

SERMON: Justification: The Remnant

GOOD Morning OIC,

JUSTIFICATION is the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. OUR JUSTIFICATION is according to God's Plan: Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More, as revealed in the Bible. In recent months the messages of the Book of Romans tells us we can be confident that before time began, we Christians are "The Chosen." The Book of Romans also declares that God, the Sovereign King of the Universe, has placed salvation of all men in the Word and in also in the hands of His Chosen, the Church. Today, we will see how Paul describes God's actions in the past and His plans for the future Jewish Nation.

Take careful note that Paul is disclosing here how the Lord deals with "nations" as distinct from "individuals."

As usual, I will cross reference verses in Romans Chapters 10 and 11 with other verses in the Bible to illustrate many of Paul's statements. The greatest heresies in the Church have been theologies or doctrines that never proved the Bible with the Bible. So please bear with me to make connections to assure God's Truth. If it seems I am wandering from one part of the Bible to another; please wander with me. Please think through the connections between one Scripture to another with me. Please try to look at my Message as a *Great Adventure with God's Word*.

My message for March 24th closed chapter 10 of the book of Romans with the Apostle Paul's statement in **(Romans 10.14-18)** *14 How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? 15 But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"* Then we, His Chosen Church, proclaimed that we accept Jesus' command to Bring the Word of Salvation to the World by singing, like we did two weeks ago: **(Matthew 16.18)** *I will build My Church and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.* The Church is trusted by God to be responsible to *BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" to the world.* Now, what about the Jewish Nation? We

know each sinner, Jew and Gentile must call on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved. But, does God have plans for the Jewish Nation as a society or community?

In **(Romans 10.16-18)** *16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? On the contrary: "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." The Apostle Paul is really repeating what he said back in **(Roman 3.3)** *What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?* Paul also recalls how hundreds of years earlier Isaiah's expressed his personal rejection by Israel to the Lord quoted from **(Isaiah 53.)** *"LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"* Paul knows people must hear the word of Christ, by the Spirit of Christ in Isaiah's time; and now, by the same Spirit by the Gospel preached by the Apostles. Can the Jewish nation claim the excuse of not hearing? Paul says NO! He quotes **(Psalm 19.4).**

Reading from **Psalm 19.1-4/KJ21**

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.

2 Day upon day uttereth speech, and night upon night showeth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

4 Their sound has gone forth through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun,

Is Paul applying this Psalm about God's Creation **always telling of His Glory?** Or, is he depending on his own experience in preaching Christ, over much of the Roman Empire? He must think that the Jews had heard enough in the synagogues he preached in to have really heard the Word of Christ. We know that Paul had used the Witness of Creation in his indictment of gross sinful societies in **(Romans 1.20)** *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

I answer my own question above that Paul was connecting both the witness of the Creation in **(Romans 1.20)** and his preaching to synagogues to The Jewish Nation dispersed threw ought the Roman Empire *so that they are without excuse.*

A side note to newly born-again Christians. You should soon note a special sense of God as you see His Creation in Nature. God may have given this to you as **"prevenient" or "before salvation" grace** as Holy Spirit planted seeds inside your heart. This is a solid awareness of the

Hand of God, the work of Jesus, in the creation. For (**Colossians 1.16**) says of Jesus: *for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.* This is not at all believing that there are gods possessing nature, but the works of God's Hand telling the Glory of Christ. Take time beloved Christians to note this *experiential Christianity* in your everyday life. Since we moved to an apartment next to the Yodogawa River I awake with birds singing. They are praising Jesus, without knowing it, I might say. Christian children's songs are powerful to keep our faith childlike regardless of our extensive knowledge of God. Part of my worship at home is to sing such a children song:

The birdies in the treetops sing their song

The Angels sing His praises all day long

The flowers in the garden blend their hues

Why shouldn't I, Why shouldn't you, Praise Him too?

I am sure Paul's heart was heavy as his people did not sing such songs of Faith.

Now he discloses God's feelings and frustration from quotes of Moses and Isaiah with His first Chosen Nation, and His using the Gentiles to move the Jewish Nation to jealousy.

In (**Romans 10.19-20**) *19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,*

"I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION,

WITH A FOOLISH NATION I WILL ANGER YOU."

20 *And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME,*

I REVEALED MYSELF TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

In (**Romans 10.21**) **21** *But as for Israel, He says, "I HAVE SPREAD OUT MY HANDS ALL DAY LONG TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."*

And, in (**Romans 11.1**) *I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? Far from it! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

In this deep theological discussion of the Jewish nation, we might forget that all the first Disciples of Jesus, including Paul, were all Jews.

(**Romans 11.2-3**) **2** *God has not rejected **His people whom He foreknew.** Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against*

Israel? 3 "Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE." Here we note **His people whom**

He foreknew. Paul is saying that this means God foreknew the nation, not just the individuals before time began. And now, we learn how about 900BC, even His faithful prophet Elijah needed to be reminded of the **Remnant.** Reading in (**Romans 11.4-6**) **4** *But what is the divine*

response to him? *“I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.”* **5** *In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a **remnant** according to God’s gracious choice.* **6** *But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, since otherwise grace is no longer grace.* Elijah was not imagining threats on his life. Elijah had prayed fire down from Heaven to show Israeli people that the LORD GOD is the only God, and Baal is no god at all. Then Elijah and the people killed all the prophets of Baal with the sword; we read in **(1 Kings 19.1-2)** **1** *Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.* **2** *Then Jezebel {wife of Ahab, King of Israel} sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more so, if by about this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them.”* So God reminded Elijah that he was not alone in his commitment to the Lord, nor his fleeing the evil Queen Jezebel. There were other Jews staying true to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In **(Romans 11.7-10)** **7** *What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;* **8** *just as it is written:*

*“GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR,
EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT,
DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.”*

9 *And David says,*

*“MAY THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,
AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.*

10 *MAY THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT,
AND BEND THEIR BACKS CONTINUALLY.”*

Jealousy is a very emotive force in a human heart, and God's heart as well. God says in **(Exodus 34.14)**

*—for you shall not worship any other **god**, because the LORD, whose name is **Jealous**, is a **jealous God**—*

Jealousy can ruin a marriage among men and women, a parallel to God who had married Israel. The attitude of mistrust leads to emotional actions and reactions such as God's judgments, and a spouse's anger or revenge on the *competition* to the marriage. So God knew the Jewish Nation would be provoked to some kind of action or reaction when they saw the Gentiles entering into the Kingdom and Family of God instead of them. We read in **(Romans 11.11-14)** **11** *I say then,*

they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? Far from it! But by their wrongdoing salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous **12** *Now if their wrongdoing proves to be riches for the world, and their failure, riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!* **13** *But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry* **14** *if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them.* We should remember that Paul is discussing the Jewish Nation that missed the Lord Jesus their Messiah. The Apostles had to spend more time, oftentimes giving up on a community of Jews, to redeem the time to preach Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. This is documented in **(Acts 13.45-47)** **45** *But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.* **46** *Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you repudiate it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.* **47** *For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I HAVE APPOINTED YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'*"

The Apostle Paul realizes, that against the desire of his heart for the Jewish Nation, most of them are rejecting the Gospel of Salvation. He quotes the Isaiah prophecy in **(Isaiah 49.6)** *"It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the protected ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* And this is exactly what happened as Paul planted many Gentile churches in communities throughout Asia where no one had ever preached Jesus. Paul had seen this jealousy, that sometimes, almost cost him his life at the hands of the Jews. His commitment to stay true to his calling didn't change his heart for the Jewish Nation.

TAKEAWAY#1

Many times it seems God has forgotten our prayers in the assignment He gives us for Jesus' Glory on Earth. Obedience to His call will fill our hearts with more of Jesus' love and a closer walk with Him. Paul was given the wisdom to know that his preaching to Gentiles actually moved the Jewish Nation to jealousy (Romans 11.14). He also had the prophetic gift of seeing in his heart the Glory that the Jewish Nation would receive during the End Times. Jesus will often surprise us with things we cared about, and forgot; because He cares for us and not just our Call.

We see Paul's prophetic gifting in **(Romans 11.15)** *For if their rejection proves to be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?* Paul is connecting the Restoration of the Jewish Nation with their God to the End Time Resurrection. The connection has much mystery about it yet Jesus had revealed much of God's plan to Paul. Paul's plan to instigate the Jewish Nation he loved as he preached the Gospel, moving toward the End Time. This is more evident in the Amplified Bible **(Romans 11.14-15/AMP)** **14** *in the hope of somehow making my fellow countrymen jealous [by stirring them up so that they will seek the truth] and perhaps save some of them. 15* *For if their [present] rejection [of salvation] is for the reconciliation of the world [to God], what will their acceptance [of salvation] be but [nothing less than] life from the dead?*

Prophetic verses in the Bible always stimulate various interpretations. There is only one perfect and correct meaning known by God, and usually, but not always, known by the human author. Remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ recorded by the Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are primarily written to fulfill what Jesus said in prayer to the Father in **(John 17.8)** *for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they **believed** that You sent Me.* Dr. Luke, not an Apostle, was inspired by Holy Spirit to write Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts. He had a particular friend, Theophilus, on his heart. Dr. Luke, who accompanied the Apostle Paul on missionary journeys, explained his burden in **(Luke 1.1-4)**. *1* *Since many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 it seemed fitting to me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in an orderly sequence, most excellent Theophilus; 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.*

The Good News of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness, can be presented so that children can believe and be saved. Prophetic Books and more difficult to understand writings especially by Paul and Peter were needed to establish a theology to protect the

Sheep of Jesus from *wolves in sheep's clothing*, and give a maturing Christian a closer relationship with Jesus.

TAKEAWAY #2

Most prophetic writings are not totally nor exactly understood by sincere believers until AFTER they have happened. God intends this for it encourages us to stay close to the One who wrote the Bible. Jesus made it clear that watching for His return is inspired by our imperfect knowledge of the prophecies and theology in the Holy Bible. The Bible is given to not only be the Word of Christ to save us; but also, the the Word of God to strengthen our relationship with Him, and at the same time, cause us to have questions that keep us watching for Jesus' Return. Jesus said after He described the events around His return in (Matthew 24.42) *"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."*

Regarding my comments on Paul's dual purpose in his preaching the Single Word of God, the "Expositors Bible Commentary" (EBC) has a similar exegesis on the Book of Romans Chapters 10-11. (EBC) **"Paul now applies to his own position and ministry the truth he has stated. He wants the Gentiles in the Roman church to catch the full import of what he is saying. They have looked on him as "the apostle to the Gentiles." Very well, but they must not suppose that he has lost sight of the need to witness to Israel. His work among Gentiles is not simply as an end in itself but is a means of reaching his countrymen (Romans 10.11). The salvation of the Gentiles is for the sake of God's election of Israel, of whom Paul hopes thereby to save "some" (Romans 11.14)...{Pastor Bruce's deletion} But if God could turn him around, a proud Jew who bitterly set himself against Jesus as the Christ, surely through him others can be won. These others are the "first-fruits," the "remnant"; (Romans 10.5), who contain in themselves the promise of the ultimate harvest of a nation of believers (Romans 10.16)." (EBC)**

My parenthetical statement {**Pastor Bruce's deletion**} : **for I disagree and removed the following explanation by (EBC) in their exegesis or meaning from the word "some" in (Romans 11.14) (EBC) says: ' "save some."in (Romans 11.14) suggests that he does not expect his efforts will bring about the actual eschatological turning of the nation to the crucified and risen Son of God, when "all {not some of} Israel will be saved" (Romans 11.26). This belongs to the indefinite future' says (EBC).** I believe that EBC missed a major reason that the Apostle Paul or anyone preaches Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Preaching the Gospel hastens the **Return of the Lord Jesus.** Jesus made this clear in **(Matthew 24.14) *This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*** Each of us, small or great, who *Preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified* are hastening Jesus' future return. Also all future prophesy has an “indefinite future” or it would not be **prophecy at all.**

But I agree with **(EBC)** in connecting the Jews being saved by Paul's preaching as the *first fruits* or **Remnant.** This reveals God's future plans for the Jewish Nation in what Paul was saying to the Romans, that is, an ultimate harvest of a Jewish Nation of Believers in Jesus. As in **(Romans 11.16) *If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are as well.*** Exegesis or meaning more brought forth in **(Romans 11.16/AMP)** is, *If the first portion [of dough offered as the first fruits] is holy, so is the whole batch; and if the root (Abraham, the patriarchs) is holy, so are the branches (the Israelites).* **We can be sure that God will keep His Promise, His Word to keep a faithful remnant of Jews on Earth until the Messiah returns.**

Holy Spirit led me to chose a few Christian children praise songs today even before I realized how difficult these Bible verses are to exegete and understand. Children trusting their Father, don't shrink back at *mystery.* So, we who know our Father through Jesus, the Son, can be trusted to complete His plan for the Jewish Nation, for the Church, on the whole Earth, and , most personally, in each of our lives. We hunger for knowing the Bible better which is wanting to know God better. Yet we also know that whatever our age, the faith of a child is what keeps us walking victoriously with our Lord Jesus. Please sing along with me the Children song **HAPPINESS IS THE LORD**

shown on the Overhead After these difficult verses it is comforting to remember He loves us and is Lord of Heaven and Earth.

{HAPPINESS IS THE LORD}

Let Us Pray,

REFERENCES

AMP – Amplified Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.

EBC – Expositor's Bible Commentary, Copyright 2004

KJ21 – 21st Century King James Version, Copyright © 1994 by Deuel Enterprises, Inc.

NASB - New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.