

God's Plan for the Jew and You
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
October 9, 2005

Text: Romans 11:1-35

Purpose: God has selected the nation of Israel to be the source of blessing to all nations. This has not changed. Those that have accepted Christ are grafted into the family of faith whose fathers are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The promise was fulfilled in Jesus and the Jews that reject Jesus are broken off and cast into the fire, while those that accept Jesus are grafted in. The Gentile once was on the outside, but now can enter boldly into the presence of God.

Two police officers, who are part of a task force, arrive at a cattle ranch.

The officers tell the rancher, "We need to inspect your ranch for illegally-grown drugs."

The old rancher says, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there."

One of the officers verbally explodes saying, "Mister, we have the authority of the state government with us."

Reaching into his rear pocket and removing his badge, the agent proudly displays it to the farmer, "See this badge? This badge means we are allowed to go wherever we wish on any land. No questions asked nor answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?"

The old rancher nods politely and goes about his chores. Later, the old rancher hears loud screams and spies the two officers running for their lives and close behind is the rancher's bull.

With every step the bull is gaining ground on the agents. They are clearly terrified. The old rancher immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence, and yells at the top of his lungs:

"Your badges! Show him your badges!"



Genesis begins by saying: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* It was God that was there in the beginning that created all things. God knew in the fullness of time He would need to send His one and only Son to redeem His creation from the sin that originated in the Garden of Eden.



God chose one man by the name of Abram and asked him to leave his hometown of Ur and go to a place where God would show him. Abram and his wife Sarai, along with all their servants and possessions, headed out in faith and trusted God.

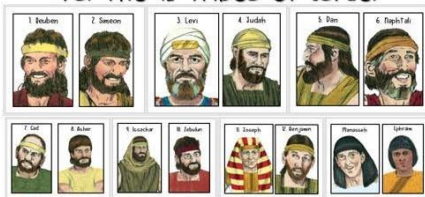
God entered into a covenant promise to Abram that his offspring would become as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore. This was quite an impossible task since Abram was 75 years old and Sarai was 65. After 25 years of waiting, God blessed them with a son named Isaac. God renewed His covenant with Isaac.



Isaac’s wife, Rebekah, gave birth to Esau and Jacob. The promise that was given to Abram, later renamed Abraham, was passed on to the younger son Jacob. Jacob’s wives and their

The 12 Sons of Jacob

vs. The 12 Tribes of Israel



handmaids gave birth to twelve sons who became the foundation for the twelve tribes of Israel. A famine drove this small band of 70 individuals to live in Goshen in the country of Egypt. It was there that they live for 430 years serving the people of Egypt.

By now, this family has grown into over 600,000 men, not counting the women and children. Through the mighty hand of God, Pharaoh allowed these people to leave the nation. This band of people were rescued mightily at the Red Sea and destroyed the pursuing Egyptian army.

God has chosen one man, Abraham, and now God has made them into a great nation.

This great nation was to be a holy people set aside to worship God. God gave specific laws, commandments,



ordinances, statutes, and precepts to make them a holy people. Yet the cycle of disobedience, oppression, crying out to God, and restoration continued throughout the life of this nation. In its glory days, David and Solomon had a great nation, but in its dark days, it was destroyed and its people scattered across the world because of their idolatry and disobedience.



When Jerusalem was finally rebuilt by Nehemiah in the sixth century BC, the nation had finally purged itself of the prior sin of idolatry. From that day forward, the people wholly dedicated themselves to worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Then one day, a little boy by the name of Jesus was born. He was born in the prophesied city of Bethlehem. He lived His life as His Father would have Him to do. The tragic result was Jesus' death on the cross. His death was foretold by so many prophecies that the probability of them all occurring in one person is astronomical.



As we have been studying in the Book of Romans, one may get the idea that the time of the Jews had come to an end. God had sent His only Son as His plan of salvation for mankind. Those that respond to it are to be saved. And those that reject it, like the Jews, were condemned. In part this is true, but not totally.

God's plan is wide enough to include the Jews and it is broad enough to open the gate for the Gentiles to come in.

God's Plan of Salvation includes the Jews as well as you.

I. God's Plan of Salvation Involves the Grace of God (v. 1-10)

A. God's Saving Grace (v. 1)



1. The Issue

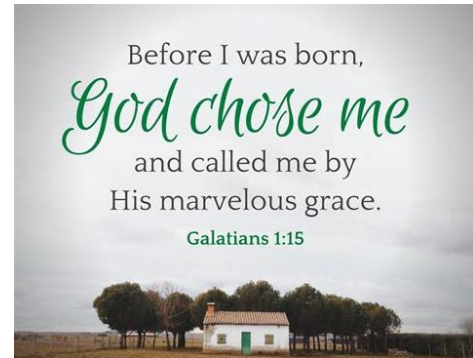
Some people would say that the grace of God is now only for the Gentile world. Some would even say that God has completely written off the Jews and it is impossible for them to experience salvation. Paul would strongly disagree with that.

2. The Illustration

In verse one Paul said he is an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin and he has experienced salvation. Paul is living proof that a Jew can be born again! The bottom line is that this is available to all individuals that call upon the name of the Lord.

B. God's Selecting Grace (v. 2-10)

Paul draws his readers attention to the fact that in the past God has been present with them and grace has always been in action.



1. God's Past Selection (v. 2-4)

To illustrate God's grace in action, Paul drew an illustration from Elijah's day when the prophets of Baal were attempting to kill Elijah. But God reminded him that even though he felt like he was alone in his devotion to God, there were still 7000 men who had not bowed the knee to this false god, Baal.

2. God's Present Selection (v. 5-10)

This remnant has been preserved in the past and it is also going to be preserved in the present. Maybe you feel that you are the only believer in your area of work. Maybe you feel alone in the struggle against evil. Keep in mind that God has always had a remnant to remain.

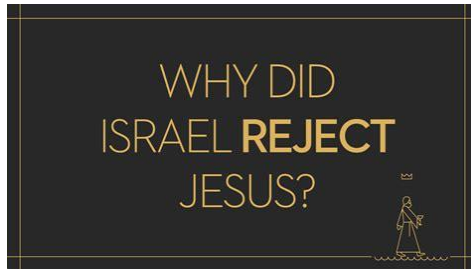
Paul tells us that we who are saved are not saved because of our family, nation, or works. We are only saved by the grace of God that is abundantly available to all who call upon the name of the Lord. Those that want to be saved can be saved, while those who do not are abandoned to their choice by God.

II. God's Plan of Salvation involves being Grafted into the Family of God by God (v. 11-24)

A. The Reason for the Grafting (v. 11-15)

When Jesus Christ came to earth, His first priority was to the people of Israel. He had come as their anticipated Messiah. He revealed Himself to them repeatedly. He even said on a few occasions that He had come to the house of Israel for the children of Israel.





But as a whole, the people of Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Because of that rejection, the Lord turned to another people. Now all the peoples of the earth are blessed and accepted through the sacrifice offered by Christ at Calvary. John 1:11-12 says, *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as*

received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Paul notes that maybe if the Israelites would only open their eyes and see that God has extended His salvation to the Gentiles, that maybe a spark of jealousy will arise and they would also want to obtain the salvation as well.

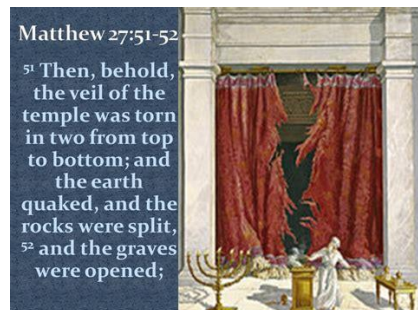
B. The Results of the Grafting (v. 16-17)

The results of the natural branch (Israel) being broken off, the wild branch (The Gentile nations) have been grafted in. We are allowed to have a personal relationship with the God of heaven!



If you remember during the time of the Tabernacle in the wilderness and the Temple in Jerusalem, only Jews had access to the inner courts. The Jews were the only ones that had access to the things of God. They could go into the temple and sacrifice. They could approach the High Priest and have their sins atoned for.

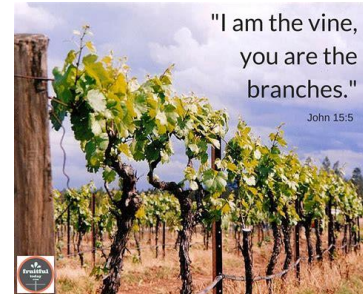
The gentiles on the other hand could only stand on the outside in the Court of Gentiles. They had no access to God. Now that Jesus has come, the gentiles are no longer cast out. They are allowed into a close walk with God because Jesus said He was the door. Through Jesus, we have access to the Father. When Christ died on the cross, the large thick curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies, was torn in two (from top to bottom!). We can now enter boldly into the throne of grace and receive mercy.



We no longer need a High Priest to mediate for us. We do not need to stop at the steps. We can enter in and approach God. This is possible because God's grace has turned the fall of Israel into a blessing for the Gentile nations. We are now grafted into God's family.

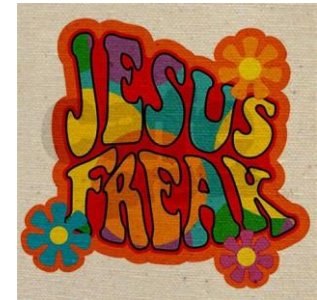
C. The Reminder of our Grafting (v. 18-24)

Paul is telling those that are in Christ not to boast of their relationship with God. They have been grafted into a great trunk that goes back to Abraham. The source of life is from the trunk not the branches.



Paul is using an illustration concerning grafting of a branch into a tree to make the branch productive. The image of grafting in branches alludes to the practice of ancient farmers who would graft branches from young olive trees into older, less productive trees to make them productive once again. Israel had become unfruitful, and others were grafted into their place.

I read of a church in California during the 1960's that had an influx of young Christians from the "hippie" culture. These young believers became the young branches that were grafted into the older mature congregation. Their energy and desire spurred the older members to be more productive and together, as different as they were, they became a more fruitful church.



Just as the unproductive branches were removed from the olive trees, those unbelieving Israelites were removed from the tree. The good news for both Jew and Gentile is that those that repent and come to God through Jesus Christ can be grafted back in. There is no statute of limitations as to when that can occur.

We need to be reminded, that we are saved simply by the grace of God. God has opened a way for us to obtain salvation and fellowship with Him once again. Romans has repeatedly emphasized that we are all sinners and are deserving of our punishment. We are only saved because of what God has done in Christ.



III. Our Salvation involves the Guarantee of God (v. 25-32)

God has given us a guarantee that He will keep His promises and His purposes for mankind will not be thwarted.



A. His Promises will be Kept (v. 25-27)

Israel's blindness is only a temporary condition. One day Israel's eyes will be opened to exactly who Jesus Christ was. When they do, they will be saved. God has not forgotten His chosen people. But God is filling His house with those during this age of grace. Not all that have been invited will come. But those that come will be rewarded.

B. His Purposes will be Accomplished (v. 28-32)

In this present age, the Jew has rejected the core teaching of the Christian faith. They deny that Jesus is the Messiah. Yet God has not forgotten about them or about His plan for them.



It should be noted that Israel has paid a high price for their rejection of Jesus as Messiah. They have suffered as no other people group has suffered in the world. They have been hated and some, like Hitler, have even tried to exterminate them. Antisemitism continues to this day. Yet, through it all, God has kept them and brought them through every trial.

For over 1900 years, there had not been a nation called Israel. However, at the conclusion of WWII, in 1948 the United Nations carved out a place for the birth of a new nation called Israel. They had to fight in order to secure a homeland.



Since that time, the surrounding people and nations have attempted to remove Israel from that land. But God has preserved them.

God still has a plan for Israel. Are they forgotten or cast aside by God? No! They are simply on hold for the time being. Their day will come.

While these verses may mainly focus on Israel, we can take comfort in knowing that God will always keep His promises. He can be trusted! We can take Him at His Word and know that He will do just what He promises to do.

IV. Our Salvation Involves the Glory of God (v. 33-36)

Paul closes out this chapter with a three-fold doxology on the greatness, grace, and glory of God.

A. The Greatness of God (v. 33-34)

Paul's first statement has to do with the omniscience (all knowing) of God. The question that is asked is, "*Who knows the mind of God and who is the person that gives God advise?*" The answer is no one! God's mind can be pondered by men by reading the scriptures but no one really understands the ways of God. His ways are vastly higher than ours.

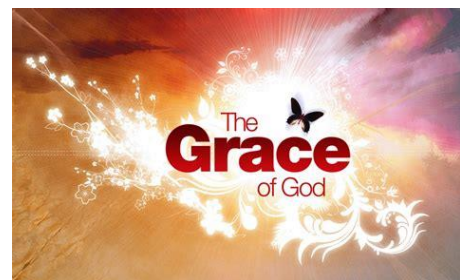


All we have to do is read God's reply to Job in chapter 39 and see how limited we are in our understanding of God. God does as He pleases and all we are left to do is praise the wisdom and plans of God.

This is probably a great lesson for us to learn in life. We need to stop trying to figure out the why of everything and simply start trusting God by faith. He knows what He is doing, we do not! He sees the future and knows what is best for now - and then.

B. The Grace of God (v. 35)

Paul asks another question, "*To whom is God a debtor?*" Does God owe man anything at all? Some people seem to think so. They expect God to jump through their hoops at their command. But that is not the way God works. It is God who works first and reaches out to men through His grace and it is man that is a debtor to God!



God owes us nothing. Every dollar in our pockets is there because God allowed it to be there. Every lung full of air is His blessing of life. Every heartbeat is a gift from God. All that we have, family, money, job, homes, cars, health, intellect, talents, and possessions are a gift from God. And what does He want in return?

He wants nothing more than your love which is manifested in our obedience to what He has taught us. He gives us everything and only asks that we honor Him by receiving His Son.

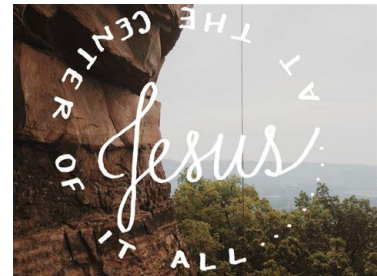
C. The Glory of God (v. 36)

Everything exists in this world in order to bring Glory and Honor unto God. God created the heavens and the earth for His glory. God chose one man, Abraham, so the entire world may be blessed through Him. God chose one nation, Israel, so that there was a people set aside to worship Him in Holiness. Through that one nation, a Messiah came as our redeemer. Those that have accepted Him are blessed, and those that reject Him are condemned already.



Colossians 1:6 says, *“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him.”* We are not the center of the universe. God is the center of all things.

If you give God the glory that is due Him, then God becomes the center of our lives. What ever we do in our lives, let us make God central to it all.



You may wonder why we should bother with a passage of scripture that mainly deals with Israel. The reason is, is that it teaches us about God’s grace and calls us all to faith in Jesus Christ. It reminds us that God is a promise keeping God. It also teaches us that we should honor the Lord in all we do and in all we are.

Israel’s fall is our gain. We are now allowed an opportunity to be reconciled with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you have never trusted Him as your Savior, then today is your day of salvation.

LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹Mikey’s Funnies, “A Bull Funny” (forwarded by Julie Scott), April 25, 2023

Fremont Missionary Baptist Church, Fremont NC
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