

Romans 11

Sunday 1/15/2006

Revelation 1 and 2 talk about how we as Christians, and in respect to me as a pastor, are told that we are to be stewards of the mysteries of God. I am to be faithful in those mysteries as far as teaching God's people the Word of God. As you learn them, and then as you grow up and begin to work with people, we are seeing that a lot now where some of you are really coming into your own in discipleship and working with people. It all takes time; it is all a process. But in time, you will teach the mysteries, and if not to somebody else, then to your family. You are stewards of that aspect; you realize that a steward is someone who is entrusted with what God has given them, and they have to be stewards of that.

The mysteries in the Bible are the beginning of what we talked about as the seven series. God's systematic study of the Scriptures is based on the number seven. As you come through this, we are going to tie it all together. I have told you many, many times that the key to understanding your Bible is one word: it is the word doctrine. My job is to teach you Bible doctrine. Bible doctrine comes from learning the principles, precepts, and concepts of the Scriptures. So every time we meet together, every time we open up the Bible, for us, it is about learning more principles, concepts, and then applying them to what we already know. That is what builds doctrine. That is one of the things that I want to do in this study of working with you and putting your Bible together. I want to show you how it all works together.

I have put this together in the concept of where we are at right now. We have taken a couple of years, a year and a half anyhow, of really laying out the whole Bible. We started with the basic fundamentals, and then I basically came through every book of the Bible and showed you how it breaks down, gave you all the vital information that you need to know, certainly enough that you can begin to start and to work with. Now, once we have done that, we are going in and we are kind of, and I used this example when we got started, I talked about how that we are like building a building, a house. The Bible says your body and my body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. We are in the process of building a temple, a building for God, your body.

Everybody here has been saved at a different time. Everybody here is in a different stage of spiritual growth. Some of you have been saved for years and years and years. Some of you just got saved in the last six months or so. Some of you are really getting plugged into the Word of God. Some of you were in churches that all your life you never really got the Bible taught. All you heard was "give money" and then all the political things that go along with it. You never were in a situation where anybody ever took an active interest in just teaching you the Bible. For the first time in your life, that is where you are at. Though you have been saved a while, you really do not know the Bible the way that you should. Well, that is what we are doing.

So you are at a different level than everybody else. I look at everybody here like walking into a brand new subdivision in a city someplace. You have houses that are in all different various stages of finishing. Some have just got the foundation poured last week. Some of them got the walls framed up. Some of them got the roof on. Some of them, they are in there sheetrocking and they are doing the wiring and they are putting in all the stuff that is on the inside that are the necessities of the house. That is what we are doing right now with the material that we are

coming through. We are wiring the house. We are showing you what light switch turns on what. We are putting in the plumbing. We are putting in the sheetrock. Now it is just not an empty shelf anymore. Now we are taking the stuff in the Bible that gives shape and gives concept and gives understanding to the Word of God.

That is why I have got to get into the equation now to help you. Me standing up here on Sunday morning and me staying up on Thursday night and just telling you about the Bible is good. Some of you will learn that way. But obviously, I have got to get some of you farther along in a quicker mode. All of you, anybody that wants to. The only way I know to do that is to get in your world where I can help you look at what you are doing, show you how to do it better. Then as we have a systematic plan that we go through it together, we build a library of knowledge in your life, in your world, that you can really grasp the Word of God. That is what we have got to do. That is what we are going to focus on this year. So wherever you get in, if you just got in in a short time, you just got in, I will fix something for you to get you where you need to be. Everybody is important, and I want everybody to have the best opportunity to grow in the Word of God. That is my job as pastor. I have one thing that I do: that is spend as much time with you as you can stand helping you learn your Bible and then sending you back out to do it to somebody else.

I. The Fourth Mystery: God's Plan for Israel

If you have your Bibles this morning, we are going to enter into the fourth mystery today, and I want you to turn to Romans chapter 11. The first three mysteries we looked at, I showed you how they were all connected with you. Right now, if you are paying attention, you ought to begin to understand in a very in-depth way your own relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you been taking notes? Have you been following along, been getting the CDs and going back over them? You now should be figuring out a lot of major stuff in your life about your relationship with God.

We talked about how people get all kinds of weird ideas about the Bible, about their own personal relationship with God, the concept that you can lose your salvation, and the misappropriation of the gifts and all of that stuff simply because they do not understand their own personal relationship with the Lord. That is what these mysteries do. These mysteries are seven mysteries that are given to the church. They are for you and for me. They create incredible insight into your own personal relationship with God, one, and two, all the other aspects of what God is doing. Today, we are going to look at what God is doing in another great aspect.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Now, let me just stop right there. A while back I told you there were seven things in the Bible that a Christian was told not to be ignorant of. If you ever want to test your spiritual whatever, you want to find out how well you are in tune with things, that is a good test. Just sit down with me sometime and I will give you the seven-point test. It has seven questions and seven answers. I will give you the living that you use your Bible. If you think that you know something about the Bible, let me just say this: you cannot know anything about the Bible if you do not know what Paul has told you, the seven things you should not be ignorant of. These seven things that Paul says you should not be ignorant of are exactly what God's people are ignorant of. You do not believe it? Take the test. I will give it to you. It is as simple as that. Prove my point.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus, and we ask you today to help us understand all that we are looking at, help us to grasp the concepts of what we are talking about. May we leave today with a better understanding of how all this fits into our Bible. Lord, you have told us in seven distinct places that we as your children are not to be ignorant of major issues in the Bible, and yet the confession today is that most of us, most of God's people, have no clue. We were told, pastors were told, to be stewards of the mysteries of God, and yet there probably are not two pastors in this city that could shut out and explain those mysteries, or even know what they are, because we have fallen way short as pastors, as Christians. We have fallen way short from what you have expected for us. Help us, Lord, to get into the Word of God. Help us to understand that the only purpose for us after we are saved is to learn that Bible, to learn the concepts, to apply the principles that we might become more like Jesus Christ every day of our lives. We will thank you and praise you now in Jesus' name, for his sake we ask it. Amen.

II. The Importance of Understanding Israel's Role

This mystery we are going to talk about today is one of the great keys to learning your Bible. Without this component, your Bible will be a blank. You have heard me say it many, many times, talking about the nation of Israel and the body of Christ. The whole Bible is built around those two concepts. You have the Bible that is built around the first identity, which is the nation of Israel. We have talked about that in a lot of different ways over the last couple of months, as we have talked about other things. The second identity in the Bible is the body of Christ, the church. The two are not the same.

Most people think that when you separate the Old Testament from the New Testament, you really just put the nation of Israel in one, the Old Testament, and the New Testament church in the New Testament, and that is where the other is. That is a pretty easy way to explain it, but there is much more to it than that. What we are going to do today is we are going to look at a major key into your Bible. If you do not learn this, you will never figure out the Bible. This is not only important for you learning the Scriptures, it is also important you figure out what is going on in

the world today, because this is without a doubt one of the major areas of your Bible. This area ties into the theme of your Bible.

The theme of your Bible, as we have said many, many times, is the second coming of Christ. That is the theme of the Word of God. I know what people say all the time, people say, "Well, I thought the theme of the Bible was salvation." "I thought the theme of the Bible was Christ dying on the cross." "I thought the theme of the Bible would have been Jesus." "I thought the theme of the Bible would have been God or the Holy Spirit." No, the theme of the Bible is the concept of Christ coming back on the day of the Lord and establishing His Kingdom in Jerusalem. That issue is addressed more than 1,500 times in the Old Testament. The only one who could miss it is somebody who did not want to study their Bible to see that the theme of the Bible has to do with the day, the day of the Lord. That day is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This mystery that we are talking about today dovetails right into that day. That is why it is a key part of you understanding and putting your Scriptures together.

As always, and I say this every week, and I will continue to say this, you are here this morning and you have an aptitude to learn the Bible and you want to put it together. There are things that I teach that maybe you do not quite grasp. There are things that I maybe go over too quickly because obviously in the time that we have of a four-hour service this morning, we do not have time to get into everything on that level. So my encouragement is to use there. See me afterwards when I take my appointments, you are welcome to come over my house and I will break it down for you and everything that you do. That is how we do it. I want you to have open opportunity to get anything from me that you can get to help you put the Word of God together.

What he is saying in Romans chapter 11, verse 25, is this. Remember, we are in the book of Romans. I told you when we studied the book of Romans that the book of Romans is the book in the Bible that begins to define all the doctrine for the church. This book is written by Paul. It is a book that found itself right after the book of Acts. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which all deal with the nation of Israel. The book of Acts deals with the transition from the nation of Israel to the church. Then the next book, Romans. In Romans, Paul, now the apostle to the Gentile church, begins to detail out in every chapter the major issues of the Bible and the doctrine of the Bible for the church. He sets down in every chapter some of the greatest doctrinal issues. Sooner or later, at some point in your life, not today of course, and probably not for maybe a year or two or someplace in some of your life, but at some point you are going to have to get the book of Romans down for what it contains.

What he is saying in Romans in this passage I just read is this: as a Christian, you and I need to know how and why God is doing what he is doing with the nation of Israel today. That is what he is saying in this passage. This mystery has to do with God's dealing with the nation of Israel and Paul revealing it to us as the church. God wants us to understand what he is doing and why he is doing it and the time frame that he is doing it. The two identities in the Bible are the nation of Israel and the local church. You and I need to understand God's dealing.

Now the church is somewhat simple because we live in the church age. You hear it all the time, and the average person, probably saved person, could probably give you a pretty fair orientation

of what God is doing with the church. But it is the nation of Israel that is a major factor in your Bible that you must see and understand, and that is why he put this mystery right in Romans chapter 11. Romans chapter 11 is the great chapter in your Bible, the greatest chapter in your Bible, on the restoration of the nation of Israel.

Today what I am going to do is I am going to help you understand this great concept. I am going to help you understand why it is so important that you and I understand what God is doing with the nation of Israel and the dangers of not understanding it. As a child of God, you and I need to know how and why God is dealing with the nation of Israel, how they relate to us today, but not only just us as Christians, how they relate to the world events today.

I do not know if you have even an inkling of a clue how serious the world situation is today. I do not mean serious in a bad way. I mean serious in a good way. Whether you know it or not, we are on the brink of disaster in this world. It is right around the corner. I know typically Americans like to play the ostrich and put their head in the sand and all the things that go along with it. But you have been watching if you know your Bible and you know what is going on in the world and you know what the nation of Israel is doing today, you know exactly where we are at and what is going on. I must tell you, the world has no clue.

I was watching a news program this week, and most of you know that Ariel Sharon last week had a bad stroke, another stroke, and they barely kept him alive. He is still alive today, but he will never be the prime minister of Israel again, nor will he probably ever do anything meaningful for Israel again. The indication is that he will be out of politics forever. It was interesting to me because Pat Robertson on the 700 Club, I do not care much for Pat Robertson, and I am not into the charismatic side of things, I am a Bible believer, but I always enjoy, and I have one of my charismatic friends call me, and I have charismatic friends. We go back and forth all the time. I have one of my charismatic friends because I am always giving him a tough time about Oral Roberts who heals but wears glasses, and he is a great healer but he has got a medical university to train doctors. I will give him a tough time. He is always giving me a tough time. He cannot think of anything to give me a tough time about because we are always right, but he just always tries to give me a tough time. He called me up this week and he said, "Well, what do you think of my buddy Pat Robertson now? You say he does not know nothing, he sure called this one right." Because Pat Robertson said this week that Ariel Sharon was taken out by God, that God gave him the stroke, that God whacked him. Boy, all the news media went ballistic. Pat Robertson said that we had to go down and shoot that guy down in Venezuela wherever he is, and everybody got upset about that. So he said, "What do you think about that? He said that now you, I said he is never right, he said there he has got that one right on the money. So what do you think about that?" I am playing it cool, and Pat Robertson, I will tell you about that in a second, but I was not going to give him the benefit of anything, my buddy, because he is an idiot. I said, "Oh, I do not think much about that." He said, "What do you mean you do not think much about that?" I said, "Hey, let me tell you something, Jim." He said, "You know what?" I said, "I had a busted watch once, and it was right twice a day. What is your point?"

Now, let me just say this to you. I was watching the news, and when Pat Robertson said that, the news media went ballistic. I was watching the news on a conservative station, and they were

talking about that, and they made the reference that Pat Robertson said that God had taken out Ariel Sharon. Let me just say that whether God did or God did not, I do not know and I do not care, but I would not be surprised because here is the issue, and most people do not even know this because they are so inept when it comes to the Bible and politics. Ariel Sharon is one of the liberals in the nation of Israel. Now he has somewhat come back to a not liberal side because he was getting hated by his own people. God spent 2,400 years to put the nation of Israel back in the land. Ariel Sharon is making deals with the Palestinians to give it away. He just gave them the West Bank and Gaza. If any man is a candidate to be whacked by God, Ariel Sharon is. God says that land is yours. What Israel needs to do, which they will not do, is take a hard-line stand and tell the rest of the world to go pound sand and take on everybody in the world, but they are not going to do that. That was the old Israel. Now they make deals. The old Israel simply said this to the Arabs: "You blow us up, you kill one of us, we will come kill 20 of you," and they held to that. But because of political pressure now and all the stuff going on in the Middle East, they have come to the place where they are, and they were not right with God then, but they are even farther from now. Now they are in that liberal mode. So Ariel Sharon is giving away all the land that God gave them back in 1948 up to the 1970s when they had their series of wars, and of course God is not going to permit that to happen.

You watch that thing over there, and you need to know this because it is coming. Iran, when they get the atom bomb, and do not think they do not already have it, what is America going to do? We are between a rock and a hard place. We went after Iraq, and I do not care one way or the other, I think we ought to invade them all. No, better yet, just give Israel all the bombs, let them do the dirty work. But you see what happened is this: we are in Iraq, we invaded Iraq, we did what we did to Saddam Hussein. Now Iran is going to have nuclear bombs, probably already got them. Iran has said they got nuclear weapons for one reason: they want to wipe out the nation of Israel. Now that is not going to happen, I know that because I know my Bible. It is not going to happen today. Iran is not going to do it. But I am telling you this, what is America going to do if she now invades Iran? All the other Muslim brothers are going to come to the place where they say, "Hey," and it is going to be a real jihad. If we put sanctions on them, she is just going to cut the oil, and your gas at the pump is going to go up to nine dollars a gallon, but she controls most of that over there. So we are between a rock and a hard place. You know why? Because we are at the end, and you better stop living comfortable. You better get your head out of the sand and realize your sweet sweet pie in the sky is almost over. The last slice is being eaten as we speak. This thing is volatile. It is just waiting for one little infusion. We are in a pool of gasoline, and we all got matches. It is just a matter of who is going to be the one that lights the first match, and that is where we are at.

America has got her back up against the wall. She is going to be forced into a situation where for all the people in America, you know what the news media lady said? They are talking about this, what Pat Robertson said, and she said, and this is typical, you know what she said? She says, "What an arrogant statement that is to make. This guy is this guy nuts? He is the same one that called for the assassination. What does he think that God does not care about all the other nations on planet Earth?" No, he does not, lady. Isaiah says they are a drop in the bucket to him. He cares nothing about America. He cares nothing about Europe. He cares nothing about any other nation

on this planet. The only reason we have got God's favor right now is because the body of Christ is still here. You still got the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit of God is still here in the church. If you think God is interested in American politics other than the vote to send all the weapons to Israel to fight her enemies, you do not know what you are talking about. That is the mess we are in today. That is where we are at. I am coming over to preach to this side now. That is where we are at. We are up to our eyeballs in it, and there is no way out of it except that way, the rapture of the church.

I am just telling you right now, and I know you do not believe me. I know you just blow me off. I know you have got so much going on in your own world of what you are doing and all the great things that are going on that you just do not pay attention. But I am telling you, listen, you heard it from me, so at the judgment seat of Christ you cannot come back and tell me I did not tell you. Do not make any long-range plans. I am telling you, this thing is volatile. What you are seeing is the beginning of the fulfillment of what God is saying in Romans chapter 11, and that is that God is about to bring back and restore the nation of Israel. You and I as the child of God need to understand that. You need to know where you and I are at in relationship to this. You need to have the right attitude toward the nation of Israel because there is coming a time when you think Christianity is not popular now, you wait until America turns its back on the Jew. You think gas is... you see, it is going to come down to a choice for you.

I do not know if you know this or not, but the Laodicean church period, we are the only period of people in church history that have not had to pay a price for what we believe. I do not think you probably know that, maybe you do not care, but down through the history of that church there have been seven periods of church history. Every group of Christians during those periods of times had paid a supreme price to bear the privilege of bearing the blood-stained banner of Jesus Christ. We are the only ones that have not. Do not be surprised before it is all over if you and I do not get our chance. We are so soft in America. We are so stupid in America. I put myself into that thing. We are so caught up with the world and everything around us, even God's people, that it is not real to us anymore. It is not something that we just, we just want to put, it is just something that we, when we have enough time, we will give God what we have left over of our time, of everything that we have got. I am going to get all mine first, and when I have time, I will give God what is left. That is where we are at. Do not be surprised that before we make it to the judgment seat of Christ, God comes down and just weeds the thing out. I would think it would be very interesting to see if you still give to the church if they took your tax status away. It would be interesting to see if you still come to church if gas went to nine dollars a gallon and you had to decide to go here or go here. I think American Christians need those kind of decisions because we have got it too easy.

I am telling you, we are at a volatile point in this world, and if you do not see it and you do not understand it, you are... "Hey, did you watch the Bronco game last night? I loved it. Did you see that guy catch that interception and run down to the thing and right before he stepped over, did he get clobbered or what?" Now you all watch, see, I know I am weird. I know I am weird. I know I am. I do not try to hide it. I am. But I cannot help myself. It is the way I was raised. It is all the drugs my mother put me on when I was growing up. But you see, everybody watches that

and they see a football game and they see a guy running there. You know what I saw? The moment I saw that, you know what I thought? I thought that is Christianity right there. Because you know how he got clobbered? He caught the ball, that was a good deal. And he ran like lightning, that was a good deal. But if you watch the tape, right before five yards from the goal line, he was thinking about seeing his name up in lights. He was going to be on the front cover of Football Today. He saw himself getting the team. As he was five yards away from that end zone, he is thinking about the coach in the locker room giving him the game ball, his team players putting him on his shoulder, walking around, the owner coming over and saying, "Great job, we are going to put a bonus in your paycheck this week." That is what he was thinking. If you want to replay the last five yards, he thought he was in the end zone, and he was not. Out of nowhere, not suspecting it, somebody clobbered him and knocked him senseless, and he dropped the ball and never crossed the goal line. You see, you look at it as a football game. I am sorry, that thing ruined me about 30 years ago, and everything I see I have to put in that context. I saw Christianity running for the end zone, trying to get the goal and do the job for God, but because five yards from the end we just all got simple, satisfied, and thought we had it made, you get clobbered when you do not see it coming, and the church has been knocked out of the game. I cannot afford, when I am five yards from the end zone, he should have ran as hard, harder than the last five, than when he started out. But no, no, no, no, no, no, he had the vision of the big, he saw, he wanted to see that replay up on the screen. He wanted to hear 80,000 people screaming, yelling, and instead they just looked at him and thought, "What happened?" I will tell you what happened: the last five yards he thought he made it, and he gave up, and somebody more determined than him nailed him, and there is somebody out there more determined than most of us are today, and he is looking to nail you. Take it for what it is worth, but you will not hear that on Sports Talk 980.

That is where we are at, and you and I need to understand where Israel is with God today. You need to have the right attitude. You know that God said about that Jew, "I will bless those that bless thee, and I will curse those that curse thee," and that is a deal that God gave them back there in Genesis, and he has held true to that thing all the way down through 6,000 years of man's history. Your attitude toward the nation of Israel and the Word of God and what God is doing is vital not only to learning the Bible, but to America's survival and maybe your survival. If America goes down the tubes, and she is going, I dare us to say that the next two or three years, if Jesus Christ carries his coming, the face of churches will change. God's people, you see, I always thought it was good in the book of Acts when it took, you see, there are always people who go to church to just go because they know the Bible. Ask me why I am not there. I thought it was good back in the book of Acts when you went to church there was a 50% chance you were going to get killed. I always thought it was great in the book of Acts that when you went to church somewhere, somebody passed your name around, there would be a knock in the middle of the night, and they would take you out and cut your head off. That separates the men from the boys. You do not go to church that way if you have those kind of cards facing up on the line. I think that is good personally, because I think Christianity needs a great facelift, and I am telling you folks, it is coming. This country is so shot and so screwed up on the inside with its political leaders that it is just a cesspool, it is just a mess. If you think America is not going to get hit again by the terrorists, you do not know your adversary very well. You wait until one of those

dirty bombs goes off in a major city, and it is going to happen. If you are so naive to think that it will not, if you think because the enemy that wants to kill you is much more intense than the people who are trying to protect you, because 9/11 everybody got on fire, and three weeks later, six weeks later, a year later, now everybody went back to sleep again. One thing about Americans, you can take it to the bank, they do not like to be woke up. Now we are claiming about all our rights and all those things. You wait, it is coming. I just want you to understand some things so when you get clobbered and the phones are out and the cell towers are not working and you cannot get a hold of me to explain it, then maybe you can get a little grasp of it. We will have to use carrier pigeons then, I guess. We will probably be eating them.

III. Key Terms and Doctrinal Understanding

Now there are some key terms I want to explain to you here. You want to get these down if you want to figure this out.

- Blindness in Part
- The Fullness of the Gentiles and The Times of the Gentiles
- Wise in Your Own Conceit
- Israel as an Enemy and Beloved
- All Israel Shall Be Saved
- Gifts and Calling Without Repentance