

Exegetical Notes - Romans 11:25-32

“All Israel and the Full Number of Gentiles”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Romans 11:25-32

(In Romans 11, Paul is answering the question, “Did God reject Israel?” In Romans 11:1 he answers that question with an emphatic “NO.” God has not rejected Israel. He then explains that God will call a faithful remnant from among Israel that will profess with their lips that Jesus is the Messiah and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. He then moved to his second point; that Israel’s refusal to accept Christ as Savior opened the door of salvation to the non-Jewish world. Next, he proceeded to warn non-Jews not to rejoice in Israel’s fall from favor. Paul admonished non-Jews to consider God’s kindness and His sternness. In today’s text, Paul reaches his conclusion; all Israel and the full number of the Gentiles will be saved.)

Verses 25-27

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,²⁶ and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written:

***“The deliverer will come from Zion;
he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.***

***²⁷ And this is my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”***

- Paul is writing to non-Jewish Christians. He wants them to understand the mystery in God’s plan concerning the salvation of the Jews and non-Jews. The word “mysterion” used here does not mean that which cannot be understood but rather that which IS understood by those who will understand. The great mystery of God’s plan for the world’s salvation is understandable and is explained in the Bible.

- When the plan is understood it humbles people. God sent his only begotten Son to die so that we might be saved (John 3:16). Salvation is a gift given to all who confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9). This gift is received by faith and not by works (Romans 3:21-31). God's action on our behalf is underserved and humbles us.
- The plan of God for the salvation of the world calls for the Jews to refuse/reject the plan of God for the world's salvation until "the full number of the Gentiles" has been saved. When all of the non-Jews who are among "the elect" have responded to the call of God to accept Jesus, the "hardening" on Israel will be lifted. When that occurs, the eyes of the elect among the Jews will be open to the truth. They will confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. Those among the Jews who believe in Jesus are the faithful remnant which God has called. They are the true Israel. They are "All" Israel. Just as the "full number of Gentiles" does not include every non-Jew but only those who confess and believe, so "all Israel" does not include all Jews who ever lived. Both numbers include only those who confess and believe in accord with Romans 10:9.
- Paul then paraphrases Hebrew Scripture. He is quoting from memory and there does not seem to be one verse from the Old Testament in his mind. The closest verse seems to be Isaiah 59:20-21. It is certain that the "deliverer who comes from Zion (Zion is Israel)" is Jesus and that Jesus offers a new covenant to Jews and non-Jews by which both are saved.

Verses 28-32

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

- The Jews became enemies of the Gospel. They refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Their refusal to believe opened the door of salvation to non-Jews.

- However, God had chosen the nation of Israel to play a vital part in his plan. His love for them is irrevocable as is His love for non-Jews. Both Jews and non-Jews have been disobedient to God. Yet God still loves them.
- As God used the disobedience of the Jews to open the door of salvation to non-Jews, so he will use the coming in of non-Jews to arouse jealousy in Jews that will provoke them to accept Jesus as the Messiah (see Romans 11:11)
- God's intention is that everyone confess with their lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead. He has mercy on us all opening the door of salvation to all who believe.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *All Israel and the Full Number of Gentiles*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)