

Notes: Shabbat – August 16, 2014

Start: 10 am

Order of Service:

Meet and Greet
Introduction (if new people)
Announcements
Open in Prayer for service
Ma Tov
Praise and Worship Songs
Liturgy – Sh'ma
Message
Kaddash - Time of Prayer
Aaronic Blessing
Kiddush
Oneg

Introduction: The Fullness of Fruit

As I was beginning to read this week's Parashah, I was struck by Deuteronomy 7:13 where upon condition of verse 12, verse 13 is the produce.

Adonai uses the term fruit.

“He will bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of the ground”

This got me thinking, because I am reading another book by Derek Frank called “Escaping the Great Deception”

In Chapter 6 – “Preparing for the Harvest of Righteousness” he refers to Romans 11:25 and the fullness of the Gentiles.

Hebrew: Piree – Fruit

In Greek – pleroma – completeness

Torah blessing:

Deu 7:12 "Because you are listening to these rulings, keeping and obeying them, Adonai your God will keep with you the covenant and mercy that he swore to your ancestors.

Deu 7:13 He will love you, bless you and increase your numbers; he will also bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground - your grain, wine, olive oil and the young of your cattle and sheep - in the land he swore to your ancestors that he would give you.

Deu 7:14 You will be blessed more than all other peoples; there will not be a sterile male or female among you, and the same with your livestock.

Torah Blessing:

What is fruit...

By definition:

1. The sweet and fleshy product of a tree or other plant that contains seed and can be eaten as food.
2. the result or reward of work or activity.
3. Offspring

When fruit is produced and harvested it comes into its fullness...

Harvest too early and you are left with premature fruit that is not pleasing to eat

Harvest too late and you are left with overripe fruit that too is not pleasing to eat, or may have even gone rotten.

Setting aside scientific modifications that have altered the dynamics of producing fruit.

No fruit is harvested outside of its season or before its time.

So when we go back to Romans 11:25 and how it relates to the rest of this chapter where Sha'ul is conveying Israel's future, it is dependent upon the "fullness of the Gentiles."

What is fullness?

1. the state of having eaten enough or more than enough and feeling full
2. the state of being complete or whole.

In Romans 11 Sha'ul refers to the Olive Tree

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you — a wild olive — were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,

Rom 11:24 For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree!

When Jewish believers are 2% of the entire worldwide Jewish population, the harvest has not yet begun.

Some fruit ripens quicker than others, but when it is time to harvest you are not just picking a few ripe pieces but bushel baskets full of fruit that has come into its fullness. It could not be any better if it were on the tree one day longer.

Science hasn't even caught up with this capability.

You can create a plant from a clipping rather than a seed.
You can create hybrids (a combination of two different species)

But science hasn't perfected this idea of grafting a branch back.

It has been done for centuries, but does not produce 100% consistent results. According to the Gardening Know how web site:

"Grafting trees is a practice that has been done by farmers and gardeners for hundreds of years. But the method is not fool proof. Sometimes grafted trees can revert to their original form."

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/tgen/can-grafted-trees-revert-to-their-root-stock.htm>

When looking at verse 17:

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you — a wild olive — were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,

The wild olive tree branch, because of the cultivated olive tree roots should produce cultivated olives. Fruit of the new tree they are now part of.

There should be no more wild olives coming out of a wild olive tree branch that is now part of a cultivated olive tree.

The fruit being produced should bear that of its host tree...

Notice what sometimes happens:

Sometimes grafted trees can revert to their original form.

I believe there is another dynamic at play here...

They may not return back to their original form, but are actually producing a hybrid, which is neither the cultivated nor wild olive. But something that has characteristics of both.

What do you do if your tree is producing a foreign fruit?

The root of the vine is Yeshua.

He is feeding the vine with His Word – Genesis 1 – Revelation 22.

Yet the vine is producing fruit that is not fully the cultivated olive or the wild olive but a combination of both.

This is where we are at today.

So, if the harvest of the Jewish people is dependent upon the harvest of the Gentiles, based on verse 25:

Rom 11:25 For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness;

In relation to the cultivated olive tree they have been grafted into, they are not producing the fruit of this tree, but a different fruit.

So, the question is, how can they, the gentiles enter their fullness in relation to the tree that they are grafted into and produce the fruit of that tree?

Many understand “fullness of the gentiles” as a number.

When Adonai has His number then Yeshua will return.

Unfortunately, the understanding of fullness is not based on a number but on a completeness.

You have these Words from Yeshua...

Mat 12:33 "If you make a tree good, its fruit will be good; and if you make a tree bad, its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing.

Joh 15:6 Unless a person remains united with me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up.

Joh 15:7 "If you remain united with me, and my words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you.

Mat 7:18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, or a poor tree good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire!

Mat 7:20 So you will recognize them by their fruit.

So if the vine is good and the roots are most certainly good the problem is the branches.

Not all branches have produced good fruit. As such Yeshua says...

Joh 15:1 "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Joh 15:2 Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

Joh 15:3 Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned.

Joh 15:4 Stay united with me, as I will with you — for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from me.

The fullness of the gentiles is starting to happen.

Fruit is being produced that is good.

This fruit is:

A love and support for the Jewish people

A desire to understand and embrace the roots of their faith. (That root is Yeshua)

A desire to turn ungodliness away from Ya'akov (not by converting them to Christians but by introducing them to the Messiah of Israel, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah)

There is still some pruning that needs to be done, but the pruning that has been done is bearing good fruit.

This is the other side of the coin that I talked about last week.

A side where there will be a revival unlike any other in history. A regathering that is happening as we speak.

As I mentioned last week, regardless of your theological understanding regarding Israel's current belief. Some say this isn't the Israel of the bible because they are not following Torah.

The reality is, that this is the Israel that Adonai promised because it was He who scattered them. If He scattered them, only He can bring them back.

This is the reality of today.

"Their eyes have been darkened" by unbelief.

Rom 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they can't see, with their backs bent continually."

Yet it will be the nations that provoke jealousy and lead them back

Rom 11:11 "In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?" Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy.