

The background of the slide is a photograph of the interior of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, taken at night. The structure is illuminated from within, highlighting the multiple tiers of arches and the intricate details of the ancient Roman architecture. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the massive scale of the amphitheater.

The Epistle to the

# Romans

Israel: Future  
Chapter 11:1-25



# The Outline of History

- Israel's past, present & future are outlined in Jesus' words in the summary of the nation He gives us in **Matt 23:37-39**
- Chuck Missler describes this as the *purpose*, *tragedy* and *triumph* of all history

# Israel Past

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her wings*...

**Matthew 23:37**

# Israel Present

and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

**Matthew 23:37,38**

- This is the underlying theme of Romans 10
- The 'present distress' of Israel

# Israel Future

For I say unto you,

Ye shall not see me henceforth,

till ye shall say,

Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the  
Lord.

**Matthew 23:39**

- Jesus left the nation with a promise & hope

*“The survival of the Jewish people is the greatest proof of the existence of Almighty God. If there were no God in Heaven, there would not be one Jewish person on the earth”*

*“Reluctant Witnesses” - Stephen R. Haynes*



*“Queen Victoria once posed this question to her prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. She asked, “Can you give me one verse from the Bible that proves there is a God?” He thought for a moment and responded, “I can give you the answer in just one word.” “What is it?” she wanted to know. Disraeli replied, “The Jew, Your Majesty.”*





*“An eminent man once said:  
“The universal dispersion of the  
Jews throughout the world, their  
unexampled sufferings and their  
marvellous preservation, would be  
enough to establish the truth of the  
Scriptures if all other evidence was  
cast in into the sea””*

*Reluctant Witnesses - Stephen R. Haynes*



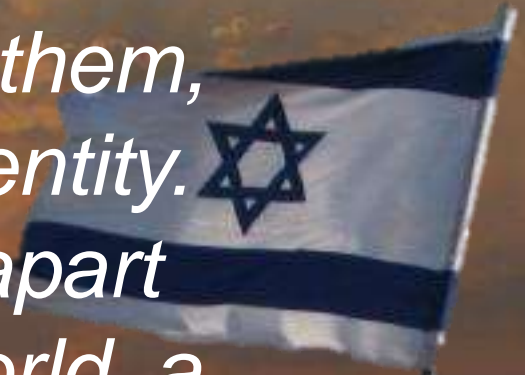
*“The very existence of the Jews in history, together with all that has happened to them in their long turbulent history, is proof that there is a God present and active, through His Holy Spirit, in history. By all normal laws of geography, history and ethnography, they ought as a distinct race to have disappeared long ago!”*

David Torrance



*“Despite wars, persecutions and repeated attempts to obliterate them, they have kept their peculiar identity. They have remained a people apart from the other nations of the world, a testimony to the preserving hand of God. **“For I the Lord do not change therefore , you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed”** (Mal 3:6)*

David Torrance



*“If the Bible is in error concerning Israel, its major subject, then all of the synagogues and Christian churches that claim to base their beliefs upon those scriptures ought to admit that fact and shut their doors. If, however, the Bible is true, then the nations of the world ought to govern their conduct accordingly; for if they do not the consequences will be disastrous”*

Dave Hunt



# Israel

- Contentious issue or key to scripture?
- Has the church replaced Israel as God's chosen people?
- In their rejection of Christ, has national Israel blown it?
- What about the promises made to national Israel?
- How are we to view events in the Middle East today?

# What About Israel?

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Romans 11:1

- The Church began with Jews
- Paul was a Jew and a Christian
- *‘God has not ‘cast away’ the Jews because most of the early Church is Jewish’*

# What About Israel?

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Romans 11:2-4

# Elijah – Alone?

- 1 Kings 17 – Elijah on Carmel
- 450 prophets of Baal vs. Elijah
- God gives Elijah the victory
- Elijah flees for his life for Horeb



# Elijah's Concern

<sup>9</sup> And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

<sup>10</sup> And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

**1 Kings 19:9-10**

# Elijah's Concern

<sup>18</sup> Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

**1 Kings 19:18**

# What About Israel?

Paul makes the point:

- As with Elijah, God had 'reserved' some of Israel for Himself
- So, in the early Church, many Jews had become believers and were saved and had not been 'cast off'

# What About Israel?

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

Romans 11:5

- The BIG question...
- What about national Israel?

# What About Israel?

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.

Romans 11:6

- ...contrasting Israel's attempt to 'get right' with God by works...
- Paul underscores the nature of grace!

# What About Israel?

- Paul restates the question:

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded **(those reserved by God)**

<sup>8</sup> (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Romans 11:7-8

- Isaiah 27:10 / 6:9

# National Blindness

- Jesus' Declaration

41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Luke 19:41-44

# National Blindness

- Jesus' Declaration

43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Luke 19:41-44



# National Blindness

<sup>9</sup> And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompence unto them:

<sup>10</sup> Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

Romans 11:9-10

# Permanent Blindness?

<sup>11</sup> I say then, Have **they** stumbled that they should fall? **God forbid**, but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Romans 11:11

- Is this blindness permanent?
- From the context, the 'they' has to refer to those whose eyes have been blinded (in verse 8)
- i.e. National Israel

# Summary

- Paul is addressing the issue of Israel
- Many Jew's have been saved (reserved)  
(this would include the majority of the early church prior to Paul's missionary journeys)
- The rest of Israel has been blinded due to their unbelief & rejection of Christ
- But the blindness is not permanent
- God has allowed it that salvation may go to the Gentiles
- This will provoke Israel to jealousy

# Israel's Fulness

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?

Romans 11:12

- Through their blindness salvation has come to the Gentiles – this is riches indeed!
- To speak of their 'fulness' would make no sense if they no longer have any part in God's plan!

# Israel's Destiny

- National Israel's blindness is not permanent
- Paul speaks of a time of greater worldwide blessing when National Israel is restored

# Israel's Fulness

<sup>13</sup> For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

Romans 11:13

- Note that Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles
- Peter was the Apostle to the Jews
  - So why does the Roman Catholic church venerate Peter as the 'head of the 'Gentile' church'??
  - There is no Biblical support to the notion that Peter ever went to Rome!

# Paul's Desire

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Romans 11:14

- Paul 'magnifies his office', labouring the point that he is the Apostle to the Gentiles!
- ...to provoke the Jews to jealousy
- That he might save some

# Israel's Destiny

<sup>15</sup> 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?

Romans 11:15

- 'Them' = National Israel
- Through the 'casting away' of Israel, the door has been opened to the Gentiles
- This is yet another verse that mandates the restoration of Israel!



# Divine Perspective

16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

Romans 11:16

- Two divine principles:
  - Acts 10:15
    - Do not call unclean what God (in His foreknowledge) has called clean!
  - Romans 4:17
    - God (in His foreknowledge) calls things (which might not be now as they ultimately will be) as though they already are!
  - We are living testimonies to both these rules!

# Be Careful in Your Boasting!

<sup>17</sup> And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

<sup>18</sup> Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

**Romans 11:17-18**

# A Solemn Warning!

<sup>19</sup> Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

<sup>20</sup> Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

<sup>21</sup> For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

Romans 11:19-21

- A hyperbole?
  - ‘exaggerated statement or claim, not meant to be taken literally’
- Are you willing to take that chance?

# A Solemn Warning!

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off

Romans 11:22



# A Solemn Warning!

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off

Romans 11:22

- Cut off?
  - From our inheritance?
- “*He that overcometh shall inherit all things*”  
Rev 21:7
  - Occurs 27x in 10 verses

# A Solemn Warning!

- Is there a difference between *'entering'* and *'inheriting'* the kingdom?
- Why does John warn that we might not receive a *'full reward'*? – 2 John v8
- And why does he say we can *'lose the things we have worked for'*? – 2 John v8
- Why does Paul say some will be saved *'yet though as by fire!'* - 1 Cor 3:15
- What do the parables about the talents and ten virgins teach us regarding stewardship?

# Divine Horticulture!

**23** And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

**24** For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert 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?

Romans 11:23-24

- Why would anyone consider it a hard thing for God to restore His people?

# Paul's Plea

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this **mystery...**

Romans 11:25

- Ignorance is not befitting a Christian!
- Gr. 'Mysterion'
  - Paul uses this word 20x in regard to something once hidden, but now revealed.
  - Some scholars believe these “mysteries” were revealed to Paul when he was caught up to the third heaven (2 Cor 12:2).
  - They are given to the Church so that we would not be ignorant of God's plan and purposes.



# Paul's Mysteries

- The Mystery of Israel – Rom 11:25
- The Mystery of His Will – Rom 16:25 / Eph 1:9, 3:3, 3:9 / Col 1:26, 2:2
- The Mystery of Christ – Eph 3:4 / Col 1:27, 4:3 / 1 Tim 3:16
- The Mystery of the Bride and Groom – Eph 5:32)
- The Mystery of the Gospel – Eph 6:19
- The Mystery of the Eternal Order – 1 Cor 2:7
- The Mystery of the Rapture – 1 Cor 15:51 / 1 Thes 4:14-18
- The Mystery of Iniquity – 2 Thes 2:7
- The Mystery of Faith – 1 Tim 3:9

# Paul's Summary

<sup>25</sup> For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness **in part** is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:25

- Blindness in part?
  - From the time of Christ, each Jew had a choice:
  - Part accepted Christ (becoming part of the 'ecclesia')
  - Part rejected Christ (suffer spiritual blindness)

# Paul's Summary

<sup>25</sup> For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:25

- When will the fulness of the Gentiles be gathered in?
- When will the last Gentile be saved?
- If we can determine that, we can know when Israel's blindness will be removed.

The background of the slide is a photograph of the interior of the Colosseum in Rome, taken at night. The structure is illuminated from within, highlighting the arches and the tiered seating areas. The top of the image shows the upper levels of the arena, while the bottom shows the lower levels with prominent arches.

The Epistle to the

# Romans

To be continued...