

# **Words of Grace Seasoned With Salt**

## **BIBLE STUDIES, PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT CURRENT AND**

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**Edited By Pastor Arthur L. Watkins**  
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## **False Assumptions #2**

### **False Assumptions of Israel**

There are many false assumptions today about Israel. People assume things to be true of Israel that are not true and they assume things not to be true of Israel that are true.

\*There are those who assume that God is totally finished with Israel as a nation. That Israel is permanently cast off as a nation. This is the assumption of reform theology.

\*There are those who assume the church has no relationship to Israel and totally separate from Israel. This is the assumption of dispensational theology.

\*There are those who assume the church is Israel. This is called replacement theology. That the church replaced Israel.

\*There are those who assume that if we bless national Israel today God will bless us in return. This is the assumption of Zionism theology.

\*There are those who assume that Britain and America are the true Israel today. This is the assumption of Anglo-Saxon theology.

There is one thing all these assumption have in common: they are all false. In this article I will answer the first three and show by the scriptures:

\*God is not permanently finished with Israel as a nation.

\*There is more than one connection between the Church and Israel.

\*The church is not Israel, but a part of the Church is the Israel of God.

#### Romans 11 proves these three assumptions of Israel are false

When we speak of Israel we are speaking of the nation of Israel. That nation has a predominate place in the Old Testament. From Genesis through Malachi most of what you read pertains to that nation for at that time, Israel was the Church of God. In Romans 11:25-27 Paul shows us a mystery about that nation. He wrote:

***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.***

***And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:***

***For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

Notice it says, ***that blindness in part is happened to Israel***. Israel is blinded, but their blindness is *in part*. What does this mean? *In part* means their blindness is not total. It is a limited blindness and not a total blindness.

Limited in what way?

***It is limited in scope***

In this chapter Paul writes about the fall and casting away of Israel, but these verses tell us that the whole nation did not fall and was not cast away. Some were blinded and cast away, but not all. Paul wrote:

***1 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.***

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

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

***4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.***

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

***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.***

***7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded***

These verses tell us that God did not cast away the whole nation of Israel. Verse 2 says: God did not cast away the Jews which he foreknew. The ones he foreknew are those he foreknew would believe the truth. They were the Jews who believed God and obeyed God and they were not blinded or cast away. In these verses, there are two examples of Jews in history that God foreknew who were never blinded or cast away.

First, there was an elect remnant of 7000 Jews within the nation of Israel who believed God in the days of Elijah. (Read 2-4)

Second, Paul said in his day there was a remnant of Jews who believed God and Paul himself was one of them. (Read 5-6)

The remnant according to the election of grace is the Jews who believed on Christ, especially those who believed on him during the Acts period.

The Jews in Elijah's day and Paul's day who believed God were never blinded or cut off and cast away. What Paul describes in Romans 11 are two Israel's. There is a nation

within the nation. In verse 7 he wrote: ***What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.***

In this verse, there is Israel and an elect remnant within Israel. One was saved and the other blinded. It's like a circle within a circle. Draw a big circle and then put a smaller circle inside of it. The big circle represents the fallen apostate Jews who were blinded and cast away because of unbelief. But, the small circle represents the Jews within apostate Israel who were never blinded and were not cast away because they believed what God said. Paul himself was a part of them.

They were a remnant, which means they were small in number. The majority of Jews were blinded and never believed what God said and they are the ones he cast away. But, thank God within them there was a small group of Jews who believed what God said and they were not cast away. The remnant of Jews in Paul's day that were not cast away or blinded was the Jews who believed on Christ. They can be traced throughout the New Testament scriptures.

\*They are the little flock of Luke 12:32 and the nation bearing fruit of Matthew 21:43.

\*They are the election of grace of Romans 11:1-7.

\*They are the branches in the olive tree that were not broken off that we were grafted into and among in Romans 11:16-17.

\*They are the Jews who first trusted in Christ of Ephesians 1:12.

\*They were those who were nigh to God in Ephesians 2:17.

\*They are ½ of the twain or two of Ephesians 2:15.

\*They are the Jewish members of the new man in Ephesians 2:15.

\*We gentiles are reconciled together with them in one body in Ephesians 2:16.

\*They are the saints and household of God in Ephesians 2:19 that we gentiles are now fellow citizens with.

\*We are fellow heirs and members of the same body with them in Ephesians 3:6.

\*They are a part of the fellowship of saints that was a mystery from the beginning of the world in Ephesians 3:9.

\*They are the chosen generation and holy nation of 1 Peter 2:9.

\*They are the true Israel of God in Galatians 6:16 which says:

***For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.***

From the call of Abraham till now, there has always been a true Israel of God. The true Israel of God are the Jews throughout Bible history who have believed what God says. They were the Jews in the Old Testament who believed what the Prophets said. They were the Jews in the New Testament who believed what Christ and the Apostles said concerning Jesus Christ; that he was the Son of God and their Messiah and that he died for their sins and raised again from the dead. The Israel of God began with Abraham

and continues until this day. There is an unbroken line of Jews in Bible history who has always believed what God said.

Jeremiah wrote about the true Israel of God in Jeremiah 31:35-37:

***Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:***

***If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.***

***Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.***

God said, that if the sun stops shining and the moon no longer gives off its light, then Israel will cease from being a nation before him. That's never going to happen; therefore there will always be a true Israel of God.

He also said, that if you can measure the heaven above and measure the foundations of the earth beneath then he would cast off Israel from being a nation. That can't be done; therefore he will never cast the whole nation off.

\*Today, the true Israel of God is the Jews who believe on Christ that Paul calls the election of grace in Romans 11:5.

\*They are the Jews Paul calls the Israel of God in Galatians 6:16.

\*They are the Jews Peter calls the chosen generation and holy nation in 1 Peter 2:9.

There is a holy nation of Jews today, but it is not the nation or state of Israel located in the Middle East. The true Israel of God are the Jews who believe on Christ throughout the world and not the lost blinded Jews who reject Christ in the nation or state of Israel in the Middle East. They are saved, born again Jews throughout the world. Their numbers are small for they are a remnant, and gentiles like us are members of the body of Christ with them and also share in the spiritual promises God made to them according to Romans 15:27.

The fall and blindness of Israel is also:

***Limited in time***

In Romans 11:23-24 Paul wrote:

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

***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?***

Notice the words: *for God is able to graft them in again*

These verses tell us that Israel as a nation will be grafted back into the olive tree again in the future. This means their blindness is not forever. Israel as a nation will be grafted back into the good olive tree again and regain their former national and political status.

The blindness upon them nationally will be lifted according to these verses and also according to 2 Corinthians 3:11-16 which says:

***For if that which is done away was glorious, (Old Testament) much more that which remaineth (The New Testament) is glorious.***

***Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:***

***And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:***

***But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.***

***But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.***

***Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.***

Paul says there is a vail upon the hearts of national Israel. Not on the believing remnant, for they see clearly. It's a vail upon the hearts of national unbelieving Israel. Their heart is blinded from seeing something. Paul said that when they read the Old Testament there is something they can't see. You and I see it, but they can't. What is it? Christ. They can't see that Jesus is the true Messiah, the King, the Prophet, the Savior and the Sacrifice God promised them in the Old Testament.

\*For example, when we read Isaiah 53 we can clearly see the prophet is writing about Jesus Christ dying for our sins and offering his soul as an offering for our sin. But, when a Jew reads Isaiah 53 he can't see it.

\*When we read Isaiah 7:14 we can clearly see the prophet is writing about the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. But, when a Jew reads it he can't see it.

\*When we read Isaiah 9:6-7 we can see that Isaiah is writing about the first and second coming of Jesus Christ and his everlasting kingdom. But, a Jew can't see it because of the vail that is upon their hearts.

But, 2 Corinthians 3:16 says that when their hearts turn to the Lord, the vail upon their hearts shall be taken away. A day is coming when their blindness will end. Their blindness will be lifted. When will this happen? Their national blindness will end when two things happen and they will both happen at the same time.

### **When the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.**

Paul said: ***That blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.***

The fullness of the Gentiles is when the times of the gentiles reaches its fullness or end. Luke 21:24 says: ***Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.***

The times of the Gentiles began with the Babylonian empire and from that time till now the gentiles have been in control of the kingdoms and nations of this world politically and religiously. We are living in the times of the gentiles now. It's the time when gentiles run everything and as we can see they are doing a terrible job. But, the times of the gentiles will reach its fullness or end. When will the fullness of the gentiles be come in? When God destroys the Gentile kingdoms of this world. When will he do it? When Jesus comes again. The fullness of the Gentiles will come at the second coming of Christ. They are synonymous events.

***Daniel 2:44 says: And in the days of these kings (gentile kings) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, (all the gentile kingdoms of this world) and it (God's kingdom) shall stand for ever.***

When Jesus comes again he will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed and he will break in pieces and destroy all the gentile kingdoms of this world. The future of all gentile kingdoms is in this one verse. They are all headed for junk yard. This is when the fullness and times of the gentiles will come to an end.

***Revelation 11:15 says: And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world (gentile kingdoms) are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.***

The Lord will come again at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and like Daniel 2:44 says, he will destroy all the gentile nations of this world and set up an everlasting kingdom over the whole earth. The second coming of Christ at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is when the gentiles will reach their fullness and come to an end. The fullness of the gentiles comes in when Jesus comes again. They are always connected in the scriptures.

This agrees with what Paul said in Romans 11:25-26 where he wrote: ***that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:***

In these verses, we see a direct connection between the fullness of the gentiles and the second coming of Christ. When Jesus roars out of Zion at his second coming, the

fullness of the gentiles will come in and at the same time the Jews who are now blinded will see and be saved and grafted back into the good olive tree again. The salvation of national Israel will happen at the second coming of Christ.

There is something special that is going to happen to them when Jesus comes again that will erase their blindness and they will be able to finally see and believe on Christ as we do.

Revelation 1:7 says: ***Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.***

When Jesus comes again, it says that those who pierced him or crucified him will see him and they will wail which means they will cry and mourn for what they did to him. The companion verse to this verse is Zechariah 12:9-11 which says:

***And it shall come to pass in that day, (The day of His coming) that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.***

***And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.***

***In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.***

Linking this verse together with Revelation 1:7 proves this event is the second coming of Christ. And this tells us why the veil and blindness that is upon the Jew's hearts nationally today will be removed. When the Lord comes he will pour out on them the spirit of grace and supplications which will cause their eyes to be opened and they will see in that day what they can't see today: that the one they pierced was their Messiah and savior. When they realize this, they will mourn and grieve for what they did to him as a person who grieves over the death of their firstborn son which is the deepest sorrow a person can experience. (Take my word for that.)

\*This is when and how Israel shall be saved according to Romans 11:26.

\*This is when the natural branches will be grafted back into their own olive tree according to Romans 11:23-24.

\*This is when Israel will become a holy nation nationally again.

\*This is when Israel finally becomes a blessing instead of a stumbling block to the nations.

\*This is when the curse that is now upon Israel as a nation will be lifted.

\*This is when they become God's people again instead of being Lo Ammi (not God's people) as they are today.

\*This is when the blindness upon them now will be removed.

\*This is when they become a true kingdom of priests and will offer up spiritual sacrifices that truly honor God and Christ.

So, God is not finished with Israel nationally. The blindness upon them is in part not forever. A large group of Jews will be saved at the second coming of Christ and they will become the new nation of Israel who will never be blinded or cut out of the good olive tree again. And all the national and political promises that God made to the nation in the Old Testament concerning the kingdom of God will be fulfilled in them. There are a number of physical prophecies concerning Israel as a nation that have not been fulfilled, but will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again, such as their return to the land never to be driven out again.

Isaiah 11:11-12: ***And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people....he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.***

Isaiah 35:10: ***And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.***

Isaiah 51:11: ***Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.***

Jeremiah 24:7: ***And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.***

Jeremiah 30:3: ***For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.***

These prophecies concerning the return of the Jews back into their land have not been fulfilled. Some teach they began to be fulfilled in 1948, but this is not true for when the Lord brings them back again the second time they will never be driven out of the land again as they will be in the future. Israel as a nation will be driven out of their land in the future and will suffer hard tribulation. See Revelation 12, Luke 21:24, Zech. 14:2.

These studies so far prove beyond a doubt that God is not finished with Israel as a nation as many people falsely assume. The natural branches will be grafted back into the good olive tree again at the second coming of Christ when the fullness of the gentiles is come in. These studies also prove that there has always been a true Israel of God from the call of Abraham till now. They are called the election of grace in Romans

11:5-6 and the Israel of God in Galatians 6:16. They are the Jews scattered throughout the world who believe on Christ and gentile believers are one body in Christ with them.

## **The Relationship of the Church and Israel**

Many people bend over backwards trying to separate the church from Israel. They build spiritual barriers between the church and Israel as if there is no connection between them. This is especially true of dispensational theology. The whole premise of dispensational theology is the separation of the church from Israel. But, should we assume this is true? No, this is a false assumption for the following reasons.

\*One half of the Church the body of Christ today is composed of believing Jews who Paul calls the Israel of God in Galatians 6:16. The Israel of God today is not the nation or state of Israel in the Middle East. Many people assume that when we speak of Israel we refer to the nation and state of Israel in the Middle East. This is a false assumption, because in Romans 11 Paul shows us there are two Israel's. One group is blinded and cast away, but the other group is the election of grace who believes on Christ throughout the world. They are the true Israel of God and gentile believers are one body in Christ with them.

This unity in the church between gentiles and the Jews who are the Israel of God is clearly seen in Ephesians 2:13-19.

***But now in Christ Jesus ye (gentiles) who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.***

***For he is our (Jews and gentiles) peace, who hath made both (Jews and gentiles) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (Jew and gentile)***

***Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain (Jew and gentile) one new man, so making peace;***

***And that he might reconcile both (Jew and gentile) unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:***

***And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, (gentiles) and to them that were nigh. (Jews)***

***For through him we both (Jew and gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father.***

***Now therefore ye (gentiles) are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, (Jews) and of the household of God;***

In Ephesians 2, God took the Jews who believed on Christ and joined them together to make one body in Christ with believing gentiles. These Jews are the true Israel of God today. The Church is not Israel, but the Israel of God is in the Church. They are the Jews who believe on Christ and they come from a long lineage of Jews from the call of Abraham till now who were never blinded or cast away as apostate national Israel.

The apostle Peter describes them in 1 Peter 2:9: ***But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:***

Peter wrote to the same Israel of God that Paul did. All Jews saved under the apostles' ministry compose the true Israel of God that gentiles like us are one body in Christ with.

#### The Church partakes of Israel's spiritual promises

Romans 15:27: ***It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.***

The church partakes of the spiritual promises God made to Israel. Israel's father is now our father. Israel's mother is now our mother. (New Jerusalem Gal. 4:26) Israel's God is now our God. Israel's Christ is now our Christ. All the following that was once Israel's is now ours:

Their:

Hope of Resurrection

New Covenant

Adoption

High Priest

Gospel

Justification by faith

Righteousness by faith

Spirit

Kingdom

New Birth

Mediator

Intercessor

Eternal salvation

Eternal redemption

These precious promises were all made to Israel in the Prophets and the Psalms. The Jews in the church today partake of them by covenant, but gentiles partake of them by grace. In fact, if it were not for their promises gentiles like us would have none for God did not make the promises with gentiles. Ephesians 2:12 says: ***That at that time ye 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:***

This verse describes the spiritual condition of gentiles in time past under the law. We were spiritually bankrupt. God made no promises to gentiles like us. But thank God under grace we become partakers of Israel's promises. The next verse says: ***13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.***

Today in Christ, gentiles like us are made nigh to all the promises we were afar off from in time past. The spiritual blessings of Israel are now ours by the grace and mercy of

God. This shows us a clear connection between the church and Israel, The blessings of the church are the spiritual promises God made to Israel in time past. The great mystery Paul reveals is that we receive them without becoming Jewish proselytes or keeping the law or works of any kind.

The church is grafted into Israel's good olive tree

Romans 11:16-18: ***For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.***

***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;***

***Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.***

Paul uses a metaphor of an olive tree to show us gentiles how we received the spiritual blessings of Israel and to warn us about pride. The root of the tree is Abraham the father of us all. The fatness of the olive tree is the spiritual promises God made to Abraham's seed according to Romans 15:27. The branches broken off were the apostate unbelieving Jews. The branches that remained in the tree were the Jews who believed on Christ; the true Israel of God. The wild branches grafted into the tree are gentile believers like us. It says that gentiles WITH THEM, the branches who remained in the tree, partake of the root and fatness of the tree. In other words, gentile believers along with the Jews, the true Israel of God, partake of the root together and the fatness of the tree together. Our root is the same; it's Abraham the father of us all. Our fatness is the same; it's the spiritual promises God made to the true Israel of God.

These verses show us gentiles how we became partakers of Israel's spiritual things; it's because God grafted us into the good olive tree so we could be blessed by the root of the tree who is Abraham and partake of the fatness of the tree which is the spiritual promises God made to the seed of Abraham.

We are told: ***Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.***

This means a gentile should not boast against the Jews or act like we never received anything from them. The fact is, every blessing and promise that gentiles have today was originally promised to the Jews in time past. Every spiritual blessing we have came through them and their father Abraham. It's only because God grafted us into their tree and into their root and their fatness, that we have the spiritual promises we enjoy today.

Every member of the Church is counted as the seed of Abraham who is the father of Israel.

Galatians 3:29: ***And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

All believers in the church are counted as the seed of Abraham who is the father of Israel. Israel's father is the father of the church. Why did God count us gentiles in the church as the seed of Abraham? So we would become heirs to the promise and promises God made to his seed.

If Abraham was not our father, gentiles like us would have no claim to the promises God made to his seed and God made ALL the promises with his seed or children. This is why it is amazing to hear these proud gentiles who break their theological necks trying to separate themselves from Israel and Abraham and their promises, when in fact we would have nothing unless God counted us as the seed of Abraham and made us fellow heirs with the Jews to their inheritance and spiritual promises.

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