

All Israel Will Be Saved

Romans 11:25-36

Opening Story: The late radio broadcaster Paul Harvey was famous for telling stories of little-known facts about a range of people and topics that were fascinating to learn about. After dazzling his audience with engaging tales, he would inevitably sign off by saying, *“And now you know the rest of the story.”*

He tells just such a story about a young Dutchman named Willem, whose life’s ambition was to serve God as a pastor. In the spring of 1879, at the age of 25, Willem realized his dream as he was dispatched to serve as the minister of a church in coal-mining village in southern Belgium.

Willem worked tirelessly to serve the needs of his parishioners. His selfless, giving and caring for the miners and their families won respect from the entire community. When a mining disaster befell the little town, Willem was there to help feed and care for scores of injured villagers. Once the mining disaster was cleaned up, and all the dead were buried, all the townspeople flocked to his church to hear him preach the Word of God. He became the spiritual leader of virtually the entire town.

However, when a church official came to town, he found Willem living in a tiny shack, and dressed only in an old military coat with pants made from sack-
ing. When the church official asked Willem what he had done with his salary, he responded that he had given it to the miners. The church official was so angry, that He dismissed Willem from the service of the Church. Needless to say, Willem was devastated. He was forced to abandon the Christian work he felt called to do, and loved to do. He felt as if God had abandoned him.

Some days later, in the late afternoon, he noticed an old miner bending beneath the weight of an enormous sack of coal. His heart was stirred within him as he felt the desperation of these people. Fumbling through his pockets he pulled out a tattered envelope and a pencil, and began to sketch the weary old miner that had so stirred his heart. His first drawing was quite crude, but he tried again, and again, and again. And beginning that day, he was to capture for the world the torment, the triumph, and the dignity of the people he had grown to love. If he failed as a minister, he now had a new passion, and new purpose. The people he was not allowed to teach, he was able to touch through art. And through the process he immortalized them and they him because the preacher who wasn’t to be, became the artist the world would know as Vincent Willem Van Gogh. **And that, as Paul Harvey says, “Is the rest of the story.”**

Van Gogh's story of being rejected, reminds me of the people of Israel. As we saw last week, Israel's rejection of Her Messiah, Jesus Christ, resulted in the nations' temporary rejection—they have been set aside by God—and the Gospel has been sent out to and eagerly received by the Gentiles. This shocking turn of events led to **the inevitable question back in 11:1**, “Has God cast away His Jewish people?” He repeated this question in verse 11, “Have they fallen beyond recovery?” Paul responded in both cases with his characteristic **mh\ ge÷noito** “**Absolutely not! or God forbid!**”

Paul went on to explain the reasons God is not finished with Israel. He pointed out first of all that there has always been a remnant according to God's grace (vv. 1-10). God has always kept back a remnant of believers, even in the darkest periods of unbelief and apostasy. He explained secondly, that there are great benefits derived from Israel's unbelief (vv. 11-24). Primarily, salvation has come to the Gentiles, in order to stir Israel to jealousy, which in turn will bring them to repentance and faith in their Messiah. Ironically, their present unbelief guarantees their future faith.

As we saw last week in Romans 11:1-24, Israel's rejection of Her Messiah resulted in God's temporarily setting aside the nation as a whole, but He continues to call out a remnant of Jewish believers according to His gracious choice (11:5). Paul concluded in verse 23, “If the Jews do not continue in their unbelief, they will be grafted back into their own olive tree, for God is able to graft them back into the place of privilege and blessing as His elect people. **There is a sure and certain future for the people of Israel. And that my friends, as Paul Harvey would say, “Is the rest of the story. MOVIE CLIP**

Let's look at the rest of the story concerning Israel's future redemption. Paul presents it to us in **Romans chapter 11, verses 25-36**. This concluding section is divisible into two parts: First, the nation of Israel will be saved (vv. 25-32), and second, God will be praised (vv. 33-36).

I. The Nation Of Israel Will Be Saved (Rom. 11:25-32)

Paul gives us four reasons why all Israel will be saved. The first reason is:

A. God's plan requires it (v. 25) Paul explains God's plan in verse 25,

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in.

Paul informs his readers that he doesn't want them to be uninformed or ignorant of Israel's place in God's global dealing with mankind. He refers to God's plan for Israel as a mystery. In Scripture a mystery is not something mysterious, but a truth previously unrevealed and therefore unknown. One of my professors referred to God's mysteries as "Sacred secrets or truth He had not previously revealed to mankind." In other words, apart from God supernaturally revealing it to us we would have no knowledge of the sacred truth. That's a biblical mystery. God revealed numerous mysteries, truth never before revealed, to the Apostle Paul. Paul explained in Ephesians 3:3 and Colossians 1:26 that by divine revelation there was made known to him the mystery, which has been hidden from past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to Him. The mystery Paul refers to was the Church of Jesus Christ, comprised of believing Jews and Gentiles.

The mystery Paul refers to here in Romans 11:25 is that Israel's rejection, because of hard-hearted unbelief, has two very important characteristics. It is only partial and it is only temporary.

First, it is only a partial hardening that has happened to Israel. As we noted last week, God has always had a righteous remnant of believing Jews, even when the vast majority rejected Him. There was a remnant in Moses' day and Elijah's day, and there was a remnant in Paul's day.

Second, it is only temporary

But there's a second characteristic of Israel's unbelief that is so very, very important. ***Not only is it partial it is also temporary*** (v. 25b)

Don't miss the word "until." Look at the last half of verse 25,

"A partial hardening has happened to Israel ***until*** the fulness of the Gentiles has come in." Part of God's mystery is that *a partial hardening* has happened to Israel ***until*** the fulness of the Gentiles has come in. God is presently "taking from the Gentiles a people for Himself" (Acts 15:14). While a small number of Jews have come into the church by faith in Jesus Christ, which comprise the Jewish remnant, the Church is comprised predominantly of Gentile believers. When the last Gentile believer has trusted Christ as Savior, then God is going to turn again to His ancient Jewish people and thus "All Israel will be saved." God has a future for Israel, verse 26

“Once God has brought the full number of Gentiles into the Church, the universal Body of Jesus Christ, then according to verse 26

26 “Then all Israel will be saved”

The day is coming when Israel will be saved, that is, forgiven and restored to the place of blessing and privilege as the people of God. This restoration will happen to “All Israel.”

The statement, “All Israel will be saved” does not mean that every Jew living at Christ’s return will be regenerated. Many of them will not be saved, as seen by the fact that the judgment of Israel, to follow soon after the Lord Jesus’ return, will include the removal of all Jewish rebels from among His elect (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25:31-46). The prophet Zechariah says 2/3 of the Jews will be cut off and perish; but 1/3 will remain and be brought through the future time of testing = Tribulation period (Zechariah 13:8-9; 14).

Let’s look at a couple of more Scriptures that support this prediction that “All Israel will be saved.”

The Lord Jesus taught this same thing. **Turn over to Luke 21:24**

Jesus taught that following His departure great distress would come upon the land, and wrath to this people. Christ was speaking of the coming invasion, destruction, and deportation of Jews from Jerusalem by Titus and the Romans legions, which took place in A.D. 70. Christ predicted that they, the Jews, would fall by the edge of the sword, and would be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem would be trampled under foot by the Gentiles *until* the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The times of the Gentiles is going to come to an end when the last Gentile believer is added to the Church, and Christ removes His Restrainer, the Holy Spirit indwelling believers, at the Rapture of the Church (2 Thess. 2:1-9); and then seven years later at the end of the Tribulation when Christ returns, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives and He will go forth and fight against the Gentile nations, and deliver Jerusalem from Gentile domination, and the LORD will be king over all the earth in that day” (Zechariah 14), and “All Israel will be saved” (Matt 25:31-46; Rev. 20:4).

The OT prophet Hosea taught the same thing. Turn to **Hosea 3, verses 4-5**

4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince—Israel has been without a king or prince for 2,000; they have gone without sacrifice or sacred pillar—the temple was destroyed; and without ephod or household idols—they have no high priest. **5** But afterwards, **watch now**—Afterward, when the times of the Gentiles conclude and Christ returns in resplendent power and great glory; then the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; a King from the line of David, that’s the Messiah. And they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days. **What an amazing prophecy!**

Even though Israel continues in unbelief and rebellion the day is coming when all Israel shall be saved. God’s plan requires it, and we see secondly, that God’s Word declares it. Paul supports his argument by taking his readers back to the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, specifically Isaiah 59:20-21. Look at Romans 11, verse 26

B. God’s Word declares it (vv. 26-27)

26 Just as it is written,

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION—The Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ, is pictured as coming forth from heavenly Zion, and when He comes He—HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” Jacob being another name for Israel. When Jesus comes again, He is going to bring about the conversion of the Nation of Israel, and remove their sins, verse 27

27 “AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

This is a reference to the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34, where God makes a promise to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah, that in the later days He would re-gather them, and remove their iniquity and remember their sins no more. He goes on to say that He will write His Word upon their hearts, and they all will know Him. This hasn’t happened yet. But the day is coming, perhaps in our lifetime, when we believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and God will turn back to deal with Israel, resulting in “All Israel being saved.” **This my friends will be the rest of the story.**

God will restore all Israel: His plan requires it, His Word declares it, third, His faithfulness demands it (vv. 28-29)

C. God's faithfulness assures it (vv. 28-29)

28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; **29** for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Here Paul summarized God's dealings with Israel and with the Gentiles. In order for God to bring the gospel to Gentiles He had to deal with Israel as enemies. But in relation to God's choice/election of Abraham and His covenant with him, Israel is beloved. Because God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (cf. 9:6-13), He loves the nation and will faithfully fulfill His promises. **For, verse 29**, "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

This is another reason Israel's hardening must be temporary (cf. 11:15, 22-25), and she must finally be saved corporately: God chose her. And God's gifts and His calling are irrevocable. God cannot change. He is immutable. He does not revoke what He has given or whom He has chosen or elected. In the end, All Israel will be saved, because God is faithful to His promises.

His plan requires it, His Word declares it, his faithfulness demands it, fourth, His mercy affirms it (vv. 30-32)

D. God's mercy affirms it (vv. 30-32)

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, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy.

Our God, Paul says, is a merciful God. God's ultimate purpose is to have mercy on all, Jews and Gentiles. As we saw last week, He used the disobedience of the Jews to bring the gospel to Gentiles, and the same mercy He has showed to us Gentiles will someday be extended back to the Jews. When God's mercy to the Gentiles reaches its full number (Rom. 11:25), Israel will again receive mercy by being grafted back into their own olive tree (v. 24)

32 For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. When Adam disobeyed (5:19) all men were constituted sinners because all

humanity sinned in Adam (5:12). **Romans 3:23** “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” As a consequence, God has shut up, literally committed or locked up all men in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. God has committed the entire human race, Jew and Gentile, **to a prison cell called disobedience**. He did this in order to show that all of us are sinners who have broken His Holy Law. And the only way of escaping His judgment and wrath is through His mercy. **Praise God for His mercy.**

As Paul reflects upon God’s mercy and grace, he bursts forth in a marvelous doxology of praise to God in verses 33-36

II. God Will Be praised (11:33-36)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! **34** For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? **35** OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? **36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

As Paul concluded his discussion on the revelation of God pertaining to the present salvation of Gentiles, and the future salvation of all Israel, he burst forth in a doxology of praise to God. He marveled over, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! God’s marvelous plan for the salvation of Jews and Gentiles demonstrates God’s infinite knowledge and His ability to use it wisely. While God has revealed some of His judgments and His ways, so that people may get to know and obey Him, it is humanly impossible to fathom Him or His ways. He is inscrutable (impossible to understand). What-is-more, He is not indebted to any man, for no one has ever first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again. Paul concluded in verse 36 “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.” God is the first Cause, the effective Cause, and the final Cause of everything. “All things” come from Him and by means of Him (John 1:3; Col. 1:16a; Rev. 4:11) and are for Him and His glory (Col. 1:16b). Therefore, God deserves the praise of all His creatures. **To Him be the glory forever! Amen!**

Conclusion: God is not finished with Israel. In fact, the day is coming very soon when He will turn back to deal with the Jews, and All Israel will be saved. **This according to the Apostle Paul is the rest of the story.**

Application: Perhaps you're here this morning, and you have been going through a difficult time this week. I want you to know that God sees and cares about you, and what you may be going through. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. Are you taking Him at His Word this morning? Perhaps you are facing financial problems, or some physical illness. Ask God for wisdom and help. Whatever your particular need this morning, talk to God about it, and trust Him to guide and provide for you. He has promised to meet your every need. You can trust Him. He always keeps His Word.

Closing prayer:

Closing song: Sabbath Blessing