

Romans Series

Lesson #101

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Epistle to the ROMANS

ISRAEL: Hermeneutics & Replacement Theology

Romans 9:1–6 (Introduction)



“Once they were kings. A half million strong, they matched their faith with fervor and out-matched the Moslem and Christian tribesmen around them to rule the mountain highlands around Lake Tana. They called themselves Beta Israel—the house of Israel—and used the Torah to guide their prayers and memories of the heights of Jerusalem as they lived in their thatched huts in Ethiopia.

“But their neighbors called them Falashas—the alien ones, the invaders. And even three hundred years of rule, even the black features that matched those of all the people around them did not make the Jews of Ethiopia secure governors of their destiny in Africa.”

**“Falashas: The Forgotten Jews,”
Baltimore Jewish Times, 9 November 1979.**

Rom. 9:1, “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

Rom. 9:2, “that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

Rom. 9:3, “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

Rom. 9:4, “who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

Rom. 9:5, “of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”

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Gen. 12:1, “Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.

Gen. 12:2, “ ‘I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

Gen. 12:3, “ ‘I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ”

Two Horrible Errors Have Plagued Christianity:

1. Replacement Theology

2. Anti-Semitism

What they both have in common is a non-literal, allegorizing, spiritualizing method of interpreting the Scripture.

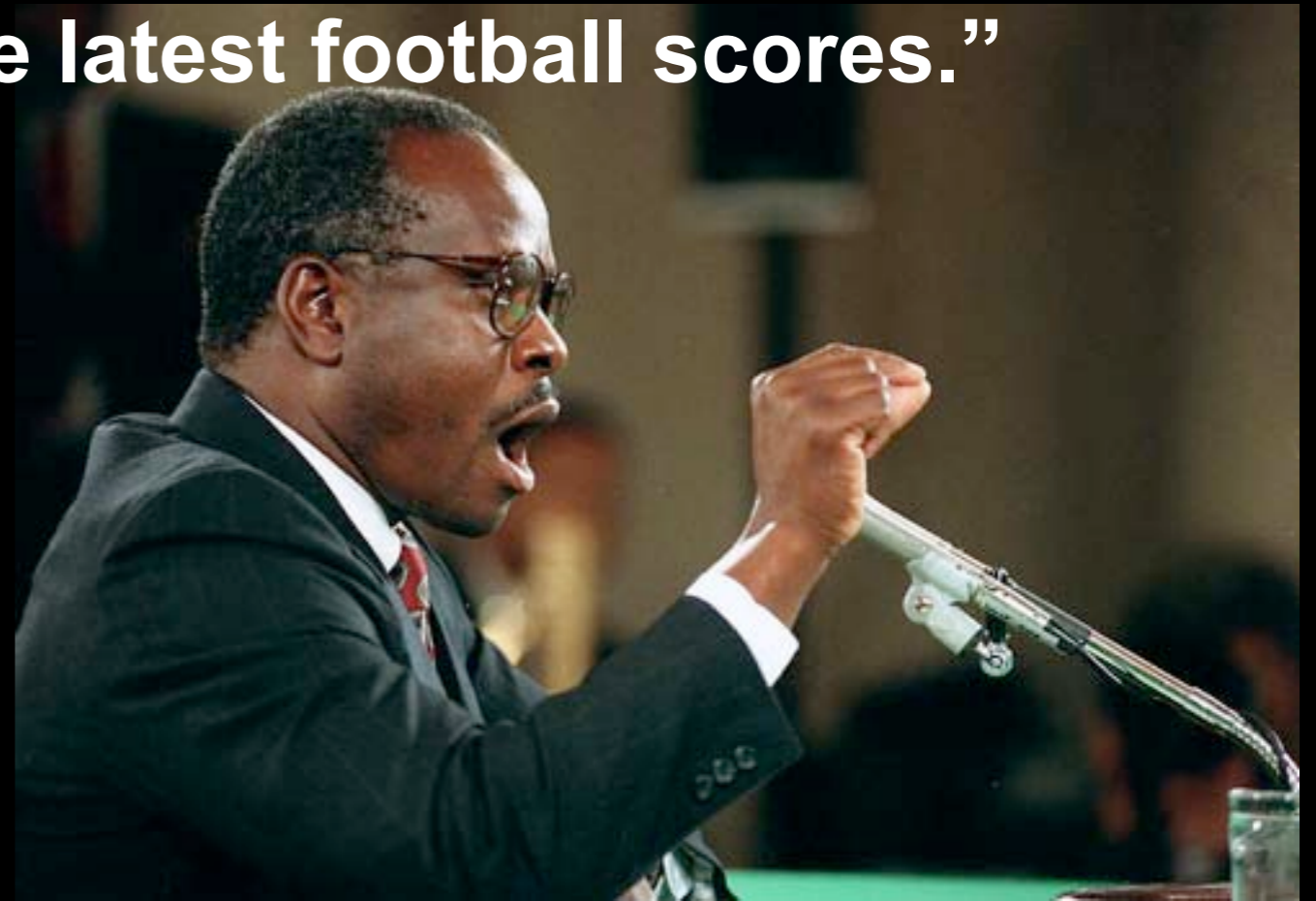
THE GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, make no other sense, therefore take every word at its ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicates clearly otherwise.”

~D. L. Cooper

The following is an excerpt from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's Wriston Lecture to the Manhattan Institute:

“Let me put it this way; there are really only two ways to interpret the Constitution – try to discern as best we can what the framers intended or make it up. No matter how ingenious, imaginative or artfully put, unless interpretive methodologies are tied to the original intent of the framers, they have no more basis in the Constitution than the latest football scores.”



Hermeneutics:

Greek: *hermeneuo*, derived from the Greek god Hermes, the messenger or interpreter of the gods.

“to bring someone to an understanding of something; to explain, to make clear or intelligible”

The science and art of interpreting the Bible.

“Hermeneutics, therefore, is both a science and an art. As a science, it enunciates principles, investigates the laws of thought and language, and classifies its facts and results. As an art, it teaches what application these principles should have, and establishes their soundness by showing their practical value in the elucidation of the more difficult Scriptures. The hermeneutical art thus cultivates and establishes a valid exegetical procedure.”

~Milton Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*

“The *literalist* (so called) is not one who denies that *figurative* language, that *symbols*, are used in prophecy nor does he deny that great *spiritual* truths are set forth therein; his position is, simply, that the prophecies are to be *normally* interpreted (i.e., according to the received laws of language) as any other utterances are interpreted—that which is manifestly figurative being so regarded.”

~Lange, *Commentary on Revelation*

“If God created man in His own rational image and endowed him with the power of speech, then a purpose of language, in fact the chief purpose of language, would naturally be the revelation of truth to man and the prayers of man to God. In a theistic philosophy one ought not to say that all language has been devised in order to describe and discuss the finite objects of our sense-experience... On the contrary, language was devised by God, that is, God created man rational for the purpose of theological expression.”

~Gordon C. Clark (Reformed Theologian)

“Now we must frankly admit that a literal interpretation of the Old Testament prophecies gives us just such a picture of an earthly reign of the Messiah as the premillennialist pictures. That was the kind of Messianic kingdom that the Jews of the time of Christ were looking for, on the basis of a literal kingdom interpretation of the Old Testament promises.”

~Floyd Hamilton (Amillennial Covenant Theologian)

“I claim that there is sound, solid, grammatical-historical ground for interpreting eschatological fulfillments of prophecy on a different basis than pre-eschatological fulfillments... It is therefore a move away from grammatical-historical interpretation to insist that (say) the ‘house of Israel’ and the ‘house of Judah’ of Jeremiah 31:31 *must* with dogmatic certainty be interpreted in the most prosaic biological sense, a sense that an Israelite might be likely to apply as a rule of thumb in short-term prediction.”

~Amillennialist Vern Poythress

“One of the most marked features of premillennialism in all its forms is the emphasis which it places on the literal interpretation of Scripture. It is the insistent claims of its advocates that only when interpreted literally is the Bible interpreted truly; and they denounce as ‘spiritualizers’ or ‘allegorizers’ those who do not interpret the Bible with the same degree of literalness as they do. None have made this charge more pointedly than the dispensationalists.”

~Oswald T. Allis

“The Old Testament prophecies, if literally interpreted, cannot be regarded as having been yet fulfilled or as being capable of fulfillment in this present age.”

~O. T. Allis