

# **FRIEND OF THE BRIDEGROOM MEDITATIONS—MIKE BICKLE**

*End Time focus*

---

## **Session #18 A 5 Stage Progression of Darkness Related to Rejecting Israel (Rom. 11)**

*“The friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom’s voice.” (Jn. 3:29)*

### **I. REVIEW**

- A. I believe history will change in context to the **Isaiah 62 Fast**—well over 5 million committed to pray for Israel for 1 hour a day for 21 days (May 7-28), and 12,000 ministry hubs from 120 nations committed to mobilize people to pray for Israel. The info was translated in over 100 languages. I am guessing that 15 million+ believers are in a new conversation about the biblical narrative of Israel.
- B. As we are aware that something historic is unfolding we become more urgent to prepare to understand the biblical narrative of Israel. I am guessing that in the next 3 years the 15 million will draw 3-4 friends into this biblical conversation resulting in maybe 50 million being engaged.
- C. Replacement theology spiritualized rather than interpreted the prophetic promises given to Israel in a literal, plain sense way. It embraces a non-literal, allegorical interpretation of these promises and/or insists that most of the end-time prophecies about Israel have been fulfilled in history.
- D. Replacement theology views the Church as “spiritual Israel” and/or “spiritual Jerusalem.” In the NT, the term, *Israel*, is used nearly 70 times, always referring to the physical people of Israel, never as a substitute term for the Church. The phrases, *New Israel* and *Spiritual Israel*, are not in the Bible.

### **II. GENTILE BELIEVERS MUST AVOID THIS 5-STAGE SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION (ROM. 11)**

- A. Believers must not remain ignorant of the biblical narrative of Israel because it is the beginning of a 5-stage progression of darkness and can progressively lead believers into hardness of heart .

***<sup>25</sup>I do not desire...that you [Gentiles] should be ignorant of this mystery...that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup>All Israel will be saved... (Rom. 11:25-26)***

- 1. ***This mystery (11:25)***: Paul desired that Gentile believers not be ignorant of the mystery of “God’s grand family plan” that will result in Jews and Gentiles walking in deep love, humility, and gratitude toward one another (Jn 17:21-23; Eph. 3:3-10).

***<sup>3</sup>“...He made known to me the mystery...<sup>6</sup>that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ...<sup>9</sup>[that] all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God... (Eph. 3:3-9)***

***<sup>23</sup>“...they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)***

2. **Fulness of the Gentiles:** Israel's blindness will be lifted and all Israel saved in context to the *fullness of the Gentiles* which includes the *full number saved* ("billion soul harvest"), and walking in *fullness of love* (fearless, obedient love even unto to death) and *fullness of power* (Jn. 14:12) with *full understanding* of "God's grand family plan" (Dan. 11:33; Rev. 10:7). Gentiles have a significant role in God's eternal plan—an "international family of affection."  
***7...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel...the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. (Rev. 10:7)***
  
- B. **A 5-stage progression: Ignorance** (stage #1—v. 25) can lead to **boasting** (stage #2— v. 18 with its passive resistance that refuses to stand for Israel), which leads to **arrogance** (stage #3—v. 20) which can lead to **active resistance** (stage #4—persecuting Israel), which may lead to being **cut off by God** (stage #5—v. 22e). In the fear of God (v. 20), we deeply consider God's goodness (v. 22a) which includes gratitude to God for allowing us to be grafted in to "the olive tree of Abraham" (v. 17).  
***17[Gentiles] were grafted into...the olive tree [Israel], 18do not boast against the branches [Israel]... 20Do not be haughty, but fear. 21For if God did not spare the natural branches [Israel], He may not spare you either. 22Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you [Gentiles], goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you will be cut off... 25I do not desire...that you [Gentiles] should be ignorant of this mystery... (Rom. 11:17-25)***
  
- C. I have wrestled for years to understand how godly Bible scholars have promoted such a serious error that deeply hinders the end-time Church from being equipped to stand as faithful witnesses and vessels of love to Israel in the most important hour of history.
  1. I cannot make sense of why various godly biblical scholars throughout history intentionally violated their own value of and commitment to use the historical-grammatical interpretation.
  2. I want to honor these great Bible scholars who have been esteemed by many for centuries and I will continue to learn from them and acknowledge their outstanding biblical insights.
  
- D. I do not know which famous scholars in Church history who promoted replacement theology could be described by one of the three spiritual problems that Paul's identified in Romans 11:18-25.
  1. **Spiritual blindness** (11:25): Some replacement theologians may have been genuinely ignorant of the biblical narrative of Israel, even as Paul described some Hebrew scholars (Rom. 10:2).  
***2For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (Rom. 10:2)***
  2. **Spiritual arrogance** (11:20): Maybe some scholars just grew comfortable contradicting the straightforward way of interpreting Scripture in a literal way that they insisted was essential. Maybe some desired to appear scholarly by agreeing with other well-known scholars in history like Justin Martyr, Augustine, Calvin, Luther, etc. Maybe some were just unwilling to bear the stigma of standing with Israel—even though they knew Scripture requires this.

3. ***Spiritual apostasy*** (11:22): Paul warned that some can “cross the line” and end up being cut off by the Lord. Paul warned believers of heeding ***doctrines of demons*** which I define as any doctrine that results in people resisting the main and plain truths of Scripture in such a persistent way that it constitutes denying or departing from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1).

***<sup>22</sup>Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you [Gentiles], goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you will be cut off... (Rom. 11:22)***

***<sup>1</sup>The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...<sup>2</sup>having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup>forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from foods... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)***

- E. Even Peter was influenced by a demonic idea that he sincerely believed was a truth that honored God and supported His plan for Jesus (Mt. 16:16-23). What Peter believed was an offense to God.  
***<sup>21</sup>Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem...and be killed...<sup>22</sup>Peter took Him aside... saying, “Far be it from You...” <sup>23</sup>[Jesus] said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God...”(Mt. 16:21-23)***
- F. The main theme of these chapters in this list are related to Israel (Deut. 28-33; Isa. 60-66; Jer. 30-33; Ezek. 34-48; Joel 2-3; Zech. 8-14; cf. Ps. 2; 44; 45; 65-68; 72; 79; 80; 83; 85-87; 94; 102; 118; 122; 132; 144-147).
- G. Specific passages that give insight into God’s heart and plans for Israel (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-18; 15:7, 18; 17:1-8, 19; 22:15-18; 26:2-5; 27:29; 28:10-15; 32:24-32; Num. 23:7-10, 18-26; 24:1-19; Deut. 4:27-31; 30:1-10; 33:26-29; Isa. 2:1-4; 4:2-6; 6:9-13; 9:1-7; 11:11-16; 12:1-6; 24:14-16; 19:18-25; 26:1-13; 27:1-6; 28:14-29; 29:17-19; 30:18-30; 32:13-19; 33:2-17; 35:1-10; 40:9-11; 43:1-7; 44:1-8; 45:17-25; 51:3-11; 52:6-10; 54:1-17; 59:19-21; Jer. 3:14-19; Ezek. 11:17-20; 16:60-63; 20:33-44; Dan. 9:4-27; Hos. 2:14-23; 5:15-16; 6:1-3; 14:1-8; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4:1-13; 5:2-15; 7:14-20; Hab. 3:1-20; Zeph. 3:8-20; Hag. 2:6-22; Zech. 1:12-17; 2:1-13; Mal. 3:1-6; 4:1-6).
- H. See <https://mikebickle.org/resource/21-prayers-for-israel-and-the-isaiah-62-fast>