

ROMANS 41 – ROOT AND BRANCHES RELATIONSHIP

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ROMANS 11:13-24

PROLOGUE: ISRAEL PETRIFIED IN HEART EXCEPT THE REMNANT

- ISRAEL DID NOT OBTAIN WHAT IT SOUGHT BECAUSE THEY WERE OF THE FLESH OF ABRAHAM (RO 9:6-8)
- TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ISRAEL SOUGHT, AND STILL SEEKS TODAY, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF SIN AND THE NATURE OF IDOLATRY
 - SATAN WAS THE PINNACLE OF GOD'S CREATION IN ALL RESPECTS; HOWEVER, WHEN HE SINNED HE WAS DEPICTED AS AN ANIMAL: BRUTE, UNREASONING AND VIOLENT (22 28:11-16, GE 3:1-5, RE 13:8)
 - MAN, CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE TRADED HIS HUMANITY TO FOLLOW HIS FATHER SATAN INTO SIN'S SLAVERY OF ANIMALISTIC PASSIONS (MT 9:43-48, JO 8:44)
 - BELIEVERS WHO SIN TRADE THEIR REASON TO BE LIKE IGNORANT BRUTE BEASTS IN REASON; BUT GOD DOES NOT LET US REMAIN THUS (PS 73:21-26, JO 10:28-29)

PROLOGUE: AS SIN CREATES BEASTS BEASTS WORSHIP BEASTS

- ALL WHO ARE IN SIN ARE SLAVES TO THEIR BEASTLY SIN NATURE; THUS, THEY WORSHIP THAT WHICH THEY CAN UNDERSTAND – BEASTS AND ARTIFACTS OF CREATION (JO 1:18-21)
 - NIMROD THE FIRST ANTEDILUVIAN RULER TO EMBODY KING-PRIEST IN ANIMAL IDOLATRY TO MIMIC GOD'S ASCENDING LAMB OFFERING WHICH DEPICTED CHRIST DYING FOR SIN (GE 8:20-22, JO 1:20)
 - NIMROD UNIFIED ALL PEOPLE AGAINST GOD'S COMMANDMENT TO FILL THE EARTH UNTIL GOD FORCED A SEPARATION BY GIVING PEOPLE GROUPS DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, UNDERSTANDING (GE 10:8-12, 11:1-9)
 - THE FUNDAMENTAL IDOL, ANIMAL, WORSHIPPED BY ALL EARLY PEOPLE GROUPS WAS THE BULL, SYMBOL OF POWER, FERTILITY AND CONTINUING AFTERLIFE FOR FAITHFULNESS (<https://www.ancientmaps.com/>)

PROLOGUE: HEBREWS RETAINED BULL AS IMAGE OF GOD

- WHEN THE HEBREWS MADE A GOLDEN BULL, THEY WERE DEPICTING GOD AS THEY KNEW OF HIM; AS ALL THE MESOPOTAMIAN CULTURES KNEW OF GOD; INCLUDING THE EGYPTIANS (EX 32:1-9)
- INVISIBLE GOD DEPICTED AS SITTING ASTRIDE THE VISIBLE BULL – A FOCUS POINT FOR WORSHIP
- AARON, AS MOSES' BROTHER, WAS PICKED AS INTERCESSOR; LATER TO BE A FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST (EX 17:7-9; MAL 2:4-9)
- THEY ATTRIBUTED THEIR RELEASE FROM EGYPT TO THE BULL GOD (SATAN) RATHER THAN TRUE GOD (EX 32:17; 1CO 10:20-21)
- THOUGH PUNISHED, MOST HEBREWS WOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS VISION OF GOD
- THIS IS THE HARDENING, PETRIFICATION, OF THEIR HEARTS THAT WOULD CONTINUE (EX 11:17,20)

REMOVING CONFUSION

- PAUL'S EXPRESSION, "MAGNIFYING MY MINISTRY" REFERS TO HIS MINISTRY TO THE GENTILES
- PAUL CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS PRIMARY MINISTRY WAS ALWAYS TO THE GENTILES (AC 9:13-20)
- HOWEVER, HE NEVER FORGOT ABOUT HIS JEWISH HERITAGE AND USUALLY BEGAN A CITY MINISTRY AT THE SYNAGOGUE BEFORE GOING TO THE GENTILES WHEN THE JEWS REJECTED THE SALVATION MESSAGE – USUALLY VIOLENTLY (AC 14:1-20; 2CO 11:22-28)
- IN THIS SECTION PAUL BEGAN EACH CHAPTER PROCLAIMING HIS DESIRE FOR THE JEWS TO RECEIVE SALVATION BEFORE DETAILING WHY THEY DID NOT RECEIVE SALVATION (RO 9-11)
- PAUL EXPLAINS THAT THOUGH HIS MINISTRY IS TO THE GENTILES PRIMARILY, HIS PURPOSE, AND GOD'S, IS TO DRIVE THE JEWS TO ANGER TO SEARCH THEIR BIBLES FOR THE TRUTH; AND FIND IT (AC 17:10-13)

BIBLE'S CENTRAL THEME OF REJECTION THEN RECONCILIATION

- REJECTION AND RECONCILIATION IS A CENTRAL THEME THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE
- MAN AND WOMAN REJECTED DUE TO SIN THEN RECONCILED BY GOD'S DIRECT ACTION (GE 3:1-13)
- MANKIND REJECTED THOUGH GOD RECONCILED EIGHT SOULS VIA THE ARK (GE 4:1-6; 1PE 3:18-20; 2PE 2:4-6)
- PAUL'S EARLIER LAMENT OF ELIJAH SHOWS ISRAEL REJECTED DUE TO SIN BUT GOD RECONCILED 7,000 TO HIMSELF; EVENTUALLY A REMNANT OF THIS KINGDOM WILL RETURN; GREAT TRIBULATION
- HABAKKUK'S LAMENT OF JUDAH'S UNFAITHFULNESS AND COMING REJECTION OFFSET BY GOD'S RECONCILIATION; RETURN FROM BABYLON BY A REMNANT (HAB 1:1-2:4)
- CHRIST'S LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM'S REJECTION, DUE TO THEIR REJECTION OF HIM, WILL BE OFFSET BY THEIR RECONCILIATION TO HIM; GREAT TRIBULATION AND MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (MT 23:37-39)

REJECTION – RECONCILIATION THEME APPLIES TO JEWS AND GENTILES

- PAUL SHOWS THE DEPTH OF HIS BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING IN APPLYING THE REJECTION – RECONCILIATION THEME TO GOD'S INTERACTION USING BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES; AGAIN SHOWING THEM AS EQUAL IN GOD'S EYES, THOUGH NOT IN EACH OTHER'S DUE TO SIN
 - GOD'S REJECTION OF MAN BROUGHT RECONCILIATION THAT RESULTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JEWS (PURPOSE OF GENESIS: BEGINNINGS)
 - GOD'S REJECTION OF THE JEWS, DUE TO THEIR SIN, BROUGHT RECONCILIATION TO THE GENTILES
 - GOD'S COMING REJECTION OF BOTH LOST JEWS AND GENTILES WILL BRING RECONCILIATION TO THE SOME JEWS FIRST BUT ALSO TO SOME GENTILES (MT 23:31-48)

PAUL REFERENCES TWO JEWISH SACRIFICES

- PAUL'S REFERENCE TO FIRST FRUITS AND HOLINESS OF THE ENTIRE BATCH REFERS TO TWO JEWISH SACRIFICES: UNLEAVENED BREAD – JEWS; PENTECOST – GENTILES
 - IF THE TWO LOVES OFFERED DURING THESE SACRIFICES WERE HOLY AS FIRST FRUITS, THEN THE BATCH OF DOUGH FROM WHICH THEY WERE MADE WAS ALSO HOLY; REFERENCING ALL WHO BELIEVED DURING EACH PERIOD (LAW; FIRST FRUITS)
 - UNLEAVENED BREAD, BARLEY, BEGAN WITH THE LAW REFERENCING REPENTANCE BEFORE PASSOVER AND THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHICH WOULD PRIMARILY BE JEWS (MT 1:7-8)
 - PENTECOST, WHEAT WITH LEAVEN, WAS FULFILLED WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW COVENANT WITH THE CALLED OUT ONES – CHURCH, WHICH WOULD PRIMARILY BE GENTILES (AC 2:1-4)

WHOLE DETERMINES CONDITION OF THE SACRIFICE

- PAUL REFERENCE THESE JEWISH SACRIFICES SEVERAL TIMES IN HIS WRITINGS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD IN THE ANCIENT PAGAN WORLD WITH ITS SACRIFICES BUT CARRIES LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TODAY; THOUGH IT SHOULD
 - THE CONDITION OF THE BATCH OF DOUGH DETERMINES WHETHER THE PARTIAL IS ACCEPTABLE
 - ANY LEAVEN, SIN, IN THE BATCH MAKES ANY PORTION OF IT UNSUITABLE (1C 13:20-21)
 - ACCEPTANCE OF COVERT SIN BRINGS A BLIGHT ON ONE'S LIFE THOUGH IT DOES NOT NEGATE ONE'S SALVATION – GOD PURGES OUT THE LEAVEN; NEW NATURE; NEW BODY (1CO 5:4-8)
 - IF JEWS AND GENTILES ARE SAVED OUT OF THEIR OWN TIME; THEN ALL WHO ARE SAVED WILL BE HOLY SINCE ALL ARE EQUAL WITH ONE SALVATION BEFORE GOD (1P 4:4-6)

OLIVE TREE AS METAPHOR – AS WARNING

- PAUL'S ILLUSTRATES HIS MESSAGE VIA THE METAPHOR OF WILD AND CULTIVATED OLIVE TREES
 - ISRAEL IS A CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE AND INDIVIDUAL JEWS ARE ITS BRANCHES
 - GENTILE WORLD IS A WILD, UNCULTIVATED, OLIVE TREE AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ITS BRANCHES
 - BELIEVING GENTILES ARE BRANCHES GRAFTED INTO THE CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE, ESPECIALLY SINCE BEGINNING OF FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION; I.E., THE CHURCH
 - WARNING IS AGAINST GENTILE PRIDE EVIDENCED BY HOSTILITY TOWARD THE JEWS; I.E., NOT TAKING THEM THE GOSPEL (LUTHER) – REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY
 - LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES EVIDENCE OF CHRIST PRUNING UNBELIEVING GENTILE BRANCHES
 - REMAINDER OF REVELATION: GOD GRAFTING JEWS BACK INTO HIS CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE

TREE AS METAPHOR IN SCRIPTURE

- GOD'S USE OF THE TREE, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AS METAPHOR RUNS THE LENGTH OF BIBLE
 - MAN HAD CHOICE BETWEEN TREE OF LIFE AND TREE OF KNOWLEDGE; MAN CHOSE KNOWLEDGE OVER LIFE AND CONTINUES TO DO SO EVEN TODAY (GE 2:9, 15-17, 3:1-13, 24)
 - IT IS NOT THE EATING OF FRUIT OF ANY TREE THAT HAS ANY PROPERTIES OF LIFE OR KNOWLEDGE
 - IT IS OBEDIENCE THAT BRINGS LIFE OR DISOBEDIENCE THAT RESULTS IN DEATH (RO 1:16-20)
 - ONE DECIDES TO RECEIVE ONE'S KNOWLEDGE FROM GOD IN FAITH OF HIS GOODNESS (HE 2:7, 22:14)
 - OR ONE DECIDES TO RECEIVE TAINTED KNOWLEDGE FROM A SOURCE OTHER THAN GOD (HE 22:18, 19)
 - MAN, FLESHLY NATURE, CONTINUALLY AGITATES FOR KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT THE CONTEXT OF GOD WHICH RESULTS IN DEATH; SELF AND OTHERS – SIN RESULTS IN VIOLENCE AND DEGRADATION

ISRAEL'S GROWTH REVOLVES ABOUT A TREE

- ISRAEL'S BEGINNINGS INVOLVE A TREE, BUSH, AND CULMINATE ON A TREE, OR PORTION THEREOF (DE 3:1-4)
- GOD COULD AS EASILY SPOKEN FROM A ROCK WHICH IS ALSO IMAGERY ASSOCIATED WITH ISRAEL; I.E., ROCK WITHOUT HANDS AND CORNERSTONE (DA 2:32-35, 0 28:14-16)
- PRICKLY, THORNY BUSH REPRESENTED UNCULTIVATED ISRAEL WHICH WILL BE PURGED BY FIERY JUDGMENT TO BECOME A CULTIVATED TREE AS DEPICTED BY PAUL (E 1:11-14-20)
- LAW LAID THE FOUNDATION; CURSED IS ANYONE HANGED ON A TREE; NOT TO BE LEFT OVERNIGHT AS CHRIST WAS NOT LEFT IN DARKNESS OF HELL BUT AROSE TO LIGHT OF NEW LIFE (DE 21:22-23, PS 14)
- CHRIST BECAME CURSED OF GOD AS SIN, FOR SIN, FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE (PS 22, GA 3:13-14)

TREE AS METAPHOR FOR ISRAEL AND SALVATION

- MESSIANIC SCRIPTURES FREQUENTLY DEPICT CHRIST AS A SPROUT OR SHOOT OF A TREE
 - CHRIST IS DEPICTED AS A SHOOT THAT ARISES FROM THE ROOT, GOD (IS 11:1-10; AC 13:22-23)
 - NEBUCHADNEZZAR DEPICTED AS A GREAT TREE, CUT DOWN IN JUDGMENT BUT ALLOWED TO ARISE IN NEWNESS OF LIFE - SAVED (DA 4)
 - ISRAEL WAS CUT DOWN IN JUDGMENT BUT WILL ARISE IN THE LATTER DAYS WITH CHRIST'S RETURN TO FILL THE EARTH DURING HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (ZE 1:1)
 - THIS SPROUT (BRANCH) IS SACRIFICED ON A TREE (STAIROS) IN ORDER TO GRAFT ONTO GOD'S TREE OF LIFE BRANCHES OF THE CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE, JEWS, AND OF THE WILD OLIVE TREE, GENTILES, WHICH SHALL THEN GROW TO FILL THE ENTIRE EARTH (IS 4; 12 17:22-24)

CHRIST IS THE ROOT

- GLORIFIED CHRIST CLEARLY DEPICTED AS THE ROOT, THE SOURCE OF SALVATION FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE
 - CHRIST IS THE ROOT AND THE LAMB WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL AND CLAIM THE TITLE DEED TO EARTH LOST TO SATAN IN ADAM'S SIN (RE 5:1-6)
 - CHRIST CALLS HIMSELF THE ROOT AND THE DESCENDENT OF DAVID (RE 22:14)
 - CHRIST SAYS THAT HE HAS GIVEN REVELATION TO THE CHURCHES TO UNDERSTAND HIS PLAN FOR ALL WHO ARE SAVED: PRE-JEWS, JEWS AND GENTILES
 - ALL WILL BECOME INTEGRATED INTO ONE BODY IN THE FUTURE EARTH TO WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM THAT DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN, INHABITED BY CHRIST (RE 21)

THUS, PAUL'S WARNING TO THE GENTILES

- PAUL'S SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR WARNING GENTILE CONVERTS AGAINST PRIDE
 - JUST BECAUSE GOD HAS CLIPPED HIS CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE OF UNFAITHFUL, NONPRODUCING, BRANCHES DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE HAS NEGATED HIS WORD TO HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE
 - GOD SAID THAT THE COVENANT HE MADE WITH THE DAY AND NIGHT WOULD BE ANNULLED BEFORE HE RENEGED ON HIS COVENANT WITH HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE (JE 33:14-26)
 - FROM HIS METAPHOR AS A BURNING BUSH TO HIS PRUNING THEM FOR THEIR UNBELIEF TO HIS RESTORATION OF THEM, GOD HAS KEPT ALL HIS WORD AS HE SWORE TO HABAKKUK (PSA 2:1-4)
 - THE UNDERLYING THEME OF MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD: RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH IN THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH ONLY COMES FROM GOD IN ITS TRUE CONTEXT (JPD 1:16-17; RE 22:16-17)

PRIDE LEADS TO REJECTION

- PRIDE IS THE OUTWARD MANIFESTATION OF COVETOUSNESS, THE GREAT IDOLATRY OF ALL AGES (1CO 10:20-22)
 - GENTILES WHO SEEK TO MAGNIFY THEIR POSITION OVER THAT OF JEWS SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT RELATIONSHIPS, SIN AGAINST GOD
 - SHOWS AN UNDERLYING JEALOUSY, COVETOUSNESS, OF JEWS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS OPPOSED TO THE GENTILES
 - PAUL HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO SHOW THAT ALL ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD, THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE SALVATION AND ONE BODY THOUGH ITS MANY MEMBERS HAVE DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS
 - GENTILES WHO CLAIM THEY HAVE REPLACED THE JEWS ARE LIKE A CANCER THAT MAGNIFIES ITSELF OVER THE NATURAL CELLS UNTIL THE BODY IS DESTROYED. GOD CUTS IT OUT AS WE DO

EPILOGUE: REJECTION – RECONCILIATION THEME APPLIES TO JEWS AND GENTILES

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BIBLICAL INTERDEPENDENCE

- PAUL DEMONSTRATES HIS GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE BY HIS SKILLFUL USE OF ITS IMAGERY AND METAPHORS IN THIS LETTER TO GENTILE BELIEVERS
 - CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A NEW AND DIFFERENT FAITH IN GOD; THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD AND THUS ONE FAITH IN GOD
 - PAUL EXPERIENCED THE RIFT BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES; FIRST BEGUN BY THE JEWS
 - AS GENTILES WERE BECOMING THE PREDOMINANT FORCE, HE DID NOT WANT THEM TO MISINTERPRET THEIR POSITION AND ELEVATE THEMSELVES OVER THE JEWS AS THE JEWS HAD DONE TO GENTILE PROSELYTES IN VIOLATION OF THEIR LAW. ONE LAW FOR BOTH JEW AND STRANGER (EX: 12:48-49)

MATURE UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

- ALL ARE TO BE STUDENTS OF GOD'S WORD WHICH REQUIRES ONE TO CONTINUALLY STUDY TO FIND THE SUBTLE INTERDEPENDENCIES OF RELATIONSHIPS THAT ILLUMINATE ONE'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD
 - THE JEWS FAILED THIS THEN AND CONTINUE TO DO SO TODAY THINKING THEY ARE GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE OVER EVERYONE ELSE
 - THE GENTILE CHRISTIANS HAVE MADE THE SAME ERROR OF PRIDE TAKING FOR THEMSELVES PROMISES GOD MADE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE JEWS
 - BOTH POSITIONS RESULT IN IGNORANCE AND JUDGMENT
 - PAUL WILL REITERATE ONE MORE TIME THAT GOD WILL RECALL HIS PEOPLE IN HIS TIME