

**Subject: God's Plan for Israel – Part 3**

**Scripture: Romans 11:25-36**

This section of Romans 11 brings us to the grand conclusion of Paul's discussion about God's plan for Israel, especially as it relates to salvation. Everything centers around the glory of God. All that God is and all He does is for His glory. God's work of creation is for His glory.

**Psalms 19:1** *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handy work.*

God's work of salvation is for His glory. Even His work of judgment is for His glory. The Bible speaks of God's glory in two ways. First of all, He has intrinsic glory (character, attributes). Nothing can change that, add to it, or take away from it. A king can be stripped of his crown and his royal robe and look like any other man, but no one can strip God of His glory.

God also has ascribed glory, the glory given to Him by His creatures. All created things were created for His glory (angels, animals, sun, moon, stars, planets, and human beings). Man's greatest purpose is to glorify God. The first question and answer in the Westminster Catechism deals with the glory of God: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

All people are created to glorify God.

**Psalms 29:2** *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

Every created being is made to glorify God.

**Revelation 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

The church exists to glorify God.

**Ephesians 3:21** *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Every believer is to glorify God in all things.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Man's greatest sin is his failure to glorify God. This is the reason for God's wrath on unbelievers.

**Romans 1:18-21** <sup>18</sup> *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;* <sup>19</sup> *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.* <sup>20</sup> *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:* <sup>21</sup> *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Acts 12:21-23** <sup>21</sup> *And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.* <sup>22</sup> *And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.* <sup>23</sup> *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.*

In Romans 9-11, Paul is dealing with God's plan for Israel, and how that plan was designed to bring Him glory. Salvation is not mainly for the good of man; it is mainly for the glory of God.

- Israel's rejection (setting aside) is *partial* (vs. 1-10)
- Israel's rejection is *passing* (vs. 11-24)
- Israel's rejection is *purposeful* (vs. 25-36)

The ultimate purpose of Israel's rejection and salvation is to glorify God.

### **1. The MYSTERY of God's plan (vs. 25-29)**

In the Bible a mystery is a truth hidden that is previously hidden but now made known by God in His appointed time.

**Proverbs 25:2** *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.*

The mystery here is that Israel would be rejected and through their rejection the Gentiles would be saved. The plan of God involved Israel's blindness that led to Gentile blessing. This blindness (hardness) is only partial (not all Jews) and it is only passing (until the fullness of the Gentiles). There is coming a day when all Israel will be saved. God's plan will not fail because His gifts and calling are irrevocable (unchangeable).

### **2. The MERCY of God's plan (vs. 30-32)**

Because the Jews were disobedient and rejected Christ, the Gentiles obtained mercy. Now God will give mercy to the Jews through the Gentiles. The disobedience of both the Jews and the Gentiles gives God opportunity to display His mercy. God is not the author of sin, but through human badness God displays His goodness. If there had been no sin, there could be no mercy in salvation. Through man's failure God makes known His faithfulness.

**Lamentations 3:22** *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

### **3. The MAJESTY of God's plan (vs. 33-36)**

In this final section Paul gives one final word of praise God's infinite wisdom and knowledge in His plan of salvation. God needs no counselor or advisor. He needs no help or resources from anyone. He is the all-sufficient, all-knowing God.

His judgments (from a word meaning to decide or choose a course of action) are beyond our analysis or examination. God makes His own decisions to do what He wants in the way He wants. We can't understand His ways. They are "past finding out" (used of a hunter tracking an animal). We can't see God's footprints. We can't track His ways, but we can trust His wisdom.

**Isaiah 55:7-9**<sup>7</sup> *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*<sup>8</sup> *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*<sup>9</sup> *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Then in verse 36, Paul closes this section with a benediction and blessing unto God.

- God is the source of all things (of Him)
- God is the sustainer of all things (through Him)
- God is the end of all things (to Him)

All glory belongs to God forever because of who He is and what He does.

***Revelation 5:13*** *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

***Revelation 19:1*** *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God.*

Charles Spurgeon said: “Children of God, you have a God in whom you may greatly glory. Having God you have more than all things, for all things come of him; and if all things were blotted out, he could restore all things simply by his will. He speaks and it is done. He commands, and it stands fast. Blessed is the man who has the God of Jacob for his trust, and whose hope is Jehovah.”

Do you know this God? Do you trust Him? Have you repented of your sins and asked God for mercy? Is your main goal in life to glorify Him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.