**Israel’s Rejection… Our Redemption! Text:** Romans 11:11-36 **Date:** 9/24/2017 **Service:** Sunday AM

In **Romans 9-11** Paul proves that God is FAITHFUL (GOD CAN BE TRUSTED!) in dealing with His people… **HE has not cast off Israel!**

**Romans 10:20-21 exposes Israel’s heart condition before the Lord,** But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought Me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after Me. 21 But to Israel He saith, All day long I have stretched forth My hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

As a nation Israel consistently rebelled and thus rejected God’s plan of redemption for His people!

**The Life Application Study Bible** gives us this statement, *“Resisting God is like saying to Him, ‘Leave me alone.’”*

Paul refers to this in Romans 1 as “God’s wrath of abandonment”!

1. **First, we see The Purpose of God’s Faithfulness – 11:11-24**

* **Romans 11:11-15** I say then, *Have they stumbled that they should fall (permanently)?* God forbid: but *rather* through their (Israel’s) fall… *salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.* 12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness/restoration? 13 For **I** speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I** am the apostle of the Gentiles, **I** magnify **mine** office: 14 If by any means **I** may provoke to emulation *them which are* **my** flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world/nations, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead?

**11:14 – Paul’s salvation provided HOPE for Israel’s salvation!**

* **QUESTION: How is God going to fulfill His purposes of Gentile Redemption AND Israel’s Restoration? Paul explains it… Here’s how GOD does it!**
* **First of all, The Jealousy of the Jews – 11:11-15**
* **11:11** ~ God provoked Israel to jealousy by graciously saving the Gentiles!
* **11:12** ~Through the Jews rejection of the Gospel it was proclaimed to the Gentiles!
* **CYCLE…** Jews winning Gentiles… Gentiles winning Jews…ultimately the Lord fulfills His promises to Israel by blessing all the nations of the world!
* **God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:3 I** will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you **I** will curse, and in you *all the families of the earth shall be blessed*. **12:3; 17:5; 22:18**

**Genesis provides us with a traceable track for God’s promises to Israel!**

* **BUT** presently, the Jews are resting their salvation on their *heritage* while their *hearts* are yet hardened to Christ and His Gospel!

**NEVER EVER assume that your salvation is THE END!**

* **PRACTICAL POINT: The Lord saved you to reach someone else!**
* **Romans 11:15 says,** For if their (Israel’s) rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?
* **POINT:** With Israel’s hardening comes the softening of the Gentiles!
* **KEY:** Throughout the book of Acts the Jews continually witness the Gentiles coming to Christ!
* **KEY:** Jewish ***slumber*** made Gentile salvation a reality!
* The slumber of the Jewish people regarding their Messiah and the Gospel moves Paul to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentile nations!
* At the time of Paul’s writing Israel was insensitive to the pleadings of God through His prophets… scary!!!
* **The unimaginable occurs…** Gentiles came to Jesus – as brothers to the Jews – NO WAY – YES, it happened!
* **TRUTH:** The *most likely* responders rejected Jesus – while the *most unlikely* of sinners came to Jesus!
* **POINT:** Israel’s unbelief did not keep the Gentiles from receiving the Gospel.
* Jewish rejection made Gentile redemption an unbelievable reality for the nations/peoples OF THE WORLD!
* **Secondly, The Grafting of the Gentiles – 11:16-24**
* **Romans 11:16-24** For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches. 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being ***a wild olive tree***, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 ***Boast not*** against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: 21 For if **God** spared not the natural branches (Israel), *take heed* lest He also spare not thee. 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *His* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for **God** is able to graft them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?
* **11:16-17 ~ The Wild Olive Tree** = Gentiles
* **BIG IDEA!** In the place of Israel’s “broken off” branches God grafted in the nations of the world… look around… God is talking about us!!!
* **11:18-20 ~ The Warning to the Gentiles** = Pride!
* **Romans 11:18 says,** (Gentiles)Do not be arrogant toward the branches (Jews). If you are, remember it is not you who support the root (Abraham-Israel), but the root that supports you.
* **11:21-24 ~ The Work of God in the Grafting** = Neither Jews nor Gentiles can rest upon their own works for salvation… JEWS AND GENTILES SHARE THE TREE’S NOURISHMENT BASED UPON THEIR FAITH IN GOD’S WORK OF REDEMPTION!!!
* **First, The Purpose of God’s Faithfulness – 11:11-24**

1. **Secondly, The Perfection of God’s Faithfulness – 11:25-36**

* **Romans 11:25-29** 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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*** 26 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: 27 For this *is* My Covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the Gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.
* **First, we see Israel’s Blindness – 11:25-29**
* **11:25-27** ~ There will come a day when Israel believes; be assured of it!!!
* There is coming a grand day when God’s plan for sinners – Jews and Gentiles will be complete!
* **TRUTH:** Israel’s hardening is only partial; *it’s not fatal nor is it final!*
* **Israel’s temporal rejection (blindness) will ultimately bring about Israel’s total restoration (blessedness).**
* **Zechariah 12:10 points out Israel’s future redemption! The Lord says,** And **I** will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on **Me,** on **Him** Whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for **Him**, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over **Him**, as one weeps over a firstborn.
* **Then again, Jesus reminded us of this in Matthew 24:30** Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
* **REMEMBER…** God’s promises through His Covenants **ALL** are fulfilled! They touch the nations through the spreading of the Gospel!
* This is our **GRAND WORK** of missions and discipleship!
* **Secondly, we see God’s Mercifulness – 11:30-36**
* **Romans 11:30-36** For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. 33 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! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

**Tim Keller refers to this as “spontaneous worship.”**

* Only the Lord can fill the great gulf between His divine sovereignty and our human responsibility!
* **STATEMENT:** Embrace the mercy of God as you rest in His unchanging, unexplainable grace that makes your forgiveness a reality!
* **TRUTH!** God’s mercy… His lovingkindness makes the difference in this life and the next!
* As Paul closes this chapter regarding Israel he is **OVERWHELMED** by the glory of God!
* **Tim Keller** tries to capture Paul’s emotion with these words, *“A God whose ways we could fully discern would be a fairly limited God!”*
* **CONSIDER THIS!** Christianity does not require a full and complete understanding of everything that God does! It does require faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins!!!

**TRUST when you cannot fully understand!**

* Doxological praise is Paul’s way of affirming God’s sovereignty! **PRAISE** is Paul’s way of acknowledging the perfectly divine balance between God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility!

**If you DOUBT God, you will be the loser!**

* **TRUTH:** God is knowable **BUT** His ways are beyond knowing… **HE IS GOD ALONE!**
* **First, we see The Purpose of God’s Faithfulness**
* **Secondly, we see The Perfection of God’s Faithfulness**