



Lesson 10: Tending the Fields II

The LORD's Progressive Revelation about His Plan of Redemption.....

NOTES FOR LECTURE 10
Gentile Tending the Fields – Becky

1. God's plan for unity: Jews and gentiles
 - a. John 17:20-23 - Jesus's prayer of unity. Not just the unity within the church but unity of two separate people groups within the body of Christ.
 - b. Matthew 28 19-20 - The Great Commission: to make disciples of all nations (gentiles)
 - c. *Acts of the Apostles* – God's plan for unity is put into action in this book about the Early Church and the spread of the gospel.
2. Movement of the Spirit through the *Book of Acts* also called *The Acts of the Spirit*.
 - a. Jesus told them in:
 - **Acts 1:4** – *Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised.*
 - **Acts 1:8** – *...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...*
 - b. Who was Paul (previously known as Saul)?
 - Jew among Jews; zealous for the Torah and the faith of His fathers
 - Believed that the early Believers (Nazarenes) were an abomination until he met the risen Savior (Acts 9, I Corinthians 15 and Galatians 1)
 - c. Acts 11:19-24 - As a result of the stoning of Steven (Acts 7), the Believers were scattered and brought the message initially only to the Jews.
 - d. Acts 13:46-47 - Pharisaical Jews became jealous and Paul now *turns to the gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth* – Quoted from Isaiah 49:6.
 - e. Acts 15:1-2 – Judaizing in early church (see notes on Lecture 3) which was sewing seeds of disunity among the brethren. Paul and Barnabas acted swiftly.
 - f. Acts 15:7-11 – Salvation by grace through faith alone – see also Ephesians 2:8
 - g. Acts 15:19-20 – Jerusalem council agrees that gentiles were not required to be circumcised and obey the Torah, but should act in a way to promote unity by:
 - Abstaining from sexual immorality
 - Not eating meat with the blood still in it (strangled)
 - Not eating meat that has been sacrificed to idols
 - h. **Acts 18:5-6** – After being opposed by the unbelieving Jews, Paul says: *From now on I will go to the gentiles.*

3. Misapplications of the book of Romans, Chapters 9 – 11, and their consequences
 - a. A discussion of the nation of Israel and her role in the LORD's plan of redemption
 - b. Often misunderstood and misapplied to the individual Believer's experience of redemption thereby creating false doctrine that divides the church.
 - c. Romans 9:1-5 – Who is Paul talking about? Individuals or the nation of Israel?
 - d. Chapters 9-10 – The misunderstanding of Paul's meaning and applications:
 - Jacob I loved – nation of Israel
 - Esau I hated – nation of Edom (Malachi 1:1-5)
 - Raising up of Pharaoh – nation of Egypt
 - Nations used for noble and common purposes - all out of the same lump of clay.
 - All nations used for a purpose in His Plan.
 - e. Chapters 9 and 10 – Those misunderstandings, wrongly applied to the individual, have created false doctrines that cause:
 - Fear and worry
 - Insecurity
 - Divisions

Philippians 1:6 – *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

4. The false doctrine of **Replacement Theology** -

The notion that the people of Israel, the physical descents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, have been cut off from the LORD's plan and His promises and that they have been replaced by the church. Paul, who loved his people and looked forward to the day when *all Israel would be saved*, (**Romans 11:25-26**) did not teach that Israel had been replaced (**Romans 11:1-2**). Other names for it include:

Supersessionism and **Palestinian Liberation Theology**.

- a. The church will share in the spiritual promises but remember, the LORD always keeps his promises to the people to whom He promised them.
- b. Justin Martyr, an early church father (100-165 AD) claimed that "God's covenant with Israel was no longer valid and that the gentiles had replaced the Jews." Replacement theology is a theology that is erroneous and insidious:
 - Erroneous means: mistaken, wrong, incorrect, flawed, untrue and invalid
 - Insidious means: sinister, dangerous, subtle and menacing

- c. Where did this idea come from? Whose lie is it?
- John 8:44 – *Satan is a liar and the father of lies.*
 - Ephesians 6:10-18; I Peter 5:8 – Be aware of (beware!) of the Devil's schemes, he wants to devour you!
 - Satan not only hates the Church, he hates the Jews and wants to destroy them so that the LORD's promises will not be fulfilled.
 - Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33 – **generation** means generated people or race – the Jewish people, that is, the nation of Israel will not pass away until all is fulfilled. Satan does not want that to happen.
5. We are to expose Satan's lies of Replacement Theology, and bring them into the light:
- a. **John 3:19-20** – Jesus said that *evil will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*
 - b. **Ephesians 5:11-12** – *shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*
 - c. The consequences of an erroneous theology such as Replacement Theology are shameful, but if we ignore it, we give the devil a foothold.
 - d. How did Christians stand by and watch the Holocaust happen? Didn't they know what was going on?
6. The Holocaust - Is it possible that the Christians thought that it was the will of Almighty God? We are to *know the truth, and the truth will set us free* – **John 8:32**
- a. During the Middle Ages, the fifth through the fifteenth century, the organized church believed that:
 - Jews (Israelites) were Christ killers and should be mistreated accordingly
 - The church had replaced Israel and God had no future for the Jews
 - b. All would agree, Adolph Hitler was the driving force behind the Holocaust, but who did he claim was the greatest encouragement of his life? The greatest encouragement of his life came from Martin Luther, the reformer of the organized church.
 - c. Even if a teacher has spoken truth in the past we must always measure it against the plumb line of Scripture. We are to become like the Berean Jews who *examined the Scriptures every day* to see if what was being said was true. - **Acts 17:11**

- d. Hitler was influenced by Martin Luther when he wrote *Mein Kampf*: Luther was influenced by the early church fathers. Luther's booklet entitled *The Jews and their Lies* referred to the Jews as:
- A miserable and accursed people
 - Stupid fools
 - Miserable, blind and senseless
 - Thieves and robbers
 - The great vermin of humanity
 - Lazy rogues
 - Blind and venomous
- e. Martin Luther's proposals for dealing with the Jews were:
- Their synagogues and schools should be burned.
 - Their house should be destroyed
 - Their Talmudic writings should be confiscated.
 - Their Rabbis should be forbidden to teach.
 - Their money should be taken from them.
 - They should be compelled into forced labor.
- f. In 1924, at a Christian gathering in Berlin, Hitler said:
 "I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of Almighty God as I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake – and this is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all."

7. Romans 11:13-24

- a. Paul wants to arouse his people to envy (v. 13-14)
- b. Paul is concerned about divisions and gentile boasting over the Hebrew root (v. 17)
- c. Paul reminds them that the cultivated Olive Tree belongs to Israel (v. 23-24)

8. The story of Joseph, one of twelve brothers, the sons of Israel

- a. His brothers did not recognize him (Genesis 42:8) – he looked like an Egyptian
- b. We need to show the Israelites a Hebrew Yehoshua, not a Greek Jesus

9. Ephesians 2:12-22 – Refer to: **Overview of Passion and Passover Week, Chart #19**

- a. You (Gentiles) who were once far away have been brought near
- b. He (Yehoshua) has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier
- c. Reconciling them through the cross – fellow citizen's with God's people
- d. A household built on the apostles and prophets
- e. A dwelling place in which God lives by his Spirit

Refer to: **Reconciliation Between Jew and Gentile, Chart #20)**

When the Nation of Israel returns to their God, He will return to us all!

Zechariah 1:3 *Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.*

And so we say, Come, LORD Jesus (Yehovah Yehoshua), come!

Homework after Lecture 10

Prepare for Lecture 11 – The Feast of Trumpets I

As we have learned, the time of the **Tending of the Fields** is filled with deep spiritual significance as it symbolizes the time when we look forward to the harvesting of *souls*. It represents the gap between the first and second coming of Christ, the time period between Pentecost and this next Appointment to come.

Remember our Savior's words which were spoken sometime after Pentecost and before The Feast of Trumpets, *Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.* - **John 4:35**

As summer moved toward fall and the full moon of the 6th month, Elul, began to wane (our September/October), Jews would begin to watch for the sliver of the New Moon (Refer to: **Rosh Chodesh (New Moon) in Scripture, Chart #2**). Once that new moon was sighted, the new month, the 7th month of Tishri, would begin. It was also the first day of The Feast of Trumpets, which in Hebrew is called *Yom Terurah* or "The Day of Blowing."

From the time the Jews return from their Babylonian captivity through today you will hear this Appointment referred to as **Rosh Hashanah** which means "head of the year." They adopted this term from the Babylonians who began their year in the fall during Tishri, the seventh month of the Hebrew Calendar.

When reminded that LORD told the Israelites the first month of their year was to be the month that included Passover, that is Nisan (Exodus 12:1-2), the typical Jew will reconciled this by saying that Tishri is the first month of the civil calendar and Nisan is the first month of the religious calendar. This is just one of many examples how Rabbinical or Orthodox Judaism has moved away from the pure outline of the Biblical calendar and have *nullified the Word of God for the sake of their tradition*, **Matthew 15:6**.

As Believers, we are able to look back and see how perfectly Jesus kept the spring Appointments. This gives us the confidence to look forward and know that He will, one day, keep the fall Appointments. Because we are looking forward, we can only look for clues in Scripture and imagine how He will do this. The Jewish people celebrate these Appointments to some extent, even today, as a remembrance, but do not see the beauty and perfection of how Jesus perfectly fulfills (rightly applies) them. As we know, Jesus told his disciples, *I have not come to abolish the law (Torah), but to fulfill it*, – **Matthew 5:17**.

Now that you are familiar with looking for the deeper meaning of these Appointments, try to fill in the “reality” blanks to the best of your ability:

<u>Shadow</u>	<u>Reality</u>
Sabbath	Sabbath
<i>Rest from Your Work</i>	
Passover/Unleavened Bread	Passover/ Unleavened Bread
<i>Lamb Sacrificed</i>	
Firstfruits	Firstfruits
<i>First of the Harvest</i>	
Pentecost	Pentecost
<i>Oral Torah was Given</i>	

1. Read Leviticus 23:23-25 and Numbers 29:1-6:
 - When was this Appointment to begin?
 - Was it a Sabbath?
 - How were they to commemorate the day?
 - Do you see a reason why the LORD told them to blow the trumpet?

2. In the Bible the trumpet call or sound can have many meanings. It could indicate the sound of a trumpet, a shofar (ram’s horn), a voice or a combination of all three. The trumpet call was used as a signal:
 - To announce an assembly
 - To call to battle or war
 - To warn or to give an alarm to wake up
 - To announce a feast, a new moon or a Sabbath
 - To exalt and praise Yehovah

Unlike the other yearly Appointments, which fell in the middle of the month, *Yom Teruah* was to be celebrated on the first of the month. The celebration would begin the day the new moon was sighted. As you may remember, the Hebrew day begins in the evening. Although the LORD did not specifically tell the Israelites to keep this feast for two days, we can see in Scripture and in tradition that it was celebrated as a two-day *moed* or Appointment. The two days of *Yom Terurah* came to be known as “One Long Day.”

3. Read Nehemiah 8:1-15

- What day was it that Ezra began to read from the law (Torah)?
- What did the people do when Ezra opened the book (vs. 5-6)?
- How did the people first respond when they understood what they were hearing (vs. 8-9)?
- By the second day, what attitude did the people have toward their new found understanding?

4. Read I Samuel 20:24-27

- What festival (Appointment) was being celebrated?
- How many days did the celebration last?

5. As you learned from Question 2, the LORD did not tell the Israelites what it was that they were to commemorate on this Appointment. Over the years the Jews associated what they did know about this Feast, along with the reasons for sounding the trumpet, and created idioms or euphemisms that relate to what they were to remember.

- Try to imagine why they chose the following to apply to this particular Appointment.
 - One Long Day (*Yom Arichta*)
 - The Hidden Day (*Yom HaKeseh*)
 - The Feast Where No Man Knew the Day or the Hour
 - The Day of New Beginnings
 - The Day of the Awakening Blast
 - Wedding of the Messiah (*Ha Kiddushin*)
 - The Coronation of the Messiah
 - The Day of Judgment/Opening of the Books/Opening of the Gates (*Yom HaDin*)
 - The Time of Jacob’s trouble
- How do you think these euphemisms might relate to end time theology (eschatology)?