

Romans 11

Romans 10 helped us to understand the attitude of Israel through the ages. It is a destructive attitude which should be a crystal clear message to every ensuing generation including and precisely our own! One commentator put it like this: The real explanation for Israelites rejection of the gospel was not a lack of understanding it, it was an obstinate rebellion against God confirmed by Isaiah 65:2 *I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;* If the record on Israel closed on that note of Isaiah 750 BC we might ask: Does that mean God has given up on Israel? Does it mean He has turned His back on the United States as He did with the people who experienced the flood of Noah? As He did with Israel of Isaiah's time? Lets see what the Bible truth answers:

Romans Chapter 11:1-6 *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 *And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.**

Paul uses an example to confirm God's perpetual pledge that reservation of a faithful, righteous remnant would always exist in spite of the moral indignant, rebellious majority. That is a further indication that we are indeed in the season of the Lord's calling Christians out of this earthly environment. For as rapidly as the righteous virtues of the Bible are being rebelled against by the population,- it is inevitable there will be a time when not be one single righteous person would be left on this earth.

2. Science has its own way of characterizing that same inevitable result to all of creation, - it is called **The second law of thermodynamics postulated in 1824. It expresses a fundamental and simple truth about the universe: that disorder, characterized as a quantity known as entropy, always increases until total destruction.** It means all creation will eventually wear out!

Science has documented for the academic skeptics in 1824 what God always knew and put into the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 102:25-27. *Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed.27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.*

And that instruction from 1,000 BC is followed in 750 BC by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 51:6 *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.*

And the icing on the cake comes in Revelation 21:1 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.///* That – is the resulting entropy of the second law of thermodynamics.

The clarity of Paul's message is that humankind without faith righteous instruction and compliance will inevitably and finally result in absolute entropy of the human race and

Romans 11:7 *What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.* Paul patiently continues to write down what he is inspired by the Holy Spirit to teach us: that God is sovereign, always in control, and that faith of the individual results in righteousness which is the purpose and goal of all created persons. And those persons GOD calls "elect" describes anyone and everyone who who accepts and lives for Jesus. And Paul uses a particular description for the

3. people who deny and rebel against their Sovereign God - look at: Romans 11:8-10 *Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day."*⁹ *And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always."*

What at first sounds confusing is made plain with the simple phrase: what man initiates God accentuates. In other words, if mankind deliberately rebels or through skepticism against the sovereign God of creation, HE will let them go to perdition, the consequence of their life choices and lifestyle.

Be reminded that God exercised His Sovereignty in the beginning by speaking directly to people, later He gave the people the law and the prophets, and finally he gave the people Jesus! And now Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Please think about this: Before creation there was only God – no need for what we think of as laws of the universe. Those laws now in place, are only for the duration of this creation. In heaven if there are any laws they will be different than these. The lesson for us is that God makes the laws and our opinion has no bearing on those laws. Our opinion only has a bearing on where we will spend eternity.

But even with the obstinate rebellion of the Jews, God extended grace and mercy to the gentiles as well: Romans 11:11 *I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.* God has provided the resource of salvation to everyone who breathes on earth to repent and return to the congregation of Jesus. But even in the rebellion of the Jewish nation--- God uses such an unlikely circumstance for His divine salvation gospel to be spread to all mankind. Look at Romans 11:12 *Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!* The rebellion of the Jews made way for the riches of the promises of salvation to be laid in the lap of we gentiles! Open the eyes & ears of your mind and motivation for life my

4. fellow gentiles and listen to Romans 11:13-15 *For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?* Paul declares His authority to write such intense theology by acknowledging what God put him through in his unique life experiences to become THE APOSTLE to the gentiles. An apostle is a teacher, model leader for every reader and hearer of his instruction.

Still in respect of the Jewish heritage and the addition of the gentiles to kingdom service, look at Romans 11:16-18 *For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.* The choice of God of the Jewish nation at the time of Moses put them in the unique position of having the very presence of God as the cornerstone of their faith. Paul describes we gentiles as being like a wild olive branch grafted into the tree representing the Jewish nation so we gentiles could partake of the life giving sustenance of the root system of God which is the revelation of righteous spiritual productive living.

Romans 11:19-21 *You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.///* We gentiles are warned not to become proud of our in-grafted position, or else!!! Romans 11:22 *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*

5. May we learn the lesson of the Jews and take to heart an action in our own lives; Romans 11:23-25 *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 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.* Those Jews whose branch was removed can be re-grafted, and hopefully at least in part as a result of them seeing the in-grafting of the gentiles.

The passion for being what a Christian is all about is prophesied by Paul. Our passion is that all persons would accept Jesus as savior and sovereign Lord of our eternal spirit and soul. Rejoice with me in hearing this prophetic promise: Romans 11:26-35 *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; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. 33 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! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"*

We gentiles of today profit from the examination of this 11th chapter to be encouraged to be strengthened in our Christian faith and inspired living. It is a wonderful reminder

6. that our God is in control, always has been, and always be in control and the final truth authority.

For us as individuals it starts by hearing the word like the 10 Commandments of the Old Testament and studying their New Testament counterparts for our own life choices. God loves you unconditionally and will guide and encourage you constantly. He will not force Himself on you Romans 11:**36** *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

If you grasp these fervent words of Paul, then – very frankly you are called by GOD -- and you will be nurtured to experience the words of Jesus: John 10:10b *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it abundantly.*

If you have been encouraged by the Holy Spirit today, then by all means encourage others this week which is just a practical application, and daily acceptance of abundant living.

Scriptures:

Isaiah 65:2

Romans 11:1-6

Psalms 102:25-27

Isaiah 51:6

Revelation 21:1

Romans 11:7

Romans 11:8-10

Acts 4:12

Romans 11:11

Romans 11:12

Romans 11:13-15

Romans 11:16-18

Romans 11:19-21

Romans 11:22

Romans 11:23-25

Romans 11:26-35

Romans 11:36

John 10:10b *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it abundantly.*

~~*(I know that is the same as last week....)*~~