

Title: Has God Cast Away His people?

Text: Romans 11:1-24

Would you take your Bibles, please, and open them to Romans chapter 11. The book of Romans chapter 11. We are in that section dealing with the problems of God's righteousness relating to the nation of Israel.

In Chapter 9 we noticed that the Bible teaches that Israel was rejected. Because they rejected the Messiah. Chapter 10 we noticed the reception of the Gentiles as a result. And now in chapter 11 we are looking at the restoration of Israel.

The question is ask in Vs 1 "Has God rejected His people?" I like this chapter very much. In fact I love to talk about the nation of Israel and what God is going to do with it because it brings encouragement to me.

Romans chapter 11. I invite you to follow along in your Bibles as I will be reading the first 24 verses.

(Read Romans 11:1-24)

PRAYER

We thank you heavenly Father for your Word. We thank you for the Spirit of God which will guide us into all the truth. We thank you for the Word which is truth. We thank you that it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. We thank you for the privilege of studying those problems relating to the nation of Israel. It builds our hope in the God who loves them and restores them and guides them inspite of the way we treat him. And we thank you for that. Teach us, we pray, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

+++

The first proof that is brought before us that God will restore His people is the proof of the remnant. You will find that in the first 6 verses. The remnant is the proof. And there are three of them in number. These examples are: Number 1 in Verse 1 ..you have the example of the Apostle Paul. If it were true that God has cast away the nation of Israel, totally, and he will not restore them, then there would be no evidence of a remnant. But there was: namely Paul, himself. He said, "I am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin."

Paul was saved and he was a Jew.

(2) The second example that is given to us is found in verses 2-4. And that is the example of Elijah. This to me is one of the most amusing stories in all of the Bible. But, let's look at it carefully in chapter 11. We are told that God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. And we are to remember the scripture about Elijah. Now, notice what it says in Vs 2 .."how he pleads with God '...WHAT IS THE NEXT WORD?..."against Israel?"

Have you ever prayed to God and just wanted Him to give it to somebody? Do you know what I mean? "Lord, they really desire this. So, just pour your judgement out on them."

Well, notice ..he wasn't pleading for Israel. But against them.

Do you remember the story? It is found in I Kings chapter 19. You can study it later. But, just let me refresh your memories with what happened.

Elijah comes off Mt. Carmel. He had just had a great victory there. 450 prophets of Bala were challenging him. And God sent down fire from heaven and burned up the sacrifice. And boy, you talk about living in the glory of it all. He really was.

But you know it is so chirstain that you are amazed that it is in the O.T. Because we are just like that. Do you know what happens next? I mean after you are really high. I mean..WOW"..God's blessings. Do you know what the next thing is? DEPRESSION..DISCOURAGEMENT..DOWN

Sometimes you cann't even explain why you are down. Man, you had a great day. It was fantastic. And the next morning you wake up and you are down. And it isn't even raining. How can you figure it out? Isnit't it amusing how we are.

But, Elijah faced the same thing. He is donw. And he doesn't know why. And he starts to run. Now, he is running away from God. But, also from himself. So, he finds these little neat places to go. One of which was a cave.

Now, picture this. The great prophet who put 450 proaphets of Bala to shame hiding in a cave. By the way, Elijah had looked for God in the earthquake. God was not in the earthquake. He looked for God in fire, but couldn't find Him.

You see, he was looking for God in some great display to assure himself that God was still with him. But, God was with him in a still small voice, says the Bible. Do you know what that voice said to him? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE.

And Romans 11 verse 3 is what he said, "Lord, they have killed thy prophets they have torn down thine altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." In other words..I am hiding. I am scared to death.

Now, think about that. There is something amusing in the Greek. At least I think this is amusing. In Vs 3 the phrase "I ALONE AM LEFT" is two Greek words meaning "to leave under." Two words put together: ..TO LEAVE UNDER.

In other words, what he was saying is "Lord, things are terrible down here. Everything is bad. And you know, you have left me under the power of it all. I am bearing it all. What a martyr. Have you ever felt that way?

All the testings. All the problems. They are all on my shouldiers. I am bearing it alone.

And do you know what else is happening? They are seeking my life. And if they take my life, Lord, you have lost your last hope. There is no one else to preach the Word. I am your last hope, Lord.

Now, if you don't think he is saying that. Just go back and read I Kings 19. Do you know what God said;again? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

So, Elijah gets up and goes outside. And he is now standing in the entrance to the cave. Do you know what he says now to God? It is sort of like a record. Vs 3 again. "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, they have torn down thine altars. and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life."

I mean he just keeps going over that routine. Do you know what God said to him? He said, "I am through with you Elijah. " That is what God said.

But, I have one last job for you. You go and anoint this King. And by the way, you are going to anoint a man to take your place. You talk about a lesson to learn in the midst of depression. WOW" I mean he is already down. And God says "I don't need you anymore.

And do you know what the very last message he gave to Elijah before he had to go and anoint Elisha, who would do two times the miracles that Elijah ever did. Do you know what the last message was that God said to that man? It is found right there in Romans chapter 11 verse 4. God said, "Oh, yes, one last thing Elijah. "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

You see, God is a God of love and restoration. And no matter how bad things seem to be, there is always the ^{remnant} remnant, you see. Always. God has His people there. That was one of the darkest hours in Israel's history. And Elijah said, "I am the only one left." Oh, no you are not. There are seven thousand prophets left. And I can use anyone I want." In fact, I have already decided to use one of them. And I want you to go and anoint Elisha. Then you can go home. I am finished with you.

Romans chapter 11 is a great text of God's restoration. And of God's love for His people. There is always a ^{remnant} remnant. Elijah had to learn that. There are always people who God is reaching. And there is always someone to carry on His work.

(3) In Vs 5 we find our third example. This third example is THE PRESENT TIME. Paul is writing to the church in Rome. And he says, "there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

In Paul's day there were Jews that had come to know Christ. Interestingly he wrote to Romans. And according to the book of Acts, chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost, among those who heard the gospel on that day were ^U "strangers of Rome."

They came to know Christ as Saviour, went back to Rome and started the church in Rome. At least that is what historians believe as to the founding of the church in Rome. But Paul knows there are Christian Jews in Rome. And he writes to that church and he says, "at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

Now, think of that for a moment in terms of the days of Paul. He is writing this letter in the 50's A.D. 20 years approximately after the crucifixion of Christ. After the entire nation as rejected Jesus, as their Messiah

And he says, "Listen, God hasn't given up on them, even now." "Why, there are folks saved right now from the Jews. The Jews are turning to Christ. There is a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

A Jew in this day and age can come to know Jesus as your Messiah. There is always a remnant. God has not forsaken his people. And He is using this remnant throughout history to prove to use that one day He is going to do something really big. That is the story of Romans 11. And God is going to do it. People will not do it. God will do it. He is going to prove that He can do over and above all that we could ever ask or think.

(2) Now, the second thing that I want you to know about this remnant...is the explanation given to us in Vs 6 of why God is doing things this way. Here it is: "If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

And the point of this verses is that God is giving to you what you do not deserve. There isn't a thing you can do to earn His favor.

Now, a lot of people get upset because God chose this little nation of Jews. You know.. 'HOW COME THEM. WHY NOT US.' WHY DID HE DO THAT?

Well, because he wanted to. "WELL, THEY WERE SO REBELLIOUS." Right, they were. That is why he choose them. He took an unfaithful, rebellious, little tiny nation that was few among the thousands of the world, he wanted to use them to deminstrate something to all of us. THAT IS..THAT HE IS A GOD OF GRACE.

He wanted to teach the world through the Jews about his own character and nature. You know, people have the idea in their minds that because they did some great thing God should bless them. OH, NO. HE NEVER DOES IT THAT WAY.

I have discovered just the opposite. He wants to bless you in spite of what you are. In spite of the way you treat God..and inspite of the way you act towards Him, God wants to bless you. He loves you. And it is His grace that gives. There is no work that the nation of Israel ever did that made them acceptable to God. There is no reason, humanly speaking, there is no reason that the nation of Israel should ever come back into prominence and glory. But God is going to do it because He is a God of grace.

And he is trying to show us some. You see, God can save you and me too. There is hope for us. He doesn't save us because we deserve it. And if he did, none of us would deserve it. He saves us because He wants to demonstrate His grace to us. So that we will praise him and thank Him for what He has done. That is why He created us in the first place. To fellowship with him and to praise Him for what He has done.

(2) Now, the second thing that I want you to notice begins with Vs 7. And that is that the rejection was prophesied in the O.T. This is a very important point in our understanding now. You see, in chapter 9 we learned about that rejection. But, he is adding more and more thought here in verses 7 to 10. And that is that God caused the rejection. You heard it right. God caused Israel's rejection.

You ask, why did he do that? Well, so that He could cause their restoration. Well, why did He do that? Well, he wants everybody to know that He is a God of grace. And He is in total charge. And he will do what ever he wants to do. WHY? So that we will praise him. We will love him. So that none of us will take credit for anything.

God reveals to us, here, a strange thing. And that is that the whole nation of Israel would reject. You see, they didn't put together the facts and say, "You know, I have thought a lot about this. And I have decided that He isn't the Messiah. Oh No..The Bible teaches that God made their eyes blind so that they couldn't see. He made their ears heavy so that they couldn't hear the O.T. law. He caused them to reject Jesus.

You say, that is an awful thing to say. Is it? Do you understand the nature of God. How powerful He is. His sovereignty over everything. What He is really doing.

Now, there are two things that I would like you to see here. They are quoted from the O.T.

(1) First of all, turn to Isaiah chapter 29. Which is quoted here in the book of Romans, chapter 11 verse 8. Isaiah chapter 29 verses 10 to 19. Here we find tremendous evidence that God is causing rejection as well as restoration.

Isaiah 29 is the first example of that rejection. (Isaiah 29:10-19 read) What fantastic words. God is going to cause sleep to the nation. And then God in that coming day is going to open their eyes.

Did you know that the Jews are going to get their eyes opened in one moment of History? Did you know that? You see, God, again, is going to prove that He is a God of Grace. That He is going to do it.

You see, some people have the idea that the Jews going back to the land of Palestine are going to put two and two together and then figure out that Jesus is the Messiah. OH NO..It will not come that way.

As a matter of fact, I have observed that even though they have been in the land, now, for some 48 years they don't accept Jesus as their Messiah any more than the day they went back. As a matter of fact, many of them could care less that there is a Messiah.

What is it going to take? Has God cast away His people? OH..NO..He loves them so much that He is going to do something for them that they don't have anything to do with. The Bible says in Zechariah 12 that the Lord is going to send the Spirit of grace upon them. And when they see Jesus coming back to earth the Bible says they will look upon Him whom they have pierced. The entire nation will turn to Jesus as their Messiah. WHY? Because God poured the Spirit of Grace on them.

Grace means that God is going to give you something that you don't deserve or, understand, or reason through. He is going to do it. It is a marvelous work in God's hand.

You see, the rejection of Israel is marvelous. And the restoration is marvelous.

But, what you must understand is that Israel rejected ~~him~~ because God caused it to happen. He gave them sleepy eyes and heavy ears. And they didn't understand. So, they rejected him. But, he is also going to restore them.

And all of this He has done simply to prove to you and me, today, that He is a God of grace. He is in the business of saving people. You are not saving yourself. It isn't because of some good thing that you have done that God now must act in your behalf...

God saves us inspite of what we are. Simply because he loves us and wants to. So that we will praise Him forever.

(2) Now, look at Psalms 69, please. The first example was Isaiah 29. The second example is Psalms 69. You know in Isaiah 29 the real issue there was hypocrisy. He said, "you have worshiped me with your lips." You know, "your lips have said that you worshipp me. But your heart is far from me." No matter what you say with your lips, if your heart is not in tune with the Lord there is something wrong.

In Psalm 69 we learn that the issue was the cross. That was like the strew that broke the camels back in terms of rejection. And here the Psalmist is speaking of the Messiah. And the Messiah is now telling how he feels. All of this was fulfilled at the cross.

Let's read it. Psalms 69 beginning at Vs 20.. (Read Vs 20-28)

Boy, you talk about about rejection. It was prophised in the O.T. And at the hour of the Messiah dying on a cross, the higheth of that rejection was seen

Now, back to Romans 11. Paul's argument is: listen, that rejection was predicted in the O.T. Has God case away his people. NO..He even predicted the time when they would turn away from Him.

() Romans 11 beginning at versell, he tells us the result of their fall and rejection. What is that result? It is two fold.

(1) Number one, towards the Gentiles. It involved their salvation. Vs 11 says, "I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it nevrer be. But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles."

Now, if you are a gentile, here today, you are saved because Israel rejected the Messiah. Did you know that? So, don't get so coky, you know? Because they rejected we have come to receive salvation. Salvation is of the Jews, says the Bible.

(2) And the second reason, in the last phrase of Vs 11, is to provoke the Jews to Jealousy. God is really stiring them to Jealousy. Jealousy over what?

Did you ever stop to ask that question? I mean why is He stiring them to jealousy?

Well, you see, it is like marriage. According to the O.T. Jehovah, the God..the Lord...was the husband of Israel. And he calls Israel His wife. And you see Israel had committed spiritual adultery. They turned their backs, you see, on their Lord and God. They had committed spiritual adultery. And now He is using the Gentiles whom He now loves to provoke Israel, the adulterous wife, to jealousy. to want to have an experience of love. To be loved by her lover, again. Isn't that beautiful? That is the way God works. And he is using we Gentiles to stir the nation of Israel to jealousy. To have that wonderful relationship with God that they once had. Of which believers, now, seek and enjoy.

() Then beginning with Vs 13, we look at the matter of response this nation is going to have. It is going to come. It is going to change. And you see this (1) first of all, in Paul's reason. Vs 13 and 14. His own reason for his own purpose and ministry. And how He felt about this matter.

Vs 13.."But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry." I am happy with what God has chosen me to do. But now, in Vs 14, he is going to let us in on what He really feels. Vs 14 "if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen (Jews) and save some of them."

You know, it is important to get a vision about how Paul felt about this whole thing. You see, some of the reason why we don't have the compassion that we should have, even towards the Jews, is because we don't understand the purposes of God.

Paul says, "listen, I know what God is going to do. And I know that He has saved Gentiles in order to provoke the Jews to Jealousy." And he says, "Listen, every where I go I am provoking them to jealousy that some who some of them might be saved.

If there was ever a man that told the Jews about the Gentiles, it was Paul. Unto him God revealed the mystery that Jew and Gentile would be in one body called the church. Can you imagine, if you were a Jew, first hearing that? Can you imagine the effect it would have upon you? If you heard Paul stand up and say, "Hay'. guess what, my Jewish friends, Jews and Gentiles are going to be one."

Can you imagine what the Jews would have said? Something like this: "Is he kidding? Paul are you crazy? Gentiles and Jews in one body. You must be off your rocker."

Paul was always provoking them to jealousy. WHY? Because down deep inside was a burning passion that he may somehow win some of them. But, he also knew that in the end time God would restore that nation, by means of His own power. (2) Now, the second thing that I want you to see about their response. First of all, Paul knew about it. And he was really concerned. But, secondly, we see future reception. What it is really going to be like.

Vs 15.."For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?"

Now, let me explain this. Have you ever noticed what happens when a Jewish person becomes a believer in Jesus Christ? Have you ever noticed what happens? Well, I have noticed what happens.

I have never seen such zeal like Jewish believers have. I mean some times they drive you nuts. I mean you talk about zeal, man, they have it. So excited. When you get a Jewish person to really believe in Jesus, wow! they really believe it. They are so zealous in their witness for Christ. It is great.

Now, can you imagine what it will be like in the future when all the Jews throughout the world get saved at one time? Can you imagine what that will be like? WHY YOU WOULDN 'T DARE TO BE AN UNBELIEVER. YOU COULDN'T STAND IT. You talk about life from the dead! Just wait to all those Jews believe.

Sound foolish to you? The Bible says that they are all going to believe. The entire nation is going to turn to God. And that is going to be like resurrection.

(3) Now, the third thing that we see about their response is in Vs 16 is that this is all related to the Gentiles. That is the amazing thing about all of this. And this sets the pace for his discussion beginning with Vs 17.

Notice Vs 16.."If the first piece of dough be holy, the lump is also; and if the root be holy, the branches are too."

You see, we are all related together to a common root. Call it the Messiah. Call it the promise to Abraham, which is the Messiah. He is now going to take that root and explain the problem of branches and wild olive tree.

Now, this gets a little tough. ~~And I really wanted?~~ And I hope you stay with me. Because there is a real blessing here,

(1) First of all, in verses 17 to 24 you have in this section the reaction the Gentiles should have toward this understanding that God is going to restore Israel. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU AND TO ME? WHAT KIND OF REACTION SHOULD WE HAVE TO ALL OF THIS?

I mean, they rejected Him. And now we learn that they are all going to be saved again. What should be our reaction? Let me give to you the two major points under that.

(1) First of all, there should be no pride. That is verses 17 to 20. There should be absolutely no pride in any of us.

(2D) And the second response, 2D on your outline, verses 21 to 24, there should be no ~~per~~ presumption on our part. It is a dangerous thing to have presumption. The O.T. says "keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins." Presuming something that has no bases of proof or evidence of proof.

(1D) Now, let's look at the first matter. There should be no pride. Verse 17 to 20. Now, he gives us two reasons why there should be no pride.

(1E) First of all, because of the root. Now, let's look at verses 17 and 18. "But if some of the branches were broken off, and you (meaning Gentiles) being a wild olive tree."

Now, whether you like it or not, dear friends, if you are a Gentile, if you are a believer, God says that you are really wild. (ha)..You are not the real olive tree. You are a wild olive tree.

O.K. Now, the wild olive tree, "grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree."

You see, you are getting blessed because of the root. And so Vs 18 says, "do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you."

You are saved by the root, which is the promise of God through Abraham of the Messiah and the blessing to the whole world. So, Gentiles have come in to the root and the fatness of that tree.

Now, if you would like a paraphrase of that, that I use, we Gentiles have been saved by the skin of our ~~teeth~~ teeth. (Ha) You see, that is what it is saying.

If I pulled up a flower and then I broke off some of the branches. That would be Israel. They came out of the root. Salvation is of the Jews. But they were broken off because of the rejection.

Now, God has grafted into this stem a wild olive tree and it is the root and fatness of that olive tree that causes the wild olive branches to be blessed. You see, we are the ones grafted into the root. We got saved by the skin of our teeth. We were lucky. I am sorry..DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

But, do you understand? It was real close. But, we made it. PRAISE THE LORD...

Now, don't get proud, He says. Because the root is bearing you. You are not bearing the root.

(2 2) O.K. the second reason why there should be no pride. First, because of the root. Secondly, because of the reason those branches were broken off. Meaning, the Jews. WHAT WAS THE REASON?

You see, some people might conclude like Vs 19.."You will say then, the branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." Isn't that wonderful? God loves the Gentiles so much that he broke the Jews off so that the Gentiles might be saved.

Ohm No..You know, it is amazing how God just destroys pride. We get to the point of believing that God is so lucky that We got saved. Boy, God got a real blessing when he got me.

No room for pride here. because he says in Vs 20 "they were broken off because of their unbelief." "And you" (meaning Gentiles) stand only by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear."

The point is that the only way you got into that true olive tree is by faith in the root..the Messiah..the seed of Abraham. That is the only way that you are in there. You are not in there because you deserve it. Or, because you did a lot of good things in order to get it. You are in there by faith and faith alone in what is the true blessing of Israel, the Messiah. Do you believe in the Messiah? You therefore are participating in all those blessings by faith.

Why did they get broken off? Because of the lack of faith.

(2D) This brings us to the second thing. There should be no presumption as a result of this. Verses 21 to 24. Three things here, quickly.

(1) One, according to verses 21 and 22 there are some dangers involved in our attitude. Some real dangers.

According to Vs 21 "for if God did not spare the natural branches,(which were the Jews), neither will He spare you." "Behold then the kindness and severity(the word means "to cut off) severity of God; to those who fell, severity(He cut off the Jews), but to you, God's kindness , if you continue in His kindness, otherwise you also will be cut off."

Now, I have had people stick those two verses under my nose and say, "there is the proof that you can lose your salvation." And I think that you can understand why some folks come to that conclusion. It looks like that if you don't continue in God's kindness you are going to lose your salvation.

Now, wait a minute. If that is true so about the Jews then there couldn't be any individual saved. But, Paul says, "wait a minute. I was saved." "And at the present time there is a remnant saved."

So, obviously God wasn't cutting off all individuals, was He?

And neither is that true about the Gentiles. Remember in Romans 11 He is talking about groups, not individuals. The nation of Israel as a whole. All of the Gentiles as a whole. And that is true. God is going to cut off his working with the Gentile nations of the world. The times of the Gentiles are going to come to a fulfillment. And you are going to see a real re-inactment of God's working with Israel like you have never seen before. He is going to restore them. He is going to work with them, once again. So, be careful how you look at this.

All the nations of the world are going to be cut off. Here, they have had all of this opportunity. Now, over 19 hundred years. Do they have anything to boast about? Absolutely not. Because unbelief in the total will also cut off.

Now, many Bible teachers believe, and I go along with this, that what we have here is a general discription of the reason why God's stops his working with nations. You see, he stopped his working with Israel when it came to the climax of the cross and unbelief was present in the nation.

Now, it wasn't true of all individuals. There were a few who did not feel that way. But, the whole nation did reject. And God cut them off. And they were desolute. That Prophecy in Psalms 69 was fulfilled in the destruction of Jersuelm in 70 A.D. And the scratting of the Jews throughout the world. And the land was made desolute.

Now, the same thing is going to happen to the Gentiles. The same thing. When unbelief becomes characteristic of the Gentile nations of the world, what is going to happen? God is going to poor out his judgement and cut them off too. The Bible discripts that in the tribulation period. It discripts it in the book of Revelation. Also in the book of Daniel. God is going to poor out his judgment upon an unbelieving Gentile world. And that is coming.

I praise God that I will not be a part of it. I am going to be in heaven. I hope that you know Christ. And that you know that you are going to be in heaven. Because that is going to come.

Gentile nations have enjoyed the kindness of God. But they are going to be cut off.

(2) Now, verse 23, the second thing tells us about the power of God. The power of God. According to Vs 23 .."And they also(meaning the Jews) if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in". Just like you were, in other words. "For God is able to graft them in again."

Jews will not graft themselves in again. Jews will not all of a sudden decide that all the evidence proves that is really the Messiah. And therefore, we will believe. OH, NO..God will cause in a moment of time to believe.

Do you know that it is God who causes you to believe? OH, I know He does. I have read about some of the world's greatest minds not believing. And then they seem to change in a moment of time. God causes people to believe.

You may not like that/ But how else can you explain His marvelous working. How else can you explain that God in a moment of time change all the thinking patterns, all the dreams, all the plans, all the goals, all the ambitions.. can change them in a moment of time. He can only do that because He is God. And he is doing it. And He can change you, too, any time He wants to.

And He loves you. He is not giving up on anybody.

() Vs 24 tells us that this is his purpose. The purpose of God is clear "for if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?"

You see, God's purpose will never forget the tree. The tree is the promise of the Messiah. The tree is the fulfillment of the entire O.T. prophecies.

Now, Israel has been rejected. And people conclude. I guess God isn't going to fulfill His Word. HOW DUMB. Of course he will. He is going to graft in those natural branches that were broke off. Why it is just natural to suppose that they would be the participants of the blessings of that olive tree. And the Jews are. They will have a kingdom promised to them in the O.T. It is not with them now. No way is it with them now. But, they are going to receive it

You know, every now and then when ever there is a measure of peace in Israel certain people, the commentators, begin to say that maybe God is now fulfilling His promises. Because look the Jews are back in their land. And it looks like the peace in Jerusalem has been established. And then some airline gets shot down. Have you noticed how those little things happen along the way?

Isn't that strange. I wonder how that Libeonan airplane got shot down? Everything was going to good. Then all of a sudden...insecurity. Isn't that odd Oh, no, not if you understand God. Because that situation is going to prevail and get worse. I am not a prophet of doom. I am a prophet of realism that is based upon the Word of God

And I know that the Bible teaches that that situation is going to get worse. I don't want it to get worse. But, it is. And it is going to take the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to change that entire nation. Open up their eyes so that they will realize that He is king and His is Lord.

And dear friends, it takes the same kind of power to open your eyes and mine. To make you see that Jesus is all that He claims to be. He is the God who made you. He became flesh. Who dwelt among men. They saw him. They beheld his miracles. He went to a cross and died in your place and mine. To pay for your sin and mine. And three days later He arose from the dead. The crowning proof that He is everything He claimed. Seen among the people for 40 days. Ascended into heaven and said, "I am coming back."

And I believe it. And I pray that you also will believe.

Shall we close in prayer