. 11:11-14)

XIV. 7-FOLD HEART POSTURE FOR PROVOKING THE JEWS TO JEALOUSY

- A. Israel being provoked to jealousy by Gentiles is one of the most surprising and remarkable dimensions of God’s end time plan. To be provoked to *godly jealousy* means that Israel will deeply desire what Gentile believers have spiritually. For the past 2,000 years of Church history Israel has not been provoked to jealousy but repulsed and hostile towards the Church. The atrocities committed against the Jews are well documented in works such as Michael Brown’s *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood: The Tragic Story of the “Church” and the Jewish People*.
- B. What will cause this drastic and great change? *It is only the dramatically set circumstances of the Great Tribulation.* God has planned this difficult time frame to cause Israel to be *jealous* and to *purify the Church* and bring in the *large end-time ingathering of souls*. Israel will receive mercy through the mercy shown by Gentiles (Rom. 11:31). This is God’s means of unifying and purifying Jews and Gentiles as One New Man (Eph. 2:14-16; 3:1-10) that will be fully manifest in the Millennium.

Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. (Jer. 30:7)

⁶ Matthew 23:37-39.

C. Before we look at specific ways in which the Church will cooperate with the Holy Spirit to provoke Israel to jealousy, we must first examine the heart postures Paul sets forth in Rom. 9-11 for Gentiles to embrace. In these chapters Paul sets forth his apostolic heart concerning Israel. In doing so, he is hoping to place the correct heart posture in the lives of the Gentile believers.

1. **Compassionate.** Paul expresses the depth of his sorrow for the state of his countrymen Israel. He does as Moses did in his generation by stating his desire to exchange his soul for theirs.

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, (Rom. 9:1-3)

2. **Grateful.** Paul lists the many blessings Gentiles enjoy because of the Jewish nation. Israel has ushered in *the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises: of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.* In fact, Gentiles owe their very salvation to the faithfulness of Jews who gave their lives for the preaching of the Gospel.

3. **Prayerful.** Israel's opposition should not lead to Gentile anger or indifference but to embrace God's heart for them in prayer. Paul plants the Rom. 10:1 apostolic prayer in the heart of the Church of the most powerful city on earth.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (Rom 10:1)

4. **Contending for Fullness.** Gentiles are to provoke Jews to jealousy by living in the power, wisdom, and fruit of the Holy Spirit in such a way testifies to Jews that Yahweh and His Messiah are in their midst. The "fullness of the Gentiles" carries a qualitative aspect as well as a quantitative one. We must contend for the fullness!

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Rom. 11:25)

5. **Humble.** Paul warns Gentiles not to become arrogant but to remain humble in the fear of the Lord. The Gentiles' new-found power and authority by majority rule should move them to use their position of strength to serve Jews not persecute them.

Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. (Rom. 11:20-22)

6. **Discerning.** Paul does not want Gentiles to be ignorant of a great mystery – God’s future plans with Israel. The One who is the judge of all the living and the dead is returning to save all of Israel. They may presently be enemies of the Gospel, but they are beloved of God concerning God’s elective purposes to fulfill the covenants. The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." (Rom. 11:25-27)

7. **Merciful.** Israel’s opposition to the Gospel has led to the quick spread of the Gospel throughout the ancient world. Their disobedience has made it possible for us to obtain mercy from God; thus, we should now show them the mercy in which we have received.

For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. (Rom. 11:30-32)

XV. 7-FOLD LIFESTYLE OF PROVOKING THE JEWS TO JEALOUSY

- A. Paul emphasized the role of Gentile believers in Israel’s salvation in provoking Israel to jealousy by being vessels that release God’s mercy to Israel (Rom. 10:19; 11:11, 14, 27, 30). In fact, he magnified his ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles in order to provoke Israel to jealousy.

To provoke them (Israel) to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles...that through the mercy shown you (Gentiles) they may obtain mercy. (Rom. 11:11, 31)

- B. **Maturing in the Priestly Function of Worship and Prayer** – Is. 62 & Mal. 1:11.

1. The prayer and worship movement will unify the Church around praying for Israel and will release the arm of the Lord. God has ordained a world-wide prayer and worship movement to partner with God in the salvation of Israel.

6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, 7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. 8 The LORD has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: "Surely I will no longer give your grain As food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored. 9 But those who have gathered it shall eat it, And praise the LORD; Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts." (Is. 62:6-9)

For thus says the LORD: "Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel!' (Jer. 31:7)

2. In the book of Malachi the prophet confronts the hypocrisy and corruption of the priesthood that happens when Nehemiah leaves for a short period to give a report to the king of Persia. They have neglected and disdained their priestly calling of worship. Israel is unable to see Yahweh's greatness and is thus unable to give Him the glory due His name. God then pronounces the desire of His heart. As a sign to apostate Israel, God will raise up a global worship movement around the greatness of His name.

"Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 1:10-11)

3. The book of Revelation is the Acts of the end-time apostles. As the book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church, so the book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the end-time Church. It is also a canonized prayer manual for the Church:
 - a. The book of Revelation is a "**canonized prayer manual**" that equips the Church to partner with Jesus in confronting Satan's authority. Jesus is coming back only after the Church is prepared in love, wisdom, and faith to release the tribulation through prayer against the Antichrist's empire. Jesus is waiting on the Church to grow up into agreement with His character and end-time plan.

- b. As Jesus' judgments progressively unfold according to their numbered sequence, the Church will become greatly unified and focused in prayer. The momentum will build as the Church sees the seals and trumpets unfold in numerical order. Nothing like this has ever happened in history where hundreds of millions were unified with an **"infallible prayer guide"** revealing Jesus' action plan, including the coming glory and pressures. **What the resurrection was to the early apostles, the sequential, temporal judgments will be to end-time apostles.**

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

- c. As Moses released God's judgments on pharaoh by prayer,⁷ so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Antichrist by prayer. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan.⁸

...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [authority of hell] shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Mat. 16:18-19, emphases added).

- d. The end-time prayer movement under Jesus' leadership will bind and release His redemptive judgments according to the will of God.⁹

And the smoke of the incense, **with the prayers of the saints**, ascended before God.... Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth... (Rev. 8:4, 5, emphases added).

- C. **Engaging in a Proclamation Ministry that Washes Israel with the Water of His Word** – Is. 62:10-12. During great shaking and opposition the Church will declare to Israel her future destiny in God's plan.

10 Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples! 11 Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'" 12 And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. (Is. 62:10-12)

⁷ Exodus 7-12.

⁸ Revelation 12:9, 13:2.

⁹ Revelation 5:8, 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:1-5, 18; 15:1-8; 16:7; 19:2.

- D. **Providing Refuge for Jewish People in Flight.** Those who provide refuge to Jews will risk their lives. The Antichrist's laws will require (as did the Nazis) the reporting of Jewish people in flight. Refusal to do so will result in being charged as an accomplice to a state crime. Many Christians will follow the example of Corrie Ten Boon and risk their lives to help Jews in the Great Tribulation. In Is. 16:4-6 God indicts Moab for not sheltering Jews in flight.

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 9 **Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.** (1 Peter 4:7-9)

- E. **Performing Miracles like Elijah** – multiplication of food, healing the sick and prophesying (receiving prophetic direction by visions and dreams as promised in Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9).

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:17)

Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." (Jn. 4:48)

- F. **Giving to Poor Messianic Jews Living in Israel** – 2 Cor. 8-9. The apostles asked Paul to remember the poor in Israel. Paul stated that this was the very thing he was eager to do. See Acts 21:1-4 for Paul's resolve to take the Gentile offerings to Jerusalem.

For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, (2 Cor. 9:12-13)

- G. **Godly Living** – The Church will live in "bright righteousness and humility" as the world is filled with deep darkness, embracing immorality, theft, violence, and the occult (Rev. 9:21; Isa. 60:1; Rom. 15:16-19). Both Daniel and the book of Revelation reveal the Church as purified and made ready in full agreement and partnership with the Lord.

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits (Dan. 11:32, emphasis added). And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time (Dan. 11:35).

...The marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready** (Rev. 19:7, emphasis added).

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" ... (Rev. 22:17).

- H. **Transcendent Lifestyle** – The Church will walk fearless in the face of death with the revelation of eternity.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:11)

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. (Jn. 12:24)

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10)

XVI. OH, THE DEPTHS OF GOD AND HIS MYSTERY!

- A. Paul, viewing God's grand plan to cause all to celebrate God's amazing mercy, breaks into exuberant praise. The outcome of both our heart posture and lifestyle should be one of wonder, awe, and praise.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Rom. 11:33-36)

- B. If your view of God's end time strategy to bring Israel to salvation and the nations of the earth together in love into the next age does not lead to fascinated trembling and praise, then you truly have not understood God's plan.