

Will Israel Be Saved?

Romans 11:25-36

Thought for the Day: God is true to His promises and therefore, we can confidently expect that in His time, according to His Word, Israel will be saved.

This passage concludes the third section of the book of Romans. Throughout the book, Paul develops the theme of Righteousness:

Chaps. 1 – 3:20 – Righteousness *Needed*

Chaps. 3:21 – 8 – Righteousness *Provided*

Chaps. 9 – 11 – Righteousness *Rejected*

Chaps. 12 – 16 – Righteousness *Practiced*

➤ In Romans 11 the Apostle Paul deals with three very important questions:

1) (vss. 1-10) When Israel rejected her Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, did God permanently reject His people, Israel?

Answer: Absolutely not! The Jews are *still* the chosen people of God.

2) (vss. 11-24) Well then, has the Church replaced Israel?

Answer: Absolutely not! God has *temporarily* set aside the nation of Israel because of her rejection of Jesus Christ.

3) (vss. 25-32) So then, will God eventually save Israel?

Answer: There is a day coming in the plan and purposes of God when Israel will be restored to right relationship with Him. "If they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again" (Rom. 11:23).

➤ God declared nearly 2,000 years in advance of the fact that all Israel will be saved!

- This passage is like stepping back into eternity past and eavesdropping on the councils of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit determine what they are going to do.
- We are looking at an event that is still in the future for us and yet, it is just as certain as if it had already taken place!
- On the one hand, God is sovereign and in absolute control of His universe; and, on the other hand, Man has been given the power to choose and will be held accountable for his choices.

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited:

- In Scripture, a mystery is a truth that has been previously hidden but is now being declared and made known. This was "breaking news" for Paul's readers!
- The Apostles and early Christians had no expectation of what has taken place over the past 1,900 years. They never imagined this thing called the Church—made up primarily of Gentiles and a few believing Jews. (Cp. Acts 1:6)
- For us today, the present reality is all we've ever known. It's hard for us to imagine what it was like back in the first century. And it's hard for us to imagine how different things are going to be in the future.

- We have a tendency to think that things have always been the way they are and that they will continue to be the way they are. Human nature resists change.
- The idea that things may change in the future is frightening to us—we don't even want to hear about it! But how can we be adequately prepared, if we don't know what's going to happen?

Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

- Romans 11:7-8 – Some of the Jews were being saved but most were being hardened in their unbelief and disobedience because they rejected God's provision and means of being saved.
- This hardening, this spirit of stupor, this spiritual blindness will continue until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.
 - God knows exactly who will be saved, how many and when!
 - When that number is reached, He will move on to the next part of His program.
 - What we call the "Church Age" will come to a sudden close and God will once again be dealing with the nation of Israel.
 - The present reality that we are experiencing is also temporary and it will come to a sudden, devastating end—and the whole world will awaken to a new reality.

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

- Salvation is the work of God for us today and it will be the work of God for Israel when their time is come again.

28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,

- God does not consider the Jews to be His enemies; rather, they have made themselves the enemies of God by their rejection of the Messiah.
- God loves the Jews because they are His chosen people, beginning with Abraham and the patriarchs.

29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

- "God's gifts to Israel, and God's calling of Israel, cannot be taken back or changed, or God would cease to be true to His own perfect nature. The fact that Israel may not enjoy her gifts, or live up to her privilege as an elect nation, does not affect this fact one bit. God will be consistent with Himself and true to His Word no matter what people may do. (Romans 3:3)." (*Wiersbe, Be Right, pp. 142-43*)
- If this is true for Israel, it is also true for us today. God will fulfill all of His promises to us!

Romans 11:30-32 – God will extend mercy to all who will receive it.

Romans 11:33-36 – Theology becomes doxology and doxology becomes sacrificial service (Romans 12-16).