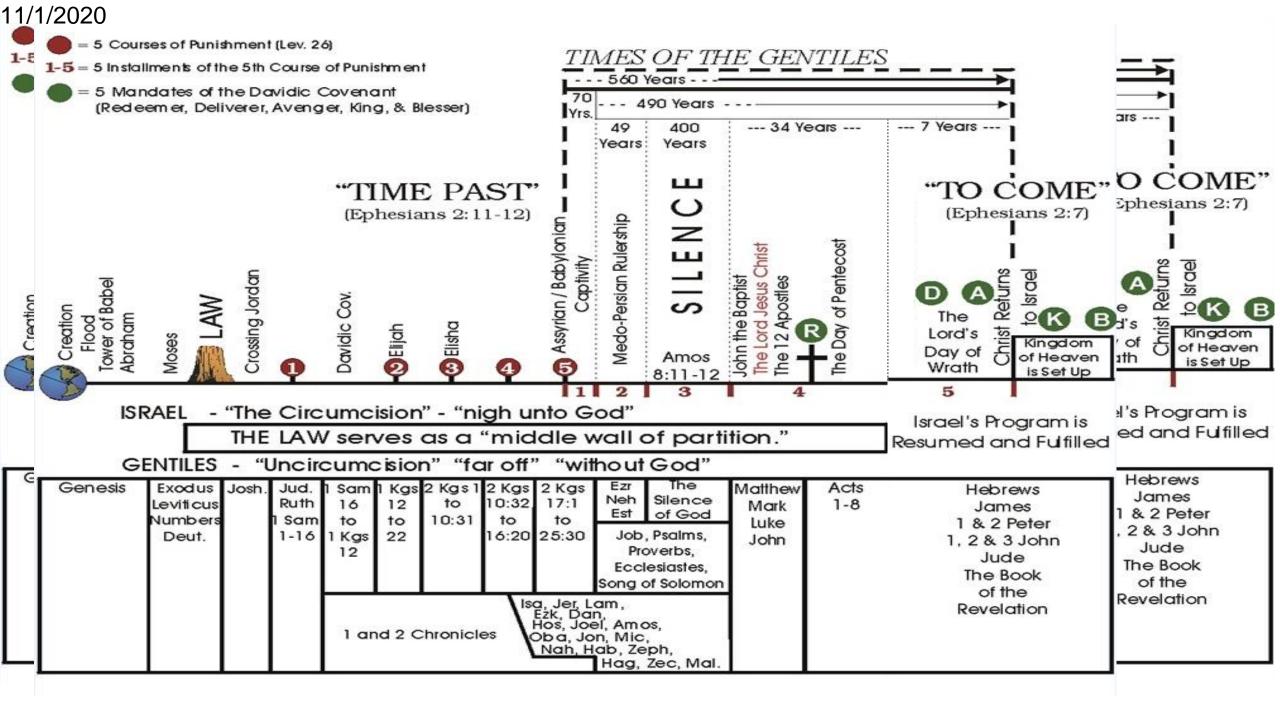
THE OLIVE TREE

Rom. 11:17-25



- 1. God is not all done with national Israel because of His "Israel Equation" (11:11-16):
 - a. If Israel's (temporary) Fall = Riches of World (Pauline Grace) Then Israel's (permanent) Rise = Much More Riches
 - --God's Mystery Program with the Body of Christ wasn't designed to solve the earth's problems. It was designed to solve the heavenlies' problems unto God's Glory—2,000 years and the earth is still in the hands of Satan under the power of sin and death.
 - --God's Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel was designed to solve the earth's problems unto God's Glory: Christ will reign, Satan bound, unbelievers purged, God's righteousness and knowledge will cover the whole earth, justice and equity will prevail, bountiful crops, etc.

- b. If Israel's casting away = Reconciling of Word (2 Cor. 5:18-21)
 Then Israel's gathering together = Life From the Dead
 - --When God completes His Mystery Program (the fullness of the Gentiles-Rom. 11:25), it will end with the Rapture—the dead in the Body of Christ will be resurrected unto immortality and the living will follow into immortality (1 Thess. 4:14-18)
 - --When God completes His Prophetic Program (the fullness of Israel-Rom. 11:12), it will begin with the resurrection of Prophetic Program saints—OT, Christ's earthly ministry and Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4-6), and the living will be ushered into the Kingdom where longevity is restored.

- c. If the firstfruits is holy (set apart for God's purpose), then the lump of dough made from it is holy too.
- d. If the root is holy, then the branches connected to the root and receive their life from it are holy (set apart for God's purpose).
- 2. The keys to understanding Rom. 11:16-24 and The Olive Tree:
 - a. Being HOLY does not refer to some inherent property in a person or thing. It just mean a person or thing has been set apart for God's use. In the Temple there were HOLY clay and gold vessels. They were the exact same clay and gold vessels as what were in the secular markets. The difference was not that they weren't made of a higher quality clay or gold but that they were set apart for God's use in the Temple. Outside the same vessels were used for wash water and carrying waste.

- b. Follow the changes in pronouns:
 - 1. THEY/THEM—national Israel made up of Jews (11:11-25)
 - 2. YE (plural)—the Gentiles (11:13-14, 25).
 - YOU (singular)—the type of Gentile who thinks according to Gentile arrogance, boasting that God has removed Israel (the lesser thing) to make room for the Gentiles (the greater thing) (11:17-24).
 - c. Paul's change to the singular YOU in this speech/argument is to drive home a strong warning against *a type of Gentile* who thinks with Gentile arrogance regarding the setting aside of national Israel (11:25).

- d. The Olive Tree is God's place of direct blessings that come through Christ and His Work on the Cross (Gen. 8:11; Deut. 8:8; Judges:9:8-9; Ps. 52:8; Hosea 14).
 - --In God's Prophetic Program, God put the Nation of Israel (saved and unsaved alike) in the place of <u>direct</u> blessing. The Gentiles received God's blessings <u>INdirectly</u> through Israel.
 - --Today in God's Mystery Program, however, God has removed national Israel from the place of direct blessings and put the Gentiles (saved and unsaved alike) there.

- 3. In God's Prophetic Program God set apart His Own nation Israel for His purpose (made her holy), making her the recipients of His blessings (the root) directly (through Christ) and the conduit of blessings indirectly to the Gentiles (Acts 13, for example).
- 4. Today, in God's Mystery Program God grafted the Gentiles in not because of any inherent quality of their own but because they believed His Word through Paul. Therefore, He set them apart for His purpose (made them holy), dispensing His blessings (from the root) to them directly *apart from national Israel*.
 - --Riches of the world, the Gentiles, Reconciliation and Righteousness unto all and upon those who believe.

- Today, God has removed national Israel from the place of direct blessings not because He found a more promising group (the Gentiles) but because of their persistent unbelief and made the Gentiles recipients of His direct blessings (Pauline Grace) because of belief.
- 6. 11:17: He did this by breaking off the unbelieving branches of apostate Israel, leaving only the believing remnant of Israel, whose ministry He preserved (in the Scriptures), and who would soon die out with their apostles (Peter and 11).
- 7. He has now grafted in the wild olive tree that before bore no useable fruit under the pagan gods and will work among them to produce fruit directly without having to go through Israel.

8. 11:18-25: Paul's diabribe, his rebuke against Gentile arrogance.

Gentiles are not to get arrogant against the fall of national Israel because like national Israel, if the Gentiles persist in unbelief, God will cut the Gentiles out of the place of direct blessing (ending His Mystery Program on Earth) and will graft national Israel back into that place in God's Prophetic Program on Earth.

- a. Unbelieving Gentiles will be removed from that place and returned to their previous place of God's blessings indirectly through the Nation of Israel and her Rise.
- Believing Gentiles will be removed from this place through the Rapture and will be put into their places of blessings in the Heavenlies in Christ.

 11:26: Then all Israel will be saved and God will complete His Prophetic Program which *will* fix the world's problems, reestablishing God's Glory on Earth in accord with the greater riches and life from the dead mentions in 11:12 and 15.