

Until the fullness of the gentiles...

When we view chapters 9 through 11 of the Book of Romans, it is very easy to see (especially in light of the abundant prophecies concerning the return of the "lost ten tribes") that Paul is talking about the House of Israel and not about the Jews. Virtually all Christians, Messianics, Nazarenes, Ephraimites, etc. misinterpret what Paul tells the Romans in chapter eleven of the Book of Romans because their own arrogance will not allow them to see that it is they who are blinded.

Romans 11:25

*²⁵Brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, lest you become arrogant: Israel has been temporarily blinded until the **fullness of the gentiles** has entered.*

[Note: The Greek "*apo*" should be rendered as "temporarily" and not "in part" as many English translations render it. The tertiary definition of "*apo*" is "a state of separation for period of time;" hence, "temporarily."]

Regarding the term "fullness of the gentiles;" compare Romans 11:25 with Genesis 48:17-19:

*¹⁷And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. ¹⁸And Joseph said to his father, No, my father: for this is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head. ¹⁹But his father refused, and said, I know, my son, I know! He will also become a people, and he will also be great: but truly his younger brother will be greater than he, and his seed shall become the **fullness of the nations** (i.e. gentiles).*

[Note: The Hebrew "melo" does not mean "multitude" as many English translations of the Bible render it. Its meaning is very specific: It means "fullness." In Genesis 48:19 "melo" is followed by "ha-goyim" which is translated "the nations" and is usually used to refer to nations other than Israel; hence, "gentiles."]

Careful examination of the Book of Romans clearly shows the following pattern. In the first eight chapters Paul talks about "Jews" and "Gentiles;" but in chapter 9, Paul introduces the word "Israel" and he only uses it through chapter 11. Paul uses the word "Israel" as a specific reference to the

"lost ten tribes." So what Paul is telling us is that the House of Israel [the lost ten tribes] is temporarily blinded until a point in time when they "enter" or "make aliyah." This must be understood as making the spiritual aliyah [removing the blindness] and finally making the physical aliyah [geula shleima (complete redemption – both spiritual & physical)].

Paul concludes this thought in Romans 11:26-27 by quoting from the prophet Isaiah:

*²⁶And so, **all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
²⁷For this is my covenant to them, when I shall take away their sins.*

Of course, God has not yet taken away their sins, because the bulk of Israel is still blinded. They do not know who they are, but when they are awakened [released from their blindness] they will repent and God will take away their sins (i.e. He will end their exile from Him and from The Land).

Notice that Paul says: "And so, **ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED**." Compare this with Ezekiel 39:21-29:

*²¹And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. ²²So the House of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. ²³And the heathen shall know that the House of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. ²⁴I have done to them according to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions, and hid my face from them. ²⁵Therefore this is what the LORD GOD says; Now will I bring back the exiles of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole House of Israel, and will be jealous for the sake of my holy name; ²⁶After they have borne their shame, and all their sins whereby they have sinned against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and nothing made them afraid. ²⁷When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; ²⁸Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, who caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them to their own land, and have **left none of them in exile**. ²⁹Nor will I hide my face from them any more: for I have poured out my spirit upon the House of Israel, says the LORD GOD.*

The redemption will begin when the lost of Israel realizes that they must go to the Jews to learn the truth:

Zechariah 8:23

Thus says the LORD of hosts; In those days, ten men speaking the languages of the nations [this refers to the ten lost tribes], shall take hold of the corner of a Jew's talit, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

Let's look at some verses concerning the redemption of Israel.

Amos 9:9

For I will command, and I will sift the House of Israel through all the nations, like one sifts [sand] in a sieve, and not one pebble will fall upon the land.

This verse seems to indicate that not one gentile will be among the ingathered exiles. This brings up another point: Geula shleima [salvation] is for Israel only. The gentiles do not need salvation because they are not lost as Israel [the lost ten tribes] is lost. Israel has not only lost their identity and been scattered among the gentiles, but Israel has lost spiritual identity as well, having turned away from God's Sabbath and having turned to idolatry. The gentiles have a much less demanding path to follow [i.e. the Noahide Code]. This is, of course, a topic for another discussion.

Jeremiah 30:3

The day is coming, says the LORD, that I will bring back the exiles of my people Israel and Judah, says the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

Jeremiah 33:7

And I will cause the exiles of Judah and the exiles of Israel to return, and will rebuild them, as at the first.

Jeremiah 46:27

O my servant Jacob, do not fear and do not be dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save you from afar off, and your seed from the land of their

exile; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and nothing shall make him afraid.

Hosea 2:1 [1:10 in the Christian Bible]

*Yet the number of the children of Israel [referring specifically to the "House of Israel"] shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said to them, You are not my people, it shall be said to them, **You are the children of the Living God.***

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹Behold, the day is coming, says the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel [lost ten tribes], and with the House of Judah [the Jews]: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; because they broke that covenant, even though I was a husband to them, says the LORD: ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel [lost ten tribes]; When that day comes, says the LORD, I will put my law in their inner-most being, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

God is going to write his Torah into the hearts and souls of the House of Israel. As we saw, above, in Hosea, they shall be called "**b'nai El Chai**" [children of the Living God]. As it says in Acts 5:32, God gives his spirit to those who obey him.

Romans 8:14-21

¹⁴Those who are led by the spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of offspring, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Moshiach; if indeed we suffer together, we will also be glorified together. ¹⁸For I do not consider the sufferings of this present time to be worthy compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation

waits in anticipation for the revealing of the children of God. ²⁰*For the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope,* ²¹*because the creation itself shall also be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the **children of God.***

All the world will benefit from the redemption of Israel because after Israel is redeemed [in the final redemption] they will finally be, as God intended from the beginning, "a light to the nations." Then the "*Sh'kinah*" of God [His Glory] will dwell in Jerusalem and the awe of Him will fill the whole earth.

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