

Grace Bible Church
Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

The Tree of Life is a weekly teaching summary.
The Tree of Life from the week ending 05/25/08
No matter sight says, the Promises of God will never fail.

Rom 9:4-5, *"Who are Israelites, to whom is the adoption and as sons and the glory [that is the Shekinah glory], and the covenants [or] the unconditional covenants, and the deposit of the law, and the temple service [which means the service of God in the temples] and the promises, From whom [the Jews or Israelites] are the fathers, [the regenerate ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob], in fact, from whom is The Christ, the One who came in the flesh, the One who is God, ruler over all, extolled, praised, eulogized forever, Amen."*

Concerning this passage, we have studied the spiritual heritage of Israel. We have seen how the Jews rejected or distorted the unconditional covenants, the gift of the Mosaic Law, the Sabbath, and the Deity of The Lord Jesus Christ. Amazingly, they rejected the Shekinah glory that was there living right before their eyes. They saw The Lord Jesus Christ face to face, heard His message, and saw His miracles. They had the whole picture, and still they had that same negative volition they had in the Old Testament. The message behind that is that you have to have your own self-determination to fulfill such passages as Jer 29:13 *"And you will seek Me and find {Me,} when you search for Me with all your heart."*

In Heb 11:6 that *the Lord is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

In Mar 12:30 we are to be those who *"love the Lord their God with all their heart, and with all their soul, and with all their mind, and with all their strength."*

The Jews ignored their entire spiritual heritage, and the same thing is true today. In the Church-age, in spite of all that God has done, and how He has revealed the mystery doctrine of the Church-age, the average believer knows nothing about it.

Rom 9:6 *"But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;"*

This verse begins with the phrase *hoion de hoti*, translated *however, this is not to imply*. Then we have the phrase *logos tou theou*, which is translated *the word of God*. So Rom 9:6 begins, *"However, this is not to imply as though the word of God has failed."* The principle behind this is very important. The entire Old Testament is the spiritual heritage of Israel. It contains many of the unconditional covenants, the promises to Israel regarding the future of that race, and that nation. The entire Old Testament, when put together properly, adds up to something very wonderful for Israel, and that is that Israel has a future, something that is great in time; something that exceeds greatness in eternity. It spells out a nation forever, a people of God forever, a people under a theocracy forever, that includes both the Millennial reign of Christ and all of eternity.

Throughout human history, and even before, Satan has opposed the purpose and the plan of God. Here is the original sin committed long before man sinned, it is what Satan said in Isa 14:13 *"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north."* The *stars of God* refers to the angels (Job 38:7; Jud 13; Rev 12:3-4), *sitting on the mount of the assembly in the recesses of the north* refers to rulership over the entire earth. Satan continues in Isa 14:14 *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."* Clouds are used to represent the Divine presence of God or His glory (Exo 16:10; Psa 104:3). Satan wants the glory which belongs to God alone. Satan, as the god of this age, has carried on his work to try and defeat the purpose and the plan of God, and therefore Satan is anti-Semitic and anti-Christian. When The Lord Jesus Christ, a Jew, rules *all the nations with a rod of iron*; this will be the Millennial age, an age when Divine righteousness is expressed to mankind as never before. The Millennial age will also be God's final test toward fallen humanity under the most ideal circumstances and perfect environment. All outward sources of temptation

must be removed so that man will demonstrate what he is apart from satanic influence; the result is that man is totally corrupt regardless of environment. Therefore, Satan is removed or bound and mankind is placed in a fantastic environment for 1,000 years. Millennialism is the teaching that there will be a period of 1,000 years when The Lord Jesus Christ will rule this earth as king. This age will see the fulfillment of all the covenants that God made with Israel. It is also evident that there can be no perfect environment apart from the personal manifestation of The Lord Jesus Christ. The whole age depends on His return to the earth as promised.

Because of His presence the curse is abolished, death is overcome, the evils pertaining to fallen man and fallen nature are removed, and great blessings are obtained. Everything will be controlled by The Lord Jesus Christ. During the Millennium all nations come before the Lord and worship Him as God (Psa 86:9; Zec 14:16-19).

Dan 7:24-27, "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court will sit {for judgment,} and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of {all} the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom {will be} an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."

The phrase "greatness of all the kingdoms" will characterize the Millennial age:

- 1) There will be world peace. National and individual peace will be the fruit of the Messiah's reign (Isa 2:4; 11:6-9; 60:18; 61:7).
- 2) It will be a fantastic time of inner happiness and joy (Isa 9:3-4; Jer 30:18-19; Zep 3:14-17).
- 3) The kingdom will be characterized by glory (Isa 24:3; Isa 4:2; 60:1-9).
- 4) It will be a kingdom manifested by Holiness (Isa 1:26-27; Jer 31:23).
- 5) The King will personally minister to every need so that there will be the fullness of comfort (Isa 12:1-2; Jer 31:23-25; Zec 9:11-12).
- 6) There will be the administration of perfect justice (Isa 9:7; Jer 23:5; 31:29-30).
- 7) There will be the most fantastic teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit (Isa 11:1-2; 41:19-20; Hab 2:14).
- 8) There will be direct instruction from The Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings (Isa 29:17-24; 3:14-15; Mic 4:2).
- 9) The original curse placed upon creation in Gen 2:17-19 will be removed. There will be abundant productivity to the earth, even the animal creation will be changed, Isa 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25.
- 10) Sickness will be removed. The ministry of the King as the healer will be seen throughout the Millennium so that sickness and even death will be removed, the exception being *death* in dealing with criminal sin or capital punishment (Isa 33:24; Jer 30:17; Eze 34:16).
- 11) All of the deformed are healed as well, if they were deformed at the time of the second advent they will experience a total healing (Isa 29:17-19; Jer 31:8; Mic 4:6-7).
- 12) There will also be a supernatural work of preservation in the Millennial age through the King (Isa 41:8-14; Eze 34:27; Joel 3:16-17).
- 13) There will be no social, political, or religious oppression (Isa 14:3-6; 42:6-7; Zec 9:11-12).
- 14) There will not be the tragedies of mental illness or of infant deaths (Isa 65:20).
- 15) The earth's population will soar and there will be sex. Children will be born to the believers who began the Millennium and will have a sin nature and therefore need salvation (Jer 30:20; 31:29; Eze 47:22; Zec 10:8).
- 16) There will exist a perfect economic system (e.g. no unions) in which the needs of men are abundantly provided for (Isa 62:9-9; 65:21-23; Jer 31:5).
- 17) There will be an increase of solar and lunar light. The increased light probably is a major cause of the increased productivity of the earth (Isa 4:5; 30:26; 60:19-20; Zec 2:5).
- 18) There will be a unified language. The language barriers will be removed so that there can be free social intercourse (Zep 3:9). All the world will unite in the worship of God and God's presence will be experienced as never before.

So again, the Millennium will be 1,000 years of perfect environment and prosperity, however, the Millennium will demonstrate three things: First, that it is very difficult to survive and be truly happy and content without capacity. Very few people ever have happiness in prosperity unless they have the capacity for happiness. Secondly, mankind cannot be satisfied without a personal relationship with The Lord Jesus Christ. Thirdly, believers can use Bible doctrine and remain faithful even in prosperity. Very few believers ever survive their first prosperity test, they usually lose their concentration on Bible doctrine. As a result, there will be many unbelievers during the Millennial age who will despise believers and join Satan at the end of the 1,000 years.

Rev 20:7-10, And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. After 1,000 years of perfect environment, Satan will be let loose to lead millions in the greatest revolution in human history. Man has 1,000 years of perfect environment and he revolts against it and that simply shows that environment is not the solution to man's problems. Environment is not even the basis for happiness. It is the individual's soul that counts, not the environment.

The Edenic dispensation under the age, or dispensation, of the Gentiles failed no matter what the Lord did. The antediluvian age under the dispensation of the Gentiles failed no matter what the Lord did (operation flood). The postdiluvian age under the dispensation of the Gentiles in which mankind once again failed by building the Tower of Babel, it failed no matter what the Lord did. The dispensation of Israel and the Jews totally failed no matter what the Lord did. Then in the first Christocentric dispensation we saw how The Lord Jesus Christ came unto His own, but His own did not receive Him, they failed no matter what the Lord did. So, the Church-age began and the Word of God teaches that even in that dispensation most believers reject The Lord Jesus Christ no matter what He does for them. So, another dispensation, the Tribulation, begins with God using crisis evangelism to warn people, but they still reject The Lord Jesus Christ no matter what the Lord does. Finally, perfect environment is given for 1,000 years, and still mankind will not respond to the Lord, again illustrating that without a relationship with The Lord Jesus Christ, mankind is an implacable, frustrated, miserable, ungrateful, or hard-hearted.

Job 14:4 says, *"Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!"*

Rom 3:10 as it is written, *"There is none righteous, not even one; "There is none good, not one."*

Ecc 7:20 *Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who {continually} does good and who never sins.* You might want to remember that the next you judge somebody.

Back in Rom 9:6 *However, this is not to imply as though the word of God has failed.*

In spite of all the attacks made upon the Word of God by Satan, and the kingdom of darkness manipulating and using people, the Word of God will not fail. Mat 24:35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away."*

1Pe 1:25 *"But the word of the Lord abides forever. And this is the word which was preached to you."*

Rom 9:6 *However, this is not to imply as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.*

The problem was that the Jews were suffering from what might be categorized as terminal self-righteousness. They were using the Mosaic Law as the means of salvation, and therefore had rejected all Bible doctrine. As a result of this they had come to this great point of discouragement, where they say, the word of God has failed. Israel's present discipline and the failure of the individual Jew, does not, and cannot neutralize the promises of God or the plan of God as revealed in His Word. The failure of any individual, any nation, does not in any way cancel anything in the Word of God. No individual or no nation is that important to history.

The insertion of the Church-age, and the administration of the fifth cycle of discipline to the nation of Judah, this still does not mean that Israel has no future. However, because of those two events, most Jews gave up. The apostle Paul anticipated the fact that because of the end of the age of Israel, the insertion of the Church-age, which to the unbeliever Jew is known as *the times of the Gentiles*, that many Jews would give up on the

Old Testament promises. In the Old Testament, the Jews were always the client nation to God, with the exception of a few periods of decline when, for example, the Jews would be out under the fifth cycle of discipline and God would temporarily use a Gentile nation. The *times of the Gentiles* means the Jews are excluded from being a client nation. Recognizing that after the Church is removed by the rapture, and the Tribulation begins, it is prophesied that there will be a Jewish nation in Palestine in the Tribulation. No Jewish nation can be a client nation during the times of the Gentiles. The Jews were the client nation in the past, and they will be a client nation in the future, in fact forever, but in the mean time, the Gentiles have their day. This became very discouraging to the Jews because it appeared as though, by calling out a Royal Family, the Church, that God is not going to keep His word and not going to fulfill His promises to the Jews, as a nation, as well as individuals. This why Satan promotes anti-Semitism. This why we are told that in the last days Israel is going to be a nation targeted for destruction by other nations, such as Iraq and Iran. The insertion of the Church-age has complicated the problem for the Jews. In fact, the Jews are so discouraged that they need to be reminded of what is already written in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah dwells on the future of Israel, in spite of the fact that they would be disciplined, and they would be removed from the scene of history as a client nation to God. So, in Rom 9:6, the Jews have lost track of these things, and therefore the nation has been discouraged, and the glorious future is brought into focus at this point. God always keeps His word, and Jesus Christ controls history. Jesus Christ, in His great wisdom, sees fit to remove Israel from the scene, and during the time of the calling out of the Royal Family to make it the times of the Gentiles, and to have Gentile nations as the client nation to God. God knows exactly what He is doing.

Now, the average Jew would respond and say the Word of God has been invalidated or canceled. That would mean that there are passages in the Old Testament that have no meaning to us, and therefore, we are all through. Because that would mean that God doesn't keep His Word.

Let's take one of the most important promises in the Word of God for us, the promise that we will be raised from the dead. 1Co 15:12-15, *Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.*

Therefore if God doesn't keep His word, as the majority of the Jews alleged, than why even live like we do? (even though we are still better off living this way). This is the obvious thinking and attitude of people who are not familiar with doctrine, and the Jews, as a whole had rejected doctrine, and therefore did not understand what was happening in history. Therefore they became very discouraged.

Jesus Christ controls history in spite of what you and I may think we are seeing. In spite of what's happening around you personally, nationally, internationally and historically. That's why you have to interpret history as a spiritual believer and begin to note the proper interpretation of history or how a mature believer can recognize Divine guidance in their life. Bringing together all the principles of doctrine and correctly interpreting contemporary history gives the believer a new lease on life, and a positive attitude, even toward your failures of the past. Once again, the grace, patience, longsuffering and compassion of God is revealed by giving one of His children another chance. You now to have the opportunity to go forward, even if you have been going backward for a while. Hos 14:4 *I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.* This time you should be a much wiser, and a much more stabilized believer. You have been forgiven and released from your sins and failures, and you can have an impact on history in some way. In the Biblical interpretation of history, it is normal to relate yourself to what is going on in history, especially in the light of the fact that you believe that Jesus Christ controls history. You have the ability to use Bible doctrine in your soul to face the reality of contemporary events. You have to interpret history as a spiritual believer and begin to note the biblical interpretation of history and how a you recognize and understand the historical trends of the time in which you are living. Let's close with the following 8 principles:

- 1) Even though history is the record of man's thoughts, decisions, actions and motivations, it is Jesus Christ who controls history.
- 2) This is the first dispensation in which Jesus Christ controls history as a man, the God-man, from His

Hypostatic Union.

3) In Human history, there are two sources of judgment: the sovereign decisions of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the erroneous decisions of mankind as they follow Satan and the kingdom of darkness in their sin of independence from God.

4) People individually and collectively are the products of their own decisions. Decisions create environment, environment does not create decisions. There are no tragedies in history, just historical disasters. So-called historical disasters are not tragedies since individuals, nations, and empires are the products of their own self-determination.

5) The pattern of historical disaster begins with economic depression, moves to moral and immoral degeneracy, and ends in military disaster. Perhaps that is why we do not see the USA as a major role player in the last days, that and of course the Rapture.

6) God selects the most evil nation to administer the fifth cycle of discipline to a degenerate client nation. Evil one destroys evil two. Evil is always attracted to evil to destroy evil.

7) Individual subjectivity destroys national objectivity. Arrogant people result in arrogant nations. Arrogant people or arrogant nations never see their own inconsistencies, only the inconsistencies of others. Jealous people and envious nations never see their own sins and production of evil, only the sins and evil of others.

8) This is why Christ taught the doctrine of perpetual warfare until He returns. The only way to prevent war is to be so well prepared that no one will attack.