

## ROMANS 11:25-36

Introduction: Now the Apostle Paul reveals the future restoration of Israel. Paul now reveals a mystery - not known before the foundations of the world began, but a truth that has now been made known.

\*Paul also sets forth that the Gentile believers will be wise in their own opinion (not being arrogant and prideful), looking down upon the Jews for the spiritual blindness that has come upon them.

\*\*This new event had stopped the Tribulation, the return of Christ, the New Covenant, and the Kingdom from happening or going forward at that time.

1. Right after Acts 7 and the stoning of Stephen in Acts 9, we see God raising up a new Apostle to lead His

Romans 11:25 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

new program of the Dispensation of Grace.

\*This is the reason God set the division in the Bible - not between the O.T. and N.T. But it is divided between the Prophecy Program with Israel, and the Mystery Program with the Body of Christ.

2. This means that today God is not fulfilling O.T. prophecies. But now, He is carrying out this hidden secret of the "One New Man" program. Notice the difference in these two verses:

Acts 3:21 - Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Romans 16:25 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

3. The O.T. prophets spoke concerning the Gentiles being blessed through the rise of Israel in Isaiah 60:1-3, but they said - or knew nothing - about the blessings of the Gentiles through the fall of Israel in Romans 11:11 - *I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*

4. Then Paul says that Israel's partial blindness will last "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in". It is important to know the difference between (the times of the Gentiles) and (the fulness of the Gentiles).

a. "The times of the Gentiles" has to do with the time period when Jerusalem is under Gentile rule. This period began with King Nebuchadnezzar being the first Gentile to reign over Israel. We see this in Daniel's dream interpretation of Daniel 2:37 - *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

b. Luke mentions this period where Jesus Christ is talking about the beginning of the Babylonian captivity and ending with the Gentile dominance when Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation.

Luke 21:24 - And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

c. It is at the end of the Tribulation that Christ returns to destroy the enemies of Israel. Then "the times of the Gentiles" will be over as Christ sets up His literal and physical Kingdom on earth.

5. "The fulness of the Gentiles" is today's Mystery Program and it will end at the Rapture. This truth had been hidden as God's secret until Paul came on the scene.

- a. This time period will end and be completed when the last soul is saved by the gospel of grace (I Cor. 15:3-4). The Rapture will take place, closing out our Dispensation of Grace period - the Mystery Program.
- b. It is then (after the Body is taken to heaven) that God will then resume His program with Israel. His ultimate goal will be restoring His chosen people (Israel) under the New Covenant.
- c. This truth had been known and prophesied in the O.T. scriptures.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 - For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Eze. 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. Eze. 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Eze. 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. Eze. 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

### The Restoration of Israel:

1. These verses show us the two-fold basis about the promise and future commission of the nation of Israel.

Romans 11:26-27 - And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Rom. 11:27 For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

- a. First, the written word of God to them - promising a coming Redeemer:

Isaiah 59:20 - And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

- b. Second, the promise of the New Covenant made to them.

Isaiah 59:21 - As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

2. Paul looks here to the "New Covenant", where God shall take away their sins spoken by in Isaiah 27:9.

Isaiah 27:9 - By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this *is* all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

Jeremiah 31:34 - And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

3. When Paul says in verse 26 that all Israel shall be saved, he means all believing Israel. Not all Jews will be believers.

Zechariah 13:8-9 - And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. Zech. 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

\*So many of them will succumb to human failure and not give glory to God's great name and the honor of His throne.

4. In verse 27, it mentions (my covenant) which is referring to the New Covenant. Remember, the Body of Christ church was not given any covenants. This New Covenant was only to Israel.
  - a. Israel was given many covenants throughout her history: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the Palestinian Covenant.
  - b. It is necessary for the New Covenant to be in place in order for Israel to have the land and the throne.

\*Now for the next remaining verses, Paul transfers our thinking in how we now view Israel and our responsibility to Israel.

1. Israel has lost her favored status with God, bringing her down to the level of unbelieving Gentiles; and

Romans 11:28 - As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.

therefore, making her an enemy of God.

\*We are all enemies of God before salvation in this present age of Grace. Because of Israel losing her favored position, God now offers the same equal grace for the Gentiles.

2. Even though Israel has been set aside, the purpose - or the election of God for them - will be fulfilled because of God's love for the forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had made an unconditional promise to His special nation.

Deuteronomy 10:15 - Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, *even* you above all people, as *it is* this day.

1. God's purpose for Israel has not been cancelled, nor changed, nor aborted. It has simply been postponed for awhile.

Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

2. The reason they are still loved is that God's gifts and calling are never rescinded. When one gives a gift to you, it is never to be taken back.
1. In time past, Israel failed in her mission to be the light unto the Gentiles. That failure of Israel's unbelief caused God to go to the Gentiles, showing us His mercy and grace.

Ephesians 2:1-5 - And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Eph. 2:2 Wherein in

Romans 11:30 - For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Eph. 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Eph. 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

2. Never forget where we came from or God's mystery move toward us.

Romans 9:23-24 - And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Rom. 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

\*We will understand God's mercy given in three points in Romans 11:30-32:

- ❶ His mercy to the Gentiles
- ❷ to the Jews (v. 31)
- ❸ to the world (v. 32)

God has overruled the disobedience of all these.

Romans 11:31-32 - Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. Rom. 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

1. Paul is showing us that both Jew and Gentile are put together as one group of sinners - being disobedient. There is no possible way out of this sinful position, except through the mercy of God.
2. That word "concluded" in verse 32 has the idea of "being shut up together". Paul uses this idea in Galatians 3:23 - *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*
1. Paul concludes by looking over this epistle and the divine wonders it has shown. Paul gets excited when considering how God has worked in both of His programs. One, to His chosen earthly people - Israel, and

Romans 11:33-36 - O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Rom. 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Rom. 11:35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? Rom. 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Second, to His Gentile Body - His heavenly people.

2. This causes Paul to break out into a doxology (a short hymn or expression of praise to God). This is derived from the Greek words "glory" (*doxo*) and "word" (*logos*).
3. Paul is struck with the depth of God's immeasurable knowledge and wisdom. God gives to man whatever He wishes to give him. Why? Because God is sovereign and His thinking is beyond human thinking.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. Isa. 55:9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

4. Only believers who have the Word and study it dispensationally have an understanding of what God has done and is doing today.

Ephesians 3:8-11 - Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: Eph. 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, Eph. 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

\*\*Finally, we give reverence to the Supreme Giver God, by whom everything has been created - to give glory to forever. Amen!