



World Christian Fellowship

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Loved by God, Hated by Israel

Luke 13:34-35

Luke 13:34-35, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

In the past three weeks we looked at the following.

History of Israel.

Compassion of God

Judgement of God

Hope in God who is faithful.

Let us look at them chronologically and historically.

Past.

V 34, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to*

gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

That is the history of Israel.

History of two things:

- Love and
 - Hate.
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- God's love for Israel and
 - Israel's hatred for God's messengers.

Historical story of greatest love ever given and demonstrates the most inexplicable hatred ever returned.

God set on the Jews a special love, a gracious, covenant love sovereignly given to this people.

That love is manifested in pathos of the words of our Lord, "*Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem.*"

There is pain in the repetition.

There is explicit agony expressed in the words, "*how often I want to gather your children together like a hen gathering her brood under her wings*" for safety, protection.

"You were not willing."

Here are the tears of God!

Jesus will burst into tears when He approaches Jerusalem, enters the city later and repeats these words.

These are the tears of God wept centuries earlier through the eyes of Jeremiah who said on behalf of God his eyes would run down with tears over the people Israel.

The book of Deuteronomy was preached to the children of Israel across the Jordan on the edge of the land of promise ready to go in after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. They were about to enter the land. Upon the entrance to the land they are given the law again.

That's what Deuteronomy means, "second law," the repeating of the law.

Earlier in this book, the law was given to them again to remind them of what God required.

Deuteronomy 7:6, *"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."*

If you think the idea of sovereign election is a New Testament innovation, you are wrong.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8, *The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;⁸ but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

When it all started?

Abraham and Isaac.

Why did God bring them out of Egypt?

Because they were the best people, the best choice, the noblest of people, the most righteous of people, hardly.

It was because He had sovereignly set His love upon them.

God had made promises to their forefathers, promises by which He bound Himself.

God is a faithful and covenant-keeping God.

Deuteronomy 7:9, *“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

God keeps His promise.

- ✓ I determined to love you.
- ✓ I set my love upon you.

- ✓ I chose you.
- ✓ I delivered you because I keep My word.

This is repeated, by the way, in several passages in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 4:37, *And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,*

God is personally involved with this nation as an object of His divine, sovereign love.

Deuteronomy 9:4, *“Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you.*

It is not about how good Israel are!
it's about how bad they are!

Deuteronomy 9:5-6, *It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfil the word which the Lord swore to your*

fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶ Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Electing love is not set upon the people who have earned it.
No one can!

Moses goes on to reiterate the history of their stubbornness in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 9:7, *“Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.*

You would perhaps think that God would just eliminate them and leave it at that and start all over again. Certainly, there would be some justification in that.

Deuteronomy 9:16-17, *And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the Lord your God—had made for yourselves a moulded calf! You had turned aside quickly from the way which the Lord had commanded you. ¹⁷ Then I took the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.*

Deuteronomy 9:22-24, *“Also at Taberah and Massah and Kibroth Hattaavah you provoked the Lord to wrath. ²³ Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and possess the land which I have given you,’ then you rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice. ²⁴ You have been rebellious against the Lord from the day that I knew you.*

Write them off?

Moses says that he didn't want God to write you off.

Tough you deserve it yet I didn't want God to do it!

Deuteronomy 9:25-28, *“Thus I prostrated myself before the Lord; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the Lord had said He would destroy you. ²⁶ Therefore I prayed to the Lord, and said: ‘O Lord God, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²⁷ Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin, ²⁸ lest the land from which You brought us should say, “Because the Lord was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.”*

Why?

Because they are so righteous, good, and noble?

No.

Because they are Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness.

Deuteronomy 9:29, *Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.'*

What the Egyptians are going to say if you just wipe them all out here?

- God couldn't bring them into the land.
- God is impotent.
- God made a promise He couldn't keep or because He hated them.
- God brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.

Either God's power is called into question or His love.

Moses is saying that

What is at stake in the eternity of Israel?

What is at stake in the future of Your people?

It is Your integrity, God.

You are at stake.

Are you a covenant keeping God?

Are you a faithful God?

Do You do what You say You will do?

When You make an unconditional, unilateral promise do You keep it?

Can God be trusted?

This is about God.

There are a lot of people who say God's through with Israel.
It's over.

The church is the new Israel.
There is no future for Israel.

The above statement is not calling Israel into question but God.

Can God keep His word?

Isaiah 43:1, *"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.*

Isaiah 43:11, *I, even I, am the Lord, And besides Me there is no saviour.*

You are my witnesses, I am God.

Later God made a covenant with David recorded in 2 Samuel 7, a covenant that David's loins would produce eventually a great king far greater than Solomon, the great Messianic king.

The king who would rule over a kingdom that would have everything the Abrahamic promise contained.

- ✓ Land,
- ✓ Blessing,
- ✓ Redemption,
- ✓ Witness to the world,
- ✓ Glory of a king, and
- ✓ Kingdom.

David understood exactly what that promise meant. It was a real promise of a real kingdom just like the promise to Abraham was a real promise of real land and a people. So, the promise given to David was a promise of a true kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:18-26, *Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?"¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord God?²⁰ Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord God, know Your servant.²¹ For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them.²² Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.²³ And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from*

Egypt, the nations, and their gods? ²⁴ For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God. ²⁵ “Now, O Lord God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. ²⁶ So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

David understood that this was a promise of a future kingdom.

What is at stake in the future of Israel, dear friends, is the name of a covenant-keeping and faithful God.

2 Samuel 7:28-29, *“And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. ²⁹ Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord God, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”*

David understood exactly what he was being promised!

A kingdom in the future that would last forever.

- David knew,
- Abraham knew,
- Jews knew,
- Jews of Jesus' time knew.

There was to come the fulfilment of Abrahamic promise.
There was to come the fulfilment of Davidic promise.
It hadn't come yet.

- They didn't have all their land.
- They didn't have the full joys of salvation,
- They didn't have the full blessings of their freedoms.
- They were not enjoying their own king and their own kingdom. They had no Messiah.
- They had no Messianic blessing.

Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was so delighted and burst out in praise. When he got the word that he is going to have a son in his old age, and that son to be the forerunner of the Messiah and he says, finally, God has visited redemption on Israel.

God has raised up a horn of salvation. Zacharias says that God is going to fulfil the promises made to David, and to Abraham. The sun is going to rise and bring an end to our long darkness.

The Jews knew that God had a long-term, permanent, everlasting covenant with them, and that He had set His love upon them to the very end.

So, when we look at the past, we can see the love of God for Israel. You would think time and time again He would have cancelled it out, walked away permanently, but He never did.

Hatred of God's Messengers.

V 34, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!*

You have killed my messengers.

This shows their attitude towards God.

They did hate the very God who loves them.

They hate the word of the God who loves them.

They hate the messengers who bring the word of the God who loves them.

Isaiah 52:7, *How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

They should have been rejoiced the news when Isiah spoke but what did they do?

They killed him.

What is Israel's past?

Love and hate.

Love from God hate in return.

Any wonder they were harassed by the nations around them in the land?

Any wonder they were hauled into captivity for seventy years in Babylon?

Any wonder they were terrorized when they came back and tried to rebuild?

Any wonder they were overrun by the Greeks?

Any wonder that they were oppressed and occupied and scandalized and terrorized and destroyed by the Romans?

Any wonder that they had been scattered throughout the world since the time of the New Testament?

Any wonder that they have suffered at the hands of slaughterers and killers throughout all these years?

Any wonder that they are sitting in the middle of the sea of Arabs, terrorized on all sides?

They have returned their divine lover hate for His love.

The present:

V 35, "*Behold your house is left to you, desolate.*"

God has abandoned it.

To the temple, your house, not Mine.

It once was Mine, it's now yours.

In the present, they are in a desolation.

Why now this statement of a severer judgment?

Up to now you could say God was still working.

God was still there.

God brought John the Baptist to call the nation to repentance and He brought the Messiah to bring salvation. But to reject John the Baptist, the Messiah, and in rejecting the Messiah, you have rejected the forerunner, is the final straw and judgment is pronounced. So, the present time Israel in a time of immense desolation that began with the rejection of Jesus Christ.

It began in 70 A.D. and it's been continuing in on them ever since. It is the great sadness of our world to see this covenant people living under desolation, God being absent.

Jews and Christians worship the same God?

Nothing could be further from the truth.

For they have rejected the true and living God who is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What about the future?

Just for Israel's sake that God will do this?

No, because they have no claim on God.

They have no demand that they can lay at His feet.

They are not righteous.

They never were. They are not now. In fact, whatever smattering of interest they had in the law of God in the past that was legitimate, they have none now nationally speaking.

V 35, *See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*

Psalm 118:26, *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.*

The Jews have always understood Old Testament promises to Abraham as literal.

They always have understood Old Testament promises to David as literal.

They believed in a real restoration, a real kingdom.

They even believed it when the Messiah came.

The disciples believed it just before the ascension, when they said to Him "*Will you at this time bring the kingdom?*"

Even after that they were talking about the times of restitution and the times of restoration.

Why?

Because Israel was worthy?

No!

God had made a unilateral covenant both with Abraham and David.

God had sworn by Himself and the issue at stake here is not the righteousness of Israel to be rewarded.

The issue at stake here is the character of God to be vindicated.

Does God speak the truth or not?

Does God promise and fulfil, or does He promise and default?

Does God keep His covenants?

Is God faithful or unfaithful?

The implications of that obviously are massive.

If God's word to Israel cannot be trusted, then how can we know that He can trust anything He has said?

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

We are secure in Jesus Christ no matter what until our eternal glory.

Then how can we say that God made promises to Israel that He has cancelled?

It's about God's faithfulness.

But there are many who believe that because of Israel's unfaithfulness continually. Israel's unfaithfulness in rejecting the Messiah, God has cancelled all His promises to Israel, the church is the new Israel. We get all the promises and all they get is the curses.

What our Lord says here in **V 35**, *you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*

Jesus didn't say I Am so sad that you will never say it.
Jesus said the time will come when you do say it.

What does He mean?

Physically?

No.

Jesus is not talking about seeing in physical sense, the glorified Christ will be revealed to all those who believe in Him in the end.

Jesus is talking here not so much about physical recognition but spiritual recognition.

Simeon, the old man in the temple seen the Messiah.

Luke 2:29-32, *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³²A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”*

You can't see salvation.

What Simeon means is the Messiah's here, this is the Messiah.
Talking about spiritual sight.

2 Corinthians 5:16, *Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.*

Everyone I meet is far more to me than their physical presence. I cannot look at people on the outside. I cannot be ultimately impressed by how they appear.

How they appear is in the sense meaningless to me and it is and should be to any believer. Because we understand that living inside that shell is an eternal soul. We do not know people after the flesh.

When you meet an unbeliever, you cannot take him at face value. All you can think about is there's an eternal soul headed into either an eternity with or without God, in bliss or punishment.

Paul was a Jewish man, and He was a problem for Judaism. He came in and He assaulted Judaism, the Pharisees that Paul cherished, the legalism, the tradition. Jesus was destructive to that religion and he set off in His life to destroy the influence of this man Jesus.

Paul was there when Stephen was being stoned to death and from there, he went out breathing threats and slaughters against the church, imprisoning and executing Christians.

Why?

Because he thought Jesus was a man.

One day on the Damascus Road he found out Jesus was not a man. Jesus was God. Paul no longer saw Jesus according to the flesh.

The Jews today, the Jews since Jesus came, the Jews on into the future only see Jesus in the flesh.

They see Him the way Paul saw Him.

They see Him as an intruder into Judaism.

They see Him as a problem.

They see Him as a troublemaker, but they are hostile.

But Jesus says here, *"I say to you, you are not going to see me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

When you confess Me as the coming one, the Messiah, the long promised Messiah, the one who came to bring the gospel, the one who came to be your Deliverer, your Saviour, your Redeemer, when you see Me that way, then you will know truly who I am.

That hasn't happened!

But it will.

The "until" indicates that it will.

There is a future for this nation.

Right now, there are individual Jews being saved.
There's always been a remnant.

Here Jesus talking about the nation.

Is there going to come a time when all Israel will be saved?
Yes! Exactly that is what the apostle Paul says in those very words in Romans 11.

Why is this important?

It's important for two reasons.

1. The faithfulness of God is at stake.

We believe in God's faithfulness. He is faithful even to a covenant that has been abused by a difficult and rebellious people.

2. The Grace of God

Why us?

Why have we been brought into the Kingdom?

Why have we been grafted in into the tree?

Why have we, the riffraff out in the highways and byways, been invited to the banquet to take the place of the guests who were originally supposed to be there?

This is grace!

For Christ came to die not only for the Jews, but the Gentiles also.

Our hearts break over the unbelief of Israel.
Our hearts break over their rejection.

The heart of God breaks over it.

But our hearts rejoice that God in His mighty grace has overcome our own blindness and brought us to the Saviour.

While we are sad over what has happened to them, we are glad because of God's grace for us!