

“God’s Continuing Plan for Israel”
Romans 11

8/23-24/08

6 pm; 9 & 10:45 am

Series, *“Israel: People of Prophecy”*

INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at **“Prophecies Fulfilled”** regarding the people of Israel and the land God gave them. The reason we’re looking at *prophecies* regarding Israel is because both the **people** of Israel, and the **land** of Israel were born in, and, built upon, Prophecy.

When we use the word “prophecy,” we are talking about various things God has said, in the Bible, that He will do in the future on Earth.

We saw last week numerous prophecies that have been fulfilled and a few that are currently being fulfilled in the land of Israel.

- We saw how God fulfilled His prophetic Word to **make the nation of Israel from one man**, Abraham, and his wife, Sarah.

- We saw how God fulfilled His prophetic Word that **if His people broke their covenant with Him by turning away from Him and worshipping idols, that He would scatter them among the nations** ... and how Israel ignored this clear word from God and disobeyed Him ... and how for 1,900 years they were scattered among the nations.

- **We saw how God keeps His covenants, even when His people don’t.** He fulfilled His prophetic Word to bring His people back to the land of Israel ... to draw them from every place on Earth where they had scattered ... and how He has done that in our very day ... through the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 ... and ... 3 million Jews have immigrated since that time.

There is also **the reemergence of Messianic Jews**, for the first time since the early church was established 2,000 years ago. *Today*, in Israel, Jewish people are accepting Jesus as their Messiah and the Church is growing.

This was an important foundation to lay, because as we look at the Bible regarding prophecies not yet fulfilled, they can sound like a bit of a stretch. But, if God has said it is going to happen, it will happen.

So, now, let’s look at *“God’s Continuing Plan for Israel.”*

Prophecy #1:

I. All of Israel Will Be Saved (Romans 11:25-27)

OPEN to Romans 11:25 (**PAGE** 1762)

God's apostle and spokesman, Paul, prophesies that a time will come where all of Israel will enter into a relationship with God by accepting Jesus as their Messiah.

READ Romans 11:25-27: **“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part *until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.*”**

26 **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion [Jerusalem; the Temple]; **He will turn godlessness away from Jacob** [Israel].

27 **And this is My covenant with them** when I take away their sins.”

A. The Jewish people are now experiencing a “**hardening in part:**” (v. 25)

1. The **hardening** is *partial*:

“hardening in part”

They are spiritually *hardened to the Gospel*: but, there is a remnant saved by grace (v. 5); there are Jews who will respond, but it is very limited.

This hardening is evidenced in their personal rejection of the message about Jesus, AND their opposition to the proclamation of the Gospel:

Romans 11:28 **“As far as the Gospel is concerned, they [the Jews] are enemies on your account ...”**

This was true during the time Romans was written, and currently true in Israel and other places.

2. The **hardening** is also *temporary*: v. 25c

“Israel has experienced a hardening in part *until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.*”

B. The spiritual hardening is “**until the full number of the Gentiles has come in:**”

According to God's eternal plan, this hardening won't be completely removed until the complete number of all the other nations have come to Christ.

And this is very interesting: the turning of the nations to Jesus as Messiah will provoke the Jews to jealousy, so that they will desire their Messiah, Jesus, for themselves:

Romans 11:11b “... **because of their [Israel’s] transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.**”

Romans 11:13b-14 Paul says, “**I make much of my ministry [to the Gentiles] 14 in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.**”

ILLUSTRATION

When we were in Israel, we heard a story about an Arab who came to believe in Jesus. He had two Jewish friends.

He shared with them about meeting Jesus, but, at first they weren’t interested.

But, through a series of circumstances, they saw remarkable things happening in his life, asked him out to lunch and asked him what was going on. He told them, “It’s Yeshua [Jesus]. You should believe in Him. You’re the chosen people; He’s your Messiah!”

And they did!

And so, one day, when the world of Gentiles turns to Jesus, there will be an enormous longing amongst the Jews for their Messiah, Jesus, and then the longing will turn to action

C. There will be a huge turning to Jesus amongst the Jews (v. 26-27)

Romans 11:26-27 “**And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins.’”**

One of the fascinating things we heard while we were in Israel is that right now, there is a plan shaping in China amongst the underground Church, estimated at 70 to 100 million believers in Jesus, to send 100,000 preachers, teachers and church planters across the Far East through much of the former Soviet Union and into the Middle East (mostly Muslim nations), and ultimately to Israel.

If we see a large turning to Jesus amongst the Muslims then there will be peace between the Arabs and the Jews, and then Israel will turn to Jesus as well.

Prophecy #2:

II. Israel Will Be Center-Stage at the End of This Age

A. A new temple will be built *in Jerusalem*

A new temple with the OT temple sacrifices beginning again.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 “**He [the anti-Christ] will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**” (cf. Daniel 9:27)

So, in addition to the temple being built, the anti-Christ will defile the temple and set himself up to be worshipped as God Himself.

B. Jesus’ Second Coming ... He destroys the armies of anti-Christ coming against Israel and touches down on *the Mount of Olives*

Zechariah 14:4a “**On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem ...**”

Revelation 19:11-20:6: Jesus returns and destroys the enemies of God, and rescues Israel.

C. 1,000 year reign of Jesus on Earth *in Jerusalem*

Revelation 20:1-8

Ezekiel 40ff: Millennial temple and sacrifices

D. Final destruction of all the enemies of God

Revelation 20:7-9: At the end of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus, the enemies of God come to attack Jerusalem. God destroys them.

E. Establishment of God’s Kingdom on a new Earth

READ Revelation 21:1ff “**new Jerusalem**”

II. Israel Will Be Center-Stage at the End of This Age

And, now, let's come back to the present times ...

III. How Should We Respond to Israel and the Jewish People Today?

A. We should help them

Romans 15:26-27 **“For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. 27 They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. *For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.”***

As a church, we financially assist Mount Carmel Assembly, a Messianic Jewish congregation in Israel.

This church is reaching out to Jews and Arabs in Israel and is having a great impact. They are conducting evangelism amongst Jews and Arabs, developing leadership, planting churches, building unity between Arab Christian leaders and Messianic Jewish leaders, and helping women refugees and their children who are fleeing African/Muslim nations.

So, when you give financially through this congregation, part of what you give is assisting Mount Carmel Assembly in Haifa, Israel.

B. We should pray for them

Psalms 122:6 **“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure.’”**

Pray for the peace of the Messiah to be in their hearts, for the peace of Messiah to fill Jerusalem and all Israel.

C. We should stand with them

Genesis 12:1a, 3a **“The LORD had said to Abram, 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse ...”**

I am not an expert on foreign policy, but I believe the Bible teaches that how persons and nations respond to Jews and Israel will have Divine consequences.

Show slide: t-shirt photo of nations that came against Israel and the results.

“We can love Israel w/o romanticizing Israel.”

“We can stand w/ Israel w/o agreeing with every thing the government does.”
(Peter Tsukahira @ conference at Mount Carmel Assembly)

As a nation, will we stand with Israel or against?

This will determine whether God blesses us as a nation or curses us.

I realize this touches on the realm of politics. But, first, it’s a biblical issue. And how our nation responds to God’s will affects how God responds to our nation.

D. We should seek to bring them to Messiah Jesus, Yeshua

Christians are not trusted by Jews as a whole, and there’s good reason ... history of anti-Semitism.

Love them. Serve them. Bless them.

CONCLUSION

Just as God made a covenant with Israel, some parts of which will be fulfilled in the future, so He has made a covenant with the rest of the world.

Jesus Himself is God’s covenant. When we make peace with Him through faith, we make peace with His Father.

He adopts us into His forever family, in this life and in the life to come.

“Father in Heaven, I accept Jesus as my Messiah to forgive my sins and lead my life. Thank You for offering me a place in your family! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”