

Sunday, March 21st, 2010

Living Hope EFC

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How Israel Lost God, and the Gentiles found Him: Rom.9:25-10:4

ILLUS: **Wilson Johnson, the founder of Holiday inn Motels**, once said, 'When I was 40 years old I worked in a sawmill. One morning the boss told me I was **fired**. Depressed & discouraged, *I felt like the world had caved in*. When I told my wife what had happened, she asked me what I was going to do. I replied, 'I'm going to mortgage our little home and go into the building business.'

My first venture was the construction of two small buildings. **Within 5 years I was a multimillionaire!** *At the time it happened, I didn't understand why I was fired. Later, I saw that it was God's unerring and wondrous plan to get me into the way of his choosing.*" – Green, 385

Every now & then God allows us to see "why" things happen.

- **Most of the time we don't have enough history.**
- We're on the wrong side of eternity to be able to have a clear perspective and see God's pattern and work in our lives.
- *We are asked to live by faith.*

Rom.9:1-24: Paul could look back & see God's sovereign, faithful hand all through Israel's history. He knew God was faithful to all He promised

Rom.9:25-10:4 God foretold through His prophets, that: (1) He would save a remnant of Israel, even though they had become an unfaithful wife to Him, and (2) He would also save Gentiles – who originally had no place in his Cov't with Israel. 9:30-10:4 = **How it happened in real time!**

MAJOR POINT: (1) What was currently happening to Israel (being set aside) & this new movement of *Jews & Gentiles believing that Jesus was the Messiah*, is the exact fulfillment God had foretold 700 years earlier.

(2) Every one of us is also a part of the fulfillment of God's prophetic history, by our relationship to Jesus Christ. We are a part of God's plan!

9:25-29 God's Prophet Foretold Gentile salvation & Israel's demise

VS. 25-26: Hosea foretold God's mercy to those not knowing Him.

HOSEA was a prophet that lived during the time Israel went into captivity

- He is a very peculiar prophet, because of his wife **Gomer**.
- **Hosea 1:2-11 God laid out Israel's unfaithfulness, and future.**
- Gomer is symbolic of Israel, God's wife. Each child is symbolic.
- NOTE: Israel has been unfaithful. God will put an end to the kingdom, send His wife away, but not forever! 1:11; 2:19-20,23; 3:5.

Hosea's words of comfort – originally to Israel, Paul applies to Gentiles.

- What God had spoken, was/ is now true for us (9:23-24).
- It will be true for Israel in the future, 11:25-29.
- Imagine how Paul felt, an eyewitness participant, seeing God's prophecy being fulfilled in his lifetime! So, with us! - **Eph.3:2-6**

Vs.27-29: Isaiah foretold God's temporary rejection of Israel.

ISAIAH is a *contemporary* of Hosea. He also spoke of Israel's demise.

Paul takes from two passages in Isaiah that speak about the same judgment coming upon Israel, that leave Israel only a remnant of former self.

- This happened in 722BC, it continued to his present day, & to ours.
- **Rom.11:22** he concludes his lament.

Our Sovereign God foretold exactly what would happen to Israel...and it was being experienced in Paul's day. Israel had lost God, & rejected His Son. Gentiles, those "not God's people," were becoming "Sons of the Living God!" **1 Jn.3:1** - But this is not yet the final chapter for Israel!

9:30-10:4 How Israel lost God, and Gentiles (we) found Him!

9:30-33. An amazing turn around on the stage of history!

μ&v: Gentiles who weren't "pursuing, hunting for" God, found Him.

- They found righteousness by faith! God's acceptance.

δ&: Israel, pursuing "righteousness by law/ works," didn't arrive, attain it!

ILLUS: It reminds me of the guy out there hunting his heart out for an elk and coming up with nothing! Another guy, steps out of his camper and there's a bull. Shoots it, and has his elk.

- It's not that effort isn't important, its just that it doesn't = success.

The first reason Israel missed God's righteousness is that they attempted to become righteous by their own system of works!

They didn't need a Savior, the Gentiles did!

Parable: Pharisee & Tax Collector. **Luke 18:9-14.**

Q: How is a man justified before God?

Pharisees thought – by keeping the Law. By being good!

Tax collector: "Lord, have mercy on me!"

- The Jews thought the Gentiles had to come up to their level to be saved. Actually, the Jews had to go down to the level of Gentiles.
- **Here is the practical application of what Paul said in 3:20-22.**
- Jews thought their religious observances made them better, and used their privileges as substitutes for a Savior, as a means of earning righteousness.
- They confused their relative r'ness, for God's absolute standard.

APPLY: Isn't this the main religion in the world today: salvation by good works? Let us not make the mistake of God's people Israel.

The second reason... is that they wouldn't trust God! 9:32-33

They stumbled over the Stumbling Stone, God's Son!

If there is any question who the "Stumbling Stone" is, remember the **parable Jesus told about the Tenants: [Luke 20:9-18](#).**

- Peter further explains the meaning: **1 Pet.2:4-8**.
- Those who **believe** in Christ – the stone is precious = salvation.
- To those who reject Christ will ultimately be rejected by God.

The third reason Israel missed God's righteousness is that they had great religious zeal, but lacked knowledge. 10:1-3

Here is the clear, damning difference between religion and relationship!

- Religion can foster incredible zeal, pride, self-sacrifice = **[Phil.3:4-9](#)**.
- The motive behind "religion" is earning heaven, self-righteousness.
- ***It is pious, scrupulous, rule-oriented, and rejects God's knowledge.***

ILLUS: Robert McCheyne & Lady W.W. 547

McCheyne was passing out tracts one day and handed one to a very well dressed lady. She gave him a haughty look and said, "Sir, you must not know who I am."

In his kind way, McCheyne replied, "Madam, **there is coming a day of judgment, and on that day, it will not make any difference who you are.**"

- Romans 3: "There is none r'ous!" 3:23; Isaiah 55:1,3,6-11.

The fourth reason is that they rejected Christ as their r'ness. 10:4.

1. Christ was what the Law led up to prophetically, in type & prediction.
2. Christ was what the Law led to morally: [Gal.3:21-25](#).
3. Christ is the end of the Law, in providing every believer with God's gift of required righteousness to stand before God: [Rom.3:22](#); [2 Cor.5:21](#).
4. Christ is the end of the Law, the fulfillment of the OT system: [Heb.7:18](#)
 - Instead of the temple, sacrifices, priests, ceremonies...Christ is ALL.
 - **Remarkably, the Jews studied the Scripture, but didn't accept Him** [John 5:39-40](#).
Knowledge is no substitute for a relationship.

How did Israel lose her place with God?

- By rejecting God & His Son, and **blindly serving a religious system.**

How did the Gentiles find God & His righteousness?

- By considering the claims of Christ, and believing in His as Savior.

ILLUS: From Religious Zealot to a Relationship with God.

The story of Mosab Hassan Yousef. The 'Son of Hamas leader: his conversion to Christianity, spying for Israel, and leaving Islam.

In our day, God is fulfilling His promise to bless the world through Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ came to carry our sin to the cross where it was judged.

- He rose from the dead, to offer us forgiveness of sin and the promise of resurrection life.
- It is the ONLY CURE for man in this present life, and in the life to come.
- Are you following a religion, or do you have a relationship with Christ?