

Session 15

How to Provoke Israel to Jealousy

A. Introduction

1. There was urgency in Paul's heart for the Gentile believers in his day to understand God's plans to bring salvation to the nations. Therefore, in Romans 9 – 11, he gave them details about the timing and means that God would use to accomplish His worldwide salvation plan.
2. In Romans 11, Paul proclaimed three vital parts of God's mystery that all believers must understand to fully cooperate with His End-Time purposes for the Church, Israel and the Great Harvest.
 - a. The first is that all Israel will be saved (v26) and brought to fullness (v12) in the context of the Great Tribulation, the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom (life from the dead for the whole world; v15).
 - i. "All Israel being saved" means that 100% of the Jewish people who survive the Great Tribulation will eventually be born-again believers in Jesus.
 - ii. Jewish people are being saved today in record numbers but the full number will not be saved until the Second Coming.
 - iii. Israel's fullness refers to the fullness of her national blessing because of the outpouring of the Spirit (v12).
 - b. The second is that Jewish people are temporarily spiritually blind (v25). They cannot see that Jesus is their Messiah.
 - i. This blindness includes their unique hostility towards Jesus. Yet, it does not mean that Israel has "fallen" from her original national calling to establish God's Kingdom on earth in the Millennium (v11) through leadership of the nations of the earth.
 - ii. Romans 11 was written to assure us of Israel's primary leadership role in the future. Israel's rejection of Jesus is neither total (v1–10) nor final (v11–32).
 - iii. Ignorance of the "supernatural blindness" that is currently upon Israel will cause the Church to wrongly conclude that God is finished with her,

instead of partnering God to prepare them for the mantle of worldwide leadership.

- c. The third is that the fullness of the Gentiles (v25) will provoke Israel to seek Jesus (v11).
 - i. For the last 2,000 years, the Gentile Church has been God's primary instrument to bring His salvation to the nations. However, the "fullness of Gentiles" has not yet come to pass.
 - ii. The "fullness of Gentiles" will occur when there is a full ordained number of Gentiles saved from every nation (Rev. 7:9) walking in the fullness of the Spirit — in His gifts, in bearing fruit, in divine wisdom etc. (Eph. 4:11–13; 5:27).
- d. The fullness of Gentiles will result from the greatest revival in history that will be released before Jesus returns. This revival will bring forth radical Gentile believers who will also be dynamically used by God in Israel's salvation (v25–26), which will then result in the glory of God filling the earth in the Millennium (Hab. 2:14).

B. Setting the Stage for All Israel to be Saved: The Great Tribulation

1. Something drastic will need to happen to change Israel's hostile view of Jesus and His Church. The unique reality of the Great Tribulation will create the necessary context to radically change Israel's views. It will be the most severe time in history for all — for Israel, the Church and unbelievers (Dan.12:1, 6–7; Matt. 24:21; Jer. 30:7).
2. Satan's strategy is to exploit a "loophole" in God's prophetic plan. Jesus "bound" Himself by His prophecy to only come back to Israel after being invited by Israel's leadership (Matt. 23:39).
3. Satan wants to exterminate the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah. Satan seeks to completely destroy Israel (Rev. 12:13–17) and the Church that stands with her (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33–35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9–11; 7:9, 14; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5–7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; Matt. 10:21–22, 28; 24:9; Lk. 12:4–7; 21:16–19; Jn. 15:18 – 16:4).
4. Satan's attack on Israel will kill two-thirds of Israel and bring the remaining one-third to salvation (Zech. 13:8).

5. Paul highlighted two avenues of grace — provocation and mercy — that emphasise the responsibility that Gentile believers have towards Israel (Rom. 10:19; 11:11, 14, 31).
6. That the Gentiles will provoke Israel to jealousy is one of the most surprising and remarkable dimensions of God's End-Time plan. To be provoked to godly jealousy means that Israel will deeply desire what Gentile believers have spiritually. This is in contrast to how Israel has been repulsed by the Church for 2,000 years instead of being provoked by her.
7. Israel will receive mercy directly from God but also from grateful Gentile believers who have themselves received God's mercy (Rom. 11:31).
8. The kindness (mercy) shown by the Church to Jewish people in the context of the Great Tribulation will be God's gift of love to Israel and one of His means of unifying the Jews and Gentiles as One New Man (Eph. 2:14–16; 3:1–10).
9. This unity will be fully manifest in the Millennium. God is the great social architect who leads history to fulfil His purpose of unifying Jews and Gentiles. He will create the necessary social dynamics for this without violating man's free will (Eph. 2:15; Jn. 17:21).
10. The Church will be brought to maturity and evaluated based on our response to Jesus' requirement for us to stand with Israel (Matt. 25:31–46). This will purify the Church and will result in some who profess faith in Jesus to fall away at this time (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thes. 2:3).

C. What “Provoking Israel to Jealousy” Does Not Refer To

1. It does not refer to Gentile believers taking on Jewish customs and Jewish names.
2. It does not refer to Gentile believers replacing the Jewish people.
3. It does not refer to Gentile believers teaching the Jewish people about their history.

D. Five Practical Ways to Provoke Israel to Jealousy

1. Providing refuge: Jewish people will flee as nations seek to annihilate them. Those who provide refuge to fleeing Jews will risk their lives and the lives of their loved ones (like Corrie Ten Boom's family). The Antichrist's laws will require (as did the Nazis') the reporting of Jewish people in hiding and in flight.

Refusal to do so will be viewed as being an accomplice to them and will be deemed a state crime.

2. Performing miracles like Elijah: These miracles include the multiplication of food, healing of the sick and receiving prophetic direction by visions and dreams as promised in Acts 2:17 and Jeremiah 31:9.
3. Godly living: This refers to living in “bright righteousness and humility” as the darkness in the world grows deeper as a result of embracing immorality and the occult, etc. (Rev. 9:21; Isa. 60:1).
4. Proclaiming God’s purposes for Israel: This is best outlined in Jeremiah 31:7–10 as prophetic declarations, intercession (Isa. 62:6; Ps. 122:6), celebration, and bringing comfort to Israel (Isa. 40:1–2).
5. Living a “transcendent” lifestyle: This refers to walking and living with a revelation of eternity, which will result in the Gentile church being fearless in the face of death.

E. Conclusion

1. It is at this hour that God is giving His Gentile Church His invitation to know our role and make ourselves ready to provoke Israel to jealousy.
2. As we cultivate understanding, we are to acquire real love, grow in maturity and carry God’s glory to live out the fullness of this call.
3. May many in His Gentile Church arise as the Corrie Ten Booms and Dietrich Bonhoeffers of this generation, loving Israel and provoking her to jealousy.