

## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

December 24, 2016

**Jeremiah 47:1–48:47.** God’s Babylonian Judgment on the Philistines and Moab.

**Romans 11:11–24.** The cut-off Jews and engrafted Gentiles.

**Proverbs 26:1–11.** The fool who simply will not learn truth.

### COMMENTS.

**Jeremiah 47:1–48:47. Chapter 47** begins with divine judgment (1<sup>st</sup> cause) on the Philistines by way of the Babylonians (2<sup>nd</sup> cause), **1-7**. The approach of the Babylonians from the north would cause consternation throughout Philistia. The enemy would sweep through the land, bringing death and destruction. This oracle was fulfilled in 604 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar overran Philistia and conquered Ashkelon. **Chapter 48** contains a lengthy oracle against Moab. The destruction of their land would cause the Moabites to weep bitterly and flee in panic. In the past Moab had been relatively secure, like wine that had been allowed to settle in one jar. All that was about to change. Moab would be poured out of the jar. Moab’s military might would be shattered, causing its pride and joy to be replaced by humiliation and lamentation. Its demise was inescapable. Its people and their chief god Chemosh would be carried into exile. However, God does promise Moab eventual restoration in the “latter days” (בְּאַחֲרֵי הַיָּמִים).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** After a very long chapter on divine judgment, in the last verse, God makes a promise to a people who are not His special, elect people: Jeremiah 48:47 *"Yet I will bring back the captives of Moab In the latter days," says the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab. "Bringing back the captives of Moab"* (וְשָׁבְתִי שְׁבוּת־מוֹאָב) means that God will restore the identity, land, and fortunes of Moab in the latter days. These “latter days” refer to the future Kingdom Age when Christ will reign over all on the Earth. This points to the fact that nationalism is a divine institution even during the Millennium. Internationalism is always evil; it is Satan’s attempt to control the whole world as one monolithic group. Thank God that our President-elect understands and appreciates the importance of *national* sovereignty. We are Americans. We are one nation. We have one identity as Americans living under the American ideal. Patriotism is a virtue. Respect and love for our country and for all of those who paid the price for our freedom is a wonderful thing that should never be taken for granted. As we grow in whole truth, total truth by *walking with the Lord by proper knowledge and proper love*, we come to understand the beauty of nationalism as we see it through God’s eyes. This enables us to be patriotic without falling into some of the excesses that may violate other biblical norms. Let us not dally with any notion of internationalism that seeks to erase borders or with believing in the primary goal of the United Nations, namely to create its own version of the Millennium.

**Romans 11:11–24.** Paul’s moves from the general theme of election (**11:1-10**) to focus on the place of the Gentiles in God’s election (**11:11-24**). He points out that Israel did not experience a permanent fall, only a stumbling and that God had at least two purposes in His election of the Gentiles: to offer salvation to the Gentiles and to make Israel envious. Paul, moreover, speaks of “riches” for the world. The world is certainly richer because so many Gentiles came to Christ. But even greater riches will be enjoyed by the Gentiles after the conversion of Israel at the Lord’s return.

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** In this section, Paul likens the Gentiles to being grafted in the olive tree (Israel). Many of the Jewish people did not believe. Paul pictured them as branches broken off the tree. But he saw an amazing thing taking place: other branches were grafted into the tree to share in the life of the tree. These branches were the Gentiles. In **11:24**, Paul described this “grafting in” as “contrary to nature” (παρὰ φύσιν). Usually a cultivated branch is grafted into a wild tree and shares its life without producing its poor fruit. But in this case, it was the “wild branch” (the Gentiles) that was grafted into the good tree! To say that the olive tree, with its natural and grafted branches, is a picture of the church would be a great error. Israel and the Church are different in kind. Israel was “cut off” due to apostasy. However, it should be noted that Paul warns the Gentiles that they were obligated to Israel, and therefore they dare not boast of their new spiritual position (**11:18–21**). The Gentiles entered God’s plan because of faith, and not because of anything good they had done. Paul was discussing the Gentiles collectively, and not the individual experience of one believer or another. It is worth noting that, according to Bible prophecy, the professing Gentile church will be “cut off” because of apostasy, too. First Timothy 4 and 2 Timothy 3, along with 2 Thessalonians 2, all indicate that the professing church in the last days will depart from the faith. As for the Jews, God will keep His promises; no matter how far Israel may stray from the truth of God, the roots are still good. God is still the “God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” He will keep His promises to these patriarchs. This means that the olive tree will flourish again! It is *by walking with God by proper knowledge and proper love* that we really heed Paul’s warning against pride, apostasy, and recognize the importance of Israel to God’s plan both now and in the future. As Christians and Americans, we must be unwavering in our support of the state of Israel—if we ever hope to be a flourishing nation once again! Those who walk with God share His love for Israel even though Israel is presently an apostate nation under the discipline of God for continued rejection of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Our nation’s accrual of divine blessings or discipline is always related to its attitude to Israel. Thank God that we only have to put up with our current President and administration for less than a month. Thank God that President-elect and his team are openly pro-Israel, especially in a time when anti-Semitism seems to be on the rise in our country. There was a time when most Americans, because of *proper knowledge of God*, understood the importance of Israel. As the influence of the Church and Christianity have waned over the past few decades so has this attitude. Many young Americans, even Christians, have no clue to the relevance of Israel to our nation. Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

**Proverbs 26:1–11.** These verses describe the fool in all of his destructiveness—“fool” (כֹּסֵף) is the catchword. Observe how the fool lacks insight, self-control and never learns from his mistakes. A fool just does not get it. He is unable to see the big picture.

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** Observe the quintessential fool in **verses 11-12**, who is so sure, so confident, that he has all the facts of life straight, so he refuses to submit to wisdom for instruction and is far worse off than the run-of-the-mill fool. The fool is always unteachable. They are set in their ways. They think they know it all and are only too quick to tell others “but you do not understand.” The only hope for such a fool, who is but an amalgamation of his inductivistic truths, is to rise above it all by *life in God by proper knowledge and proper love*, the place of true wisdom, the only place of whole truth, total truth perspective about reality as such. However, this life with God cannot be attained by human effort. It is a gift of grace. Apart from this “grace-lift,” all men are fools as far as ultimate reality as they unable to truly and properly grasp God, the true/good/beauty of life as such. There is absolutely no human way to grasp God’s ultimate wisdom from the natural order. God’s wisdom is a gift of grace reserved for those who seek Him with all their hearts. Only by grace does the believer entered into the suprarational and supraloving life, which is but the fruit of direct connection with God Himself. As wonderful as philosophical realism is, nevertheless, it is still natural knowledge and apart from divine revelation is doomed for foolishness like everything else. Again, ultimate wisdom, the ultimate perspective of reality as such cannot be understood apart from life with God *by proper knowledge and proper love*.

*Life in God by second person proper knowledge and by proper love,*  
*Pastor Don*