

34. Learning About the Future Blessing of Israel

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that God said that part of the branches of the olive tree of Israel had been broken off because of their unbelief. We also saw that some branches of a wild olive tree (the Gentiles) has been grafted into that holy root and were allowed to share in the blessings of God. We can thank the Lord for the fact that we have been allowed to share in those blessings. However, that does not mean that God has forgotten His promises to Israel. In our topic today, we will see that Israel can look forward to great future blessings when the entire nation of Israel turns to the Lord.

Romans 11:25-27 says, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’” When we see the word “mystery” in the New Testament, it speaks of something that was not revealed in the Old Testament that is now revealed in the New Testament. Here, we see that God does not want us to be ignorant of the mystery of the reason why Israel received partial spiritual blindness. If we do not understand, we could become wise in our own opinion. Here, we see that we are warned against any pride.

The mystery that God kept hidden in the Old Testament and is now revealed in these verses has two parts. First, we see that Israel experienced partial spiritual blindness. Second, we see that God promises that this partial spiritual blindness will only last for a certain period of time. That partial spiritual blindness will be on many of the Jews until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. The word that is translated “fullness” often refers to salvation. John 1:16-17 says, “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Christ is the One who brought salvation. All who have placed their faith in Christ have received grace and truth through Christ. Here, we see that God has a great number of people from every tribe, tongue and nation that he will save.

However, once that number is complete, we see that God is going to restore the full blessing that He has promised to the Jews. At that time, we see that all Israel will be saved. Psalm 14:7 and Psalm 53:6 both say, “Oh, that the salvation of Israel *would come* out of Zion! When the LORD (God) brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice *and* Israel be glad.” These verses are quoted in Romans 11:26 to remind us that God is going to turn Israel from their sin back to Him. Then, Isaiah 27:9 says, “Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; and this *is* all the fruit of taking away his sin: when he makes all the stones of the altar like chalkstones that are beaten to dust, wooden images and incense altars shall not stand.” Here, we see that God promised through Isaiah that the day would come when God would remember His covenant with Israel and take away their sins because they will turn to Him in faith in that day.

Romans 11:28-31 goes on to say, “Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy

through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.” At the present time, most of the Jews are rejecting Christ. That has given us as Gentiles the opportunity to place our faith in Christ and receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. However, God will not forget His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and He will show His great love by drawing the nation of Israel to Christ in the future.

Paul reminds us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Then, Romans 8:30 says, “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” God called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the past and gave them the gift of salvation. Because the covenant that God made with Abraham is an eternal covenant, God says that after this period of temporary blindness to most of Israel, the time will come when He will call all the people of Israel and give them salvation.

As Gentiles, we were disobedient to God in the past and yet God still chose to show us His mercy and call us to Himself by giving us the gift of salvation. I Peter 2:10 says, “Who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” The fact that Israel chose to live in rebellion against God gave us the opportunity to be called and receive the gift of eternal life. God chose to show His mercy to us. Paul described how God showed mercy to him in 1 Timothy 1:16 where we read, “However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” God wants to show His mercy. Here, God promises us that the day will soon come when He will again show His mercy to the nation of Israel and call them to salvation.

Romans 11:32-33 says, “For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!” Here, we see an example of the greatness of the love and mercy of God. Romans 3:19 said, “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” The law showed that every person is guilty before God. No person could stand before God and defend himself or herself. Here, we see that just as the law concluded that all are guilty before God that God can now make His mercy available to all. Certainly, this shows us the greatness of the mercy and love of God.

In addition, we see that the mercy of God reveals the depth of the riches of both the wisdom and knowledge of God. Ephesians 3:9-11 says, “And to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We see that God has chosen to reveal a little of His wisdom by the purpose that He has accomplished in the church. We also see that His wisdom is infinite. Psalm 147:5 says, “Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite.” We see it is impossible for us to understand the full wisdom and knowledge of God.

We also see the judgments and ways of God are past finding out. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’” We know that there is really no way to compare the height of the heavens with the earth. In the same way, there is no way to understand or compare the ways of God. That is why they are past finding out.

Romans 11:34-36 says, “‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Isaiah 40:13 says, “‘Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *as* His counselor has taught Him?’” We are very limited in our understanding. 1 Corinthians 2:11 says, “‘For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.’” We realize that only the Spirit of God knows the things of God. As a result, that is why we need the Spirit of God to teach us. John 14:26 says, “‘But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.’” Only as the Spirit of God teaches us can we know the things of God.

Job 41:11 says, “‘Who has preceded Me, that I should pay *him*? Everything under heaven is Mine.’” As Paul quoted from this verse in Romans 11, we see that God is before all things. No one has given anything to Him. In speaking of Christ, Paul wrote in Colossians 1:17, “‘And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.’” The Father willed the creation and the Son spoke the creation into existence. At the same time, we see that the Spirit moved upon the face of the waters. As a result, we see that the entire Godhead was involved in the creation. That is why nothing could precede God. That is why God did not have to pay anyone for anything that was created. Instead, we realize that everything belongs to God.

As we have seen in the first eleven chapters of Romans, God has shown the greatness of His love and mercy by making salvation available to all by faith. This includes both Jews and Gentiles. That is why He deserves all of the glory. This is why Romans 11:36 concludes these first eleven chapters by saying, “‘For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.’” We want to help both our physical and our spiritual children understand why God deserves all glory. We want to help them realize that Israel can also look forward to the blessing that God is going to bring to the Jews in the future. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand the great love and mercy that God has shown by making salvation available to all.