

#11: **THE BIG FINISH**

I.	ROMANS 1:18-3:20	The Bad News:	<i>The Wrath of God</i>
II.	ROMANS 3:21-4:25	The Good News:	<i>Justification through faith</i>
III.	ROMANS 5-8		<i>The Benefits of Justification</i>
IV.	ROMANS 9-11		<i>"The Present Condition and Future Prospects of Israel"</i>

**ROMANS 10** *"The present condition of Israel" → A serious warning*

**ROMANS 11** *"The future prospects of Israel" → A huge motivation!*

A glass of water. A question: Half-full? Half-empty? Other BIGGER questions....Whose glass is it? Who poured that water into it anyway? And what's to become of this glass and the water in it? Does all the water eventually evaporate? Does the glass become entirely empty? Or does the glass get filled eventually? Or does it get so full that it overflows?

**ROMANS 11** *"The future prospects of Israel" → A huge motivation!* → *To get the gospel out!*

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION** Why this present condition?

*From the perspective of "Human Responsibility"...*

9:32 they stumbled over the stumbling stone

*From the perspective of "God's Sovereignty" ...*

God has a plan! {This week's content}

**a) He preserves a remnant of Israel by saving some Jews**

**11:1** I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

**11:2** God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.

**11:5** ...there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

→ No Small Thing! **11:4** "...I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN..."

**b) He makes Israel jealous by saving many Gentiles**

**11:11** I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous

**c) As He saves some Jews, He hardens the rest**

**11:7** What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened (9:18)↔

**11:8** just as it is written, "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."

**THIS WEEK'S THREE QUESTIONS:**

**Q.1** What is the future prospect of Israel?

**Romans 11:12 & 15**

<sup>12</sup> Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

<sup>15</sup> For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

<b>Romans 11:12</b>	
Their transgression	→ riches for the world
Their failure	→ riches for the Gentiles
<i>"how much more will their fulfillment be?"</i>	
<b>Romans 11:15</b>	
Their rejection	→ the reconciliation of the world
Their acceptance	→ life from the dead

**Q.2** 11:15 What does Israel's "acceptance" mean?

*"...and so all Israel will be saved?"*

Is it, simply, the gospel's worldwide work being completed? {Romans 2:28,29; 9:6}

✓ Is it, spectacularly, the gospel bringing many more Jews to faith in Christ than ever before?

## Romans 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of **this mystery**—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that **a partial hardening** has happened to Israel **until** the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup> **and so all Israel will be saved...**"

### Q.3 11:15 What is meant by "life from the dead"?

Is it, simply, the end of human history as we know it?

✓ Is it, spectacularly, a whole new level of worldwide success for the work of the gospel?

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Ephesians 3:20-21** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

**Psalms 46** <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change ... <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. <sup>9</sup> He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. <sup>10</sup> **"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."** **Isaiah 2:2-4** <sup>2</sup> Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And **they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.**

**Isaiah 11:1-9** <sup>1</sup> Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, ... <sup>6</sup> And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.... **For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.**

## ACTION?

Notice Paul moving back to "Warning Mode" (Stressing again our Moral Responsibility)

### 11:17-24

#### 1. **Humbly respect and love Jewish people!**

<sup>18</sup> ...do not be arrogant toward the branches...remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

The tragedy and irony of Christian anti-Semitism! / The complicating matter of "Christian Zionism"

#### 2. **Humbly trust and obey God!**

<sup>19</sup> ...you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear

<sup>22</sup> Behold then the kindness and severity of God...

Faith includes obedience: so be obedient!

Do the work of the gospel! Get the gospel out to Gentiles! Get the gospel out to Jews!

In either case, both will benefit!

And "abound in hope"!!! Notice that "kindness" wins! **James 2:13** "...mercy triumphs over judgment."

### Spectacularly...

~ Israel's rejection leads to God saving many Gentiles

~ Many Gentiles being saved eventually results in many Jews being saved!!!

~ Many Jews being saved results in many more Gentiles being saved.

~ The glass will one day be full to overflowing... like Ezekiel's river! (Ez.47)

**"Mercy triumphs!"**

### 11:33-36

#### 3. **Humbly love and praise God!**

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways... To Him be the glory forever. Amen.