

There are many references to maximize this lesson and as with every lesson, please open your Bibles and find and read each passage given. I have attached a chart of Romans 11:11-36 beside lesson 12.

Thus far in this series we have discovered very clearly that just because Gentiles were saved during the Acts period does not mean “the church” had started. The greatest blinkers to truth are the following traditions;

1. Christ came to “start” the church in the Gospels.
2. Israel was cast aside at the cross or Pentecost.
3. Pentecost is the “birthday” of the “the church” and
4. Paul was gradually given the truth for today during Acts.

These are far from the truth. Pentecost was a Jewish Feast with Jews only participating. The gospel was preached to the Gentiles from Acts 10 onwards but we have seen this was nothing outside of historical precedence and prophecy. Gentiles were saved during the Acts period according to prophecy which spoke of Israel’s restoration and deliverance. Gentiles were not saved during Acts because God was gradually introducing a previously hidden dispensation (Eph.3) which was still hidden when Paul wrote Romans.

The truths concerning our calling, “the church which is His Body”, were not revealed to Paul until after Acts 28. Romans was written before Acts 28. As we consider the phrase, “the fullness of the Gentiles” as found in Romans 11:25 we must not go forward into Ephesians and Colossians for understanding but rather back into prophecy and the purposes of God for the world through Israel.

During Acts, Israel remained as God’s elect and despite the fact that the nation was rejecting the message, God was holding out His hands to them (Roms.10:19-21); Israel was unfaithful but this did not negate the faithfulness of God towards them, Roms.3:3-4a & 11:29.

We begin by noting carefully that AFTER the “fullness of the Gentiles” THEN all Israel will be saved WHEN the Deliverer comes out of ZION. The “fullness of the Gentiles” cannot possibly relate to the dispensation of today because all Israel are not saved today and our hope is not the Deliverer coming out of Zion:

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise within yourselves; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until **the fullness of the nations** has come in.

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

Last lesson we considered that the “fullness of the Gentiles” might be the final Gentile power which has controlling influence over the land of Israel and Jerusalem. We linked Luke 21:24 with Romans 11 because of the similarity of phrasing;

Luk 21:24 And they shall fall by the sword's edge. And shall be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem shall be **trodden down by the nations** until **the times of the nations is fulfilled**.

Luke 21, Matt.24, ICor.15, 1Thess.4, 2Thess.2 and Revelation are about the events just prior to the Coming of the Lord to the earth at the blast of the last trumpet. The Lord returns to deliver Israel from the hand of her enemies as found here and other prophecies;

Zec 12:8 In that day Jehovah shall defend around the people of Jerusalem. ...

Zec 12:9 And it shall be in that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zec 12:10 And I will pour on the house of David, and on the people of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of prayers. And they shall look on Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be bitter over Him, as the bitterness over the first-born.

The nations which have control over Israel are depicted in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as found in Daniel chapter 2 which should be read. Please note the explanation of the dream as follows;

Dan 2:28 But there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets and makes known to King Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days**. ...

This vision of Nebuchadnezzar relates to the order of Gentile nations, all of who had or will have control over Israel. In verse 34 & 35 of Daniel 2 the rock cut without hands (the Lord Christ), smashes the feet (the final Gentile power) and the entire image is destroyed, not just the feet. This could suggest that all the powers of the image will be in existence at the end. When Christ returns, Gentile dominion will be removed and Israel will be the head and not the tail. Then the Rock sets up a Kingdom on earth which will never be removed. The Lord reigns out of Zion, the Kingdom of Heaven is not in Heaven, but originates from there. Visit <http://bibleunderstanding.com/allen1.htm> for audio lessons on Daniel by Mr. Stuart Allen.

Nebuchadnezzar's image of Gentile dominion is further unfolded and explained in Daniel chapters 7-12. But for now all we need to note is that the final Gentile power, the feet and toes of clay and iron, is the fourth beast of Daniel 7:3-7 and Revelation 13. This fourth beast has ten horns three of which are uprooted by a little horn. This little horn is the antichrist who leads the army of this last coalition beast (Gentile power) into the Promised Land. Nebuchadnezzar's vision is about the latter days and a King who destroys Jerusalem. This is what Nebuchadnezzar (the Head of Gold) did at the beginning of Gentile dominion of prophecy. The image starts with a king who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and ends with a king who sacks Jerusalem and desecrates the Temple.

Notice this "little horn" in Dan.7:8 & 20-21 spoke great things and made war with the saints (compare Rev.13:1, 6-7) and please note that Christ's return in Daniel 7:22 follows this short reign of the little horn. Please also read Dan.8:9-12 & 23-25 where this same little horn (the antichrist) disrupts Israel's Temple services and even opposing the Lord Himself. This little horn sets up an image which desolates the holy place. You can read about this in Dan. 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, & Matt.24:15. While this abomination is not mentioned in 2Thess.2 it is part of the events described by Paul as follows;

[2Th 2:3](#) Let not anyone deceive you by any means. For that Day shall not come unless there first comes a falling away, and the man of sin shall be revealed, the son of perdition,

[2Th 2:4](#) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself forth, that he is God.

[2Th 2:7](#) For the mystery of lawlessness is already working, only he is now holding back until it comes out of the midst.

[2Th 2:8](#) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the breath of His mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming,

Notice in 2Thess.2 the Lord's return destroys this lawless one which is the exact order in Daniel. The harmony of Daniel, Matt.24 and 2Thess.2 is impossible to miss. There is a falling away within Israel because of false prophets and false messiahs; see Matt.24:4-5, 11 & 24. The culmination of this deception is the antichrist that comes out of the midst of all this deception. He deceives Israel into signing a covenant, after 3.5 years he breaks it, cancels Israel's Temple services and sets up his image. This is the point when the Lord's advice to the faithful Israelites (not our church) to flee out of Jerusalem into the mountains of Israel, is to be taken. The tribulation begins as antichrist attempts to obliterate the Jews. After the tribulation, THEN the Lord returns to the earth destroying this lawless one. And so we return to Romans 11 emphasizing the word deliverer in the following passage;

[Rom 11:25](#) For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise within yourselves; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until **the fullness of the nations** has come in. (Compare Luke 21:20, 24).

[Rom 11:26](#) And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the **Deliverer**, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

If the fullness of the Gentiles is to be understood as the culmination of Gentile power over Israel then it cannot possibly relate to the post Acts truths of Ephesians and Colossians which have nothing to do with the "the abomination of desolation", "the deliverer coming out of Zion" or the image dreamt and explained to Nebuchadnezzar.

This is my current preference of understanding for this term however, next lesson we shall consider two other possibilities for "the fullness of the Gentiles".