

“ARE WE THERE YET?”

JROC

Week 3 – GRAFTED IN....

September 27, 2020

Week 2 – FEASTS OF THE LORD CHART

OBSERVATIONS RE: THE CHART

PROPHECY?

Approximately 27% of the Bible contains prophecy!

II Tim. 3:16 – *ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God/God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* Does God want us to read, study, learn, and know ALL Scripture? “ALL Scripture” includes prophecy! And, we’re told in Rev. 19:10 - *...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* Prophecy focuses on Jesus! Prophecy begins and ends in the person and work of Jesus. The first Messianic prophecy in the Bible in Gen. 3:15 promises the Deliverer, the Redeemer Who will crush the head of the serpent.

And, so we look forward. In God’s plan there is RESTORATION and a GLORIOUS FUTURE!

Suffering for Christ vs. coming under God’s wrath:

II Tim. 3:12 - *all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Phil. 1:29 - *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,*

Phil. 3:10 - *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,*

For the believer in Jesus there is NO CONDEMNATION (Rom. 8:1). Our sin has been judged at the cross!

What is the REASON for the rapture? God has promised the rapture to the Church in His word because He laid out “the” tribulation in His word. What is the reason for the 7-year tribulation on earth? The purging/refining for Israel and the judgment on the unbelieving world. Two groups are mentioned as going through the tribulation: the

nation of Israel and unbelievers. We need to remember that Jewish people who have placed their trust in Jesus as their Messiah belong to the nation of Israel AND to the Church. The Church is comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. I don't see in Scripture where the Church is going to go through the 7-year tribulation.

Some have asked, "If we as believers are 'grafted into' Israel, wouldn't we be included in the tribulation?" Gentile believers are grafted in...into what?

Rom. 11:16-24 - *For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. <sup>17</sup> And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root*

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*and fatness of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

The firstfruit of the harvest that was brought to the temple was presented to God which dedicated/set apart the rest of the harvest. The firstfruit and the root in this passage refer to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Abrahamic Covenant. They are holy because they were separated and consecrated by God for a divine purpose.

The Gentile branches coming out of a wild olive tree (NOT from the natural olive tree) are grafted in and among and with the natural olive tree branches, and have become a partaker of the ROOT and FATNESS of the olive tree. What does that mean? Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants land, seed (multiple descendants)/Seed (the Messiah), and the blessing! The root and fatness equates to the place of blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant. .

Blessing – Gen. 12:3 – *...through you all the families of the earth (Gentiles/Jews) shall be blessed.* What is that "blessing"?

Gal. 3:14 - *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham (the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant) might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

The “blessing” aspect that God promised to Abraham is SALVATION!

Gal. 3:14 tells us that the “blessing” of Abraham is the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Paul continues to tell the Gentile believers in the Church in Rome Rom. 11:19-20 - *You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” <sup>20</sup> Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off...*

Some of the natural olive tree branches, the Jewish people, were broken off because of UNBELIEF and unnatural branches, Gentile believers were grafted in. SALVATION is clearly the focus. The root and fatness/richness of this tree which refers to the Abrahamic Covenant represents the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Rom. 11:23-24 - *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.* (Speaking of the future restoration of Israel. God is NOT finished with Israel) <sup>24</sup> *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

This passage supports the future national restoration of Israel!

Gentiles believers being grafted into the promise of the blessing specifically are not grafted into the nation of Israel.

The Abrahamic Covenant promises:

Personal promises to Abraham – God would bless Abraham and make his name great.

National promises to Abraham – a great nation, a blessing to others....

International promises – salvation offered to all the families of the earth through the Jewish Messiah.

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Week 4 – Impacted by End Times?

October 18, 2020

PRAY

Do you know that a local synagogue near John MacArthur's church offered Grace Community Church their parking lot in which they could meet?

That's AMAZING!

WHY?

Oftentimes there's a wall up between the Jewish community and believers. BUT – that wall is coming down!

AND, many Jewish people realize that Evangelical Christians are their best friends.

And, some do not.

So – be the best friend to your Jewish friend

- GENUINELY!

Do you realize that during the tribulation it will be Gentile believers who will come alongside the Jewish REMNANT who will flee into the wilderness when the antichrist is BENT on destroying the Jewish people? It will be the Gentile believers who will feed the Jewish REMNANT (Jewish believers in Jesus)?

How do we know?

Rev. 12:13-17

Matt. 25:31-46

Matt. 25:40 – “the least of these” – Dt. 7:7

(Dan. 11:41)

*Jude v. 24 - Now to Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

Two weeks ago I asked why does God call Israel His “inheritance”? We read...

Dt. 7:6; Dt. 32:9; Isa. 19:25

Israel is God's unique possession. What does that mean?

God CREATED Israel (Isa. 43:1) through Jacob – whose name was changed to Israel. And, Jacob/Israel was the father of the 12 tribes...of Israel.

God chose Israel to accomplish His purposes in the world.

God chose Israel to bless the world.

God chose Israel to serve the nations (the 70 nations through Noah's sons) – to tell them about the one true God!

Israel was the only nation that was monotheistic.

The 70 nations were polytheistic.

David told Goliath that his slaying of this Philistine would send a HUGE message – *that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

This is God's DESIRE – that He be known in the world.

And so we read in Habakkuk 2:14 that in the Millennial Kingdom ("end times) *that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD!*

AND, God chose Israel to PROCLAIM that message.

Well, Israel, as a NATION, is not proclaiming that today.

YES – Jewish believers are getting the word out. BUT GOD promised that the NATION of Israel would be RESTORED – would come to know the Messiah. The NATION hasn't as yet.

Will God's plan be thwarted?

We know – because God is faithful – that the NATION of Israel in the future will come to faith in Jesus.

I asked two weeks ago how we understand God's claiming Israel as His inheritance?

Rob, how did you answer my question re: Israel as God's inheritance?

I said I didn't agree – I believe Israel is forever God's unique possession. When we were driving home I thought, "Oh, I think I know what Rob meant."

And, last week I wanted to make mention of this but we were entrenched into being "grafted in" – and our time flies by.

And understand what you were sharing, Rob.

Just like I believe Jude v. 24. Are we faultless? In God's eyes we are. But, on this earth – in our experience – we are not faultless.

From God's perspective – in God's eyes – the REMNANT (Jewish believers – OT saints, Jewish believers since the cross, and Jewish people who are yet to become believers) is His inheritance.

But what do we see?

God promised Abraham and his descendants:

Land – not yet totally fulfilled. But it will be in the Millennial Kingdom.

Seed – descendants – yes. THE Seed – Jesus came but the majority of Jewish people have not and do not recognize Him as Messiah. But they will in the Millennial Kingdom.

Blessing – re: salvation. Many have come to faith. Not all.  
BUT – ALL Israel will be saved as we're told through Zech. 12:10  
– after the tribulation when the one third left alive will mourn for  
Jesus after God pours out His Spirit upon them.

It will ONLY be Jewish believers who will inherit the land.

When we come to faith in Jesus, God declares us justified – we've been put in a right relationship with God. Positional justification is the "legal standing" we have been granted in Christ. We are justified when we trust in Christ. From that moment on, God sees us as righteous.

*Eph. 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

When we're justified we are saved from the penalty of sin.

As we mature in Jesus, we are sanctified. Although we have been declared righteous, the fact is that we still sin, even after we've been saved. As we mature we are saved from the power of sin.

When we die – we are glorified - *this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality* (I Cor. 15:53).

When we're glorified we are saved from the very presence of sin (I Pet. 1:5).



When we come to faith in Jesus, God declares us justified – we've been put in a right relationship with God. Justification takes place when God declares those who place their faith in Christ to be righteous. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." In other words, Jesus became our substitute on the cross so that we could be made "just" or right with God. We were guilty, but God has declared us righteous.

We are justified, as we mature in Jesus, we are sanctified. When we die - *this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality* (I Cor. 15:53) .

Theologians speak of three distinct types of justification: positional, progressive, and perfective. Positional justification is the "legal standing" we have been granted in Christ. We are justified when we trust in Christ. From that moment on, God sees us as righteous. We've been given, at justification, the righteousness of Christ.

Rom. 3:22 - *even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.*

Eph. 1:3-4 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

When we're born again we are saved from the penalty of sin.

Although we have been declared righteous, the fact is that we still sin, even after we've been saved. That's where progressive justification comes in. Progressive justification (or sanctification) is the ongoing process of being made just by the Lord. "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day" (Proverbs 4:18). It involves a believer becoming more and more like Christ. This is not something we do, but something He does. We perform good works as He empowers us (Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 9:8).

As we mature we are saved – progressively – from the power of sin.

When we are glorified – when we see Him face to face – when we enter eternity – our justification will be complete.

We will be saved from the very presence of sin (I Pet. 1:5). Taking sinners to heaven is God's business, and it is only possible through the sacrifice of Christ. It is "one act of righteousness [performed by Christ that] leads to justification and

life for all men" (Romans 5:18). Jesus paid the price. We enjoy the peace He gives, both now and eternally (Romans 5:1).

In researching Replacement Theology one day YEARS ago, I found a site online where people who embrace RT were venting. One person said, "No Jew who is a Christ killer should inherit anything."

What that person doesn't realize:

We all put Jesus on the cross.

Isa. 53:10 – God's plan

Acts 4:27-28 – God's plan

Jn. 10:17-18 - *I lay down My life that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*

Can God transform a person's life?

What does Scripture teach about the restoration of Israel?

I must admit I was taken aback at the bitterness that was expressed – and it made me more passionate for this ministry.

How does "end times" impact you?

What about "end times" do you want to know?

Give me some topics that come under "end times".

OK – tell me what you know about end times.

We've been talking about the WHY of the rapture.

The WHY – BECAUSE of what the TRIBULATION is for. We need to first UNDERSTAND THE WHY OF THE TRIBULATION. AND, this is what we've been talking about.

How many of you enjoy interacting with people? Believers?  
People who are not yet believers in Jesus?

If you're impacted by "end times" – what do you do with how God has impacted you?

How many are bothered by studying prophecy?

You know it's "divisive," don't you?

When someone mentions that to you, you might tell them...

- Prophecy was given to be UNDERSTOOD (Dan. 9:20-23 [READ])
- Approximately 27% of the Bible contains prophecy!
- II Tim. 3:16 – *ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God/ God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* Does God want us to read, study, learn, and know ALL Scripture? "ALL Scripture" includes prophecy!
- Rev. 19:10 - ...*the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* Prophecy focuses on Jesus! Prophecy begins and ends in the person and work of Jesus. The first Messianic prophecy in the Bible in Gen. 3:15 promises the Deliverer, the Redeemer Who will crush the head of the serpent.
- In God's plan there is RESTORATION and a GLORIOUS FUTURE! We know that through reading prophecy!!!!

Is this helpful?

What if a believer tells you that end times is too confusing. There's so much speculation esp. regarding the timing of the rapture.

What would you say?

I know, that's why I don't study it either!

Have you studied the rapture?

Give this person the 3 main passages (John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:15-18; I Cor. 15:51-52)

What if a person tells you there are too many date-setters.

That doesn't mean you aren't supposed to study it.

We are told to wait and watch for Jesus.

Because our class is thinking through the Bible and not just walking through the Bible...  
Let's THINK!

What's with the thinking through the Bible?

Why am I making such a statement?

Thinking through the Bible takes into account Biblical principles that God has laid out in Scripture. Give me some Biblical principles:

God is sovereign over the universe (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 47:7).

Man has sinned and the penalty is death (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23).

God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17).

Man is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28).

SO WHAT? What do we do with these principles?

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And – in linking to these Biblical principles we want to UNDERSTAND the big picture of the Bible.

SURVEY – ASK BELIEVERS – “What is the big picture of the Bible?” “How would you explain the Bible from 39,000 ft.?”

OH, you’re such a weeny – you just don’t want to suffer.

What would you say?

Suffering for Christ vs. coming under God’s wrath:

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Tell me...

What is the REASON for the rapture?

It’s going to end the Church Age!!!! Did you ever think of the rapture that way?

How LOVING of God to come for believers since Pentecost – those who have died and those who are still alive.

AND, how beautiful – our Bridegroom is coming for His Bride – the Church.

John 14:1-3

### Wedding Feast about which they knew:

- The Father of the bridegroom negotiates a price for the bride.
- The bridegroom travels to the bride's house.
- Betrothal symbol – drink from a cup of wine.
- From that moment the bride was declared sanctified or set apart
- Bridegroom would leave the bride's home and return to his father's home. The Bridegroom would speak these words to the bride before his departure: "Let not your heart be troubled. . . I go to prepare a place for you. . .and. . .I will come again". We note two comings on the part of the bridegroom.
- The bride did not know the exact day or hour the bridegroom would return. She needed to be prepared at all times.
- Bridegroom would add onto his father's home – bridal chamber.
- At the father's command, the Bridegroom and the groomsmen (Judges 14; John 3) would travel to the bride's home. The Bridegroom himself didn't know the exact time. Note Matt. 24:36.
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- The entire bridal party traveled to the father's home for a marriage feast (Mat. 25:1-6).
- The Bridegroom and bride went into the bridal chamber to consummate the marriage (Judges 14:12).
- When the marriage was consummated, there was a seven-day marriage celebration during which time the bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber.
- At the end of the seven days, the Bridegroom brought his bride out for all to see.

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What is the reason for the 7-year tribulation on earth? The purging/refining for Israel and the judgment on the unbelieving world. Two groups are mentioned as going through the tribulation: the nation of Israel and unbelievers. We need to remember that

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How do we know? Rev. 12:13-17; Matt. 25:31-46; Matt. 25:40 – “the least of these” – Dt. 7:7

*Jude v. 24 - Now to Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

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Will God's plan be thwarted?

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Consider Jude v. 24. Are we faultless? In God's eyes we are. But, on this earth – in our experience – we are not faultless.

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But what do we see now?

God promised Abraham and his descendants:

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What if you're told that you only want to be raptured because you don't want to suffer?  
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Suffering for Christ vs. coming under God's wrath:

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For the believer in Jesus there is NO CONDEMNATION (Rom. 8:1). Our sin has been judged at the cross!

Believers are not appointed to wrath: Rev. 5:1-7; Rom. 1:18; I Thess. 5:9; Rom. 8:1; Rev. 3:10; Dan. 9:24-27....

What is the REASON for the rapture?

It's going to end the Church Age!!!! Did you ever think of the rapture that way?

How LOVING of God to come for believers since Pentecost – those who have died and those who are still alive.

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in Jesus. I don't see in Scripture where the Church is going to go through the 7-year tribulation. Do you?



Some have asked, “If we as believers are ‘grafted into’ Israel, wouldn’t we be included in the tribulation?” Gentile believers are grafted in...into what?

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Paul continues to tell the Gentile believers in the Church in Rome Rom. 11:19-20 - *You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” <sup>20</sup> Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off...*

Some of the natural olive tree branches, the Jewish people, were broken off because of UNBELIEF and unnatural branches, Gentile believers were grafted in. SALVATION is clearly the focus. The root and fatness/richness of this tree which refers to the Abrahamic Covenant represents the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Rom. 11:23-24 - *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.* (Speaking of the future restoration of Israel. God is NOT finished with Israel) <sup>24</sup> *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

This passage supports the future national restoration of Israel!

Gentiles believers being grafted into the promise of the blessing specifically are not grafted into the nation of Israel.

The Abrahamic Covenant promises:

Personal promises to Abraham – God would bless Abraham and make his name great.

National promises to Abraham – a great nation, a blessing to others....

International promises – salvation offered to all the families of the earth through the Jewish Messiah.