

Romans 11:11-36 “Restoration” Part 2

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Thesis: God’s plan to restore the Jews shall be accomplished. Since God’s plan and promises to Israel are sure you can be encouraged about the certainty of His promises to the Church. As you apprehend and appreciate God’s plan for restoration you’ll want to praise God and participate in His plan.

Subject: God’s plan for restoration

Object: Praise God and participate in His restoration

1. God’s plan for the Church [11-22]

The Church is blessed by God to provoke the Jews to faith in Christ [11-14]

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. ¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ¹³ 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.

The Jews stumbled at Jesus as their Messiah [11, 9:32-33], but their stumbling will not be a total fall [11]. God’s promises to the Jews are postponed not voided [11]. As a result of the Jews stumbling, the Church (primarily Gentiles) is blessed by God to provoke the Jews to come to God through Christ [11]. Paul wants God to bless

Gentile Christians to stir Jews to jealousy to provoke them to be saved [13-15]. Twice in verses 11 and 14, Paul reveals God's plan to use the Church, primarily non-Jews, to provoke the Jews to jealousy.

How might Jesus' followers provoke unbelievers to jealousy?

The Church owes a debt to the Jews [15-18]

¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ 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 present restoration of Gentiles is likened to an olive tree where the Gentiles are the branch grafted into the root of the tree which is the Jews [17]. The Jews are likened to firstfruits which are set apart to God as a symbol that what follows will also be set-apart to God [15-16, Num. 15:17-21].

The Church should not boast against the Jews since there is no Christianity without Judaism [18]. The early Church was limited to Jews, and Gentiles who converted to Judaism. It wasn't until Acts 10 when the Church leaders understood that Jews and Gentiles were all made right with God through faith in Christ, rather than ritual.

The Church is encouraged to continue in the faith [19-22]

¹⁹ 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. 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.

The Church is warned to avoid being proud of being chosen by God [19-20]. Paul reminds the Church that God’s promises to the Jews are postponed because of unbelief, and the Church is blessed because of their belief or faith in Jesus as the Christ. Thus, rather than being proud the Church should revere God [20], and continue in their commitment to Christ [21-22]

2. God’s plan for the Jews [23-32]

The Jews will be restored when they come to faith in Christ [23-24]

²³ 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?

Since God is able to bring Gentiles into His Kingdom, who were previously outside of a covenant relationship with God, it won’t be difficult to restore the Jews, His Covenant People, when they come to faith in Christ.

The Jews will be restored after the fullness of the Gentiles [25]

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.

God wants His people to understand *this mystery* [25]. A *mystery* refers to a biblical truth that is shrouded in the Old Testament and clearly revealed in the New. The Church should not *be wise in your own opinion*, or ignorant of God's plan to restore the Jews, which would produce pride.

The blindness of the majority of Jews is temporary, *until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*. The Church has a finite number from God's perspective. God knows the Gentile who will come to faith and complete the Church. The Church age exists from the birth of the Church at Pentecost [Acts 2], until the fullness of the Gentiles. Once the Church is full it shall be "raptured" [1Th. 4:13-18] or taken up to meet Christ. There is a separate, but related term, "Times of the Gentiles" [Lu.21:24]. Gentiles exercised control over Jerusalem from Babylon, Persia, Greeks, Romans, Islam, Turks, and Arabs until Jews were restored to control of Jerusalem in 1967. Israel's return to the land as a nation state in 1948 is significant for biblical prophecy [Matt. 24:32], and so is control of Jerusalem by the Jews. These events are signals of the Lord's return.

The Jews will be restored as a group [26-29]

²⁶ 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.

*All Israel [26] refers to Jews as a people group shall be saved. Paul quotes Is. 59:20 that *The Deliverer* referring to the Messiah, will come *out of Zion* referring to Jerusalem [26]. *He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [26]* is the idea that the Jews will be yielded to Jesus as their Messiah. *For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins [27]*, refers to God's promise to the Jews (and all people) of a New Covenant where God would take away their sins [Jer. 31:34]. God's promise to *the fathers* or the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob continues to a beloved chosen people the Jews [28-29, Gen. 17:4-8]. God's calling of the Jews is irrevocable and shall not be voided or reversed [29].*

The Jews will be restored at the end of the Great Tribulation [Matt. 23:39, 24:21-31]

We believe that the Church will be raptured prior to the Great Tribulation (Pre-Trib Rapture) for a host of reasons including: the declaration that the Church is not appointed to God's judgment [1Th. 1:10, 5:1-9], and the Church in God's presence before the Great Tribulation in Revelation [Rev. 4-5]. On the other hand, the Jews are preserved but reduced through the Great Tribulation, and are present on earth as God's judgments unfold [Cf. Dan. 3]. It is at the end of the Great Tribulation that the Jews ultimately cry out for their Deliverer en masse and discover that it is in fact Jesus [Zech. 12-13]. Jesus returns, rescues, receives the repentant Jews, and restores. The Kingdom Age is ushered in and the world is blessed [12].

3. God's plan and restoration are praised [30-36]

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?” ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Praise God for His mercy and desire for all to repent and be restored.

Gentiles who previously had no relationship with God, became the recipients of God's mercy following the Jews' rejection of Jesus. Nevertheless, the mercy to Gentiles will stir the Jews to jealousy to receive restoration by God's grace and mercy [30-32]. Four times we see “mercy” reminding us that God's salvation and restoration through Christ are an undeserved gift. God's ways are beyond man's wisdom [33-35, Is. 55:8-9]. The paradox of God's sovereignty and man's choice is difficult to understand, but the plan and the restoration are worthy of praise to God, *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen* [36].

Q1. Talk about New Year's resolutions. Did you make any? Why or why not? How's it going?

Q2. How might Jesus' followers provoke unbelievers to jealousy?

Q3. What questions do you have about God's plan for restoration?

Q4. How would you like to apply this lesson to your life in this year?

Digging Deeper

1. Here is an interesting article regarding "The Times of the Gentiles" <https://www.gotquestions.org/times-of-the-Gentiles.html>

2. Here is a detailed and very helpful article: 6 reasons why Replacement Theology is false, and the Church has not replaced the nation of Israel in God's plan: <https://mysouthland.com/Resources/Theology/6%20reasons%20Replacement%20Theology%20is%20false%20-%20the%20Church%20has%20not%20replaced%20the%20nation%20of%20Israel.pdf>