

Review last week:

- Ransom Theory
 - Essentially, this theory claimed that Adam and Eve sold humanity over to the Devil at the time of the Fall; hence, it required that God pay the Devil a ransom to free us from the Devil's clutches. God, however, tricked the Devil into accepting Christ's death as a ransom, for the Devil did not realize that Christ could not be held in the bonds of death. Once the Devil accepted Christ's death as a ransom, this theory concluded, justice was satisfied and God was able to free us from Satan's grip.
 - Robin Collins, *Understanding Atonement: A New and Orthodox Theory*
 - The Redeemer came and the deceiver was overcome. What did our Redeemer do to our Captor? In payment for us He set the trap, His Cross, with His blood for bait. He [Satan] could indeed shed that blood; but he deserved not to drink it. By shedding the blood of One who was not his debtor, he was forced to release his debtors. (St Augustine)
 - Doctrine of the Atonement, *Catholic Encyclopedia*
- As mentioned last week, this theory is fraught with theological problems.
 - Was God “required” to buy us back, or pay and barter with the devil?
 - Was the devil free to deny this transaction??
 - Does the punishment of an innocent man satisfy wrath and justice towards the guilty?
- But scripture mentions “ransom”.
 - Jesus mentions it in Mark 10:45
 - But the Greek means “the price of a release” (especially in regards to slaves)
 - We are NOT saying that Jesus did not pay a price to free us! He certainly did. We are questioning whether that money was “owed” to the devil in some bartering situation.
 - The verb of this Greek root can mean not only to pay a ransom, but to liberate and set free. Yes!
 - It’s also in 1 Timothy 2:5-6
 - Note: mediation is not between the devil & God but between man & God!

The Work of Christ (cont.) - The King & His Kingdom

God's Answer to the problem of Israel's theocracy - The arrival of The King

- Review:
 - PROPHET=Malachi - No glory cloud filling of 2nd Temple like that in 1st Temple in 1 Kings 8:10; Intertestamental literature - Spirit of prophecy is gone from Israel, but hope of one who would return Spirit's presence.
 - PRIEST=suffering servant who will make ultimate atonement for mankind, needs to connect with human change not blood of rams and bulls (Is 1:11, Hos 6:6)
- KING=1st Century Jewish hope - for a continuation of the promised son of David to sit on throne forever (re-establish Kingdom)
 - 2 Sam 7:12-17. Like the covenant with Abraham in Gen 15, the covenant with David about an heir on the throne forever was a covenant of faith, not works (void of stipulations, God takes the vow)

The Personhood of God, pt.10 – The Work of Christ (The King and His Kingdom)

- Many of the prophecies and promises given to Israel were conditional even as they were for everlasting (ex. 30 yr mortgage can still be foreclosed on earlier if party is in default)
- Unconditional promises were of seed:
 - Seed of woman - crush serpent (Genesis 3:15)
 - Seed of Abraham - to bless the nations, unite all (Gen 15)
 - Seed of David - eternal King on throne (2 Sam 7:12-17)
- The Theocracy of the OT was Israel's failure, not God's. God's plan for salvation never fails (1 Peter 1:20 – [the Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world).
 - BDAG - foreknown = 1) to know ahead of time 2) to choose ahead of time. (Logically - to know ahead of time; and to set into motion the events that will result in a destined outcome, AND have a plan in place for when it happens is to choose that path. Note, it does not make void human responsibility!
 - So why did God ordain this plan, even for Israel?
 - For His glory (revealed as Savior and Lord of all) that no one may boast.
 - Law as guardian (schoolmaster in Greek) to show us our truancy. - Gal 3:24
 - What is gained by knowing our limitations, weakness, and resulting brokenness? Dependence on God!
- The Kingdom manifestation in Israel's theocracy is a typology (foreshadowing) of a greater fulfillment yet to come in the New Covenant in Christ
 - Remember role of typologies - OT worldly, physical signs that find spiritual realization/fulfillment in the NT (kingdom, temple, throne)
 - Movement from circumcision defining God's people, to the circumcision of the heart (again - Col 2, Ezek 26:26, Jer 31:33)
 - Circumcision of the heart (new heart, new spirit = born again), symbolized in baptism (circumcision for the born anew children of God, no longer defined by birth from human decision or a father's will, but from God – see again John 1)
 - Temple, bread from heaven, water from rock, promised land, Sabbath day, sacrificial system, burning bush theophany...all find spiritual realization/fulfillment in New Covenant in Christ
 - Israel's theocracy itself also now becomes a typology (“Kingdom of God is at hand/within you/amongst you”...more later)

Romans 11 - The Kingdom as an olive branch & the grafting in

Exegetical background: 1) Roman church was the most mixed (Jew & Gentile) of all Paul's churches, 2) Throughout NT, he is battling Judaizers who believe circumcision is necessary for one to be God's people, 3) in classic Pauline style he weaves a term (Israel) between two meanings - ethnic (circumcision) & spiritual/realized Israel (Jew & Gentile fulfilling the covenant of faith made to Abraham as the father of many nations through seed of Christ), and 4) trees (branches, etc.) were symbolic of kingdoms in the ancient world

- V.1-3 - ethnic Israel
- V.4-5 – remnant
 - Israel must still be defined as a people of faith in God.

The Personhood of God, pt.10 – The Work of Christ (The King and His Kingdom)

- Notice how remnant is defined = people God kept (literally to cause something to remain in place) for Himself.
- Remnant = chosen by grace (Jews in Christ) to show God's love for Israel & promise to patriarchs. Remnant today are the ones who believe with faith like those who didn't bow to Baal.
- V. 7-8 – Ethnic Israel failed to obtain the kingdom's arrival, b/c hearts were hardened against their King.
 - Note this is a passive tense, further cemented with the idea that God gave them a spirit of stupor
 - This is not unjust because God doesn't owe Israel anything based on their rebellion – mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility).
 - But elect (chosen of God), through faith, obtained it. Israel is continued though the remnant of faith, just like in Elijah's day.
 - This "obtaining" refers to Kingdom - olive tree, trees represent Kingdoms in Bible
- V.9-10 - Their expectations of the Davidic Kingdom, and perhaps allegiance to Jewish law (which developed orally beyond the written law), became their snare to seeing God's grace in Jesus Christ.
 - Note it was set into motion prophetically back in David's time.
 - Stumbling block=anyone hung on a tree is cursed. The hardened and proud cannot see their own curse taken on the tree of Christ (Gal 3:13 quoting Deut 21:23)
- V. 11 - Christianity's separation from Judaism opened the doors for the gospel to the Gentiles. "Through their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles." Keep in mind -
 - Paul in Acts, after facing rejection from fellow Jews, says "we are turning to the Gentiles". Acts 13:46-47 where the "twist" is that through their rebellion they will become a light to the Gentiles. So his experience has been the source for his statement here.
 - Jealous - Gentiles closeness with God of Abraham produces a jealousy. Grace produces a relationship with God that works cannot. Israel will see a closeness between God and the Gentiles as a result of grace that will make them jealous. The works based approach had kept them distant from God, where curses are applied for disobedience.
- V.12-14 – Paul has a hope for his fellow Jews to return and be included, but not in absence of faith in Christ
 - Note that this jealousy has the potential to cause them to turn to grace as well (a coming "full inclusion")!
 - The point of the jealousy is to drive "some" of them back to God
- V.15 – Paul's hope for his fellow Jews is consummated in this: When the world (Gentiles) and Israel (the Jews) are both included in the covenant of faith in Christ, then God's purposes in hardening and softening will be achieved for eternal life in the Kingdom of God. The remnant Israel (Jew and Gentile in Christ - the promised seed of Abraham bringing in the nations) will be fulfilled/complete

Pick up here next week with verse 16...