

Session 2

# The Importance and Necessity of Understanding the Mystery of Israel (Rom. 11:25)

– Part 2 –

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## A. Five Dimensions of the Mystery of Israel

1. Israel's blindness to the Gospel is pre-ordained by God.

*"...blindness in part has happened..."* (Rom. 11:25)

- a. Paul understands that the blindness that has come to his people is due to the **divine and sovereign purpose of God**.
- b. He also understands that it is **neither total nor final**. God is not finished with Israel!
- c. Due to Israel's failure to recognize Jesus as her Messiah, leading to her fall, the Gospel had come to the Gentiles. This was part of God's divine plan and sovereignty (Rom. 11:7–12).
- d. To fully comprehend this, we need to develop an understanding of the mystery of God's election (Rom. 9:14–23).

2. Israel's blindness to the Gospel will be lifted.

*"...UNTIL the fullness of Gentiles has come in..."* (Rom. 11:25)

- a. God promises that Israel will receive the Gospel and return to her Messiah when the fullness of Gentiles has been fulfilled.
- b. The fullness of Gentiles refers to:
  - i. The preaching of the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Matt. 24:14);
  - ii. The fullness of God's power manifested in the Gentile Church (Joel 2:28–32);
  - iii. The rise of the mature Bride of Christ (Eph.5:25–27; Rev.22:17).

3. All Israel will be saved.

*"And so ALL Israel will be saved..."* (Rom. 11:26)

- a. That all Israel will be saved is not just a Bible verse; it is a spiritual reality.

- b. There will come a time after the “fullness of Gentiles” has come in, where not only would Israel’s blindness be lifted, but her sinful behaviour and ungodly idols, patterns and cultural compromises would also be taken away at a national level.
  - c. Three dimensions to the fullness of Israel’s salvation:
    - i. The fullness of salvation (Zech. 13:8);
    - ii. The fullness of deliverance from her enemies (Isa. 26);
    - iii. The fullness of cleansing and removal of her sins (Isa.27; 59; Zech.13:1–6).
4. Israel is the beloved of God.  
*“...but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.”* (Rom. 11:28)
- a. Even when there is great resistance from unbelieving Jewish people towards Jesus and the Gospel, God still loves His beloved people.
  - b. What will bolster the heart of Gentile believers in their commitment to Israel in the face of fierce opposition and pressure in the coming days is the delight of Jesus for His people. Gentile believers need to remain connected to Jesus’ heart for Israel.
  - c. Jesus has great zeal and passion for Israel as He views her not just based on her present reality. He views her according to His covenantal commitments to her fathers (i.e. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David).
  - d. Jesus also views her according to His commitment to her destiny and fullness in the days to come. He views her according to her past heritage and her future obedience and devotion. He is filled with love for her that is both covenantal and prophetic in nature!
5. God’s calling for Israel is irrevocable.  
*“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* (Rom. 11:29)
- a. Though Israel’s current condition is discouraging, Jesus has not forgotten her destiny and what she has been chosen for.
  - b. His covenantal commitment to deliver her from both the nations and her own disobedience will stun the Jewish people and cause the nations to tremble (Isa. 49:14–16; Ps. 102:12–16).
  - c. His purpose in electing Israel is laid out in detail in Deut. 28:1–4. This is related to their complete and careful obedience that will result in great blessings of the LORD upon her.

## **B. Three Litmus Tests of Understanding the Mystery of Israel**

1. We love and pray for Israel (Rom. 9:2–3; 10:1)  
True understanding of the mystery of Israel will cause us to devote a large amount of time to love and pray for Israel.
  
2. We are awestruck by God (Rom. 11:33–36)
  - a. If we have true understanding of the mystery of Israel, our spirit will be awakened like Paul’s to be in awe of God: “*Oh! The depth of the riches...*” (Rom. 11:33). If this does not cause us to be awestruck, then we have not fully understood it.
  
  - b. Regardless of how much we have studied this mystery, we have not really touched the essence of this truth yet if it does not awaken our spirit with awe towards God.
  
  - c. There is no other response that should give us the confidence that we have understood. Unfortunately, so many Gentile believers get caught up with being sentimental towards Israel, but they are not awestruck with Jesus and with the plan of God.
  
3. We will live for God with reckless abandonment (Rom. 12:1–2)
  - a. When we understand Romans 11:25, it will awaken awe in us (v.33–36) which will produce a steady abandonment unto the Lord (Rom. 12:1).
  
  - b. If it does not produce a sense of living with abandon unto the Lord or a desire to be wholly given to God, then we have not understood Romans 11.
  
  - c. One of the great theological mistakes of history is that many theologians believed that the “therefore” in Romans 12 points back to Romans 3 – 8. On the contrary, Romans 12:1 is actually all about Romans 11.
  
  - d. If you find yourself with greater grace and a greater ease to throw yourself into the fullness of what God is saying and doing, then you have understood the message of Romans 11.

## **C. Conclusion**

1. God calls us to press in to understand the five dimensions of the mystery of Israel in accordance to His heart.
  
2. We cannot fully enter into the understanding of the reality of this mystery except by the Holy Spirit.
  
3. If we have truly understood, we would love and pray for Israel, stand in awe of God, and live for God with reckless abandonment.