

THE POTTER'S HAND

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | OCTOBER 11, 2020



God Can Turn the Tables - Romans 9:25-29

PURPOSE: To be malleable to how God is masterfully shaping our faith even as we “work it out” (Philippians 2:12-13).

I. Tectonic Plate Shift

²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, “**Those who were not my people** I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” ²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ **there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’**” ²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning **Israel**: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will be saved,**” ²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” ²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”

-Romans 9:25-29

A. What On Earth Is Going On?

Where we left off last time was God’s sovereign calling of his elect in Romans 9:24, “..even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only **but also from the Gentiles(?)...**”

Harmonized with Romans 9:1-5, it is apparent Paul is feeling a strong pendulum swing from the sky, away from his Jewish kinsman, and towards the Gentiles. It’s as if the nation of Israel was fading off into the sunset.

B. Paul’s Continuing Use of the Old Testament...

Paul’s above use of the book of Hosea positions saved Gentiles in the place of restored Israel (Hosea 2:23).

II. Israel Provoked to Jealousy by God Choosing Gentiles

Paul explains the complex history of his Jewish brothers past chapter 9 in Romans chapters 10 and 11 [below, with abridgements].

A. Israel Gives God the Cold Shoulder

10:2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, **and seeking to establish their own**, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes....**[Paul then quotes Isaiah 65:2] ²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."... [Paul then uses the olive tree analogy] **11:17** But if some of the branches were broken off, [..then, the logic follows that the Gentiles can be grafted in. Finally Paul ends with a cautionary word to the incoming Gentiles] ²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

B. Pivot Point #1 God's Warmth to Those Outsiders

10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ...¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; **for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.** ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." [Ironic: the Gentiles excelled at what the Jews forgot].

III. **Age of Gentiles Expires...Back to the Nation of *Israel***

A. Can the Gentiles Turn on God Like Israel Did?

11:18 do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. **So do not become proud, but fear.** ²¹ **For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.**

B. Pivot Point #2: God’s Mercy Turns Back to Israel

11:1 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, **so as to make Israel jealous.** ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! ¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; [Paul then goes on to quote Old Testament prophecies from Isaiah and Jeremiah..] ²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” ²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. **But as regards election,** they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ **For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

IV. **Background: Inside God's Inner Chamber**

In order for you to know "What On Earth Is Going On" you first have to know what's going on in Heaven...

A. God Swore By Himself

1. Hebrews 6:13-15 says of the Abrahamic Covenant, For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, **he swore by himself**, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.
2. The Abrahamic Covenant extends first to Jews (Genesis 12:2), then to Gentiles (12:3). See also Genesis 22:18 with Galatians 3:16-22).

B. The Father Has Established His Son

1. To be the ultimate model of covenant loyal love. See John 15:9-10.
2. To replace Adam as the head of all humanity ("Jew and Greek"). See Romans 5:17 and 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

The Potter's Hand Course Outline (tentative):

- September 6 - Introduction & Romans 9:1-5
- September 13 - God Establishing True Israel / Rom. 9:6-8
- September 20 - Literal Predestination / Rom. 9:9-13
- September 27 - Unaided Predestination / Rom. 9:14-18
- October 4 - Uncontested Predestination / Rom. 9:19-24
- October 11 - God Can Turn the Tables / Rom. 9:25-29
- October 18 - A God-Saturated Faith / Rom. 9:30-33
- October 25 - Conclusion