

## **“All Israel Shall Be Saved’ - God Fulfills His Promises - Part 1”**

### **Review:**

- ***Last time we finished up our series of studies on the Rapture, the Catching Up into heaven’s glory of the Church, the Body of Christ. We had begun with Paul’s wonderful explanation in Romans 11 regarding the setting aside of Israel in God’s redemptive plan and then in the Thessalonian letters we saw in successive studies how the Church, the Body of Christ, functions in God’s redemptive plan for the ages. We saw last time how God sees this heavenly body of believers and what his work is today under grace through that company of saints. While the world is in darkness during this Dispensation of the Grace of God due to the working of Satan through his counterfeit system of evil, that will come to a close according to the detailed revelation of Prophecy, whether Old Testament or New Testament. When it does, the focus of God will turn again to his people the Jews and the nation of Israel will again become the central focus of mankind in the world, in effect, the Lord God at that time resetting the Prophetic calendar and the program for Israel redemption.***
  
- ***That period when God again refocuses on his people the Jews is called in Jeremiah 30:7 “the time of Jacob’s trouble.” And as we have seen in so many ways already, the removal of the church from the earth occurs before the Tribulation begins and that that removal, the Rapture, will be the official end point thereof of the current dispensation.***
  
- ***Today, somewhat sadly for me, we are leaving our major focus on the Dispensation of God’s Grace behind. We will be considering the Biblical teaching on that part of the redemptive time line that follows the Rapture of the Church. But for review, let’s consider for a moment what we last looked at in Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians chapter 2. There in verses 6 & 7 Paul describes in its essence what Satan will be doing in the Tribulation period. He does that by revealing a component of the Sacred Secret revealed to him for us, called the “Mystery of Lawlessness”. He had already taught the believers regarding this when he was with them for three or four weeks just after founding that assembly. But false teachers had confused the believers greatly teaching that they had already entered the Tribulation period contrary to Paul’s teaching. In 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul answers the false teachers in this way:***
  - ***2 Thess. 2:6-7:*** And now ye know what withholdeth that “he” might be revealed in his time: For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
    - ***κατέχω, to hold down, suppress, prevent***

- . . . *the [sacred] secret of the lawlessness*
- . . . *is already at work, but he is restrained*
  - *He will not be openly revealed until he is revealed as “the man of lawlessness”.*
  
- *The Greek word here translated “let” is the same word translated “withholdeth” in the previous verse (κατέχω). That is a far better translation (at least to our current American English ears). Is. 43:13 proves, by the way, that the translators of the KJV sometimes used the word “let” very differently that we do today! This is very interesting, isn’t it.*
  
- *The meaning here is truly profound - he is holding it back from its full manifestation that will occur when he (or it) is “taken away” as the KJV puts it. This is apparently about the rapture as well. When it has been “taken away” or removed, then the full force of Satan’s working will be revealed. Of course that will be after the Rapture since it is the church itself that is the restrainer here. It is not the Holy Spirit as many teach. That comes from anti-dispensational and highly Catholic teaching. The Holy Spirit will be VERY active during the Tribulation. But so will also be Satan who will be revealed there in the person of the false prophet and the beast.*
  
- *This is an amazing teaching. It tells us that Satan, the arch-deceiver, has crafted a plan of deception for today, for we who are living under grace, and of course also for those who are still unsaved. This satanic work is designed to counterfeit the work of God and to use lying signs and miracles to convince many to follow after him. This will deceive many saints and also suppress the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God. this is exactly what we see today and it has characterized christendom from the beginning. Many cults such as Catholicism have arisen out of these Satanic lies and other false religions as well such as the Muslim.*
  
- *Now our final comment on this section: The words “. . . until he be taken out of the way”*
  
- *The Apostle then continues to Reveal the Character of the Lawlessness In the Tribulation Period:*

**2 Thess. 2:8-12**

**8** And then shall that Wicked [or the Lawless One] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,  
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a [the] lie:  
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- And then shall that Wicked [shall] be [finally openly be] revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ***This “Wicked” one is none other than THE lawless one, a murderer and liar from the beginning.***
- ***But note that the timeline of the Rapture is revealed here in the simple words “and then”. Again we see that these events that we know from Daniel and Revelation cannot occur UNTIL the church has been removed from this earth. When that has occurred, then will occur “the apocalypse of the lawless one”, a literal translation that reveals so much. Anti-Christ is truly substituting himself for the Christ of God, is he not?***
- . . . whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders: ***This will then be openly revealed to be full blown and in no way restrained as is today. The focus by those who name the name of Christ today on the supernatural (miracles, signs, and lying wonders) is a misguided focus and Satanic at its core. It is not God working these miracles today but Satan (if they are even real, that is, and not just lies promoted in order to deceive the believers and others who have been captured by their lies). But in the Tribulation period it will be far worse as Satan’s emissaries including the anti-christ ultimately work these miracles in their fullness without restraint.***
- ***Again, Paul is referring to Prophecy here not because his subjects are living or will be living in the Tribulation period, but because when they understand the great contrasts they will know the truth of what he writes. This is a very powerful form of argument and entirely valid. May we fully comprehend it as Paul intends it to be understood and not twist the words to mean something they cannot mean as is so often done. It is so critically important to understand the character of the times being described by the apostle here, isn’t it?***

***The Apostle now turns to the subject of encouragement based on his***

**very effective Rapture teaching. Both the second chapter and the third chapters of 2 Thessalonians end with encouragement. And indeed, may we always be encouraged as I am sure they were in that day.**

- **The Apostle Exhorts Us Based on the Abundance of Grace**

- ***Well, with this background, can you anticipate how the apostle might now proceed to exhort the Thessalonian believers (and also us of course as we live also in the same dispensational period as they)? If he were to exhort them based on the sufficiency of God's grace towards them, how might he do it? A challenge for you might be to write such an exhortation yourself based on what we know of his teachings. But it could not be better than what he actually wrote at the end of this letter:***

**2 Thess. 2:13-17**

**13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:**

**14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.**

**16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,**

**17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.**

- ***Note that this is an exhortation according to the essence of God's grace working in us today. He exhorts according to grace and it is implied by that fact that we will not ever be in the time of Jacob's trouble:***

- ***But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **The facts of our eternal redemption are recounted by the apostle here. From the beginning [even from before the foundation of the world] we were chosen to this great salvation. We were set apart for this momentous work of God by the Spirit and our belief of the truth was significantly right in the very center of that. Belief of the truth is what brought*****

***this salvation to us and our testimonies in that regard are most precious.***

- Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ: ***The power behind our salvation was communicated through Paul's gospel, the gospel of the grace of God. The result of its work in our hearts was the gift of the glory of Christ to us as our possession. Amen and amen!***
- Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle: ***So the graciousness of it all is clear. Based on those incontrovertible facts, we are to live accordingly. Not the other way around as it would be if we were not living under grace but law. FOR UNDER GRACE, THE FREE GIFT COMES FIRST, AND THEN THE LIFE FOLLOWS. FRUIT FLOWS FROM A LIVING TREE AND IT IS THE MOST NATURAL THING.***
- ***There is clearly nothing here about watching, signs, enduring, keeping the commandments, etc. as you might expect if this were the final exhortation of the apostle to his dear children who were to anticipate the coming of the the "time of Jacob's trouble".***
- ***This exhortation is based on the facts pertaining to salvation under God's abundant grace. Phrase by phrase and word by word, this exhortation extolls the free and abundant grace of God, entirely based on the completed work of Christ on the cross for sinners such as ourselves.***
- ***Truly, God's grace IS always sufficient - and it is most wonderful! Amen?***

### **Our Outline Today:**

- ***The Foundation of Our Understanding: The "Election" of Almighty God***
- ***Next time: The Olive Tree: An Overview of the Dispensational Plan Regarding Israel & The Rapture: The Fulfillment and Culmination of God's Abundant Grace***
- I. ***The Foundation: Divine Election is Established by the Promises Given to the Fathers (Romans 9):***
  - ***Near the end of chapter 11 of the Romans, the Apostle reveals the transitional event between the two dispensational workings of God,***

***between the Dispensation of the Grace of God and the Tribulation Period. But the context of that is found in the previous two chapters and in the earlier verses in chapter 11. To understand this better, today I want us to focus on the chapters and verses that lead up to Paul's teaching there at the end of chapter 11.***

***In summary of those scriptures, we note the following:***

- ***Chapter 9: Paul's great concern expressed here is for the Jews, for the nation of Israel. These were his own people and his heart was breaking over their rejection of their own messiah. But, he notes, that rejection was prophesied and also an elect remnant was part of that prophetic message. To show that the apostle writes this:***
  - ***Rom. 9:3-8***

**3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:**

**4 Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises;**

**5 Whose [are] the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.**

**6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they [are] not all Israel, which are of Israel:**

**7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, [are they] all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

**8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these [are] not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**

**...**

**11 (For [the children] being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)**
  - ***To summarize: Not all those who were the natural and physical descendants of Abraham are counted under the terms of the "seed" promises. Only those who are of the election are so counted and the successive selection of God from generation to generation proves that. So Ishmael and his descendants and Esau and his descendants are excluded.***
  - ***Other key verses here must include these:***

**Rom. 9:27** Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

**Rom. 9:29** And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

**Rom. 9:30-33**

**30** What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

**31** But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

**32** Wherefore? Because [they sought it] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

**33** As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. [see Is. 8:14-15 and 28:16 for these references]

- ***So, God raised up a savior for Israel, even their Messiah. But although they were seeking righteousness according to the Mosaic Law, they did not find it. They were seeking it according to their works and not according to faith. They therefore “stumbled” at the “stumbling stone”, even their own Messiah, our Lord Jesus. Amen. To stumble there and not to come by faith receiving his righteousness, even the righteousness which is “of faith” brings condemnation and judgment as Israel discovered. But the Gentiles were not under the Law and God has set aside Israel so that the grace of God independently of Israel and the Law might come to those who believe.***

## **II. The Foundation: Election is Established by the Faith Requirement (Romans 10):**

**Rom. 10:1-4**

**1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

**2** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

**3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

- ***So, faith is the key here in chapter 10 while the promise and election were keys in chapter 9:1-29. The very righteousness of God is required for salvation. The Jews missed that by trying to establish their own righteousness as so many have done through the ages. May we never make that mistake. Adding works to faith as a “requirement” of salvation under the gospel of grace, however that is done [as the cults always do, of course], is to cancel the free gift and replace that gift of God’s righteousness with our own. That is never acceptable before God and never will be, for it glorifies man and not God [or even Satan himself]. Satan is the master of religion for that reason.***

**III. The Foundation: Election Explains Israel’s Setting Aside (Romans 11):**

- ***Chapter 11: This chapter is largely about Israel’s “cutting off” due to their unbelief and God’s elective work in turning therefore to the Gentiles. This chapter is most profound, perhaps one of the most profound in the Bible and a critical one indeed for those who would understand scripture and through it the very mind of God. He opens the chapter with this question in verse 1:***

***Rom. 11:1 -4***

1 I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, [of] the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to [the image of] Baal.

- ***This is the critical question the apostle is answering in these pivotal chapters of the Romans. Paul means here “cast off” in an absolute sense, never to return to them again.***

***This is actually the theological view of most of those who name the name of Christ. Their non-dispensational interpretations and so-called “spiritualizing” of scripture prevents them from understanding Paul’s line of thinking entirely. Yes, there are some Jews who are saved today under grace, but that will not prevent God***

*from carrying out his plan for Israel in the future. And that is exactly what he writes about as he continues here in chapter 11. The church in no way cancels or substitutes for Israel in God's eternal plan. Many, many false teachers promote this teaching today as always.*

**[READ ] Rom. 11:5-7**

**5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**

**6 And if by grace, then [is it] no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if [it be] of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.**

**7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.**

- *The "election of grace" mentioned here is not the same as the election referred to in 9:11 where the apostle is writing about Abraham's lineage and how only some were included under the terms of the promises. PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD WHO HAS SOVEREIGNLY INCLUDED US IN THIS AUGUST GROUP!*

**ANY TESTIMONIES?**

**Conclusions / Exhortation:**

***Today: The Foundation of Our Understanding: The "Election" of Almighty God***

***Next time: The Olive Tree: An Overview of the Dispensational Plan Regarding Israel & The Rapture: The Fulfillment and Culmination of God's Abundant Grace***