

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 11:11-32)

Have you ever been on a long road trip? Road weary? Tired mentally. Just ready to get there? Well, we r close ☺

*Hope: This is the second to last really difficult theological Sermon in Romans (=recap nxt wk)

Theme of Chs. 9-11: **God's sovereign faithfulness in His redemptive purposes first to the Jews and now to the Gentiles too:**

Chps. 9-11 fill out one complete passage dealing with God's Covenant people Israel. Their past salvation and their current salvation. And how the gospel now relates to the Jews/all people.

Paul is making an argument to the Jews that even though they *have been* the Covenant people of God (that they have always/only been saved by **Faith** in the One true Covenant God & through belief in the coming Messiah) –For ethic/national Israel, **NOW their situation=changed/evolved.**

(Paul refers to a ***Spiritual Israel*** within Ethic Israel = The Elect/Saved & *rejecting* nation/people

-Ch. 11: **SO what about Israel?** Fate of Jews (O.T.); Fate of Jews (N.T.), **Now**, & in the ***Future***.....

=**Now that we are living in the Church Age, the Age of Grace, the “Time of the Gentiles”**

= **What is God's plan for Israel** (individual Jews, the people Israel, and the Land)

A. Covenant Theology Perspective: “Fulfillment Theology”=God has just one Cov. People (OT/NT), Jesus is promised Messiah & God's OT salvific promises to Jews are now fulfilled in the elect, believing remnant Jews who are part of the Church. Vs. (**Progressive Covenantalism**)

B. Dispensational Theology Perspective: Israel & Church separate =Israel future/land **1000Yr**

READ Romans 11:11-32 *Vs.2 God not rejected Israel; Vs. 5 Remnant/God's gracious choice

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall [permanently], did they? Far from it! But by their wrongdoing [rebellion] salvation *has come* to the Gentiles, to make them [Jews] jealous. ¹² Now if their wrongdoing *proves to be* riches for the world, and their failure, riches for the Gentiles [via Messiah/salvation], how much more *will* their fulfillment *be!* ¹³ But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection *proves to be* the reconciliation of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the first piece *of dough* is holy [patriarchs], the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are as well. ¹⁷ But if some of the the branches were broken off, and you [us], being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ *do not be arrogant toward the branches*; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you. ¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; ²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. ²² See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵ For I do not want you, brothers *and sisters*, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a **partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of**

the Gentiles has come in; ²⁶ *and so all Israel will be saved*; just as it is written: “The Deliverer [Messiah] will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” ²⁷ “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.” ²⁸ In relation to the gospel *they are enemies on your account*, but in relation to God’s choice *they are* beloved on account of the fathers; ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. ³² For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all. There is a lot happening in this passage: Let me lead us through the highlights:

1. Paul is warning the Gentile Christians to not be arrogant & suppose that God has completely forgotten about & abolished His Covenant Promises to Israel. **Are the Jews Unsalvageable?** No! **Vs. 18:** *do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.* Remember, *the Christian Savior is a Jewish Messiah.* We are the spiritual descendants of Abraham (Gal. 3:7); **we benefactors of Israel** -**Application:** There is NO room for anti-semitism in God’s Kingdom; or prejudice/bias against the Jews or any race of mankind. **God has a purpose for everyone & each people/ethne/nation**
2. Paul assures Christians that God’s sovereign purpose in electing Israel (His gracious choice), blessing Israel, punishing Israel in her rebellion, and hardening Israel serves His purpose & glory = to our immediate benefit: **Vs. 11:** “*But by their wrongdoing [rebellion], salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them [Jews] jealous.*” *God used the Jews’ rebellion & ultimate rejection of Jesus as Messiah to be the *primary* cause of Jesus’ crucifixion =whereby Jesus dies & atones for the sins of the whole world (Jews & Gentile). =**His death meant sp. life for us.** The Jews reject Jesus, & through their rejection of the Messiah -God rejects the Jews: Jesus predicts this in Mt. 21:43 as He warns unbelieving Israel “*Therefore I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you & given to a nation producing the fruit of it.*” -God’s sovereign plan (hard to understand) is that by the Gentile’s blessing, salvation, being brought into the family of God, adopted, heirs with Christ, and now sp. descendants of Abraham. =their jealousy & confusion would lead them to wanting what Gentiles have: =**sp. peace/joy** -**Application:** Are we living our lives in a way that is desirable for the lost? See any diff. in us? =Are we sharing the gospel w/ Jews & modeling grace, love, joy, peace, hope (**transformation?**)
3. Paul reminds Christians that God has not completely abandoned Jews *now* or in the future b/c He is a Promise & Cov. Keeper; He made an unconditional covenant w/ Abraham Gen. 15/17 to bless Israel & make them so numerous =uncountable; & promised spec. boundaries of land: -Gen 17:7-8 “*I will establish My covenant between Me & you and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you & to your descendants after you. ⁸ I will give to you & to your descendants after you the land where you live as a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession;& I will be their God.*” -**Paul argues** that God has NOT forgotten His divine, Covenant promises to Israel as a people. **Vs. 28:** *In relation to the gospel they are enemies on your account, but in relation to God’s choice they are* beloved on account of the fathers [Ab., Isaac, Jacob] =b/c Cov. Promises to Patriarchs ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God [to the Jews] are irrevocable [unchangeable] -Numbers 29:13 “*God is not a man that He should lie*” Ps. 145:13 “*He is faithful to all His prom.*” -Heb. 10:23 “*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope for He who promised is faithful*”

-2 Cor. 1:20 We do believe that Jesus is the fulfillment in perfection of God's promises to Israel "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus] That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory." -But, Jesus is not Israel, *He is the King of Israel.*

*Paul reiterates: The Gifts/Calling of God to Israel are irrevocable -He hasn't changed His mind =God still has an eternal plan for His people Israel (Jewish Nation) who will bow to Messiah

-God has not written His People Israel out of History (or future History) Rev. 7 & 14=Jews

-Application: We need to remind our hearts that what God teaches in His Word toward us He means. **A.** God is serious about sin. He hasn't changed His mind (regardless of what our culture or "churches" teach. Jesus died bc of sin=deadly serious. **B.** God has called us to trust Him, even when we don't see Him; feel Him; hear His voice. God is near us & "will never leave nor forsake us." **C.** God has our best interest at heart, even when we don't understand.

4. Paul states that the Hardening of Israel (in response to their constant willful rebellion to reject the Messiah as Savior) is both **temporary** & **partial** (some Jews will be saved now).

Vs. 25: "For I do not want you, brothers *and sisters*, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a **partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in**" -Paul maintains that God has not completely abandoned His people Israel (in spite of their ongoing willing rebellion)

-The partial Hardening is a **spiritual blinding**, in judgment of their sinful rejection of Jesus:

-2 Cor. 3:14 "But the sons of Israel's minds were hardened ...the same veil remains unlifted"

-2 Cor. 4:3-4 "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

-But that means NOT all Jews were blinded/hardened: **Elect saved throughout all generations**

-The Hardening was **temporary**: It served a purpose -**UNTIL** "the fullness of Gentiles" Acts 15

=This is the season when the gospel & God's global focus is gospel proclamation to Nations.

-Since AD 33, we are living in **The Age of Grace; The Church Age**; (1991 years) -Spirit at work

-Jesus describes the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled at the end of the 7 years of

Tribulation at the beginning of the END TIMES -Luke 21:24 "Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentile are fulfilled." ...**Then 2nd Coming**

-Application: We should never give up hope on our lost loved ones, hardened neighbors; we will never know when/how God will use circumstances, your faithful prayers, & consistent witness to change a heart/transform a life for His glory. God give us your eyes/heart for lost!

5. Paul boldly declares that in God's global program, in the end, not just the remnant of Israel will be saved (in last 2k yrs), but all of Israel will be saved. How possible? Paul is **NOT** saying that all of Israel (quantitatively) gets saved (NOT universalism); i.e **NOT Judas, Not pharisees**, but more than just the remnant of these generations, that in the last days/End times there will be a mass reception of Jesus the Messiah at His appearing, 2nd Coming.

Vs. 26: *and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: "The Deliverer [Messiah] will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."* ²⁷ "This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." -the promise of a Savior/Messiah (Jesus) who atones for Israel's sins

-No Jew can be saved outside of a saving faith relationship w/ Messiah Jesus of Nazareth

-Zechariah 13:8-9 (1/3 left) "And it will come about in all the land, Declares the Lord That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

-Zech. 12:9-10 “And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem ^{the}the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

-Isaiah 66:8 –“Can a nation be born in one day, born all at once? Yes, As soon as Zion was in labor she delivered all her sons.” A nation, a people, Israel -Jews who love Jesus Messiah

So Paul answers the question: What is God’s plan for Israel?

AFTER the times of the Gentiles has been fulfilled (current age of Grace/church age)...God will deal again with Israel in the End Times. To appear to them, & give them the gospel, soften their hearts so as to receive their given Messiah Jesus, protect them, rescue them, -In the thousand-year reign, God will restore and fulfill all the (here to fore unfulfilled covenant promises to the Israel) for God’s glory and faithfulness to His promises!

*God started with Israel, He blessed ‘em, Covenanted with them, gave them the Law, tabernacle, temple, prophets, & the Messiah. Then as part of God’s universal redemptive plan, He used the Jew’s disobedience to bring about the universal Messiah – Jew first/Gentile; -Then when this season of Church age is finished, Times of Gentiles fulfilled, = Jews.
-God is sovereign. He has a redemptive plan for His people (OT, NT, NOW, & future)= why? B/c God is most glorified in us as we experience undeserved mercy & grace:

Vs. 31: so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. ³² For God has shut up all in disobedience, **so that He may show mercy to all.**

-Application: -We are to be reminded that just as God chose the Jews from nowhere, and made them a people, SO He has in His own gracious will chosen YOU to be saved, to be His, to be adopted into His family -forever (=that should spawn worship and gratitude, and ministry to bring others into the fold/burden for Jews/lost). Is this true of you?