



Condemnation (to the Jew) Because of Unbelief

- Rom 3:1-4

Romans 3:1

“Then what advantage has the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?”

Question: Why is Paul asking these 2 questions: ?

1. *“Then what advantage (or superiority) has the Jew?”*

- Understood is: a superiority of Jew over Gentile

2. *“what profit (or benefit) is there of circumcision?”*

- “the” circumcision - there is a definite article
- Speaking of the ones identified by circumcision (a sign of the Abrahamic covenant)
- Making a distinction between “the circumcision (the Jew)” & “the uncircumcision (the Gentile)” - Eph 2:11

Question: Was there an advantage & profit to the Jew? - Rom 3:2

- Lit: “Much” or great according to (*kata*) the standard of every way or direction you turn
- Fig: “No matter how you look at it” there is an advantage & profit to the Jew

Point: Paul is asking the questions because he anticipates the Jew’s concern that he has just erased any distinction between Jew & Gentile from what he said in Rom 2:17-24



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Question: What did Paul say previously about the Jew & the Gentile that may appear that there is no advantage or profit of the Jew?

THE GENTILE

THE JEW

IMMORAL (1:18 - 32)

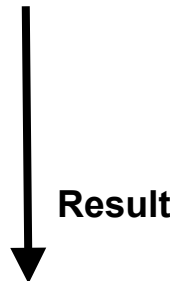
- Knew God – glorified Him not
- Vain (empty) in their reasoning
- Foolish heart darkened
- Worshiped the creature vs. God
- Filled with all unrighteousness
- Have total pleasure in their sins:
 - Worships the creature
 - Homosexuality
 - Fornication, wickedness
 - Murder, deceit, malice
 - Haters of God



God's Judgment & Condemnation

MORAL (2:1 -16)

- Judges the immoral person
- But does the same things
- Rejects the riches of God's
 - Goodness
 - Patience
- Hardness & stubbornness of heart
- Unrepentant heart



God's Judgment & Condemnation

His Profession (Talk) – 2:17- 20

- Called a Jew, rests upon law
- Knows God's will
- Approves of things out of law
- A guide to the blind

His Works (Walk) – 2:21- 24

- Steals, adultery, robs temples
- Dishonors God & God is blasphemed among Gentiles

His Rite (Badge) – 2:25- 29

- Circumcision
- Profits only if one keeps the law
- Question: Who can keep the law



God's Judgment & Condemnation

Conclusion: There appears to be absolutely no advantage or profit of a Jew in regard to a Gentile



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Observe:

- Paul – the prosecuting attorney, has just proven that the unbelieving Jew (who has a special relationship to God) is also guilty – just like the Gentiles
- Religion doesn't make a person right with God
- Paul emphatically demonstrates the consistency of God's character
 - Unbelieving Jews will be judged & condemned to hell (His Righteousness)
 - But yet God's promises to the believing Jews will be fulfilled (His Faithfulness)
- Paul now anticipates some of the arguments that the Jew will think about in his heart
- The Jew doesn't want to take the blame for his sinfulness – he wants to put it back on God and question God's character
- Paul anticipates their following Questions (Really their attack on God's character) :
 - # 1 – Questioning God's Immutability - Rom 3:1,2
 - # 2 – Questioning God's Faithfulness - Rom 3:3,4
 - # 3 – Questioning God's Righteousness & Justice - Rom 3:5,6
 - # 4 – Questioning God's Veracity or Truthfulness - Rom 3:7,8



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1 – Questioning God’s Immutability

- Rom 3:1,2

Question by the Jew:

- Why is God treating us the same as the Gentiles?
- Don't we Jews have a special relationship to God and as a result isn't there some advantage & benefit that we have over the Gentiles?
- We thought that God was immutable – did He change His mind about us?

Answer: “Much in every way”

- There are numerous and varied advantages (to the believing Jew)
- Paul lists just one here – but let's look at some of the numerous advantages

Advantages of the Jew:

- First, God committed or entrusted to them His oracles - Rom 3:2
 - “entrusted” - ΠΙΣΤΕΩ, *pisteuō* "to believe," also "to place confidence in, to trust,"
 - It's a fact (Aorist tense) that God personally put in trust to them His oracles or utterances (Passive voice)
 - God gave His trust & confidence to the Jew to faithfully record & preserve His word containing His eternal purpose & promises to the Jew
 - This was a Divine privilege given to no other people



Advantages of the Jew: (cont'd)

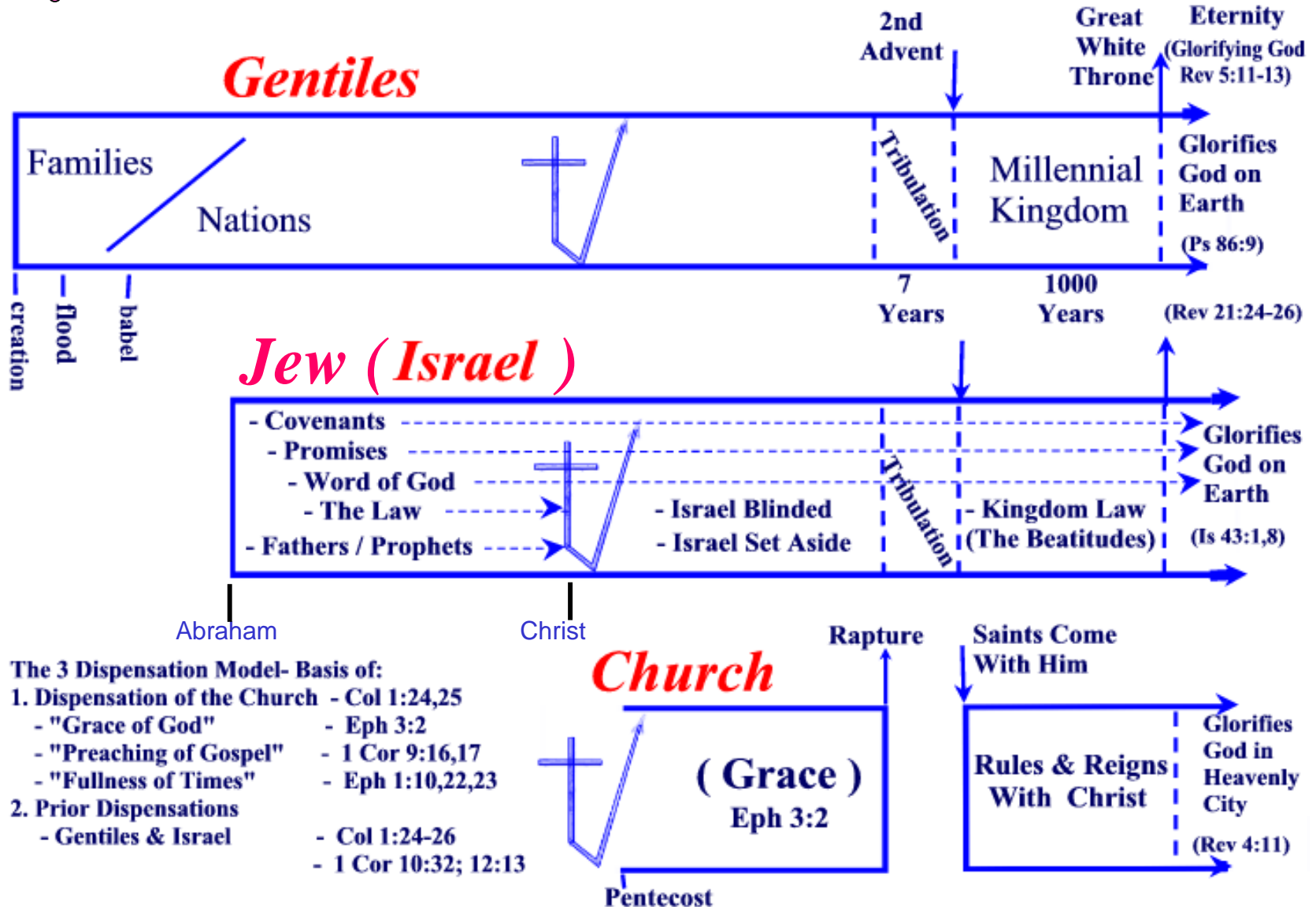
- *Who are Israelites;* *- Rom 9:4,5*
to whom pertains the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants,
and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;
Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is
over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
- God chose the Jew as part of His eternal purpose, which is:
 - To declare His Glory (e.g. Mt. Sinai, Cross of Christ)
 - To reveal His Glory (e.g. Through the word of God)
 - To share His Glory (e.g. His righteousness through faith – Abraham)
 - To be Glorified (Glorifying God is the only response of one's faith)



ROMANS

The Advantage & Profit of a Jew

- Rom 3:1-4





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God's answer to: [# 1 – Questioning God's Immutability](#)

- *Malachi 3:6 (KJV)*
For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
- *Hebrews 13:8 (KJV)*
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.
- *Hebrews 6:17 (KJV)*
Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:
- Point:
 - God chose the Jew and gave him an advantage over a Gentile for all eternity
 - There is a distinction between Jew & Gentile with respect to God's purpose – except in the Church – Rom 10:12; Gal 3:28
 - However there is no moral distinction between Jew & Gentile (both have sinned)
 - Nothing or no one will ever thwart (prevent) God's eternal purpose or promises to the Jew
 - God will keep His word which He entrusted to the Jew:
 - To the unbelieving Jew – judgment & condemnation
 - To the believing Jew – blessing & eternal life



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Romans 3:3 (AMP)

What if some did not believe and were without faith? Does their lack of faith and their faithlessness nullify and make ineffective and void the faithfulness of God and His fidelity [to His Word]?

2 – Questioning God’s Faithfulness

- Rom 3:3,4

Question by the Jew:

- I’m a Jew and the Jew is in a covenant relationship with God in which He made promises to us
- If God is going to refrain in fulfilling His promises to me and instead judge & condemn me for my unbelief – Then isn’t God being unfaithful?

God’s answer to: # 2 – Questioning God’s Faithfulness

• *Romans 3:4 (AMP)*

*By no means! Let God be found true though every human being is false and a liar, as it is written, **That You may be justified and shown to be upright in what You say, and prevail when You are judged [by sinful men]. – Ps 51:4***



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God's answer to: # 2 – Questioning God's Faithfulness

- *Hebrews 6:18 (KJV)*

That by two immutable things (promise & oath), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

- *1 Corinthians 1:9 (KJV)*

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:24 (AMP)*

Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you].

Point:

- God can never go back or not fulfill His promises
- Paul emphatically demonstrates the consistency in God's character:
 - Unbelieving Jews will be condemned to hell (His Justice)
 - He will fulfill His promises to believing Jews (His Faithfulness)

Appropriation: This should be comforting to us in Christ – in spite of any circumstances in our life, God's faithfulness is sure & we can rest in it.