

## 1. Review:

- Paul presumed there were questions in the first century church in Rome about why it seemed God had set aside the people of Israel and was working primarily through Gentile people instead. The Church was being populated with mainly Gentiles. Had God abandoned the people of Israel in favor of the Gentiles? Paul addressed that confusion in Romans 9-11.
- In the first part of Romans 11, Paul explained that God set Israel aside for a time, but He wasn't done with them yet. They still have a future place and a purpose in God's overall plan with humanity.
- Today, we'll look at the conclusion of Paul's explanation regarding this mystery of God's workings and dealings with the people of Israel and with the Gentiles. Paul will declare that God has awesome plans; and in those plans, He desires to show mercy on everyone, both Jews and Gentiles.

## 2. Text: Romans 11:25-36

### Romans 11:25-27

- The people of Israel, as a whole, will be **saved** (they'll finally believe in Jesus) after the full number of **Gentiles** comes to Christ.
  - **Zechariah 12:10** "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died."
  - **Revelation 7:4** - "And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel:"

### Romans 11:28-29

- God's **love** and **call** for the people of Israel still endures and can never be withdrawn.

### Romans 11:30-32

- God's deep desire is to show His **mercy** to everyone, both Jews and Gentiles.

**Romans 11:33-36**

- Paul praises God for His **matchless** and **measureless** wisdom, knowledge and ways!

**3. Application**

- According to Paul's prophesy, we Gentile believers are "on the clock" for such a time as this in human history. God has chosen to work with us and through us at this time to be his representatives and ambassadors on earth. Are we busy doing His work or are we doing our own thing?
- Paul praised God for his awesome plans even though they were a mystery. There are mysteries in our lives too. Hang in there. Endure. We sometimes don't know what He's doing, but we know that He wants to show us His mercy, and He's up to something good.
  - **Isaiah 55:8-9:**  
"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."