

Romans, pt.15, 2.25.07

Romans 9 - 11 Overview

Understanding the Role of the Jews in God's Plan for Mankind

- Read Romans 9.1ff.
- Introduction to Romans 9 - 11
- Jews aren't loved by God and aren't better in his sight (R.3.9) but they play a very unique role...
- Important for us to understand their role & Christians relationship with Jews. This tiny nation takes center stage during the end time activity of God. Six million people control the destiny of 6 billion. Nearly every day it is referenced in the news. The underlying cause for political instability in the world today is Satan's resistance against the nation of Israel. If Israel didn't exist, the problems in the Middle East which impacts us would be negligible. Don't read into that I'm advocating their demise. Rather, I want you to see their impact on the world & that isn't by coincident. Zech.12.2 says that in the end time Jerusalem will be a cup of trembling for the planet.
- We must not only conceptualize but personalize these truths.
- Political Israel is very different from redeemed Israel. We need to be careful that we align ourselves with God and not some political entity. Today, Israel is largely w/o Christ and their political decisions are not necessarily the will of God. Understand this principle: the physical first & then the spiritual. God has got them back in their land, but God hasn't captured their hearts.
- This subject a very broad subject and I'm only opening doors. I'm not exploring any one room intimately.

The Jews relevance to Christians

1. Eph.2.14-18 - One of the purposes of the cross was to reconcile Jews & Gentiles and make them one new man. The body of Christ will be fully expressed and known when Jews come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Currently, the body of

Christ is like an every increasing hulk of a person, but who is asleep. Once Jews begin to come to faith in Jesus, strength and vigor will fill His body.

2. Rom.11.11f – This great salvation has brought liberty to nations just think what it will be like when the Jews enter into the fullness of it. I believe there will be a greater revelation of the character, plan & power of God over the planet when the Jews become completed. It is essential that we stand in the gap for them. Their lives depend on it, but so does the destiny of the planet. In their salvation is the liberation of the world!
3. They are a spiritual barometer of God’s activity in the world. God promised that he would bring them back & restore them – Jer.31. The return of natural Israel to the land is of huge historic & spiritual importance. Their capture of Jerusalem in 1967 and making it their capitol was monumental spiritually. Matt.24.32–35 mentions the “fig tree” which sometimes represents Israel. When we see them back in the land and they are spiritually prosperous know that the coming of the Lord is upon you. Note: Jesus had just curse a fig tree (Mt.21) that wasn’t producing. This tree represented the Jewish nation that had the appearance of being spiritually alive, but was dead. When he returns, the tree will be in bloom.
4. There is an intimate connection between Israel & America. The blessings of God and discipline of God upon this nation rests, in part, on our relationship with Israel.

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The Choosing of Israel

1. Introduction: Christian shouldn’t support Israel based solely upon the prophetic portion of Scripture, but mainly upon the covenant God established with Abraham.
2. Gen.12.1–3

- a. The covenant that God made with Abraham was unconditional & everlasting.
 - b. The key phrase is that “all the families of the earth will be blessed through you.” It was through Abraham’s family that Jesus was born. Through Jesus, son of Abraham, the nations of the earth have been blessed.
 - c. Understand, Abraham was a Gentile when he believed God’s promises. Later, he circumcised himself & the rest of the males in his family. This physical act was what marked them as Jews. Abraham was both a Gentile & a Jew.
 - i. Romans 4.9–12
 - d. The Jewish people have a birthing call...birth the salvation purposes of God for the peoples of the earth.
 - e. They were also given physical land of Israel as a sign of God’s covenant.
 - f. The nations will be blessed that bless God’s people (both Jews & Christians) and those nations will be cursed that curse them. How will God bless them? They will be recipients of message of Christ.
3. Gen.17.7–8. He established an everlasting covenant.
 4. Deuteronomy 7.6–8 (stated positively);
 5. Deuter. 9.4–6 (stated negatively)
 6. Romans 9.10–18. God soveriegnly chose them.

The Purposes of their Calling

1. they have a special role
 - a. The Jews aren’t any better than any other group – Romans 2.11f, 3.9
 - b. She is like a pregnant woman. She afforded special care
2. Romans 3.1f – They were entrusted to steward God’s word...the Living Word & written word...the were custodians of it. They were the ones that would bring the message of salvation into the world.

They were called to be a kingdom of priests for the nations
(Ex.19.6)

3. Romans 9.4f in the NIV – promises, covenants & God’s glory.
4. Rev.12.1–6,13f. – From them was birthed the Savior. They are the “apple of God’s eye.” Israel was metaphorically the mother of Jesus. Jesus was birthed out of this nation.
 - a. John 4.22.
 - b. He spoke first to this nation (Mark 7.27) and then the nations of the earth
 - c. They weren’t a cup that was used and discarded by God. They carried the Word of God both the written & living Word and God extended special promises & care to them. According to Rev.12, they were hidden by God
 - d. Jesus has a mother (Israel) & a bride and he’s not going to let anyone destroy them! Ain’t nobody gonna mess with his mamma!

God’s current plan for the Jews

1. Zechariah 2.8 – God’s love for his people
2. Isa.11.10f. – This will be a sign that we are entering the period of natural Israel’s salvation. He will return them to the land a second time. The first time was after their exile into Babylon in 586 BC. In 70 AD they were exiled a second time and returned again in 1948.
3. Zech.12.10 – 13.2: He will bring them back to himself. They will enter into a relationship with God through faith in His Son.
4. Ezek.36.24–28. God promises that Israel will return to the land and then there will be a spiritual returning to God. Today they are in the land, but they are spiritually dead. But, w/in a matter of a day they could all be saved.
5. Romans 11.25f. – The time of the Gentiles will come to a close. When this happens, then the Jews will respond in mass to Jesus.
6. Israel serves as God’s birthing people. She birthed Christ into the world the first time and now that she is in the land, she will birth

Him into the world a second time. Their very presence in the land of Israel is an indicator that the coming of the Lord is near.

Satan's strategy

1. Destroy Israel

- a. Satan used Pharaoh to try to destroy through slavery & infanticide.
- b. They were constantly being ensnared in sin & held in bondage. There was only one 60 period of time that Israel truly experienced true freedom & blessing. It happened during some of David's reign as King and his son Solomon's reign.
- c. When Jesus was born, Satan inspired Herod to kill all the small boys living around Bethlehem.
- d. Rev.12.15-18. He hates natural Israel & spiritual Israel. He wars, opposes, destroys, Christians. He tried to keep natural Israel from the land by having all Jews destroyed during WW 2. The reason there is so much hatred towards natural Israel is b/c it is inspired by Satan.
- e. He wants to destroy both Jesus' bride (spiritual Israel) & Jesus' mother (Natural Israel). Middle East conflict isn't essentially political it is spiritual. If Israel didn't have a friend in the US, Britain and a few other countries she wouldn't be here today. Satan would make sure of it

2. Destroy the end time generation that will stand with Israel & oppose him.

- a. He tempts those living to fall into all type of idolatry
- b. He destroys the unborn through abortion.
 - i. During Moses' infancy there, Pharaoh said kill all the boys. Satan knew God would send a savior to his people who lead them out of bondage
 - ii. During Jesus' infancy, Herod said kill all the boys. Satan knew God was sending a Savior to his people to

lead them from bondage and give them dominion over the devil..

- iii. In our time, hundred of millions of children have been slaughtered. Satan knows that the Father is sending the Son to an end time generation that will oppose and be victorious over Satan.

OUR MANDATE IS TO PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF NATURAL ISRAEL WHICH IN TURN WILL IMPACT THE SALVATION OF THE PLANET.

Jews & the land of Israel – article by Malcom Heddding, “The Biblical Basis for Christian Zionism” located on the Information Table

Some of the sermon material came from, “The Basis of Christian Support for Israel” by Malcolm Hedding.