

Salt Church

Romans 11:25-36

“All Glory to Him Forever!”

March 22, 2026

The Greatest Book Ever Written

David and Cindy (June 6-14)

Recap:

Romans 11:24

*²⁴ You, by nature, were a branch cut from a **wild olive tree**. So, if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the **original branches** back into the tree where they belong.*

God's Mercy Is for Everyone.

- We learned a lot about Gods sovereignty last week.
 - We learned that God knew the rebellion of His people (the Jews) was going to happen.
 - We also learned that He had a plan to bring the gospel to the whole world.
 - In that plan the Jewish people were supposed to proclaim Gods goodness to the whole world in hopes that some would be saved.
 - But things got out of control, as God blessed His people **they fell in love with the blessing** and not the one who was blessing.

- The result of **Israels rebellion led God to pour out His grace and mercy upon the Gentiles** while temporarily closing the door on the Jewish people.
 - **Keep in mind that God has not completely closed the door on the Jewish people**, but he has opened it slightly so that He has kept a remnant of Jewish believers for Himself that will be used throughout time.
- **In the end**, we learned that the story for mankind comes to a close when God draws the Jewish people back to Himself for His glory and their joy.

Now for todays text:

Romans 11:25-36

²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves.

- I was reminded why a lot of pastors do not teach the book of Romans verse by verse. (*I put it off for years*)
 - ***We have covered so many difficult things.***
 - God's sovereignty in salvation, sickness, health, life and death.
 - Now, Paul adds understanding to a mystery concerning the Jewish people.
 - This mystery is a hot topic for some.

Through the years I have had people leave this church and others that I have pastored over this mystery.

- **I stand firmly on the word of God**, and I am aware of what Hebrews 13 says, ***“I will give an account for the souls that God has entrusted to me.”***
 - I take that very seriously.
 - What am I talking about?
- **I have had one incident that caught me off guard.**
 - It was a Wednesday night in this church.
 - We had a family of four visit.
 - I don’t remember what I taught that night, but I must have pointed to the nation of Israel (the Jews) as Gods chosen people.
 - I must have referred to the covenant promises of God to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as not being fulfilled yet and that God would on day fulfill those promises.
 - When the service was over the daddy of this family waited to speak to me.
 - When he got his chance, he thanked me for the warm welcome and the food.
 - Then he turned red and with fire in his eyes he said that he and his family would never come back to this church!
 - When I asked him what had made him so upset he said, ***“we are not Zionist!”*** and he walked out the door.
 - **A Zionist (defined) is a person who** supports the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and the existence of a Jewish

state, known as Israel, in their ancestral homeland.

Why do I bring this up?

- Because God the Father is a Zionist.
 - Romans 11 is all of the proof you need but if you need more just read the Old Testament and add in Revelation for good measure.
 - There is no way around the covenant promises of God.
 - This is the mystery that Paul is speaking of in verse 25.

²⁵I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves.

- We must keep in mind that **it was Jewish pride that led God separate from them for a season.**
 - **Pride always goes before destruction**

Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ.

- God has hardened the hearts of the Jews according to His purposes.
- Part of that purpose is the salvation of the non-Jews “Gentiles”
 - **Don’t miss that there is a number** and when that number is fulfilled that’s when the whole world will change for Gods plan and attention when once again focus on the Jews.

We continue

²⁶And so all Israel will be saved.

- Those seven words have created pages and pages of commentary.

- “All Israel will be saved?”
 - The whole nation?
 - How?

Many of you already know the answer as we have already worked our way through Revelation.

- Paul anticipates the question and quotes the Old Testament in his response:

As the Scriptures say,

“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.

- “The one who rescues” talking about Jesus or as the Jews would say Messiah. (Jesus Christ = Jesus Messiah)
 - Jesus is the rescuer from Jerusalem

What will Jerusalem and Israel need to be rescued from?

- **And how did Paul know?**

Zachariah 14

14 A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls.

²I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; (including America) the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the

city. ³ Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. ⁵ You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

In order for the Jews to be willing to accept Jesus as their Messiah they must be put in a place where there is no hope.

- A place where only pain and suffering can take them.
- A place where only God can save them.
 - This is why “all nations” we come against them
- There will be death and destruction on that day
 - and many Jews will lose their lives.
- But when the time is right, according to Gods sovereign plan,
 - Jesus will return with His holy ones.
 - ***Here is the exciting part!***
 - Who are the holy one’s class?
 - **The redeemed**, those who had died and gone to Heaven prior to this moment.
 - Those that were raptured before the time of tribulation began.
 - We will be part of the holy ones that return with Jesus.

The New Testament confirms Zachariah's prophecy for it says in Acts 1:10-12 (Jesus' ascent)

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." ¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

So, you see that both the Old and New Testaments agree that Jesus will return to Jerusalem, and He will establish His millennial Kingdom so He can fulfill all the covenant promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Look at verse 27

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins."

- This is not hard to understand for if you thought that the entire world was against you...
 - ...and Jesus came from Heaven with a Holy army and rescued you
 - Not to mention God's promise to pour out His grace and mercy upon you.
 - The Jewish people will be primed and ready to receive Jesus.

(Side note)

- In order for their sins to be forgiven and taken away there are a couple of things that must occur.
 - Belief in the heart
 - Confession with the mouth
 - Repentance (turn away from sin)
 - The same way we became Christ followers

So, when we read that God has made an everlasting covenant to (one day take away the sins of Israel) lets create space for what that means.

- It means that all of what remains of Israel will find Jesus irresistible.
 - This is how it works for every child of God.
 - We were awakened to our sinful and destructive state.
 - Jesus presented Himself as our only hope.
 - We found Him and His offer of grace irresistible
 - We received it within the boundaries of our free will.
 - This is what theologians call “irresistible grace”

Some try to argue that we can completely resist God even if He chooses us.

- If that were possible that would put man in a position of being more powerful than God.
 - **Why would I bring this up?**
 - **Because God is sovereign.**
 - Meaning, when He says that He is going to save all of Israel, that is exactly what is going to happen.

But Pastor,

- Doesn't that violate my free will?
 - No

Paul's conversion serves as our prime example

- Paul resisted Jesus and was converted without his freewill being violated.
- Paul hated Jesus
- He hated the Christian church.
- **He incited a mob to murder Stephen** for his testimony about Jesus.
- He hunted down Christian men and women and threw them in jail for their faith.
- He had them beaten for their testimonies.
 - Then one day while he was traveling to a place called Damascus
Jesus stepped in...
 - He blinded Paul with His glory
 - He called His name and asked Paul why he was persecuting Him.
 - ***(I love the fact that Jesus made it personal)***
 - Now Paul knew that he had offended the Lord but he wasn't sure who he was talking to, so he asked.
 - Acts 9 ***“5 “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. “Jesus responded, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”***

- From that point forward, Paul was a believer.
 - He confessed
 - He repented
 - He served for the rest of his life.
 - God took him as His own
 - Paul received Jesus without his freewill being violated.
 - God be praised!

Back to Romans 11

- Paul reminds us that there is a long road that must be traveled before we get to the place where all the Jews are saved.

²⁸ Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you, Gentiles.

- Many of the people of Israel are enemies of the Gospel.
 - ***What does that mean?***
 - It means they have rejected the message of the Holy Spirit which is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 - ***Which is the only unforgivable sin.***
 - This is the world that we live in currently.
 - (side note) all who are not Christian are enemies of God according to God.

Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- It is very important to remember God knew this was going to happen when He made the covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- And His love for the Jews is not motivated by what they do but rather for ***the glory of His great name.***
- This is why He will keep His covenant promises with Israel,
 - His glory and great name are at stake.

²⁹ For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

• ***AMEN!!!!***

- There are some that teach and believe that the church has replaced the Jews as Gods chosen people. (**Replacement theology**)
- As a result, they teach that the Jews have been discarded and all the promises have been transferred to the church.
- But what does the Bible say?
 - ***²⁹ For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.***

• ***God will keep His covenant promises because His great name is at stake.***

(side note)

- **If you do not believe** that God has a very specific plan and purpose for His chosen people, the Jews I ask you these questions:
 - **Why do they still exist?**
 - What other people group has been able to remain a people group even though they were thrown out of their homeland almost 1900 years?
 - **How do you explain the supernatural protection** over this tiny nation that is only four times the size of Baldwin County?

- We must remember they took on three major countries in the 60's and won the battle. (Only God can do that)
- **Why do you think Hitler** wanted to completely rid the earth of the Jewish people?
 - Clearly, he was possessed by Satan as Satan wants them gone so that **the covenant promises of God would not be fulfilled therefore making God a liar.**
- **Why do you think this tiny nation called Israel** is at the heart of every major conflict in the middle east and the world.
 - ***Satan knows the answer.***
 - How sad is it when Satan knows the truth and Gods people do not.

[Back to Romans 11](#)

30 Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead.

- Again, we stand in amazement at how God works
- This is not how we would have done it.
 - **The rebels** would have been destroyed
 - **Israel would have been destroyed**
 - **But God shows mercy to both groups.**

31 Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy.

- The table has been turned.
- God has it all under control!

- And God is the giver of **His grace and mercy** as He sees fit.
 - And He does it without any outside influence.

32 For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.

- This could be read, “**God is the cause of disobedience**” **but that would be incorrect.**
 - God has simply imprisoned the disobedient.
 - This would be like blaming the police for crime
 - for if there were no laws then there would be no law breakers and therefore no need for police or prison.

God allows us to continue in disobedience so that He can do two things:

- **1st He can put on display His judicial side**, meaning He clearly points out and punishes sin.
- **2nd He can show mercy through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ.**
 - ***Both work together***
 - God’s justice is satisfied because Jesus was punished for our crimes against God. (sin)
 - God’s love is satisfied without any outside influence.
 - Therefore grace, mercy, and love can be poured out upon any sinner of **His choosing**.

33 Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge!

- Amen!
 - His ways are indeed higher than ours!

How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

- **We know this to be true,**
 - We may not understand it fully, but we must accept what God is doing and how He is doing it.
 - This doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to understand God.
 - It means that we must understand our limitations of our understanding.
 - ***This is very difficult for those with very high IQ's.***

Paul continues:

34 For who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

35 And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

- Paul is quoting both Isaiah 40 and Job 41 in verses 34 and 35.
- Two men that were very acquainted with God, suffering, and His grace.
 - Two men who loved God with all their hearts, souls, and minds.
 - Two men who did not always understand.
 - Two men who were faithful even though they suffered.
 - Two men who are celebrating in Heaven right now as we speak.

34 For who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

35 And who has given him so much

that he needs to pay it back?

36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

The world may seem like it is out of control

- It may seem that darkness is taking over
- But let me encourage you by saying:
 - God is not asleep
 - God is not helpless
 - God has perfect timing
 - How do I know?

Colossians 1 reminds of this truth every time I read it:

Colossians 1:15-22

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him

to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation, if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

- **God's promises are eternal**
- **He is never caught off guard**
- **He is sovereign over all things**
- **There is a plan that will be executed perfectly**

Amen!