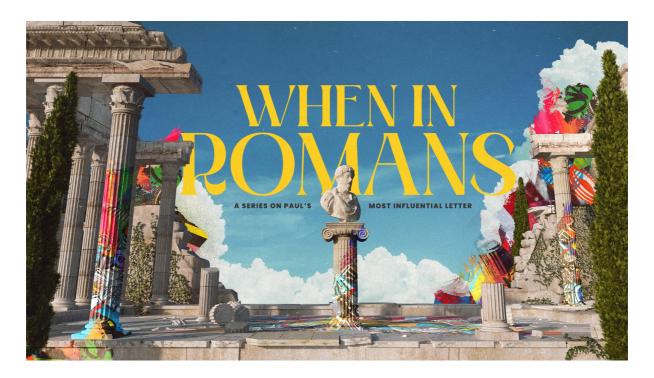
When In Romans

Plot Twist: God's Plan

Never Fails

Pastor Jeff Atherton



God's PROMISES don't fail

Important Note:

These are just key parts of the text we're focusing on today. Plan to go back this week and read through all of Romans 9–11 on your own—it's deep, but it's worth it!

Romans 9:1-8 NLT

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness... My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters... They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children... But not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people... Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children.

God's <u>FAITHFULNESS</u> is not the <u>PROBLEM</u>... it's usually my <u>PERSPECTIVE</u> that's needs <u>CORRECTION</u>

God is **SOVREIGN**

Romans 9:14-21 NLT

Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose..." So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen... Does not the potter have power over the clay?

God's <u>JUSTICE</u> doesn't have to meet my <u>STANDARDS</u>

God's <u>MERCY</u> moves <u>FIRST</u>

Romans 9:30-33, 10:9-13 NLT

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

We don't find God—He <u>FINDS</u> us and <u>DRAWS</u> us in by <u>GRACE</u>

God still has a PLAN

Romans 11:1-6, 25-29 NLT

I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite... No, God has not rejected his own people... Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved...

God's **DELAY** is not **DENIAL**

His plan is <u>BIGGER</u> than we can <u>IMAGINE</u>

Romans 11:33-36 NLT

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

You're not just IN His HANDS - you're PART of His plan

TALK ABOUT IT

- 1. What Part of the survey of Romans 9-11 stood out to you?
- 2. Is there something you saw in Romans 9–11 that seems difficult or challenging?
- 3. Why do you think Paul seemed sad for Israel in chapter 9?
- 4. How does Romans 10:13 speak to both God's justice and grace?
- 5. Have you ever seen God's plan work out in a way you didn't expect?
- 6. What's one area where you need to trust God's sovereignty this week?

GOING DEEPER: Bible Study for the Week

Reading: *Romans 9-11*

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 11:33

KEY WORD STUDIES:

Election (eklogē) – divine choosing for a purpose **Mercy** (eleos) – compassion extended to the undeserving **Remnant** (leimma) – a faithful portion preserved **Graft** (egkentrizō) – to insert something foreign into a root system **Doxology** – a declaration of praise in light of God's greatness

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1. How does Paul's sorrow over Israel help us understand God's heart?
- 2. What does it mean that God "hardens" hearts?
- 3. How do Romans 10:9–13 and 11:29 affirm the consistency of God's promises?
- 4. Where in your life is God inviting you to trade control for worship?
- 5. How can Romans 11:36 reshape the way you see your daily life?

PRAYER FOCUS

Thank God for His mercy and sovereignty. Ask Him to help you trust

His plan, even when you can't see the full picture. Pray for people in your life who don't yet know Jesus—Jew or Gentile—to experience the power of the gospel.

REMEMBER:

The gospel is the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ... That he died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the 3rd day to defeat sin and death!

Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something - GO BE THE CHURCH!

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