

SESSION 7: *The Significance of Israel in God's End-Time Purposes*

I. LAYING A FOUNDATION: UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM

- A. The Battle for Jerusalem is one of the most significant battlefronts in the *spirit* today.

It is central to the Armageddon Campaign and Jesus' Second Coming to reign as King of the whole earth. Gentile believers have a significant role in this battle. Therefore, the Church must understand it.

- B. Jesus insists that the Church *stand* with His purposes for Israel.

This is not optional but rather is a litmus test of the Church's obedience, especially in the End Times (a litmus test is a test that uses a *single indicator* to make a decision). The highest issue in serving God's purpose in Israel is in *obeying* Jesus' sovereign leadership. We love Him, therefore, we embrace whatever He wants. We want to do what He does and love what He loves, that is the first reason that we are interested in this.

- C. The Armageddon *Campaign* is a war for Jerusalem.

The Armageddon Campaign lasts for 3½ years and ends with the Battle of Jerusalem.

Why? Whichever man wins this war will be worshipped and will rule the whole earth from Jerusalem. After Jesus wins this war and is received by Israel in Jerusalem as their King, then Satan will be cast into prison (Rev. 20:1-3) and the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20).

This is the predominate thing on their mind as they wage war against God and His people.

Behold, a white horse. He (Jesus) who sat on him...judges and makes war...15 Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...16 He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...19 I saw the beast (Antichrist), the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (Jesus)...20 Then the beast (Antichrist) was captured, and with him the false prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire...20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of...Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him... (Rev. 19:11-20:3)

- D. Jesus will not rule Jerusalem until He is *officially* invited by the Jewish leadership to be their King.

As leaders in position to be heirs of Abraham's Covenant, they act as the official representatives of the nation's covenant with God. Adam was in the position to legally give his authority to Satan (Luke 4:6-7). In a similar way, these leaders will legally give the authority of the nation to Jesus at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Jesus "bound" Himself by His own prophecy to *only* come back to Jerusalem *after* Israel's leadership invites Him to reign over them. Jesus refuses to force Himself on them as their king. They must be willing. Satan seeks to exploit this prophecy as a "loophole" in God's prophetic plan by controlling Jerusalem and seeing to it that no Jews are alive to invite Jesus back to be king in Jerusalem over Israel. Satan wants to demonstrate that Jesus' prophetic word is false. If Jesus' prophecy is shown forth as a lie, then Jesus could not judge Satan as a liar. Therefore, Satan's strategy is to kill the entire Jewish race.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children together...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)

The devil said to Him (Jesus), "All this authority I will give You...for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever

Lwish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” 8 Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” (Luke 4:6-8)

He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. 12 **Therefore** He said: “A certain nobleman (Jesus) went into a far country (heaven) to receive for Himself a Kingdom (seated at God’s right hand; Eph. 1:20-22) and to return (to Jerusalem at the Second Coming)...14 But His citizens **hated him**, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will **not** have this man to **reign over us.**’ 15 So it was that when He returned, having received the Kingdom...’27 Bring here those enemies...**who did not want Me to reign over them, and slay them....** (Luke 19:11-28)

- E. Israel will first make an official *covenant* with the Antichrist, at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

Jesus will wait until they reverse this decision by asking Him to rule them.

(Is. 28:14-18; John 5:43; Luke 19:11-28; Dan. 9:27; Dan. 11:41, 45; Zech. 11:16; 9:8; Ezek. 38:8-12, 14; 39:26; 1 Thess. 5:3).

At the end of the final seven year period, Israel will reverse this official decision by asking Jesus to be their king who rules over them.

Hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men (leaders of end-time Israel), who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, 15 because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol (hell) we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge (of the Antichrist) passes through, it will not come to us...we have hidden ourselves”...18 Your covenant with death will be annulled (Antichrist will betray his promises to Israel), and your agreement with Sheol (hell) will not stand; when the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it. (Is. 28:14-18)

But you are not willing to come to Me...⁴³ I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name (Antichrist), him you will receive. (John 5:40-43)

- F. First, Jesus will be established as *King* over Jerusalem and Israel by the covenant invitation of the official political leaders of the nation.

After that, He will branch out as His government replaces the evil governments of the nations. In other words, from Jerusalem He will take over the government of every nation (Is. 2:1-4; Mic. 4:1-5; Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 37:28; 43:4-7).

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, the Man (Jesus) whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the Temple of the LORD; 13 Yes, He shall build the Temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His Throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne..." (Zech. 6:12-13)

- G. *Summary:* Jesus prophesied and thus promised that He would *not* come back to Jerusalem until the governmental leaders of Israel received Him as their Messianic King of their own free will.

If Satan kills all the Jewish people, then they cannot invite Him back to rule them. Thus, Jesus' prophetic word would be seen to be a lie. Thus, Jesus could not return to Jerusalem as a righteous King filled with "integrity and truth."

Satan's strategy is also to deceive the entire Jewish race and/or see that Israel is so offended at Him that they will never willingly receive Him as their King. Thus, Israel cannot call Jesus blessed and ask Him to be their King if they are exterminated, deceived or offended.

II. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S *ETERNAL* PURPOSE (REVIEW FROM SESSION 3)

Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)

- A. The centerpiece of God's purpose is for Jesus to establish His *Kingdom* over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together.

This is the interpretive key to understanding the End Times. Jesus will bring heaven and earth together at His Coming, when the New Jerusalem descends to earth (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12) establishing a vital connection with earthly Jerusalem.

- B. Jesus will rule all the nations from His Throne of glory in Jerusalem, bringing both realms together. This will result in Jerusalem having an "open heaven" over it that releases supernatural blessing.

When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him... (Matt. 25:31-32)

At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)

I heard Him (Jesus) speaking to me from the Temple (in Millennial Jerusalem)...7 He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My Throne...where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever." (Ezek. 43:6-7)

- C. Jesus' heavenly *Throne* is also in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:3).

Jesus' one Throne will be in both Jerusalem, as there will be a dynamic convergence between the two Jerusalem.

- D. Jesus rules in heaven as the Son of *God* (New Jerusalem) and He rules on the earth as the Son of *David* (earthly Jerusalem).

The government of heaven and of earth come fully together at the Second Coming. *He is the only one with authority* to bring both realms together.

- E. There will be an explosion of God's glory when the *government* of heaven is joined together with the *government* of the earth.

This will usher in God's fullness on the earth and result in Satan being cast into prison. When the two Jerusalem come together under one Man as the "*resurrection of the earth occurs*" the created order is delivered from the bondage of corruption (Rom. 11:15; Is. 11:6-9; 35:1-8; 65:17-25). This will happen as God's covenant Man is received to rule the earth from Jerusalem. This is why so much spiritual warfare is focused on the Battle of Jerusalem.

III. SATAN WILL BE THROWN INTO PRISON BY A MAN IN COVENANT WITH GOD

- A. The Father could easily cast Satan into *prison* Himself. However, the Father has chosen to defeat Satan through a Man on the earth who walks out all the covenantal requirements of mature obedience to Him.

When Jerusalem is under the government of such a Man, Satan will be sent to prison by that Man. This will result in releasing the glory of God on earth and removing demonic presence from the earth.

- B. Jesus will *reverse* the situation that occurred when Satan defeated Adam in the Garden of Eden. (Gen 3:1-8)

Just as the first Adam *lost* his place of authority to Satan (Luke 4:6), so Jesus as the last Adam *won* that authority back and will use it at His Second Coming to sentence Satan to prison. All will be reversed. As the serpent caused Adam to sin and thus be thrown out of the garden of God's presence, so Jesus will drive the serpent (Satan) out of God's garden in the Millennial earth as he is sent to prison at His Second Coming.

Since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead (for the whole earth). 22 As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 24 Then comes the end, when He (Jesus) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He (Jesus) puts an end to all rule and all authority (that resists God's will)...45 The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit...47 The first man was of the earth...the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 As we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. (1 Cor. 15:21-24, 45-49)

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men...14 Adam is a type of Him who was to come. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned...much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 21 So as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 5:12-21)

- C. In the wilderness temptation, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth (Matt. 4). Jesus refused them, choosing rather to receive them after He embraced obedience to His Father.

Jesus will face Satan again at His Second Coming, as a Man who overcame him in the wilderness temptation and on the Cross (Col. 2:14-15) and thus earning the authority to sentence him.

The devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (Matt. 4:8-9)

Then the seventh angel sounded: There were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He (Jesus) shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15)

IV. SATAN'S RAGE AGAINST JERUSALEM AND ISRAEL

- A. Satan wants to *exterminate* the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah.

John uses a prophetic picture of Israel as a woman being attacked by Satan pictured as a dragon. Satan will seek to totally destroy Israel but God will supernaturally protect her from total annihilation (Rev. 12:13-17; Zech. 13:8-9). The Church will stand with Israel in persecution (Rev. 12:17; Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9-11; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5-7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; Matt. 10:21-22, 28; 24:9; Luke 12:4-7; 21:16-19; John 15:18-16:4).

When the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman (remnant of Israel) who gave birth to the male Child (Jesus). 14 The woman... (escaped) into the wilderness... from the presence of the serpent (Satan). 15 So the serpent spewed water... like a flood after the woman (remnant of Israel), that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood (persecution)... 17 The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring (Church), who... have the testimony of Jesus. (Rev. 12:13-17)

- B. The Great Tribulation will be the most *severe* time in history for all (Israel, Church, unbelievers).

For believers, this life is the worst that it will ever be. However, for unbelievers, this life is the best that it will ever be. The Great Tribulation will be the worst of the worst for unbelievers.

At that time (Antichrist: Dan. 11:36-45)...**there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was...7 He** (angel)...**swore...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time** (3½ years); **and when the power of the holy people** (Israel) **has been completely shattered ...** (Dan. 12:1, 6-7)

For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble. (Jer. 30:7)

- C. Satan's attack on the Jews who resist his regime along with God's judgment on reprobate Jews will result in two-thirds being killed and the remaining one-third coming to Jesus for salvation.

It is commonly reported by every reliable source that nearly two-thirds of the European Jews and one-third of the Jews in the world were killed in the Holocaust.

In all the land...2/3...shall be cut off and die...1/3 shall be left (saved) in it (Zech. 13:8).

Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways... (Is. 42:24)

I will turn My hand against you, and thoroughly purge away your dross, and take away all your alloy. 26...Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness...28 The destruction... of sinners shall be together...those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. (Is. 1:25-28)

Israel has become dross to Me...in the midst of a furnace...19 therefore behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. 20 As men gather silver, bronze...and tin into the midst of a

furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in My anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there and melt you. 21 Yes, I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst. 22 As silver is melted in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be melted in its midst; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have poured out My fury on you." (Ezek. 22:18-22)

Who can endure the day of His coming?...For He is like a refiner's fire...3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:2-3)

- D. Israel's condition just before Jesus' Coming is described in Scripture as being in *prison camps* and assaulted by foreign armies.

This is one of the *most prominent features* in Scripture about the Second Coming (Is. 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 40:10-11; 42:6-7, 14-17, 22-24; 49:9-12, 19-21, 24-25; 61:1; 66:20; Jer. 23:3-8; 30:3-9; 31:1-23; Ezek. 20:33-44; 39:25-29; Hos. 11:10-11; Amos 9:8-15; Joel 3:1-2; Mic. 2:12-13; 4:6-7; 5:3-9; 7:12-15; Zeph. 3:17-20; Zech. 9:9-10; 10:10-11).

This truth is usually dismissed and ignored. This reveals the nature of Satan's rage against Israel as well as the intense measure that God will use to purify Israel and the Church.

- E. When Jesus returns, hostile anti-Semitic nations will have once again imprisoned and taken Jewish people captive, even scattering some of them across the nations.

There will be another deportation of Jewish captives before the Lord returns. We do not know the number or percentage of citizens that will be taken. Zechariah prophesied that half the city of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity. How staggering!

About 600,000 Jews currently live in Jerusalem. Half the city of Jerusalem being deported could be as many as 300,000 Jewish people!

God will draw the nations to Israel and so will Satan. They will have different reasons for doing this.

For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (Zech. 14:2)

I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel... (Joel 3:2)

For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. (Rev. 16:14)

- F. Many Jewish people will be deported out of the land of Israel against their will.

Some of those in Israel will flee, some will stay in Jerusalem; and of those who stay, some will be supernaturally protected and some will join the evil regime of the Antichrist.

Still others will be raised up by God as missionaries, "sent ones" to come and go to the nations. There will be different responses to God in Israel during this time period.

- G. God requires the Church to *stand* with Israel in this (Corrie ten Boom, Bonhoeffer, etc.) The Church is brought to maturity and evaluated based on our responses to Jesus' leadership in standing with Israel (Matt. 25:31-46).

The litmus test of obedience will be in standing with Israel in this hour. This will divide and purify the Church. Many who profess faith in Jesus will fall away from the faith at this time (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:3). At the same time many will be converted to Christ. In this God will join Jews and Gentiles together in a deep unity (Eph. 2:15).

That He might cleanse her...27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:26-27)

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy... (Jude 24)

So as to create in Himself One New Man from the two (Jews and Gentiles), thus making peace, (Eph. 2:15)

- H. Jesus will suddenly bring deliverance and *reverse* all Israel's oppression as He kills her enemies.

Then Jesus will restore Israel to the land with God's favor making her the nation that leads all the nations of the earth. Israel's children will come from all the nations in which they were held captive (Is. 49:22-26).

V. JERUSALEM IS THE VORTEX OF GOD'S END-TIME DRAMA

Repent therefore and be converted, that your (Israel's) sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive (retain) until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets... (Acts 3:19-21)

- A. The victor of the Battle for Jerusalem will be *worshiped* and govern the earth from there.

A portal in the spirit will be opened to release great blessing on the whole earth as the New Jerusalem descends from heaven and connects with Jerusalem on the earth. Thus, an open heaven will be established over that city that will lead to the restoration of all things worldwide.

- B. Jesus already *won* the war on the Cross. However, Satan will *not* be cast into prison until after the battle for Jerusalem is decisively won and under the governmental leadership of the Son of David.

Jesus will not take Jerusalem from the sons of Abraham (Jewish leaders of Israel) by the force of arms, but only on *covenantal terms* of invitation and *after all* the nations understand it.

- C. Satan is focused on *avoiding* this prison sentence that later leads him to being cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10).

His primary agenda is not to keep people out of heaven, but to stay out of prison. Satan hates it when people get saved. However, Satan's main rage is not against humans (that is second on his agenda), but on staying out of prison.

Satan is using terrorists to destroy Jerusalem (not mega-ministries). He is not threatened by many "successful" ministries because they are usually disconnected from the Battle for Jerusalem that pertains to Satan's prison sentence.

*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)*

- D. The gospel of the kingdom is that Jesus is a King who is coming to confront and replace all the evil governments of the earth.

This will happen in context to a great war after the imposter is given opportunity to establish a worldwide empire to resist Jesus as the coming king. The doorway into this kingdom is by freely receiving the gift of forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus' death on the Cross is the basis of His victory over Satan and of our forgiveness. The gospel of the Kingdom must never be reduced to the necessary yet introductory message of the offer of forgiveness.

VI. THE CALL TO THE CHURCH TO *ENGAGE* IN THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

- A. Part of our spiritual warfare includes making prophetic proclamations to *Israel*.

*“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. 2 “Speak comfort to *Jerusalem*, and *cry out to her*, that *her warfare is ended*, that *her iniquity is pardoned...*” (Is. 40:1-2)*

- B. Part of our spiritual warfare includes making prophetic proclamations to the Gentile nations.

We must shout it, declare it, decree it and sing it so that all the nations of the earth hear the message.

God in His mercy and justice gives all nations a witness of the coming conflict along with an offer to participate with Him in establishing His kingdom. (Matt. 24:14)

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!’” 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth...a great throng shall return there. 9...for I am a Father to Israel...” 10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.” (Jer. 31:7-10)

VII. PRINCIPLE: HONOR GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY BY BLESSING ISRAEL

God promised Abraham that any Gentile that blessed Abraham or his offspring, the Jewish people, would be blessed by God. This principle has operated throughout all of history. It will have significance during the Great Tribulation and then afterwards during the transitional period.

I will bless those who bless you (Abraham's family), and I will curse him who curses you. (Gen. 12:3)

(Isaac to Jacob) Let peoples serve you, and nations (Gentiles) bow down to you...cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you! (Gen. 27:29)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you." (Ps. 122:6)

Blessed is he who blesses you (Israel), and cursed is he who curses you. (Num. 24:9)

VIII. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S MYSTERY (HIDDEN PLAN) CONCERNING ISRAEL

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be IGNORANT of this mystery (hidden plan), 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 So ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED, as it is written: "The Deliverer (Jesus) will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Rom. 11:25-26)

- A. Paul proclaimed three vital parts of God's plan that all must understand in order to cooperate with God's end-time purposes and the large end-time ingathering of souls.

Paul wanted the Gentile believers (in Rome) to understand God's plans for the salvation of the nations.

First, *all Israel will be saved* (v. 26) and brought to fullness (v. 12) in context to the events related to Jesus' Second Coming. Second, Jewish people have a *temporary spiritual blindness* (v. 25) related to seeing Jesus as Messiah. Third, the *Fullness of the Gentiles* will provoke Israel to seek Jesus (v. 25, 11).

- B. Paul's urgency is that we not be ignorant of this mystery.

Why? So that Gentile believers would be equipped with revelation so as to stand firm in the unique end-time pressures that will come against the Church related to Israel.

Some believers who lack understanding will progressively draw back in compromise resulting in some denying their faith, thus being cut off by God.

Do not boast against the branches...20 Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches (Israel), He may not spare you either. 22 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. 11:18, 20-22)

C. First, all Israel will be saved (v.26) and brought to fullness (v. 12) in context to the events related to Jesus' Second Coming.

~ The millennial reign of Jesus is the first time in history in which all Israel will be saved and brought to fullness (maturity; Rom. 11:12) resulting in life from the dead (Rom. 11:15) for the whole world.

All Israel being saved means that literally 100% of the Jewish people who survive the Great Tribulation will be born again believers in Jesus.

D. Second, Jewish people have a temporary spiritual blindness (v. 25) related to seeing Jesus as Messiah.

If the Church is ignorant of this "supernatural blindness," then we will wrongly conclude that God will not use Israel in a future prominent role in His salvation *purposes* (in the millennium). Israel's present blindness does not mean that Israel has "fallen" from her original calling to have this future primary role.

God has NOT given up on using Israel as His primary instrument to establish His Kingdom on earth.

- E. Third, the Fullness of the Gentiles (v.25) will provoke (v. 11) Israel to seek Jesus.

The Fullness of the Gentiles speaks of the coming of the greatest revival in history. The Gentiles' fullness will bring hundreds of millions (Rev. 7:9) of new radical believers together in the Holy Spirit as a mighty intercessory weapon in God's hand to break the spirit of blindness off of Israel.

The Gentiles were used as God's primary vessel of salvation to the nations during the last 2,000 years. They will be dynamically used in ushering in salvation to Israel (Rom. 11:25-26).

IX. PAUL'S URGENCY THAT ALL UNDERSTAND AND NOT BE IGNORANT (ROM. 11:25)

- A. We must be equipped with understanding so as to not *deny* our faith in the end-time pressures.

The progression of ignorance: *ignorance* can become *arrogance*, which can become *passive resistance*, then *active resistance* (progressively cooperating with those who persecute Israel) and then *apostasy*.

Do not boast against the branches...20 Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches (Israel), He may not spare you either. 22 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. 11:18, 20-22)

- B. If this passivity continues then it may grow into arrogance with the risks of denying their faith and thus being cut off by God.

In other words, some believers who lack understanding will progressively draw back in compromise resulting in some actually denying their faith.

- C. This is reason for Paul's urgency that we not be ignorant of this mystery.

Why? So that Gentile believers would be equipped with revelation so as to stand firm in the unique end-time pressures that will come against the Church related to Israel.

Ignorance can lead to arrogance (Rom. 11:18, 20-22, 25) or boasting against God and His plan.

X. WARNING OF A FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH IN THE END TIMES

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Second Coming) and our gathering together to Him (Rapture)...³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed... (2 Thess. 2:1-3)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... (1 Tim. 4:1-2)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. (Heb. 6:4-6)

- A. Jesus prophesied of a falling away in the End Times. (Mt 24:10,12)

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Matt. 24:9-13).

Session 7 Study Guide Questions

- Where does my faith rest in standing with God and Israel? What pressures will the end-time Church feel in regard to standing with Israel?
- Why does Jesus need to be invited back into Jerusalem to rule? Why doesn't He just take over, and what does this say of His leadership?
- What are the differing connotations between the names "Son of David" and "Son of God"? How can Jesus be both?
- Many professing German Christians turned a blind eye to the Holocaust of World War II. In our age of information, how could I see a second denial of the truth like this?