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Bare Bones Series

Salvation in Israel's Program

Session Seven

When God's program with Israel resumes, the Spirit of God will once again administrate over a time of Repentance to Israel (R2I).

Notice where this is on the timeline, it is in the "gap" between the Blessed Hope (BH) and the start of the seven-year Tribulation. This is the time when God is granting repentance to Israel (R2I). What does that mean? It means this is the time when God is giving those in Israel the opportunity to believe that Jesus is the Christ.

The resumption of Israel's program takes us basically where it left off before the Extension of Mercy (EoM) described in Acts 1-7.

By means of the Gospel of the Kingdom (GoK), God is calling out of the nation, a Believing Remnant (BR). Those who believe the message that Jesus is the Christ will be justified unto eternal life (JUEL) and become part of the believing remnant. During that time of R2I, the BR will attempt to evangelize the unsaved in Israel.

Obviously, there will be some who will hear the message of the kingdom and reject it. This would be the apostate element in the nation, or "unbelieving Israel." Since only a remnant (minority) of the nation will be saved, most of the nation will reject the message that Jesus is the Christ.

Now, turn with me to Matthew 13 where we find a series of parables called, "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven."

The particular parable we will look at today is the Parable of the Sower. Before we get into this parable, there is something you need to understand about the public ministry of Jesus.

Once Jesus began His public ministry, He does things and says things with three Jewish audiences in view.

1) The apostate element in the nation (the unsaved)

In Matthew 4:17, Jesus began preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Jesus also began to perform two hallmark signs of the kingdom (casting out unclean spirits and healing the sick), demonstrating the reality that the kingdom was at hand (Matthew 4:23-25).

As Jesus begins His public ministry, there are things He says and miracles that He performs which are for the purpose of manifesting Himself as the prophesied Messiah for Israel. This is the general evangelism ministry that is going on for everyone in the nation. This evangelistic effort continues throughout the time of R2I, which runs from the BH (ending the dispensation of gentile grace) up to the start of Daniel's 70th Week.

2) **The BR** (those who are JUEL by believing the GoK)

The second audience that Jesus sometimes has in mind are those who have been JUEL by believing the GoK, and are therefore, members of the BR. Some things that Jesus says, and some miracles He performs, are meant to do more than just the general ministry of reaching the lost; these things are meant to instruct or edify all the members of the believing remnant.

My point is that whenever you are in the gospel accounts, it is very important to identify which category of people the Lord is talking to, or which group is the intended target of the miracle He performs.

When the Lord is in front of a mixed group (apostate and BR), there were times when He wanted to reveal information to the BR, but say it in a way the unsaved would not understand. That is what the parables are about.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? ¹¹ He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Actually, the Lord says a lot more than this, seeing His answer runs all the way down to vs. 17, inclusive.

You may be wondering what kind of things Jesus would not want unbelieving Israelites to hear. As we go through the study today, this will become clear. For now, just understand the reality of this.

3) **The Twelve** (the inner circle of the BR)

The twelve disciples are at the very core of the BR. Some of the things which Jesus says and some of the miracles He performs are meant solely for His inner circle, and not for the entire BR.

If you would like to see an example of the Lord speaking to and performing miracles for each of these groups, in Matthew 8, there are three miracles over there, with a miracle pertaining to each of these three categories.

Just keep this in mind as we look at the Parable of the Sower. Because this is a parable, you already know... what? You know that the doctrine contained in this parable is not for unbelieving Israel.

Why are we looking at this? Because the Lord is about to walk the BR through the timeline, and I want us to follow along. So far in this lesson, we have been talking about the BR giving the GoK to apostate Israel during the time of R2I. The Lord now is about to explain what is happening during that time.

Matthew 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. ² And **great multitudes were gathered together unto him**, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³ And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴ And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

After Jesus completes the parable, the disciples come and ask Him why He is speaking in parables. We have already seen why. But after the Lord explains why the parables, He then gives his inner circle an explanation of the Parable of the Sower.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

The seed which is received “by the way side” is referring to those in Israel who heard the GoK, but for whatever reason, they did not believe. They are the unsaved Israel. They do not believe that Jesus is the Christ. This process is happening during the R2I.

The time available to Israel to believe the GoK is limited. The BR will be making their case to unbelieving Israel that Jesus is the Christ. Unbelieving Israelites will each be making their decision about whether or not they believe the gospel of the kingdom – that Jesus is the prophesied Christ. At this time, the BR will be attending the synagogue and using their attendance there as a platform to present the gospel of the kingdom, just like Jesus did during his earthly ministry, and even Paul did at the outset of the DoGG. During the time of their witness, the BR are working from inside the vain religious system (VRS).

At that time, a full testimony (with confirmation from the Spirit of God by signs and wonders) will be given to the nation so that everyone will be fully accountable for their decision about Jesus.

During that time, God is doing some things which will cause each person in Israel to make a decision about Jesus being the Christ. By the end of the time in which God is granting R2I,

everyone in Israel will have made a decision one way or another about Jesus. The message of Jesus being the Christ will be presented in such a way that no one will have an excuse.

Now turn to Matthew 13 and hold your place there throughout the lesson today. Matthew 13 has a number of parables in it. These parables are about “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.”

The BR will know when the time has come that repentance is no longer being offered to Israel by the marker of the confirming of the seven-year covenant with the antichrist.

When the BR observe the marker that tells them to stop their testimony and witness to unsaved Israel, they will know that the time of repentance given to Israel is over. Following this marker, the program will move into the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

Once the time of R2I is over, the BR are supposed to separate themselves from the VRS. They are to no longer go into the synagogue and they are to no longer offer repentance to Israel. This is what Hebrews 6:4-6 was about which we discussed a few sessions back.

This separation is the first step the BR are to do as they break off from the VRS and actively oppose it. Up until this time, the BR are trying hard to keep from offending the unsaved while presenting Jesus as the Christ. They are told to exhibit meekness as they debate the issue of Jesus being the Christ.

Now, on the timeline, we move into the start of Daniel’s 70th Week or, the first half of the Tribulation.

During those 3 ½ years, there will be three levels of escalation in the attacks against the BR, and they correspond to the three levels of attack by Satan’s policy of evil (PoE). Jesus will describe these in the Parable of the Sower, in Matthew 13.

As the BR now refuse to be associated with the VRS, and no longer participate in any part of it (you realize that in the very beginning of the Week, the temple has not yet been rebuilt and the sacrifices have not yet been resumed).

In the beginning of the Week, apostate Israel, angry at the separation of the BR, harbor a growing hatred for them. This is no longer just a disagreement, now there is hostility but at this point, there is no physical persecution.

This is phase 1 of the PoE, attack the message. The attacks have not yet turned into anything physical, which is what Hebrews 12:4 is talking about.

Hebrews 12:4 **Ye have not yet resisted unto blood**, striving against sin.

This is true. At this point, Satan is using Israel's VRS to attack the BR's message of Jesus. But, just as it happened in the original EoM in Acts 1-7, the hostility of the attacks will ramp up.

Jesus talks about this in the parable of the Sower.

Matthew 13: 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴ And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: ⁵ Some fell **upon stony places**, where they had not much earth: and forthwith **they sprung up**, because they had no deepness of earth: ⁶ And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, **they withered away**.

Now, let's look at the interpretation.

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the **seed into stony places**, the same is **he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it**; ²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but **dureth for a while**: for when **tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word**, by and by he is offended.

This is talking about those who heard the GoK, and "with joy receiveth it." They believed and became JUEL and are part of the BR. But then something happened, they started getting attacked. "Because of the word" refers to the message. This is phase 1 of the PoE; the attack against the message.

It was all good back when they were debating things in the time of R2I, but with this first escalation, things have become too serious. Jesus says it is at this stage of "stony ground" that the first round of dropouts from the BR throw in the towel.

They should have remembered what was said to them, but actually, they couldn't because they did not take this seriously. They had not "root." What does that mean? It means their knowledge was shallow and their commitment was fragile.

What should they have known? That they were going to be hated and that should be cause for blessing in the kingdom.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall **say all manner of evil against you** falsely, for my sake.

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them **that curse you**, do good to them **that hate you**, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men **shall hate you**, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them **which hate you**,

1 John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if **the world hate you**.

What do we have so far? As the first half of Daniel's 70th Week begins, the verbal oppositions will continue to increase. These verbal attacks against the BR escalate in hostility to include a real hatred for the BR, but at the beginning, the actual oppositions are not physical.

But even at this opening level of opposition, some members of the BR will turn back. While they were excited at the beginning, when they believed the GoK, when real opposition came, they were not grounded enough to endure it.

The seed which fell upon stony places are those who, once the time of repentance is over and the 70th Week has begun, at the start of the oppositions ramping up against them, some members of the BR will "wither away." They will refuse to separate themselves from the synagogue for any number of reasons, the primary one being given by Jesus, they were not rooted in the doctrine.

As the first half of the Week progresses, the antichrist will finish the temple and allow the sacrifices to be carried out. This marks the next separation for the BR and phase 2 of Satan's PoE.

The BR are told not to go back into that temple and participate in those sacrifices. So, in phase 2, the oppositions against the BR are increasing, and so is the manner of their separation from apostate Israel. Now, the BR are to do what Hebrews 13 says.

Hebrews 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him **without the camp**, bearing his reproach.

My understanding of this is that when apostate Israel is gathering for the sacrifices, the members of the BR remove themselves from the city (without the camp) to identify with the Lord Jesus who also was crucified outside the gate of the city.

Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore **Jesus also**, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, **suffered without the gate**. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, **bearing his reproach**.

This identifies the Lord as their sacrifice for sins, and not the bulls and goats of the VRS. This is why the Lord Jesus is a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec, which is a better priesthood;

it operates on the blood of Christ to cover sins and not the blood of bulls and goats which could never take away sin.

They are bearing His reproach by identifying with Him, outside the city where He was crucified, while the VRS is at the rebuilt temple sacrificing animals.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The remnant should have in their thinking what Isaiah prophesied about this time.

Isaiah 66:3 He that killeth an ox *is as if he slew a man*; he that sacrificeth a lamb, *as if he cut off a dog's neck*; he that offereth an oblation, *as if he offered swine's blood*; he that burneth incense, *as if he blessed an idol*. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. ⁴ I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose *that* in which I delighted not. ⁵ Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; **Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake**, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but **he shall appear to your joy**, and they shall be ashamed. ⁶ A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of **the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies**.

This is how God views these sacrifices and so should the remnant.

The BR “going without the city” is a strong testimony against apostate Israel and their VRS. And this is the catalyst for the ramp up in persecutions which now turn more physically violent.

Let’s look at it in the Parable of the Sower.

Matthew 13:7 And some fell **among thorns**; and the thorns sprung up, and **choked them**:

Now let’s look at the Lord’s explanation in Matthew 13.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed **among the thorns** is he that heareth the word; and **the care of this world**, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, **choke the word**, and he becometh unfruitful.

Let’s talk about the “care of this world” and the “deceitfulness of riches.”

As for “the care of this world,” this is one of the reasons I see the time of R2I Israel being a prolonged time, like a generation of 30-40 years. Look, if the BR is only going to be here for a short time before everything cranks up, they would be watching and ready. But the book of Hebrews, which remember, is orienting them to the resumption of their program, tells us what

happens to the BR. They get so “at home” in the world, that they begin to lose sight of who they are and what they are doing. The urgency goes away and they become “dull of hearing.”

Oh, they used to be so excited and “on fire” in the beginning, but they settled in for the duration and let things slip. We have to go all the way back to Hebrews 5 to see this. And what is happening in chapter 5? The BR are being introduced to their profession of Jesus as their High Priest after order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, **and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.**

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* **the first principles of the oracles of God**; and are become such as **have need of milk**, and not of strong meat.¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* **unskilful in the word** of righteousness: for he is **a babe**.¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I have more to say about this, but they are doing in their program what we do in ours, we get so “at home” in this world, that we get spiritually lazy and lax. We quit studying like we should. And it got so bad for the BR that they needed to be taught again, “the first principles of the oracles of God.” We will talk about what that means at the beginning of our next session and hopefully, we can finish out Salvation in Israel’s Program.