

The Fulness of the Gentiles

An Addendum to Romans 11

1. An Addendum

- a. The question: "What is the fulness of the Gentiles be come in?" Rom 11:25
- b. Not a question that need separate brothers, but a good example of doctrinal overload.
- c. For generations dispies have been quick to get any verse to teach rapture/dispensations.
- d. A good place to exercise questioning assumptions w/o too much risk (and a little fun)

2. The Disagreement

- a. Agreement: there remains a fulness of Gentiles before all Israel is saved fulfilling prophecy
 - i. 'until' and 'so' indicate all Israel is saved upon the fulness of Gentiles be come in.
 - ii. Since this concerns a future event, we cannot be too adamant about what it is.
- b. Disagreement: What is the fulness that comes in? Salvation, prophecy, time, dispensation?
 - i. Covenantalist – 'all Israel' is Israel of God = Jew + Gentile. Salvation/prophecy
 - ii. Dispensationalist – 'all Israel' is the nation. Jew not Gentile. Time/dispensation.

3. God's Purpose for Israel

- a. God created Israel as the means of blessing the nations (Gentiles) - Gen 12:3, Exo 4:22-23
 - i. Gentiles would go up to Israel/Jerusalem/Zion to receive blessing and provision.
- b. Israel failed to obey God, be a blessing, therefore God punishes them with their enemies.
- c. Israel taken captive by the Gentiles (Assyria, Babylon) – Israel falls politically to Gentiles.
- d. They still had a prophesied connection - Ezekiel, Jer 29:11, Isaiah, Dan 2:28, 36-37
- e. They return from captivity according to prophecy (after Gentile judgment) to rebuild.
- f. In his ministry to Israel Christ proclaims the kingdom come to earth – Mt 4:23, 6:10, 19:28

4. Times of the Gentiles – Luke 21:24

- a. Luke 21:24 is Jesus talking about the end times, signs of the times, prophesy fulfilled.
 - i. End of the world in the Bible is not mass extinction, but world falls, kingdom comes.
 - ii. Israel's rise/kingdom on earth = righteousness, peace, glory of God.
- b. "*times of the Gentiles*" - Jerusalem falls (like before) and is taken captive under nations
 - i. 70 AD the city was destroyed. Gentile political dominion over the world.
 - ii. If the fulness of Gentiles = times of Gentiles, then the fulness is their fall/wrath.

5. Paul Given a Mystery – Romans 11:25

- a. Paul was working on being antichrist and was saved to be apostle of grace to Gentiles.
- b. Paul given the mystery of Christ, a new dispensation/revelation, not prophesied, unknown.
- c. If all saved into a new creature (Body), then what happened to God's purpose for Israel?
- d. Romans 9-11 – Israel fell, but a remnant obtained mercy, all sins taken away later (11:27)
- e. The fall of Israel leads to salvation coming to Gentiles (11:11), Israel's fulness is later.

6. "It's the Rapture!"

- a. The best proof of the rapture is prophecy and mystery are different.
- b. Not the best option, why?
 - i. It is from left field – Paul ties this into prophetic fulfillment.
 - ii. It is odd language – not mentioning any resurrection here.
 - iii. It is imprecise – When is Israel saved after this dispensation?
 - iv. It is untrue – Can Gentiles get saved/blessed after this dispensation?
- c. It also leads people to read Body of Christ/dispensations back into graft/Rom 9-11

7. "It's the Fulness of Times" – Ephesians 1:10

- a. The fulness of times refers to all things (heaven/earth) being brought together in one.
- b. It is not the kingdom on earth, end of this dispensation, and when is this fulness of time?
- c. There is a period of time between wrath/kingdom and kingdom/GWT and Rev 21-22.
- d. There is a difference between when Israel is saved, and God removes sin (millennium)
- e. This is not the same as the times of the Gentiles, and is after Israel is saved.

8. "It's All Gentiles Coming into Israel for Blessing"

- a. According to prophecy, when Israel is saved, they become a blessing to the world.
- b. According to prophecy, Gentiles assist Israel in their return. (this matches Romans 11)
- c. Nations coming into Zion to benefit from their law and provision - Isa 2:2-3
- d. Christ will be king and setup a one world government when Israel is saved – Rom 11:26
- e. All nations worship and come to Christ-Israel - Isa 11:9-10, 49:22, 54:5, 60:1-12, 66:12,19
- f. All earth will come to worship - Psa 22:27-31, 66:1-4, 67:4, 72:8-11, 86:9, 98:1-4,9; Rev 15:4 (This is not happening today during Israel's fall – though salvation offered to them)
- g. The nations that come to Israel can be cut off during that kingdom – Ps 2:10-12
- h. This option fits, prophecy, fits Romans 9-11, connects the fulness with Gentile fall, salvation, and Israel's salvation. It leaves the Body out of prophecy.