



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 11:1-15
- I Kings 17-19; Isaiah 29:1-16
- Psalms 69:1-21; Eph. 2:11-18

## ONE NEW MAN

- Not Done Yet
- The Stupor
- The Reunion

## SEED:

“I say then, **have they stumbled that they should fall?**

Certainly not! But **through their fall**, to **provoke them** to jealousy, **salvation has come to the Gentiles**. Now **if their fall is riches for the world**, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, **how much more their fullness!** For **I speak to you Gentiles**; inasmuch as **I am an apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry, if by any means **I may provoke to jealousy** those who are my flesh and **save some of them**. For **if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world**, **what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**” Romans 11:11-15 NKJV

## FRUIT:

“For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in

His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that He might **reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you **who were afar off and to those who were near**. For through Him we **both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**” Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV

### **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY’S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS**

We just read how Paul used prophecy from Isaiah to show us why Yahweh turned toward a pagan people who were not seeking after Him and how those who were formally pagans became children of God by faith! Yet, Isaiah continued and also prophesied how Yahweh would not give up on the bloodline of Israel. He will continue to stretch out His hand toward them, even though they are disobedient and rebellious, even though they keep following beliefs that are contrary to what God demands. Paul does not include the particulars in Romans; for that you must go directly to the source. Isaiah’s prophecy continues with the finer details of what Israel’s rebellious behavior entailed—the precise activities that provoked Yahweh to jealousy—maybe the worst of which was that they thought themselves “holier than thou,” even in the midst of their

abominable behavior. God says, “That kind of hypocrisy is a foul stench in My nostrils.”

And still, after all that, is God done with His people? Is He going to cast aside those who come from the bloodline of Israel? Paul reminds us, “It can’t be true. I am one of them, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin—and I eventually came to the truth by faith.” And so will others. It’s also important to be reminded that not all Israel is Israel and you should know what that means by now. Some will be the heavenly Israel, who by faith believe that Y’shua is the long-awaited Messiah. Some will just continue to plod along in the belief that they can please God by their human efforts to obey Him. And others will do neither; they will demonstrate no faith-based, nor human-based obedience, and they will simply perish.

We’ve already learned what the segregation of those two brands of obedience looks like—the good must be separated from the good that is also holy. We solidified concepts that align with the idea that there are two Israels. One is heavenly, one earthly; one stars, the other sand. We will come to see one group as rulers in eternity and the other as citizens. Eventually, we will recognize that there are actually two eternal priesthoods and that must be introduced as well. One is a heavenly pastorate and one is meant to pastor the earth forever. We see one in the scriptures as the kingly

line of priests; they descend from the tribe of Judah. They are the Melchizedek priesthood—the royal heavenly priests—that’s you. The other is an earthly line of priests that descend from the tribe of Levi, the Levitical priesthood. They are both eternal in the new heaven and new earth that comes to be at the very end. However, Paul is about to reveal the mechanism by which a reunion will occur between some who are of the original bloodline of Israel and those who have become Israel by faith and the blood of the Lamb.

Later, in the second half of this chapter, he will use the agricultural analogy of grafting a branch into a root. The root is Christ and some will be grafted in and some won’t. It is introduced here to prepare you. There are two critical things to know as we move forward: One, no matter which branch you stem from, the original bloodline branch, or the pagan branch, EVERYONE must be grafted in if they wish to be included in the heavenly inheritance. That should level the playing field and is consistent with what you already learned; we all have a choice. Two, both branches, the one grafted in and the one not grafted in sit on the good side of the equation. In other words, if you are tempted to believe those who are not grafted in are included in the rebellious group who land in the lake of fire, lose that belief now, or what follows will be impossible to understand. Oh, and one last thing. Paul, like Y’shua,

always builds his theology on the law and the prophets, and this time is no different.

After Elijah's mount caramel victory over the pagan prophets, and his cutting them down by the sword, and the subsequent ending of what was likely a drought that lasted three or more years, he pleads with God to come against Israel. They have a history of killing the prophets because it's easier to dispose of the messenger than to heed the message, and it's no different with Elijah. They want to kill him! Israel likes to build their own altars and worship a god of their own mind, and even in the midst of their abominable behavior, they claim to be "holier than thou."

How does God respond to Elijah's request, and how too should you be thinking about natural Israel? God reminds Elijah that He is not done with Israel. And that is the message Paul wishes to emphasize here. Yahweh has a plan and He has preserved a remnant who have not gone so far off the deep end to worship pagan gods. Prophecy from Jeremiah paints an ugly picture of those who've gone off the cliff; "My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Ba'al." Ba'al is not just the name of a pagan Phoenician and Canaanite deity, but literally means "lord" in Hebrew. And does not the Third Commandment warn of such forgetfulness? "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." That does not

mean what you think, as if the command is to simply refrain from using God's name in a curse. It's literally means, "Do not forget God's name to bring it to nothing." Unfortunately, this is what we do when we only Him Lord, ba'al, and forget His name is Yahweh.

First recognize that the present time to which Paul refers is that in which he is living. Then, decide if it is still true today. We will get to that question in a moment, as it is the Israel vs. Israel dilemma which the rest of this chapter addresses. The heavenly Israel is identified as those who come to God for free, by grace through faith, not by works. If they too needed works to become children of God, then grace would be no different than works and we know otherwise. The grace that inspires faith to believe in Y'shua as the Messiah and Savior of the world is free. The earthly Israel is identified as those who ultimately have a desire to obey God, but they continue in the belief that they have to work for it in their own strength, which naturally contradicts the premise of free grace, unless of course you believe your work is empowered by God. But that would not make sense. If God's power was involved in your obedience, it would necessitate that your obedience be removed from the category of work because work is defined by that which is empowered by man and not God. God's intervention in your salvation, absent your own effort, cannot be considered work, but grace. Otherwise work would be erroneously thought of as grace,

which subsequently ruins the understanding of both grace and work.

The truth is that one side is being blinded. And here again you can see the two Israels. One, the natural earth-bound Israel did not obtain what they were striving for—to be found righteous by their own efforts. The elect—the heaven-bound Israel, those whose righteousness is by faith, are guaranteed a glorious permanent inheritance, one they were not even seeking.

I am not exactly sure how anyone could understand these twenty-five words by simply reading them and casually moving to the next verse. Paul says it is written in place of revealing the prophet's name because this time he builds his theology by combining words from the prophet Isaiah with law from Deuteronomy in one statement. If you are unwilling to pause your reading of the New Testament to investigate the roots of your faith, then you will likely do what so many have done who came before you... invent a new religion. You will still call it Christianity, and simply attach a denomination next to it so we all know which brand it is. Not all are equally as inventive when it comes to doctrine, but some are so egregious that Paul says that at times they are preaching another Jesus. "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different

spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!”

Let’s dive deeper into the spirit of stupor, blind eyes and deaf ears beginning with Isaiah. It’s as if God’s people are in a drunken stupor, but not because of alcohol. The disorientation begins with the leaders and spreads to the people. God is set to punish His people for their rebellious behavior and somehow they believe they are protected, but it’s all a dream. Their protection is as fake as eating and drinking in your sleep and waking to find you are still hungry and thirsty, but it is really your soul that remains lacking. And then if someone comes to explain your reality, it’s as if you are an illiterate person reading a complicated piece of literature. That is one confusing, blinded, and deaf stupor!

This is also the prophecy in Isaiah that Y’shua referred to when He rebuked the religious leaders; “These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me, and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” The end of this prophecy is also the foundation for what Paul taught earlier in Romans about the potter and the clay. “For shall the thing made say of him who made it, “Why have you made me this way?””

From the law Paul references an area that might be best thought of as an exclamation point. Moses says, these are ideas that



came after what happened on Mt. Sinai. Why? Simple logistics can explain! This is at the end of their 40 year journey and the commands were given on Mt. Sinai 50 days into their journey. In summary, Moses is saying, “God’s people have witnessed so many miracles from their deliverance from Egypt 40 years earlier, and all throughout their time in the wilderness with an abundance of His supernatural provision, and yet the Lord has not given them a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.” And that very day continued into Paul’s time 2000 years ago, and has sustained right up to the present day—soon to come to an end!

Paul shifts gears now and depends on the words of King David to cement his theology. Amazing! The Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, used to build doctrine, just as Y’shua did on the Road to Emmaus. “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

This area of the Psalms was likely written regarding the time when David was on the run, in fear for his life, possibly as King Saul sought to eliminate his competition. As such, in a sense, it is a microcosm of Israel vs. Israel. In it David is lamenting over his suffering and begging God for protection. Saul, the King of Israel represents earth-bound Israel, and wants to dispose of David, the King of Israel from whom the Messiah would come, who represents

heaven-bound Israel. The enemy here is earth-bound Israel and David prays, "Let their table become a snare before them, and their well-being a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see." David wants God to wipe them out! "Let no one live in their tents. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." But we know, God has not cast away His people. There remains a legitimate table set before them. Some of them are about to be reunited with those who have inherited God's promises by faith and the blood of the Lamb. And some will have earth to inherit, an earthly priesthood to serve, and in the end they must manage them well. The Israel who are heaven-bound have other places to be and other things to do in eternity!

Has God cast away His people? The question is again on the table and the answer is clear; they have tripped, staggered, blundered, doddered, and blundered, but they are still standing. God has a plan for natural Israel and He has used that pesky bunch of once-pagans to make them jealous. Gentiles have apprehended their God and their Messiah and deep down inside they are extremely bothered. But how beautiful that what Satan has intended for evil, God has used for good. Natural Israel failed and it opened the door for the nations to come into the faith! Now, contemplate this. If their failure allowed such glory, can you imagine what it will look like when their eyes can see Y'shua's glory and their ears can

hear His voice. And if God is sovereign, might we consider the good of those who inherit the earth as well, as they come fully into their inheritance as priests and managers of the new earth.

Paul began with thoughts that he would be the perfect ambassador to the Jewish people, but that quickly went sideways. He then turned to the nations and that became his main calling. He too wanted to make those who rejected him envious of what the Gentiles were receiving—not because he was bitter, but instead because he was desperate for them to know the truth. It was just a few chapters back that he had declared he was willing to surrender his own eternal salvation if his fellow countrymen, who are Israelites, would come to the truth of Y'shua as Messiah. With that much intensity coming from a man, can you imagine how God feels about Israel coming to know His Son? Redemption was made freely available to the whole world because Israel missed Him; when they receive Him the miracle will be exponential.

“Think in Bible.” DJH

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:**

*The Father has been in the business of separating things from the beginning. He separated light from darkness; water in the firmament above from water below; and then water on the earth from the land. When creation was finished, He separated the six*

*days of creation from the seventh; then He rested and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it—called it holy.*

*Paul has been emphasizing this doctrine of separation in what should now be obvious. Chiefly we know this; there are two Israels with two different inheritances, both good, but only one is holy; that's the separation. There is also a third people group whose inheritance is not good, and again we see a separation, this time the bad from the two that are good. So, we count three eternal people groups.*

*Might we use the crosses of Calvary to depict the three? To help, create a picture in your mind—see them atop Golgotha. There is a man in the middle and a criminal on each side. The imagery is striking; there are three crosses on Calvary: the redeemed man, the perfect man, and the rebellious man. One will be a citizen into eternity, one a ruler, and the last a rebel. So, again we count three eternal people groups.*

*Allegorically, these three crosses require two gospels, the gospel of salvation and the gospel of the kingdom. The gospel of salvation moves a man from the cross of rebellion to the cross of redemption; the gospel of the kingdom moves a man from the cross of redemption to the cross of perfection. One man will believe that only his salvation matters and, as such, the gospel of salvation is all that is important. One man will recognize his role in bringing the*

*kingdom of heaven to earth, and thus he will also include the gospel of the kingdom in his repertoire. One man will remain rebellious and believe neither. Which one represents you; which is your ultimate inheritance? Once more we count three eternal people groups.*

*Paul has already made a distinction between the citizens and the rulers; between Israel and Israel, and allegorically between redemption and perfection. One will inherit the earth, the other heaven. And those who inherit neither will inherit eternal flames. Let's disregard that third group here because they just don't care about this topic. They need not come to any civil agreements with the two groups that are good; it is really between the good and the holy that we might feel contention.*

*The Father has been in the business of separating things from the beginning and everyone has a role to play. But here, Paul is about to set the record straight once and for all. God has a plan to bring some of the natural branches of Israel together with the heavenly branches of Israel as one new man, and He is showing us what that will look like. Who ultimately plays on which team will not be completed until the very end. "If the fall of natural Israel is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!" What does it all mean and how can you file away these confusing thoughts in such a way that you*

*understand who you are to God and what role you will play in God's eternal plan? Let's find out!*

NOT DONE YET

## **1. Has God cast away His people?**

### **A. Has God cast away His people?**

(1) God has an elaborate plan...

(a) Is God done with natural Israel?

1. "I say then, **has God cast away His people?** Certainly not! For **I also am an Israelite**, of the **seed of**

**Abraham**, of the **tribe of Benjamin**." Romans 11:1

NKJV

2. The Launchpad

a) We just read how Paul used prophecy from Isaiah to show us why Yahweh turned toward a pagan people who were not seeking after Him and how those who were formally pagans became children of God by faith!

1) *"But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."*

**[Isaiah 65:1]** *But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient*

and contrary people. [**Isaiah 65:2**] "" Romans 10:20-21 NKJV

a. ""I was **sought by** those who did not ask for Me; I was **found by** those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name." Isaiah 65:1 NKJV

b. "I have stretched out My hands **all day long to a rebellious people**, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;" Isaiah 65:2 NKJV

b) Isaiah continued and also prophesied how Yahweh would not give up on the bloodline of Israel.

c) He will continue to stretch out His hand toward them, even though they are disobedient and rebellious, even though they keep following beliefs that are contrary to what God demands.

d) Paul does not include the particulars in Romans; for that you must go directly to the source.

1) Isaiah's prophecy continues with the finer details of what Israel's rebellious behavior entailed—the precise activities that provoked Yahweh to jealousy—maybe the worst of which

was that they thought themselves “holier than thou,” even in the midst of their abominable behavior. God says, “That kind of hypocrisy is a foul stench in My nostrils.”

- 2) “A **people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; Who sacrifice in gardens, And burn incense on altars of brick; Who sit among the graves, And spend the night in the tombs; Who eat swine’s flesh, And the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; Who say, ‘Keep to yourself, Do not come near me, For I am holier than you!’** These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.”

Isaiah 65:3-5 NKJV

3. And still, after all that, is God done with His people?
- a) Is He going to cast aside those who come from the bloodline of Israel?
- b) Paul reminds us, “It can’t be true. I am one of them, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin—and I eventually came to the truth by faith.” And so will others.

- 1) **The seed of Abraham:** “Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they **the**



***seed of Abraham? So am I.*** II Corinthians 11:22  
NKJV

2) **The tribe of Benjamin:** “...*If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;*”  
Philippians 3:4-5 NKJV

c) Reminder: “...***For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,***” Romans 9:6 NKJV

1) Some (both Jew and Gentile) will be the heavenly Israel, who by faith believe that Y’shua is the long-awaited Messiah.

2) Some will just continue to plod along in the belief that they can please God by their human efforts to obey Him.

3) Others (who are not Israel) will do neither; they will demonstrate no faith-based, nor human-based obedience, and they will simply perish.

d) We’ve already learned what the segregation of those two brands of obedience looks like—the good must be separated from the good that is also holy.

- e) We solidified concepts that align with the idea that there are two Israels.
  - 1) One is heavenly, one earthly; one stars, the other sand.
  - 2) We will come to see one group as rulers in eternity and the other as citizens.
- 4. Eventually, we will recognize that there are actually two eternal priesthoods and that must be introduced as well.
  - a) One is a heavenly pastorate and one is meant to pastor the earth forever.
  - b) We see one in the scriptures as the kingly line of priests; they descend from the tribe of Judah. They are **the Melchizedek priesthood—the royal heavenly priests**—that’s you.
    - 1) *“But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”* I Peter 2:9 NKJV
    - 2) *“So also Christ did not glorify **Himself to become High Priest**, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten*

You.” As He also says in another place: **“You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”;**” Hebrews 5:5-6 NKJV

3) *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which **enters the Presence behind the veil**, where the forerunner has entered for us, **even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**”* Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV

c) The other is an earthly line of priests that descend from the tribe of Levi, **the Levitical priesthood.**

1) *“For every **high priest taken from among men [from the tribe of Levi]** is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. **He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.** Because of this he is required as for the people, **so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.** And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.”* Hebrews 5:1-4 NKJV

d) They are both eternal in the new heaven and new earth that comes to be at the very end.

1) **[The entirety of Hebrews 7]** “For **this Melchizedek**, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “**king of righteousness**,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, **but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually**. Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. **And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood**, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; **but he whose genealogy is not derived** from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. Now beyond all

contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. **Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak**, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, **if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law [no more enmity]**. For He of whom these things are spoken **belongs to another tribe [Judah]**, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For **it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses [Levi] spoke nothing concerning priesthood**. And it is yet far more evident if, **in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of**

*an endless life [by grace through faith]. For He testifies: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” For on the one hand there is an annulling of the [enmity of the] former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope [by grace through faith], through which we draw near to God. And inasmuch as He was not made **priest without an oath** (for they have become priests without an oath, but **He with an oath** by Him who said to Him: “The Lord has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’ ”), by so much more **Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant**. Also there were **many priests**, because they were **prevented by death from continuing**. But He, because **He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood**. Therefore He is also **able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him [by grace through faith]**, since He always lives*

*to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this **He did once for all when He offered up Himself.** For **the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.**" Hebrews 7:1-28 NKJV*

(2) God has an elaborate plan...

(a) There is a reason for natural Israel's temporary separation.

1. "Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles in the flesh**—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. But **now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near**

**by the blood of Christ.** For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has **broken down the middle wall of separation**, having **abolished** in His flesh the **enmity**, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so **as to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that **He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace **to you who were afar off and to those who were near.** For **through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**” Ephesians 2:11-18 NKJV

2. Paul is about to reveal the mechanism by which a reunion will occur between some who are of the original bloodline of Israel and those who have become Israel by faith and the blood of the Lamb.
  - a) Later, in the second half of this chapter, he will use the agricultural analogy of grafting a branch into a root.
  - b) The root is Christ and some will be grafted in and some won't.
  - c) It is introduced here to prepare you.



- d) There are two critical things to know as we move forward:
  - 1) One, no matter which branch you stem from, the original bloodline branch, or the pagan branch, EVERYONE must be grafted in if they wish to be included in the heavenly inheritance. That should level the playing field and is consistent with what you already learned; we all have a choice.
  - 2) Two, both branches, the one grafted in and the one not grafted in sit on the good side of the equation.
- e) In other words, if you are tempted to believe those who are not grafted in are included in the rebellious group who land in the lake of fire, lose that belief now, or what follows will be impossible to understand.

### 3. One New Man!

- a) The Gentiles: Once they were....
  - 1) Called the Uncircumcision those of the Circumcision (See [Circumcision Reimagined](#))
- b) Without Christ...
  - 1) They were not part of Israel

- 2) Had no part of Gods covenants and promises
- 3) Had no hope as they were without God
- c) But now in Christ Jesus...
  - 1) The Gentiles are brought into the covenants and promises by the His blood.
- d) Now both are considered Israel
  - 1) He has made both one (that is what we see happening in Romans 9)
  - 2) Here we see the Gentiles coming into Israel's covenants and promises, but not those of Natural Israel. Those are not what we want!
- e) This is what we want!
  - 1) You must recognize what comes next is precisely what you learned when you discovered what it was that you confessed when you became a believer. (See [Cognitive Dissonance](#))
  - 2) Before you were a Christian (whether you became one as a Jew or Gentile) you had no chance at obey God perfectly. But after you became a Christian you were able to obey God by with Radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience.

- f) What happened with you confessed?
- 1) The wall that separated Jew from Gentile and the hatred of God's law was abolished.
  - 2) God created ONE NEW MAN, both grafted into Christ, from the Jew who once thought they could obey God by their own efforts and the Gentile who wanted nothing to do with God!
  - 3) He reconciled them both to God in one body, through the cross, by putting the death the hatred of each other and reuniting them under one banner... Radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God because of Christ!
  - 4) Y'shua as the Messiah and that understanding coming to all people in the same way, by His grace, was preached to the Gentile who was as far from God as imaginable and to natural Israel who started off very close to God, but were completely deceived by their own pride, a brand of righteousness you have come to learn is legalism. Legalism is anything, good, bad, or indifferent added to "by grace through faith you are saved." (See [Vernacular](#) & [Wrongthink](#) &

[Thoughtcrimes](#) to study works of law, legalism, and what it means to be under the law.)

5) Now we see that through Christ both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

(3) How did it happen?

(a) Both Natural Israel and the Gentiles were Children of wrath (each for his own reason, nevertheless the end result was the same). But then, both were made alive together with Christ (by grace through faith). Both were raised together and made into heavenly citizens (rulers with Christ).

1. “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),** and

**raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God,** not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJV

(4) Paul, like Y’shua, builds his theology on the law and the prophets, in this case to teach us God’s heart about natural Israel.

(a) An Elijah Story

1. “God has not cast away His people whom **He foreknew.** Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, **how he pleads with God against Israel,** saying, “Lord, **they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars,** and I alone am left, and **they seek my life**”?” Romans 11:2-3 NKJV
2. The Law and the Prophets.

- a) ***“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*** Matthew 5:17 NKJV
  - b) ***“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me.**”*** John 5:46 NKJV
  - c) ***“Jesus answered them and said, **“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”***** John 7:16 NKJV
3. Paul taps Elijah as an object lesson...(Read I Kings 17-19)
- a) After Elijah’s mount caramel victory over the pagan prophets, and his cutting them down by the sword, and the subsequent ending of what was likely a drought that lasted three or more years, he pleads with God to come against Israel.
  - b) They have a history of killing the prophets because it’s easier to dispose of the messenger than to heed the message, and it’s no different with Elijah.
  - c) They want to kill him! Israel likes to build their own altars and worship a god of their own mind, and even in the midst of their abominable behavior, they claim to be “holier than thou.” (As we witnessed earlier in *Isaiah 65:3-5*)

1) *“So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for **the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets** with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; **and after the fire a still small voice**. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “**What are you doing here, Elijah?**” And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the*

*sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”” I Kings 19:10-14 NKJV*

(5) How does God respond to Elijah’s request, and how too should you be thinking about natural Israel?

(a) God reminds Elijah that He is not done with Israel.

1. “But what does **the divine response** say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men **who have not bowed the knee to Baal.**”” Romans 11:4 NKJV

2. That is the message Paul wishes to emphasize here.

a) Yahweh has a plan and He has preserved a remnant who have not gone so far off the deep end to worship pagan gods.

1) “Yet **I have reserved** seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to **Baal**, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”” I Kings 19:18 NKJV

b) Prophecy from Jeremiah paints an ugly picture of those who’ve gone off the cliff (**not reserved!**);

1) ““I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long will this be in the heart of the prophets **who prophesy**



*lies? Indeed they are prophets of **the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name** by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers **forgot My name for Baal.**"* Jeremiah 23:25-27  
NKJV

- 2) Ba'al is not just the name of a pagan Phoenician and Canaanite deity, but literally means "lord" in Hebrew.
- c) And does not the Third Commandment warn of such forgetfulness?
  - 1) *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes **His name in vain.**"* Exodus 20:7 NKJV
  - 2) This does not mean what you think, as if the command is to simply refrain from using God's name in a curse.
  - 3) It's literally means, "Do not forget God's name to bring it to nothing."
  - 4) This is what we do when we forget that His name is Yahweh, and only call Him Lord (ba'al).

(6) Grace and Works

- (a) The present time to which Paul refers is that in which he is living.
1. “Even so then, **at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.** And **if by grace, then it is no longer of works;** otherwise **grace is no longer grace.** But **if it is of works, it is no longer grace;** otherwise **work is no longer work.”** Romans 11:5-6 NKJV
  2. Is still true today?
    - a) We will get to that question in a moment, as it is the Israel vs. Israel dilemma which the rest of this chapter addresses.
    - b) The heavenly Israel is identified as those who come to God for free, by grace through faith, not by works.
    - c) If they too needed works to become children of God, then grace would be no different than works.
    - d) We know otherwise. The grace that inspires faith to believe in Y’shua as the Messiah and Savior of the world is free.
    - e) The earthly Israel is identified as those who ultimately have a desire to obey God, but they continue in the belief that they have to work for it

in their own strength, which naturally contradicts the premise of free grace, unless of course you believe your work is empowered by God.

- f) But that would not make sense. If God's power was involved in your obedience, it would necessitate that your obedience be removed from the category of work because work is defined by that which is empowered by man and not God.
- g) God's intervention in your salvation, absent your own effort, cannot be considered work, but grace.
- h) Otherwise work would be erroneously thought of as grace, which subsequently ruins the understanding of both grace and work.

## THE STUPOR

### 2. **Blinded**

#### A. **Israel and the Elect**

(1) One side is being blinded...

(a) Human Effort vs. Faith

1. "What then? **Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have** obtained it, and **the rest were blinded.**" Romans 11:7 NKJV
2. Here again you can see the two Israels.

- a) One, the natural earth-bound Israel did not obtain what they were striving for—to be found righteous by their own efforts.
- b) The elect—the heaven-bound Israel, those whose righteousness is by faith, are guaranteed a glorious permanent inheritance, one they were not even seeking.

## (2) Blind Eyes and Deaf Ears

- (a) How can anyone understand these twenty-five words by simply reading them and casually moving to the next verse.

1. “Just as it is written: “God **has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes** that they should **not see** And **ears** that they should **not hear**, To this very day.”” Romans 11:8 NKJV
2. Paul builds his theology by combining words from the prophet Isaiah with law from Deuteronomy in one statement.
  - a) If you are unwilling to pause your reading of the New Testament to investigate the roots of your faith, then you will likely do what so many have done who came before you... invent a new religion.

b) You will still call it Christianity, and simply attach a denomination next to it so we all know which brand it is.

c) Not all are equally as inventive when it comes to doctrine, but some are so egregious that Paul says that at times they are preaching another Jesus.

1) *“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

***For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! ”*** ||

Corinthians 11:1-4 NKJV

3. Let's dive deeper into the spirit of stupor, blind eyes and deaf ears beginning with Isaiah.

a) It's as if God's people are in a drunken stupor, but not because of alcohol. The disorientation begins with the leaders and spreads to the people. God is set to punish His people for their rebellious behavior and somehow they believe they are protected, but it's all a dream.

1) *“Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! Add year to year; Let feasts come around. Yet I will distress Ariel; There shall be heaviness and sorrow, And it shall be to Me as Ariel. I will encamp against you all around, **I will lay siege against you with a mound, And I will raise siegeworks against you. You shall be brought down,** You shall speak out of the ground; Your speech shall be low, out of the dust; Your voice shall be like a medium's, out of the ground; And your speech shall whisper out of the dust.*

*“Moreover the multitude of your foes Shall be like fine dust, And the multitude of the terrible ones Like chaff that passes away; Yes, it shall be in an **instant, suddenly. You will be punished by the Lord of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, With storm and tempest And***

***the flame of devouring fire.*** *The multitude of all the nations who fight against Ariel, Even all who fight against her and her fortress, And distress her, Shall be as a dream of a night vision. It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams, And look—he eats; But he awakes, and his soul is still empty; Or as when a thirsty man dreams, And look—he drinks; But he awakes, and indeed he is faint, And his soul still craves: So the multitude of all the nations shall be, Who fight against Mount Zion.”*” Isaiah 29:1-8 NKJV

2) *“Pause and wonder! **Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.** {10} For **the Lord has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.**”* Isaiah 29:9-10 NKJV

b) Their protection is as fake as eating and drinking in your sleep and waking to find you are still hungry and thirsty, but it is really your soul that remains lacking. And then if someone comes to explain your reality, it's as if you are an illiterate person

reading a complicated piece of literature. That is one confusing, blinded, and deaf stupor! **\*This is the prophecy that Y'shua referred to when He rebuked the religious leaders;** [*“He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”* Mark 7:6-7 NKJV] **\*\*The end of this prophecy** is also the foundation for what Paul taught earlier in Romans 9 about the potter and the clay.

- a) ***“The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, “Read this, please.” And he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, “Read this, please.” And he says, “I am not literate.” Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch \*as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the***



**commandment of men**, Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For **the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.**” Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, And their works are in the dark; They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us?” **Surely you have things turned around! \*\*Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, “He did not make me”? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?**” Isaiah 29:11-16  
NKJV

4. From the law, Paul references an area that might be best thought of as an exclamation point.
  - a) Moses says, these are ideas that came after what happened on Mt. Sinai. Why? Simple logistics can explain! This is at the end of their 40 year journey and the commands were given on Mt. Sinai 50 days into their journey.

b) In summary, Moses is saying, “God’s people have witnessed so many miracles from their deliverance from Egypt 40 years earlier, and all throughout their time in the wilderness with an abundance of His supernatural provision, and yet the Lord has not given them a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.” And that very day continued into Paul’s time 2000 years ago, and has sustained right up to the present day—soon to come to an end!

1) *“These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, **besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.** Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: **“You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes** in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land— the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. {4} **Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.** {5} **And I have led you forty years in the***

***wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God."***

Deuteronomy 29:1-6 NKJV

(3) Paul shifts gears now and depends on the words of King David to cement his theology.

(a) From Psalms 69:22-23

1. "And David says: "**Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense** to them. Let their **eyes be darkened**, so that they do not see, And **bow down** their back always.'" Romans 11:9-10 NKJV

2. Amazing! The Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, used to build doctrine, just as Y'shua did on the Road to Emmaus. (See Luke 24:13-49; the Road to Emmaus and then the ascension 24:50-53)

a) "*And beginning at **Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. {32} And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and **while He***

***opened the Scriptures to us?" {44} Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled **which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**"***" Luke 24:27, 32, 44 NKJV

3. This area of the Psalms [Psalms 69:1-36] was likely written regarding the time when David was on the run, in fear for his life, possibly as King Saul sought to eliminate his competition.
  - a) As such, in a sense, it is a microcosm of Israel vs. Israel. In it David is lamenting over his suffering and begging God for protection. (See Psalms 69:1-21)
  - b) Saul, the King of Israel represents earth-bound Israel, and wants to dispose of David, the King of Israel from whom the Messiah would come, who represents heaven-bound Israel.
  - c) The enemy here is earth-bound Israel and David prays...
    - 1) ***"Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make***

*their loins shake continually.” Psalms 69:22-23  
NKJV*

d) David wants God to wipe them out! “Let no one live in their tents. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.”

1) **“Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents. For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous. But I am poor and sorrowful; Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high. I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull, Which has horns and hooves. The humble shall see this and be glad; And you who seek God, your hearts shall live. For the Lord hears the poor, And does not**

*despise His prisoners. Let heaven and earth praise Him, The seas and everything that moves in them. For God will save Zion And build the cities of Judah, That they may dwell there and possess it. Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it, And those who love His name shall dwell in it.” Psalms 69:24-36 NKJV*

- e) But we know, God has not cast away His people. There remains a legitimate table set before them.
  - 1) Some of them are about to be reunited with those who have inherited God’s promises by faith and the blood of the Lamb.
  - 2) Some will have earth to inherit, an earthly priesthood to serve, and in the end they must manage them well.
  - 3) The Israel who are heaven-bound have other places to be and other things to do in eternity!

## THE REUNION

### **3. The Reason for the Fall**

#### **A. The Reason for Natural Israel’s Unbelief**

- (1) Has God cast away His people?

(a) The question is again on the table and the answer is clear...

1. "I say then, **have they stumbled that they should fall?** Certainly not! But **through their fall**, to **provoke them** to jealousy, **salvation has come to the Gentiles**. Now **if their fall is riches for the world**, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, **how much more their fullness!**"Romans 11:11-12 NKJV

2. They have tripped, staggered, blundered, doddered, and blundered, but they are still standing.

a) God has a plan for natural Israel and He has used that pesky bunch of once-pagans to make them jealous.

b) Gentiles have apprehended their God and their Messiah and deep down inside they are extremely bothered.

c) But how beautiful that what Satan has intended for evil, God has used for good.

1) *"Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as **for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be*

*afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” Genesis 50:19-21 NKJV*

3. Natural Israel failed and it opened the door for the nations to come into the faith!
  - a) **Now read it again!** *“For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that He might **reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you **who were afar off and to those who were near**. For through Him we **both have access by one Spirit to the Father**.” Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV*
  - b) Now, contemplate this.
    - 1) If their failure allowed such glory, can you imagine what it will look like when their eyes can see Y’shua’s glory and their ears can hear His voice.



2) And if God is sovereign, might we consider the good of those who inherit the earth as well, as they come fully into their inheritance as priests and managers of the new earth.

(2) A Minister to the Gentiles

(a) How did that happen?

1. “For **I speak to you Gentiles**; inasmuch as **I am an apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry, if by any means **I may provoke to jealousy** those who are my flesh and **save some of them**. For **if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**” Romans 11:13-15 NKJV

2. Paul began with thoughts that he would be the perfect ambassador to the Jewish people, but that quickly went sideways.

a) He then turned to the nations and that became his main calling.

1) *“On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken*

by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, **“It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”**

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” Acts 13:44-48 NKJV

2) “When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**”” Acts 18:5-6 NKJV

b) He too wanted to make those who rejected him envious of what the Gentiles were receiving—not

because he was bitter, but instead because he was desperate for them to know the truth.

c) It was just a few chapters back that he had declared he was willing to surrender his own eternal salvation if his fellow countrymen, who are Israelites, would come to the truth of Y'shua as Messiah.

1) **Paul's Prayer:** *"I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. **For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren**, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen."* Romans 9:1-5 NKJV

2) With that much intensity coming from a man, can you imagine how God feels about Israel coming to know His Son?

- d) Redemption was made freely available to the whole world because Israel missed Him; when they receive Him the miracle will be exponential.

### (3) Questions and Answers

#### (a) Questions

1. Has God cast away His people?
2. What does the divine response say to him?
3. What then, Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it?
4. Have they stumbled that they should fall?

#### (b) Answers

1. ***“if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!”*** Romans 11:12
2. ***“For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”*** Romans 11:15
3. ***“that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”*** Ephesians 2:16-18 NKJV

**Summary:** NOT DONE YET

## **1. Has God cast away His people?**

### **A. Has God cast away His people?**

(1) God has an elaborate plan...

(a) Is God done with natural Israel?

#### 1. The Launchpad

- a) We just read how Paul used prophecy from Isaiah to show us why Yahweh turned toward a pagan people who were not seeking after Him and how those who were formally pagans became children of God by faith!
- b) Isaiah continued and also prophesied how Yahweh would not give up on the bloodline of Israel.
- c) He will continue to stretch out His hand toward them, even though they are disobedient and rebellious, even though they keep following beliefs that are contrary to what God demands.
- d) Paul does not include the particulars in Romans; for that you must go directly to the source.
  - 1) Isaiah's prophecy continues with the finer details of what Israel's rebellious behavior entailed—the precise activities that provoked Yahweh to jealousy—maybe the worst of which

was that they thought themselves “holier than thou,” even in the midst of their abominable behavior. God says, “That kind of hypocrisy is a foul stench in My nostrils.”

2. And still, after all that, is God done with His people?
  - a) Is He going to cast aside those who come from the bloodline of Israel?
  - b) Paul reminds us, “It can’t be true. I am one of them, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin—and I eventually came to the truth by faith.” And so will others.
  - c) Reminder: “...***For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,***”
    - 1) Some (both Jew and Gentile) will be the heavenly Israel, who by faith believe that Y’shua is the long-awaited Messiah.
    - 2) Some will just continue to plod along in the belief that they can please God by their human efforts to obey Him.
    - 3) Others (who are not Israel) will do neither; they will demonstrate no faith-based, nor human-based obedience, and they will simply perish.

- d) We've already learned what the segregation of those two brands of obedience looks like—the good must be separated from the good that is also holy.
- e) We solidified concepts that align with the idea that there are two Israels.
  - 1) One is heavenly, one earthly; one stars, the other sand.
  - 2) We will come to see one group as rulers in eternity and the other as citizens.
- 3. Eventually, we will recognize that there are actually two eternal priesthoods and that must be introduced as well.
  - a) One is a heavenly pastorate and one is meant to pastor the earth forever.
  - b) We see one in the scriptures as the kingly line of priests; they descend from the tribe of Judah. They are **the Melchizedek priesthood—the royal heavenly priests**—that's you.
  - c) The other is an earthly line of priests that descend from the tribe of Levi, **the Levitical priesthood**.
  - d) They are both eternal in the new heaven and new earth that comes to be at the very end.

- (2) God has an elaborate plan...
- (a) There is a reason for natural Israel's temporary separation.
    - 1. Paul is about to reveal the mechanism by which a reunion will occur between some who are of the original bloodline of Israel and those who have become Israel by faith and the blood of the Lamb.
      - a) Later, in the second half of this chapter, he will use the agricultural analogy of grafting a branch into a root.
      - b) The root is Christ and some will be grafted in and some won't.
      - c) It is introduced here to prepare you.
      - d) There are two critical things to know as we move forward:
        - 1) One, no matter which branch you stem from, the original bloodline branch, or the pagan branch, EVERYONE must be grafted in if they wish to be included in the heavenly inheritance. That should level the playing field and is consistent with what you already learned; we all have a choice.



- 2) Two, both branches, the one grafted in and the one not grafted in sit on the good side of the equation.
  - e) In other words, if you are tempted to believe those who are not grafted in are included in the rebellious group who land in the lake of fire, lose that belief now, or what follows will be impossible to understand.
2. One New Man!
- a) The Gentiles: Once they were....
    - 1) Called the Uncircumcision those of the Circumcision (See [Circumcision Reimagined](#))
  - b) Without Christ...
    - 1) They were not part of Israel
    - 2) Had no part of Gods covenants and promises
    - 3) Had no hope as they were without God
  - c) But now in Christ Jesus...
    - 1) The Gentiles are brought into the covenants and promises by the His blood.
  - d) Now both are considered Israel
    - 1) He has made both one (that is what we see happening in Romans 9)

- 2) Here we see the Gentiles coming into Israel's covenants and promises, but not those of Natural Israel. Those are not what we want!
- e) This is what we want!
- 1) You must recognize what comes next is precisely what you learned when you discovered what it was that you confessed when you became a believer. (See [Cognitive Dissonance](#))
  - 2) Before you were a Christian (whether you became one as a Jew or Gentile) you had no chance at obey God perfectly. But after you became a Christian you were able to obey God by with Radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience.
- f) What happened with you confessed?
- 1) The wall that separated Jew from Gentile and the hatred of God's law was abolished.
  - 2) God created ONE NEW MAN, both grafted into Christ, from the Jew who once thought they could obey God by their own efforts and the Gentile who wanted nothing to do with God!

- 3) He reconciled them both to God in one body, through the cross, by putting the death the hatred of each other and reuniting them under one banner... Radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God because of Christ!
- 4) Y'shua as the Messiah and that understanding coming to all people in the same way, by His grace, was preached to the Gentile who was as far from God as imaginable and to natural Israel who started off very close to God, but were completely deceived by their own pride, a brand of righteousness you have come to learn is legalism. Legalism is anything, good, bad, or indifferent added to "by grace through faith you are saved." (See [Vernacular](#) & [Wrongthink & Thoughtcrimes](#) to study works of law, legalism, and what it means to be under the law.)
- 5) Now we see that through Christ both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

(3) How did it happen?

- (a) Both Natural Israel and the Gentiles were Children of wrath (each for his own reason, nevertheless the end result was the same). But then, both were made alive

together with Christ (by grace through faith). Both were raised together and made into heavenly citizens (rulers with Christ).

(4) Paul, like Y'shua, builds his theology on the law and the prophets, in this case to teach us God's heart about natural Israel.

(a) An Elijah Story

1. The Law and the Prophets.

2. Paul taps Elijah as an object lesson...(Read I Kings 17-19

a) After Elijah's mount caramel victory over the pagan prophets, and his cutting them down by the sword, and the subsequent ending of what was likely a drought that lasted three or more years, he pleads with God to come against Israel.

b) They have a history of killing the prophets because it's easier to dispose of the messenger than to heed the message, and it's no different with Elijah.

c) They want to kill him! Israel likes to build their own altars and worship a god of their own mind, and even in the midst of their abominable behavior, they claim to be "holier than thou." (*As we witnessed earlier in Isaiah 65:3-5*)

(5) How does God respond to Elijah's request, and how too should you be thinking about natural Israel?

(a) God reminds Elijah that He is not done with Israel.

1. That is the message Paul wishes to emphasize here.

a) Yahweh has a plan and He has preserved a remnant who have not gone so far off the deep end to worship pagan gods.

b) Prophecy from Jeremiah paints an ugly picture of those who've gone off the cliff (**not reserved!**);

1) Ba'al is not just the name of a pagan Phoenician and Canaanite deity, but literally means "lord" in Hebrew.

c) And does not the Third Commandment warn of such forgetfulness?

1) This does not mean what you think, as if the command is to simply refrain from using God's name in a curse.

2) It's literally means, "Do not forget God's name to bring it to nothing."

3) This is what we do when we forget that His name is Yahweh, and only call Him Lord (ba'al).

(6) Grace and Works

(a) The present time to which Paul refers is that in which he is living.

1. Is still true today?

- a) We will get to that question in a moment, as it is the Israel vs. Israel dilemma which the rest of this chapter addresses.
- b) The heavenly Israel is identified as those who come to God for free, by grace through faith, not by works.
- c) If they too needed works to become children of God, then grace would be no different than works.
- d) We know otherwise. The grace that inspires faith to believe in Y'shua as the Messiah and Savior of the world is free.
- e) The earthly Israel is identified as those who ultimately have a desire to obey God, but they continue in the belief that they have to work for it in their own strength, which naturally contradicts the premise of free grace, unless of course you believe your work is empowered by God.
- f) But that would not make sense. If God's power was involved in your obedience, it would necessitate that your obedience be removed from the category

of work because work is defined by that which is empowered by man and not God.

- g) God's intervention in your salvation, absent your own effort, cannot be considered work, but grace.
- h) Otherwise work would be erroneously thought of as grace, which subsequently ruins the understanding of both grace and work.

## **Summary: THE STUPOR**

### **2. Blinded**

#### **A. Israel and the Elect**

(1) One side is being blinded...

(a) Human Effort vs. Faith

1. Here again you can see the two Israels.

- a) One, the natural earth-bound Israel did not obtain what they were striving for—to be found righteous by their own efforts.
- b) The elect—the heaven-bound Israel, those whose righteousness is by faith, are guaranteed a glorious permanent inheritance, one they were not even seeking.

(2) Blind Eyes and Deaf Ears

- (a) How can anyone understand these twenty-five words by simply reading them and casually moving to the next verse.
- 1. Paul builds his theology by combining words from the prophet Isaiah with law from Deuteronomy in one statement.
  - a) If you are unwilling to pause your reading of the New Testament to investigate the roots of your faith, then you will likely do what so many have done who came before you... invent a new religion.
  - b) You will still call it Christianity, and simply attach a denomination next to it so we all know which brand it is.
  - c) Not all are equally as inventive when it comes to doctrine, but some are so egregious that Paul says that at times they are preaching another Jesus.
- 2. Let's dive deeper into the spirit of stupor, blind eyes and deaf ears beginning with Isaiah.
  - a) It's as if God's people are in a drunken stupor, but not because of alcohol. The disorientation begins with the leaders and spreads to the people. God is set to punish His people for their rebellious



behavior and somehow they believe they are protected, but it's all a dream.

- b) Their protection is as fake as eating and drinking in your sleep and waking to find you are still hungry and thirsty, but it is really your soul that remains lacking. And then if someone comes to explain your reality, it's as if you are an illiterate person reading a complicated piece of literature. That is one confusing, blinded, and deaf stupor! **\*This is the prophecy that Y'shua referred to when He rebuked the religious leaders;** [*“He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”* Mark 7:6-7 NKJV] **\*\*The end of this prophecy** is also the foundation for what Paul taught earlier in Romans 9 about the potter and the clay.

3. From the law, Paul references an area that might be best thought of as an exclamation point.
- a) Moses says, these are ideas that came after what happened on Mt. Sinai. Why? Simple logistics can

explain! This is at the end of their 40 year journey and the commands were given on Mt. Sinai 50 days into their journey.

b) In summary, Moses is saying, “God’s people have witnessed so many miracles from their deliverance from Egypt 40 years earlier, and all throughout their time in the wilderness with an abundance of His supernatural provision, and yet the Lord has not given them a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.” And that very day continued into Paul’s time 2000 years ago, and has sustained right up to the present day—soon to come to an end!

(3) Paul shifts gears now and depends on the words of King David to cement his theology.

(a) From Psalms 69:22-23

1. Amazing! The Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, used to build doctrine, just as Y’shua did on the Road to Emmaus. (See Luke 24:13-49; the Road to Emmaus and then the ascension 24:50-53)
2. This area of the Psalms [Psalms 69:1-36] was likely written regarding the time when David was on the

run, in fear for his life, possibly as King Saul sought to eliminate his competition.

- a) As such, in a sense, it is a microcosm of Israel vs. Israel. In it David is lamenting over his suffering and begging God for protection. (See Psalms 69:1-21)
- b) Saul, the King of Israel represents earth-bound Israel, and wants to dispose of David, the King of Israel from whom the Messiah would come, who represents heaven-bound Israel.
- c) The enemy here is earth-bound Israel and David prays...
- d) David wants God to wipe them out! "Let no one live in their tents. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."
- e) But we know, God has not cast away His people. There remains a legitimate table set before them.
  - 1) Some of them are about to be reunited with those who have inherited God's promises by faith and the blood of the Lamb.

- 2) Some will have earth to inherit, an earthly priesthood to serve, and in the end they must manage them well.
- 3) The Israel who are heaven-bound have other places to be and other things to do in eternity!

## **Summary: THE REUNION**

### **3. The Reason for the Fall**

#### **A. The Reason for Natural Israel's Unbelief**

(1) Has God cast away His people?

(a) The question is again on the table and the answer is clear...

1. They have tripped, staggered, blundered, doddered, and blundered, but they are still standing.

a) God has a plan for natural Israel and He has used that pesky bunch of once-pagans to make them jealous.

b) Gentiles have apprehended their God and their Messiah and deep down inside they are extremely bothered.

c) But how beautiful that what Satan has intended for evil, God has used for good.

- d) Natural Israel failed and it opened the door for the nations to come into the faith!
- e) Now, contemplate this.
  - 1) If their failure allowed such glory, can you imagine what it will look like when their eyes can see Y'shua's glory and their ears can hear His voice.
  - 2) And if God is sovereign, might we consider the good of those who inherit the earth as well, as they come fully into their inheritance as priests and managers of the new earth.

(2) A Minister to the Gentiles

(a) How did that happen?

- 1. Paul began with thoughts that he would be the perfect ambassador to the Jewish people, but that quickly went sideways.
  - a) He then turned to the nations and that became his main calling.
  - b) He too wanted to make those who rejected him envious of what the Gentiles were receiving—not because he was bitter, but instead because he was desperate for them to know the truth.

- c) It was just a few chapters back that he had declared he was willing to surrender his own eternal salvation if his fellow countrymen, who are Israelites, would come to the truth of Y'shua as Messiah.
  - 1) With that much intensity coming from a man, can you imagine how God feels about Israel coming to know His Son?
- d) Redemption was made freely available to the whole world because Israel missed Him; when they receive Him the miracle will be exponential.

### (3) Questions and Answers

#### (a) Questions

1. Has God cast away His people?
2. What does the divine response say to him?
3. What then, Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it?
4. Have they stumbled that they should fall?

#### (b) Answers

1. If their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

2. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?
3. That He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Answer the following questions:

- A. Has God cast away His people?
- B. What does the divine response say to Elijah?
- C. Has Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it?
- D. Has Israel stumbled that they should fall?
- E. Use these Bible Passages to find the answers.
  - 1) Ephesians 2:1-18
  - 2) I Kings 17-19
  - 3) Jeremiah 23:25-27
  - 4) II Corinthians 11:1-4

- 5) Isaiah 29:9-16
- 6) Deuteronomy 29:1-6
- 7) Psalms 69:1-36
- 8) Genesis 50:19-21
- 9) Acts 13:44-48
- 10) Acts 18:5-6
- 11) Romans 9:1-5

**2. Describe the two eternal priesthods.**

- A. Use Hebrews 5-7 to find your answer.