Romans 11: 25-32

- •Whenever we view Israel, in the Biblical sense, we must look at it from an eschatological view
  - Eschatology is the "doctrine of last things"
- Eschatology is often coupled with the idea of "dispensationalism"
  - There are 7 "dispensations" theologians use
    - Innocence.....Eden
    - Conscience....pre-flood
    - Human gov't.....tower of Babel

- •Continuing....
  - Promise.....Abraham
  - Law.....Moses
  - Grace....church age...started in Acts 2
  - Kingdom....Millennium....starting at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
- Question. Are these 7 clearly taught in Scripture?
  - The short answer is No....they are not clearly delineated in Scripture
  - They are only a tool to be used for understanding
  - It is not an issue of salvation

- So how are we to interpret events concerning Israel as we look at end times?
  - Let's try a novel thing....let's look at Scripture
- •Question...what does Scripture reveal?
  - The Church is not Israel and has not replaced..
    - Israel is portrayed in Scripture in two ways
    - As a nation.....that will be restored (Jer 31: 33-34)
    - A a spiritual entity (Rom 9: 6-8)
  - Rom 11: 25
    - A partial hardening has come over Israel

- That hardening will end.....when?
  - When the fulness/completion of Gentiles has come in
- •Three reasons why this is understood as the Rapture of the Church
  - First...the church is not mentioned in the 70th week prophecy of Dan 9: 26-27 (Vs 24...your people)
  - Second....The church is not mentioned from Rev 4: 1-2 "Come up here" until Rev 19: 7 "His bride" (Eph 5: 32) I Thess 1: 9-10; Rev 3: 10
  - Third....Rev 6-18 describes Israel going through the Tribulation

- This called the "time of Jacob's trouble"
  - Jer 30: 7; 23-24; Zech 13: 8-9 (2/3 perish)
- God will use Israel again (Ezek 36: 22-28)
  - Rev 7....144,000 Jews from every tribe
  - Rev 9, scorpions hurt all non-sealed (Rev 7: 3-8)
  - Rev 10: 7...angel....message preached through prophets
    - Rev 10: 8-11....refers to (Jer 15: 16; Ezek 2: 8-10; Ezek 3: 1-3
  - Rev 11....two witnesses will preach from Jerusalem (Vs 2; 8) (Zech 4...two anointed ones)
    - Clothed in sackcloth

- Rev 12...the devil persecutes Israel (nation)
  - Rev 12: 1.... Refers to Joseph's dream (12)
  - Rev 12: 5-6....she give birth to One who is to "rule the nations with a rod of iron." (Christ)
    - Jesus came from Israel not from the church
  - Jesus is the ultimate victor over Satan (Rev 12: 8-13)
- So, what is the state of Israel today from a biblical perspective?
  - Rom 11: 28...Israel is an "enemy of the gospel"
  - What does this mean?

- Israel today represent those in rebellion
  - To the gospel
  - That is every and all religion that is not based on grace but on works-based salvation
    - Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, Catholicism, Judaism, Jehovah Witnesses
- Israel will repent and turn to the Lord Jesus
  - Matt 23: 37-39; Zech 12: 9-14; Rev 19: 11-16
  - At the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord with the armies of heaven

- •How should this knowledge affect us?
  - Rom 13: 11-14; Phil 4: 5; I Pet 4: 7-11
  - Matt 24: 42-44
    - Repeatedly, we are told to "watch"
    - He will come when you think not
- Finally.....
  - •I could care less what Darby or Scofield said
  - •I want to know what the Bible says
  - More than anything else it tells me to "watch"

- Come behold the wonderous mystery
- In the dawning of the King
- •He the theme of heaven's praises
- Robed in frail humanity
- In our longing, in our darkness
- Now the light of life has come
- Look to Christ, who condescended
- Took on flesh to ransom us

- Come behold the wonderous mystery
- •He the perfect Son of Man
- In His living, in His suffering
- Never trace nor stain of sin
- •See the true and better Adam
- Come to save the hell-bound man
- Christ the great and sure fulfillment
- Of the law in Him we stand

- Come behold the wonderous mystery
- Christ the Lord upon the tree
- In the stead of ruined sinners
- Hangs the Lamb in victory
- •See the price of our redemption
- See the Father's plan unfold
- Bringing many sons to glory
- Grace unmeasured, love untold

- Come behold the wonderous mystery
- Slain by death the God of life
- But no grave could e'er restrain Him
- Praise the Lord He is alive
- What a foretaste of deliverance
- How unwavering our hope
- Christ in power resurrected
- •As we will be when He comes

- •Come behold the wonderous mystery
- •Slain by death the God of life
- •But no grave could e'er restrain Him
- Praise the Lord He is alive!