

The Stunning Display of God's Mercy

Romans 11:1-16

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Big Idea: Understand God's mercy is magnified through the salvation of the nations.

Isaiah 55:8–9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- God's plan of redemptive history is to magnify His mercy, to accentuate the wonder of His glorious grace, so that it moves us to awe, wonder, and worship of Him our merciful Father.
- **Has God's Word failed (9:6)?**
6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,
- **Has God rejected His people (11:1)?**
1 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

Three reasons why God has not rejected his people:

- (1) God's rejection of Israel is partial rather than total (11:1-10).
- (2) Israel's rejection of Christ actually serves a merciful purpose (11:11-24).
- (3) Israel's rejection of Christ is only temporary (11:25-36).

ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF CHRIST ACTUALLY SERVES A MERCIFUL PURPOSE (11:11-24).

Chain of events:

- > Israel's transgression
- > Gentile salvation
 - > Israel's jealousy/salvation
 - > Gentile blessing

1. Through the trespass of Israel, salvation has come to the Gentiles (11:11-12).

Again we see the extraordinary and marvelous way in which the hand of Providence works in history. This text should scream at us that God is sovereign over history. God is able to bring good out of evil, and he uses his power and sovereignty to bring about redemption. – R. C. Sproul

> The book of Acts reveals that this happened (Acts 13:44-52; 14:1-7; 18:4-8; 19:8-10; 28:22-31).

2. Through the salvation of the Gentiles, Israel will be provoked to jealousy (vv. 11b, 13-14).

> Israel's jealousy is a productive not destructive jealousy (v. 11c, 14).

Deuteronomy 32:21 They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

> Paul's role in salvation history (vv. 13-14)

Colossians 1:24–29 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

3. Through the inclusion of Israel, great blessings will come to all (v. 15).

> Israel's rejection brings reconciliation to all humanity (v. 15a).

Romans 5:11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

> The resurrection from the dead will occur when Christ returns (v. 15b).

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.