**Lesson 31: God’s Plan to Save Israel**

Text: Romans 11:25-36

**Introduction**

The family tree of those saved by grace includes Jews and Gentiles of every age. Thus, Paul rebuked the pride of the Gentiles because grace eliminates boasting. There is hope for individual Jews to be saved. It is obvious that they can be grafted back into their own olive tree (11:24). God has also promised to save the nation of Israel. God’s faithfulness to Israel can be traced from the call of Abraham to the final pages of the book of Revelation. In this final section of Romans 11, we will see God’s plan to save Israel.

1. **Spiritual blindness persists in Israel until the time of the Gentiles has been fulfilled. (v. 25)** 
   1. The “for” connects this verse to the previous verses. It explains why the natural branches (the people of Israel) will be grafted into the tree.
      1. Israel’s stumbling is one of the mysteries of the Bible. “In Scripture a mystery is not a truth difficult to understand, but a truth previously unrevealed (and therefore unknown) which is now revealed and publicly proclaimed.” (John Witmer)
      2. Paul explained the end time events related to Israel lest the Gentile believers should remain wise in their own conceits. This is Paul’s main concern in this section. He did not want the Gentiles to think that God was finished with Israel. The Jews are experiencing spiritual blindness due to the hardness of their own hearts. This blindness is “in part.” It is a partial and temporary blindness (callousness, hardening).
   2. The focus has shifted back and forth between the Jews and Gentiles in salvation history.
      1. While there were numerous Gentiles saved prior to Christ’s coming, the Old Testament is focused primarily on the Jews. The time period from Abraham to Christ is characterized as a time when the Gentiles were hardened against God and the Jews made up the majority of the people of God.
      2. The opposite is true in the New Testament. Over time, the Jews hardened themselves against God. They repeatedly turned to idolatry and rejected the prophets sent to them. Thus, the majority saved in the New Testament were Gentiles. The Jews were hardened toward their own Messiah and remain in that state today.
      3. The time is coming when the focus will shift back to the Jews. The nation will once again have a central role in God’s plan. It could be soon! More and more Gentiles are hardening themselves against God. It could be that the fullness of the Gentiles is coming to a close and the time of Israel’s salvation is at hand (Luke 21:24). Jesus will literally reign in Jerusalem!
2. **The Gentile believers should not boast against the Jews because Israel will be saved. (v. 26a)**
   1. There is question as to the extent of Paul’s revelation regarding the salvation of the Jews. Does he mean every Jew alive at the time will be saved or is this a reference to the nation as a whole? While it could be that every Jew could be saved, Paul’s focus in the immediate context is on the nation as a whole.
      1. Douglas Moo illustrates it in this way, “The whole school turned out to see the football game.” This does not necessarily indicate that every student was at the game, but that they had a great representation.
      2. Paul indicates that there will be a significant number of Jews saved in the end times. The focus is back on Israel and their reception of Jesus as their Messiah.
   2. How will they be saved? Salvation has consistently been by grace through faith. It has also been a voluntary choice on man’s part. This will not change regarding the salvation when “all Israel shall be saved.” The Jews will only be grafted in if they will believe.
3. **Paul provided evidence that Israel will be saved. (v. 26b-32)**
   1. The fact of their future salvation is supported by Scripture. (v. 26b-27)
      1. Their Deliverer will come from Zion. (v. 26b; Isaiah 59:20-21; 27:9)
      2. God will establish the New Covenant with them. (v. 27; Jeremiah 31:33-34)
   2. God will be faithful to His promises to Israel. (v. 28-29)
      1. In verses 28-29, Paul summarized God’s dealings with Israel and the Gentiles. It serves as a summary to the letter to the Romans to this point.
      2. Even though they oppose the gospel, the time is coming when they will believe. (v. 28)
      3. God’s call concerning Israel is irrevocable. (v. 29) He called them to be the people through whom He would send His Son. He will be faithful to preserve the nation as a whole.
   3. The future salvation of Israel is consistent with God’s desire to save. (v. 30-32)
      1. It should come as no surprise that God is willing to save to the very end. He is merciful!
      2. The Jews and Gentiles are more similar than they like to acknowledge. The Gentiles were disobedient, but God showed them mercy (v. 30). The Jews have a history of disobedience, but God has showed them mercy (v. 31).
      3. Despite their heritage and efforts to keep the law, God has concluded them in unbelief so that they might understand their need of salvation. (v. 32)
      4. This echoes that all have sinned and must call upon the Lord to be saved. (Romans 3:23, 10:9-13).
4. **The revelation of God’s grace to Jews and Gentiles alike caused Paul to burst into praise! (v. 33-36)** 
   1. The depth of God’s wisdom and knowledge is beyond our comprehension. (v. 33)
   2. He is the sole designer of the plan (v. 34; Isaiah 40:13).
   3. He doesn’t owe man anything, but man owes God everything! (v. 35; Job 41:11)
   4. Since we have our existence due to God, He ought to receive all the glory throughout eternity. (v. 36)
5. **Central Idea: Israel will be saved because God is faithful to keep His promises and to save those who come by faith.**
6. **Application: We can lead the lost to salvation because God is faithful to keep His promises and to save those who will come by faith.** 
   1. We are living in the time of evangelism and church planting. We should make the most of it by boldly proclaiming the gospel. (Romans 1:16)
   2. Don’t give up on those who are currently hardened against God. You never know when they might open their heart to receive Christ.
   3. Praise God for His plan of salvation! We have been made part of the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:26)

**Conclusion**

Israel will be saved! Regardless of the current state of events, God is still in control. He will work out His plan! The doctrine of God’s plan of salvation not only provides forgiveness for past sins and secures a glorious future, it is also designed to impact our lives on a daily basis. Paul applies the truth of justification by faith to the lives of believers. In the coming lessons, we will take the truths we have learned from the first eleven chapters and apply them to our daily living.