

GENTILE ARROGANCE

*Thou wilt say then, The [Jewish] branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they [unbelieving Jews] were broken off, and thou [believing Gentile] standest by faith. **Be not highminded**, but fear. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee...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.*

Romans 11:19-21 & 25

When talking about the current spiritual condition of the Jewish people—that is, their current state of unbelief in God’s Messiah—Paul warned Gentile believers not to be “high-minded”. To be high-minded is to have an exalted view or opinion of ourselves. In the context of what Paul is talking about, it means having an exalted view of ourselves (believing Gentiles) with regard to unbelieving Jews. In other words, we are not supposed to view ourselves as *superior* to the Jews. We should not be looking down our noses at them.

Paul also spoke of a “mystery” regarding the current blindness of the Jewish people, and he said if we (Gentiles) do not understand this mystery, we will end up being wise in our own conceits. That is, we will end up walking in proud. What is this mystery Paul talked about, and how can understanding it keep us from pride? The mystery is this: “...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”

A lot of truth is packed into this one short statement, so let’s unpack it.

First of all, the Jewish people are not *totally* blind concerning the things of God. They are *partially* blind. They are blind regarding the Person and work of Jesus Christ, who is their Messiah. Religious Jews have a much better grasp of the issue of righteousness than believing Gentiles do because they know God demands righteousness in a person’s life. That’s more than can be said for the vast majority of today’s “Christians” who have cut their spiritual teeth on a lawless and righteous-less gospel.

The problem with the Jewish people is that, as Paul said: “...*they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God (Rom. 10:3).* That is, they are still trying to be righteous through keeping the Law of Moses. They have not submitted to (received by faith) the righteousness (justification) of Jesus. But Gentile Christians, who have received the *imputed* righteousness of Jesus, continue to live like the Devil, assuming that imputed righteousness is all that’s necessary in order to get to heaven. Imputed righteousness is an invisible legal state. It cannot be seen by men. What is seen by men is “Christians” whose lives are no different from the unsaved. So we have a situation where both the religious Jew and the Gentile Christian are hindering the righteousness of God from coming forth *in the earth*. Thus, we have no reason to be proud of ourselves.

Secondly, Paul said this partial blindness will only last till: “...*the fulness of the Gentiles be come in*”. The question we should be asking is: Come in to what? The Gentiles are being brought into something. What is that something? What are we being brought into? The answer is, we are being brought into Israel. The Messiah we have been joined to is Israel’s Messiah. The (New) Covenant we partake of is Israel’s Covenant. The promises which have become ours are Israel’s promises. The history we have become part of is Israel’s history. The destiny we will fulfill in the future is Israel’s destiny. God is bringing the fulness of the Gentiles into Israel.

The *Jewish race* is, and has always been, special in God’s eyes.

*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ **for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh**: Who are Israelites; **to whom pertaineth** the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; **Whose are the fathers**, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

Romans 9:1-5

Who do the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the law, the service of God, and the promises belong to? Only those Jews who are saved, or the entire Jewish race? Didn't Paul just say they belong to his "kinsmen according to the flesh"? You see, the call to the priesthood is *their* call, the promises are *their* promises, the covenants are *their* covenants, the adoption as sons is *their* adoption, the service to God is *their* service. The Patriarchs of the faith are *their* Patriarchs. These things belonged to his kinsmen "according to the flesh." It belonged to them first and was destined for them.

The reason it is so important that we understand what Paul is teaching here is because throughout the centuries there have been Christian theologians and preachers who have tried to use the Biblical doctrines of election and predestination to deny the Jewish people their rightful place in God's plan. Even though Paul stated in no uncertain terms that his "kinsmen according to the flesh" are called by God to be His holy nation, regardless of their present spiritual condition, many people continue to assert that not *all* Jews are called, but rather, only those Jews who end up saved are called. The idea is that before the world was created, God elected some Jews and some Gentiles to be His holy nation. So the issue of election and "specialness" has nothing to do with the Jewish people per say. Rather, it has to do with *all* the elect, some of whom just happened to be Jews.

This mentality is a direct result of Gentile arrogance, for you see, though you may be an elect Scandinavian, or an elect Italian, or an elect African, or an elect Briton, God never chose *your race* to be His own treasure. He never brought the Irish nation, or the German nation, or the French nation to Himself at Mt. Sinai and cut an eternal covenant with them. Paul states emphatically that everything pertaining to the tree belongs to his "kinsmen after the flesh." They don't just belong to the "elect" Jew. They belong to *every* Jew.

*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**...For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, 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?*

Romans 11:17-18 & 21-24

According to Paul, whose is the Olive Tree? It is the Jews' tree"! He plainly said the *unbelieving* natural branches can be grafted back into "their own tree". Everything about the "tree" was given to the Jews first, and it was intended for them. Yes, God has grafted many Gentiles who believe in Israel's Messiah into that tree. But this does not mean the tree has become "our" tree. It is still the Jews' tree.

As a result of being grafted into the Olive Tree, we Gentiles are full partakers of the "root and fatness" of that tree, along with the natural branches. Everything that applies to the natural branches applies to the grafted-in branches. All the promises, both spiritual and natural, belong to us because we have become part of Israel.

*For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through **the righteousness of faith**. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end **the promise might be sure to all the seed**; not to that only which is of the law [faithful Jews], but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham [faithful Gentiles]; who is the father of us all.*

Romans 4:13,14,16

Paul makes clear who is eligible to receive the inheritance promised to Abraham. He says it is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end the promise might be sure to *all* the seed; not to that only which is of the law but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham. Abraham is the father of *all* who are of faith! We are just as much his "children" and "heirs" to his inheritance as any natural-born Jew. Paul is not contrasting Jews who live by faith with Jews who live by Law here. He is contrasting believing Jews, who were zealous for the Law and the traditions of the fathers, with believing Gentiles, who had no affection for or attachment to the Law.

He says the actual obtaining of the promise is by faith, not heredity. God has made faith available to Gentiles as well as to Jews. He has made certain that those who are "of the law" will never be able to exclude those who are not "of the law" from the promise. This is precisely what many Jewish believers tried to do in the Early Church. They maintained that the Gentiles had to "convert" to Judaism and accept Torah observance before they could become "fellow-citizens" and heirs to the promise. They refused to accept Gentile believers as equals. Gentiles were only admitted into the Jerusalem Church after a long struggle, fought on their behalf mostly by Paul.

There is only one Israel. In the beginning, that one Israel belonged to the Jews and was a Jewish thing. Then God opened the door and brought many Gentiles into that one Israel. As the spiritual reality of the "one new man" came into being, the substance of that one Israel has changed from a strictly national entity to a *new creation* entity. So in the end, it will be *neither* Jewish or Gentile in nature. It will be a new creation nation, made of new creations in Christ Jesus. However, this does not cancel out the place the Jews hold in that one Israel. Gentile arrogance can be quite blinding. Dr. Allen Barber makes some astoundingly ignorant statements in some of his articles.

Therefore, the real Israel of God is the One New Man in the earth composed of saved Jews and Gentiles, not that secular thing in Israel. The modern state of Israel, which many Rabbis in Israel today concede, is primarily made up of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi, not **the former ten northern tribes that God destroyed and removed them from the land to intermingle with the Assyrians and eventually the Europeans**.

The Ten Northern Tribes were called "Israel" or Ephraim", which the two Southern Tribes of Judah and Benjamin were called Judah. Israel (the ten northern tribes) went into captivity to the Assyrians. Four hundred years later, Judah (the two southern tribes) went into captivity to Babylon. Dr. Barber says the Ten Northern Tribes were intermingled with the Assyrians, and then, eventually the Europeans. The implication Dr. Barber is making, and which he wants us to accept as a fact, is that "Israel" has basically been lost (assimilated). But this is not what the Scripture says:

*Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria. **And I will bring Israel again to his habitation**, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.***

Jeremiah 50:17-20

First of all, God refers to both Judah and Ephraim (or Israel) as “Israel.” He says first the king of Assyria hath devoured him, and now Nebuchadrezzar hath broken his bones. Then He says the days are coming when God will bring “Israel” back to “his habitation”, and the iniquity of Israel and the sin of Judah will no more be found. Thus, we see that “Israel” (the ten northern tribes) is not lost, for God will restore them in the latter days.

Dr Barber goes on to say that Edom is actually Israel, and that the prophecies regarding the destruction of Edom in the book of Obadiah, are really about the destruction of modern day Israel.

Today modern Israel is a mixture of Jews and Edomites as the House of Esau was conquered by the tribe of Judah and made to conform to Judaism in about 130 B.C.: During the time of the Hasmonean ruler John Hyrcanus, Judea conquered Edom (which the Romans called Idumea) and forced the Edomites to convert to Judaism. **The Edomites were integrated into the Jewish people.** (Wikipedia Encyclopedia).

Many mistake the book of Obadiah as a prophecy calling for the destruction of the Palestinians whom they equate with Edom, when it deals with the modern illegal state of Israel - modern Edom. If you think I am all wet, then read what the Jewish Encyclopedia stated in 1925 about the existence of Ashkenazi Jews who represented approximately 90% of world Jewry, with the startling admission that the so-called enemy of the Jews, Esau (also known as Edom, see Genesis 36:1), now actually represents the Jewish race. On page 42, Volume V, it states

Edom is in modern Jewry.

If the book of Obadiah is about the destruction of the Edomites, then it is also about the destruction of the illegal state of Israel.

This is the same type of argument advanced by others who say the Jews of today aren't really Jews at all. They are “Khazaars”, converted Gentiles of an ancient kingdom. Yet all throughout the prophetic books of the Old Testament, God says He will bring again the captivity of Israel, of Judah, and of Ephraim. If the Jews are really no longer Jews, then the *people of Judah* could not possibly be restored!

In an effort to repudiate the view of Dispensationalists, who believe certain prophecies predict that modern Israel will eventually attack and destroy the Palestinians, Dr. Barber says the following:

Arab technically refers to a mixed race of people living in the Arabian Peninsula. Therefore, the Saudi Arabians are Arabs in the true sense of the Word. In contrast, the Palestinians are a mixed group of people descended from Esau, Ishmael, and the other Hamite nations. The Palestinians have Babylonian, Persian, Egyptian, Jewish, etc. blood in their ancestral bloodline. The concept they are the modern day Philistines is not supported by history. **The Philistines were totally wiped out and today do not exist**, as were the Jebusites, Hittites, Hivites, etc.

If the Philistines were “totally wiped out and today they do not exist, then who is God talking about in the following passage?

*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**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And 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. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. **But they [Ephraim and Judah] shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.***

Isaiah 11:11-16

The second time means 1948.

After bringing them back in 1948, both Judah and Ephraim will deal with the non-existent Philistines.

They will also lay their hand of “Edom”, which would mean they would be laying their hand on *themselves* if Dr. Barber’s theory about Israel being Edom is correct.

