

Romans: A Study on Reformation  
Lesson 35 “A Healthy View of End Times”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on **Romans** today. We have been focusing on reformation and how Paul sought to reform the church in Rome.

A. The specific issues Paul was dealing with was strife between the Jewish and Gentile home churches. The Jews kept trying to get the Gentile to keep the the law, while the Gentiles had an attitude of superiority because the Jews were the ones who crucified Jesus. They sort of thought God was done with Israel. All of this created a ton of strife.

B. Today we are going to study **Romans 11:15-27** and talk about “A Healthy View of End Times.”

1. Over the last few years, I’ve noticed many people have unhealthy view of the end times. This strips their identity and keep them from living victoriously and taking action. Today we are continue our series on **Romans** and study **Romans 11:15-27**, which many people have used to draw conclusions about the end times that do not align with the rest of scripture. These conclusions keep much of the body of Christ passive instead of motivating them to take action.
2. What we believe about how something will end determines how we’ll live in the middle. Ex: Car restoration example
3. Before we go further, I’m not going to answer whether it’s a pre, mid, or post trib rapture. You can hold any of those views and still align with what I’m going to teach today.

B. What I am going to teach is about the end of the Old Covenant system and how God brought both the Jews and Gentiles together into a new and better covenant established on better promises, which empowered His kingdom to expand. In **Luke 19:13**, Jesus said occupy until I come, not hide out in fear of the antichrist waiting for me.

II. A Healthy View of End Times

A. **Romans 11:15-27**

1. Jesus is the first fruit (**1 Corinthians 15:20**) and root of our faith. In context the branches are referring to the Jews.
2. The Gentiles were compared to a wild olive tree that was grafted into Christ.
3. Paul then tells the Gentiles to not be proud and boast against the branches because God isn’t done with the Jews. If we get into pride and trust our heredity or self-righteousness we can be cut off. Ex: Jews in **John 8**.
4. God grafts in those who will believe (not in unbelief), If God can graft in the wild, rebellious, idol worshippers, He can also graft in the refined and cultivated

Jews by showing them they could never keep the law and bring them to Christ.

5. **Verse 25** Paul makes it clear there was something that was a mystery, that we in the church age should no longer be ignorant of. This mystery was blindness happened to Israel (Jews) until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in. **2 schools of thought on the fulness of the Gentiles. 1. After the last gentile is saved, the rapture will happen and God will deal with Israel again (often assume they will rebuild the temple. 2. The fulness of the Gentiles has already happened.**

a. When is the fulness of the Gentiles? **plērōma** - repletion or completion, filling up. **Plērōma** is the same word used in **Romans 11:12** which says their return to Christ is fulness (overflow)!

b. **Luke 21:24** Jesus says that Jerusalem will be trampled down by Gentiles (Roman soldiers) until the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled.

**plērōō, to make replete, complete**

c. The context of **Luke 21:24** is the prophetic warning Jesus gave his disciples about the destruction of the temple. He told them when they saw armies to flee to the mountains.

d. Both Josephus and Eusebius tell us when the Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem in A.D. 70 that Christians fled to a mountain town called Pella and none died. The Jews decided to fight against Rome and went into the walled city of Jerusalem and were destroyed. The city was burned and the temple was destroyed. Over 1.1 million Jews lost their lives.

e. All of the family records were lost in the fire so it became impossible for the priesthood to be set back up. This ended the Old Covenant system.

f. There were a remnant of Jews who survived and they were sold into slavery throughout the known world. God didn't get rid of Israel just like he doesn't get rid of fallen Christians today. **That's encouraging!**

g. **The times of the Gentiles were fulfilled when the temple was destroyed. Romans 11:26-27**

i. All Israel who believes will be saved.

ii. **Verse 27** quotes **Isaiah 59:20-21** and **Isaiah 27:9-14** all stones of the alter turned to chalk and Jerusalem left desolate, boughs broken off and branches consumed. Threshing picks up on **Matthew 3:12**. Fired burned everything up.

iii. **Revelation 11:1-2** Gentiles treaded Jerusalem for 3 1/2 years until the temple was destroyed (times of Gentiles fulfilled). End of the chapter concludes with the kingdom being proclaimed.

### III. Conclusion

#### A. Takeaways

1. God tore down the temple to make us all one in Christ (whether Jew or Gentile). This means there is no separation between us and Him or with one another as we are all the new temple of Christ.
2. Whatever happens in the future, it would seem inconsistent with scripture for God to rebuild the temple for the last days as is sometimes taught (unhealthy view). There is no New Testament scripture that promises that.
3. A healthy view of the end times is God tore down all the structures that separate from Him and one another. He isn't rebuilding those in the future. Today, God wants us to live like temples filled with the Holy Spirit (modern day Arks of the Covenant) that bring the glory and power wherever our feet tread while we wait for the return of our king!

#### B. Transition to Herbert