

Nor-02 the Mystery of God With Israel

by Art Katz

The church's reciprocal destiny with Israel is a mystery that must be understood and fulfilled, where the church is the key to Israel's restoration and Israel's salvation is dependent on the church's obedience to God's purposes.

Duration: 37:12

Scripture: Acts 2:46

Topics: "Mystery Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the need for believers to go beyond the traditional Sunday services and engage in daily fellowship and breaking of bread. He shares his personal testimony of how he was made jealous by encountering a Gentile girl who had a radiant light of faith. This experience led him to realize that God's program for the nation involves bringing back those who have fallen away through the jealousy of those who have received salvation. The speaker also highlights the importance of speaking the truth in love and exhorting one another daily, as well as the ultimate goal of restoring the nation of Israel for God's glory.

Transcript

Burden on Israel with you in this last hour. And I'm speaking these things not because I'm a Jew. This is a personally precious thing to me because I'm Jewish.

But because it is so critical to the church itself. It's a mystery of which Paul speaks. That is being fulfilled at the end of the age.

And to ignore this would be to limit the church according to God's intention. God has intended that we would be in a collision course with Israel. We have a reciprocal destiny.

In such a way that Israel can never come to God's intention for it independent of the church. Independent of the church. And yet at the same time, the church cannot come into its eternal destiny.

Independent of its relationship with Israel. We're locked in. And the devil knows this better than the church.

And has sought to rob this from us. Or to distort it. So I want to speak this in the apostolic context.

God's view of the church and Israel in the apostolic setting. And Paul speaks of this in three chapters in the book of Romans 9, 10 and 11. And of course we don't have time for any kind of real treatment of this

important theme.

But just to give you a first beginning. And then to remind you that last night I spoke here on this subject. That those tapes are available to you.

And that you can hear a fuller presentation by listening to them. But for now in Romans 11, verse 25. I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceit that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

And so all Israel shall be saved. There's a remarkable thing that is soon to take place. Of which God would not have us, the church, to be ignorant.

Indeed the church is the key to this fulfillment. Israel is presently blind. They cannot see the issue of Jesus as Messiah.

God has used that blindness in order to open the gospel to the Gentiles. Until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. What does Paul mean here? He means until all of the full number of the church be complete.

See how we've had to wait for you. The church would not have been complete without you. We had to wait for the fullness of the full number of a people for his name from among all nations.

And that is presently happening. And coming to completion. And when you go out in your own evangelistic work, this is the mystery that you're completing.

So that even if you're not making direct personal contact with Jews, you are yet affecting their destiny by your obedience to the Gentiles. Bringing this fullness in. So I'm talking now about the numerical and the quantitative aspect of the fullness.

Now comes a more difficult question. The qualitative aspect. What does Paul mean there? That the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

I think he means that every Gentile thing should be finished. Remember I said to you in the last hour that when Paul came to the Thessalonians, he didn't come to them as a Jew. Yes, of course, naturally speaking, he was Jewish.

But he didn't come to them in that sense. He came to them in a transcendent sense. Beyond nationality, beyond culture.

He was the man of the kingdom. And he says, you receive the word of God. And he said, you received the word from us.

Not as the word of man, but for what it really is. The word of God, that performs a work in them that hear it. Because it turned you from your idols to serve the living God.

And now God is wanting you to do the same thing at the end of the age. But only if you come in the transcendent way. For example, Dick was with me a few months ago at a black church in America.

A black Pentecostal church. I felt like I was in an occultic situation. The place was squirming with snakes.

It has become in America a black culture. And they had invited me to speak. And they didn't know what they were getting.

My heart was pounding. Because I knew that the hour had come. When God was going to blow the whistle on that.

That that Gentile stuff had to end. That Gentile black religious culture had to end. And the kingdom of God had to come.

And we couldn't allow them to remain in that condition. And however much we liked their singing. And so I came up with trembling.

And Paul trembled also. And you will tremble too. But we will still be obedient to the Lord.

And I spoke such words to them. Their eyes were like saucers. They couldn't believe what this man was saying.

When I left the church that night a woman stopped me in the hallway. She had been one of those who had given a testimony earlier in the night. Before I spoke.

It was a performance. It was a lie. I want to say that the Lord for me, I want to say it, I'm asking... It was a fixed piece of performance.

It was just a pure performance from her side. That gave her a pure spiritual manifestation. And those who heard it also.

And it was just the opposite. It just built up what they were doing. But it was a lie.

Because God's word says that the church is the foundation pillar. And I was not going to affirm them in their lie. I was going to address the lie.

In the power of the Spirit. Some white people who had come that night as guests said to me that when they heard me begin to speak they feared for their lives. Because how would these black people take a statement like that? How dare that white man speak like that? And be critical of our religion.

From his white point of view. His cultural perspective. And his background.

But they never reacted that way. Because I did not come to them from a white man's point of view. I came to them from their kingdom point of view.

Above culture and above race. And they knew it. The fullness of the Gentiles had come in.

The fullness of the Gentiles had come in that night. And the woman who had given her testimony, she took my hand when I was on my way. And she said, I want to thank you brother.

Your words have set me free. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. And she heard the word of truth.

And I'm giving you this as an illustration. Of what I think God is waiting for. That blindness might come off the eyes of Israel.

Because the Gentile thing has fully been finished. Not only religion as culture. But religion as manipulation.

Platform control. Predictable services. So much more that I could say.

That is Gentile. That is not of the Hebraic spirit. The spirit of God.

That has distorted the church. Corrupted it. That has got to be finished.

We have got to come to an end to that. And be the true and the real kingdom people of God. That's why in the same letter in the Thessalonians.

Paul says at the end of that chapter. That you should walk worthy of God. Verse 12.

Who has called you unto his kingdom and glory. So the church is the key to the rest of the world. So the church is the key to the restoration of Israel.

They are blind and waiting for something in us. For us to come to a certain fullness. And Paul says in the same chapter 11.

In verse 11 of Romans. God forbid. But rather through their fall salvation has come to the Gentiles to provoke them to jealousy.

Here is the mystery again expressed in another way. They seem to have fallen away from the purposes of God. They have rejected the prophets and Christ.

They have opposed the gospel right into modern times. But they have not fallen in the sense that God is permanently finished with them. Rather by the spirit Paul says they have stumbled.

Momentarily. So that salvation should come to the Gentiles. But what is the purpose of their salvation coming to the Gentiles? So as to move them to jealousy.

This is what I shared with the school last night. There is a purpose for our salvation beyond ourselves. Which we need fully to take into our consideration.

We receive many benefits being saved. But there is a greater purpose for our salvation beyond ourselves. That serves a purpose in God and for Him.

Because it will move them to jealousy. That they might be saved. And Paul says that what should it mean for them to be saved and be the reconciling of the world.

What shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead. For example are you enjoying me this morning? I am a piece of life from the dead. I was a dead man for 35 years.

As a Marxist and as an Atheist. An enemy of God. But there came a time when God saved me.

I shared last night how I was made jealous in one moment. When he had me to meet an ordinary Gentile girl as a hitchhiker. A girl without any qualifications.

Gentile of the Gentiles. But in whose face I saw the light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel. It's a light I had never seen in any university.

Any ideology, any philosophy. It made me jealous. Where did she get that? That was the beginning.

By which the Lord brought me to Himself. It's a picture of His program for the entire nation. That there might be many art cats brought back to His service.

To bring a special dimension of things to His people and to the nations. Which Paul says it's like life from the dead. But how are they brought back? They're made jealous.

Through those to whom salvation has come because of their fall. It raises this great question. What kind of church could conceivably move Jews to jealousy at the end of the age? What kind of gathering could cause the nation of Israel to become jealous? Clearly something more than what we've ever known.

Something other, something beyond. Something glorious. Hallelujah! To Him be glory in the church.

World without end. Throughout all ages. Paul speaks about the church as if it is an eternal phenomenon.

God's eternal masterpiece. And it is. And you are it.

Can you see why He is willing to invest so much in you? Daily instruction. Raising up the best of His men and His women. To pour their souls out for you.

Not just to give you the gospel, but my life also. That you might be formed into such a church. That God might have the eternal glory.

And only such a church can move Jews to jealousy. And only such a gathering can affect Israel so that they grow up and become jealous. And here is the point now.

We will not come to that glory. Because it's not going to be an easy trip. This is no light thing.

The flesh just wants to rest in the pew. Religion as usual. Via Sunday services.

A few kronor in the collection place. Amen, hallelujah. A few choruses.

Biblical message. Go home. And our life is nothing more than the succession of services.

We will never come to the fulfillment of this mystery that way. What then, brother? We're going to have to go from house to house daily breaking bread. The way they did in the beginning.

We're going to need to speak the truth and love to each other. We're going to have to exhort one another daily while it is yet today. Next Sunday is too late.

We're called to something earnest. Something real. Something totally demanding.

It's not comfortable. We want to retreat into our privacy. Leave things as they are.

Drown it out before the TV set. God calls us to something more. And the motive is for His glory.

It's something we would not do even for ourselves. But unto Him be glory in the church. Try and understand this.

What will it mean for God's glory? To restore the nation of Israel again to Himself. Who have so long turned against Him. And rejected His Messiah.

And gave their own messianic alternatives. Karl Marx was a Jew. Sigmund Freud was a Jew.

But they've turned from the knowledge of God. They've even opposed Him. But God's love is greater.

And Paul says in Romans, He will have mercy upon anyone who has mercy. How contrary to the wisdom of the world. The world says they don't deserve it.

But what can we deserve from God? If God gave us what we deserve, where would any of us be? But He will have mercy upon whom He will have mercy. Because He will be who He will be. And He says, now you've received mercy.

Now by your mercy, let them receive mercy. That He might have mercy upon all. What a demonstration to the world.

Of what God is in Himself. Full of loving kindness and mercy. Even to restore this nation.

Can you imagine what their message to the nations will be? Can you imagine Jews going to Saudi Arabia and Jordan and to Kuwait and all of the Arab nations? Full of the joy of the Lord. Full of the salvation of God. Because mercy has come to them.

Which they didn't deserve. They're saved out of death. And now they have a message to the nations.

As nations. Come up to Jerusalem. God is there.

The word is going forth out of Jerusalem. It's salvation for the earth. When the world sees what God has done with this people.

And if He has had mercy on them. Upon whom will He not have mercy? It's life from the dead. And it begins with them.

Through you. We are the key to Israel's restoration. And Israel is the key to the nations.

What a calling. We have to say with both, who is sufficient for these things? We would like to say as Paul said, but who is sufficient to do this? Truthfully. The Lord must be and be all in all.

For each and every one of us. He must lead us from faith to faith. And from glory to glory.

And that He may take care that there is peace within us. Insecurity. Fear.

Self-consciousness. Jealousy. Envy.

Resentment. Bitterness. He has to change us.

Form us in His image. Apostolic people. Who love one another.

With a pure heart fervently. Unto unfamed love of the brethren. And even the unbelieving Jews when they look at you have to say.

Look how they love one another. No man lives for himself alone. There is not one among them that has need.

This is a people of one soul and one mind. Who in the world were enemies against each other. Man against woman.

Black against white. Rich against poor. Made one in God.

It will move them to jealousy. They are waiting on us. Something from us.

And it is God's incentive to us. To bring us to maturity. No other motivation will be enough.

But to fulfill this. That's why God wants to speak this into your spirit this morning. Say brother, I don't know any Jews.

I don't think there are any Jews in Erebro. It doesn't matter. In the mystery of the purposes of God.

Your condition. Your situation. Will affect their destiny.

Yes. We are in this together. Paul calls it a mystery.

Even till now. But of which he would not have you to be ignorant. And it's a mystery now to be filled.

For you. What a great calling. Who is sufficient for this.

God must be all in all. We must walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Both of the kingdom and of the glory.

And that's the last word that I leave with you. Paul was jealous for the glory. That's what makes an apostle an apostle.

To him be glory. Take that into your spirit. Make that your chief motivation.

Because you're going to suffer. Much will be required of us all. There will be difficult trials.

Your flesh will want to run away from this. And go back to something easier. The world will try to draw you back.

And seduce you. Into false comfort. But God has called you to the way of the cross.

Yes, there will be a suffering. There will be suffering. But it results in a glory.

It did for him. And it will for us. Be jealous for the glory.

And it will bring you through. I want to pray for a glorious church. Made up of living stones.

Fitted and formed of God. To move Israel to jealousy. And fulfill the mystery of the ages.

Life from the dead. The key to the nations. Beginning with us.

So Lord in Jesus name. Help us. To understand.

To take this into our deepest consciousness. Such a calling. And Lord your mercy came to us.

None of us deserved anything from you. You saved us out of death. And you took us from where we were.

And day by day. You are so patiently and lovingly building us. Forming us.

As vessels for your glory. A true people. Above nationality and culture.

Beyond that which is gentile. A people of the kingdom and of the glory. We need your blessing.

And grace upon grace. To fulfill this. And fulfill this we will.

For the honor and glory of your name. That we might eternally rejoice together. World without end.

Throughout all ages. Amen.

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