

Romans 9, 10, 11
House of Wisdom, P. O. Box 2765, Burleson, TX 76097
Email: woody@DTGMinistries.org
02 December 2008

Romans 9:1-4: *1. I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing [testimony with me] in [a] holy [spirit], 2. That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3. For I could wish that myself were accursed (set aside) from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4. Who are Israelites; to whom pertains 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.* [K J Bible quoted, with alternate translation] (meaning broadened)

The Apostle Paul referred to himself as a Pharisee, a Hebrew of the Hebrews (Phil 3:5), and in these verses lets it be known his love and concern for his countrymen. This idea sets the tone for the next few chapters as he lays out what has happened, and will happen to Israel. In the process, he makes a distinction between the literal nation, as those having the law, tabernacle services, etc, and the spiritual nation coming about as a result of those accepting that Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed One, and the spirituality of the law. *Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all (spiritual) Israel, which are of (literal) Israel:* (Rom 9:6). (spiritual Israel identified by (S) & literal Israel by (L))

Jew and Gentile called: The promise given to Abraham was that *in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed* (Gen 22:18). On Pentecost, Peter attributes that seed as being Christ (Acts 3:25-26), as does Paul (Gal 3:14-20). Paul also makes a distinction in the seed of Abraham as children: **Rom 9:7-8:** *7. Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children (S): but, In Isaac shall thy seed (S) 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.* This distinction is also made another way by using Abraham's life allegorically: **Gal 4:22-26:** *22. For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. 24. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which [gives birth] to bondage, which is Hagar. 25. For this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem (L) which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26. But Jerusalem (S) which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

So, concerning the Jews, they were viewed by the early church as literal, earthly, i.e. those observing the letter of the law; or, as spiritual Jews, i.e. those observing the spirit of the law (circumcised in heart - Rom 2:28-29). Paul goes on to explain that in His mercy (kindness - verse 16), God did this. **Rom 9:22-24:** *22. What if God, willing to shew [the] wrath (in mankind), and to make his power (might) known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23. And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24. Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?* While the nation Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah (Rom 9:33), a remnant did accept him (verses 27, 29). It is this remnant of Jews God used to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, of which Paul was a primary contributor. These Jews and Gentiles became spiritual Israel.

The question is asked, *What then, shall we say?* i.e. How did the Gentiles, who did not have the law, attain to righteousness, and on the other hand, the Jews, who had the law, knew the prophecies and expected the Messiah but did not attain it? The reason is that the Gentiles obtained righteousness by faith - hearing God in the conscience, and doing what He told them (Rom 2:14-15). The Jews kept the letter of the law according to their own understanding: **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 (God's) knowledge. 3.*

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness (in their own wisdom), have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4. For Christ is the [objective] of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (read also 10:5-11)

Israel rejected forever?: Many years, now, we have been applying allegorically, many Old Testament stories of Israel to the last day church as spiritual Jews to help us understand the inward completeness that will take place among God's people before He puts an end to this evil world. Will the literal Jews have any part in the end time events? **Rom 11:1-5**: 1. *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? [let it not be]. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.* 2. *God has not cast away his people which he knew before. [Do ye not perceive] what the [writing] saith [in] Elijah? how he makes intercession to God against Israel, saying,* 3. *Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and [undermined] 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.* 5. *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

The phrase *at this present time also* implies that God has had, and does always have a remnant who have not, and do not totally reject Him. **Rom 11:7-8**: 7 *What then? What Israel doth seek after, this it did not obtain, and the chosen did obtain, and the rest were hardened,* 8 *according as it hath been written, 'God gave to them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes not to see, and ears not to hear,' - unto this very day,...* (Young's) Paul continues with the reason for Israel's fall, and the wisdom of God in the arrangement of the events: **Rom 11:11-12, 15, 23-24**: 11. *I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? [let it not be]: but rather through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles for to provoke them to jealousy.* 12. *Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?... 15. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?... 23. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24. *For if thou were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?**

Summary: Paul makes it clear - first, that those of the nations who abide in Jesus as their Savior become a part of spiritual Israel, and second, that literal Jews who do the same also become spiritual Jews. Where were the 7000 in Elijah's day? He felt very alone when Jezebel, wife of Ahab, king of Israel, was seeking his life. Where are the 7000 today? It appears that the nations today are collapsing financially, because of unbridled greed and moral degeneracy having crept into every facet of life. Will the message of truth at the end of the world bring a significant number of Jews to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah? Is God going to graft in literal Israel again?

Rom 11:25-26: 25. *For I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, of this mystery - that you may not be wise in your own self - because hardness in part has happened to Israel until the fulness of the nations may come in;* 26. *And so all Israel (S) shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:* (Literal Greek) Spiritually, there is no difference in Jew and Gentile (10:12). Deliverance will come for literal Jews in the last generation, right before the end. Note the following verses and the process by how Gentile and Jew are saved:

Rom 11:30:32: 30. *For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Jews) unbelief:* 31. *Even so have these (Jews) also now not believed, that through your (Gentiles) mercy they (Jews) also may obtain mercy.* 32. *For God hath concluded them all (Gentile & Jew) in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.* Zion is a figure of the 144,000 who possess the truth of the two witnesses (Rev 11:3-6). From this group comes deliverance, when the nations (Gentiles) reach their fulness. Fulness of

what? The same principle is found in Genesis 15 when God tells Abraham that his seed will be foreigners in a land not theirs, until the 'iniquity' of the Amorites is fulfilled. Unbelievers will be full of self, still carrying their twisted, perverted understanding about God. But God has chosen a time wherein He will set about to put an end of sin. This time is referred to in figurative language.

Lk 21:20, 24-25: *20. And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.... 24. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. 25. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Verse 20 is included because it makes it particularly hard for Bible students, even the theologians, to see beyond the literal destruction of Jerusalem which happened in AD 70, which is a type of what happens spiritually in the end. (Also consider the parallels of Mt 24:15-21 & Mk 13:14-19 and cf Lk 19:37-44). Mentioned above, was Paul's use of a portion Abraham's life to represent two Jerusalem's - the earthly and heavenly. A city is a symbol for a mind-set. Earthly Jerusalem is that mind-set of confusion about God which is destroyed when Christ brings to a person the spirit of truth. This may not immediately affect the person, but cause a gradual change.*

Rev 11:7-10: *7. And when they (two witnesses) might have finished their testimony, the beast ascending out of the [abyss, deep] (waters of the sea - Isa 52:10) shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city (Babylon - 14:8), which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*

The two witnesses represent a message that the last generation (i.e. ones called out by God) gives to the world. The graves (tombs) are those spiritually dead, on whom the message has had no affect for a time. The three and one-half days are an indirect reference to the 'signs' in the sun, moon and stars mentioned in Luke. (see study on Genesis One) The sun, moon and stars are symbols of understanding, which has been discussed many times in others studies. (see studies on the Seal of Rev 6) **Rev 11:11-13:** *11. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither (cf Rev 4:1). And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

After 3 ½ days makes it the middle of the week, as in creation week when the sun, moon and stars are put in place: **Mal 4:2:** *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings...* The 7000 ties back to Elijah, as discussed earlier in the study, and is a symbol of the literal Jews coming into the gospel. However, they will not be accepting the God and Messiah that Protestants teach, but the true God and Father, and Jesus (Yahshua). They too, will come to understand the fact that the Father, the one true God, gave his Son as an act of mercy to all humanity (Rom 3:24-25), and that the Son voluntarily offered himself out of love for us (Eph 5:2). This will be the final sign that it is the end of all things and we will soon be going home. Amen, hallelujah!!