

Romans Part 30 (11:9-15, 11:25-36)

Tuesday Night Bible Study, January 22, 2007

--11:9-10: "And David says: 'Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.'"

--Israel's "table" – all that God committed to them – was a great blessing in which they experienced God's supernatural provision like no other nation, but along with that blessing came a responsibility... and when they rebelled and forsook that responsibility they were chastened like no other nation – "their table [of blessing] became a snare and a trap..."

--in Romans 3:1-2: "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? 2 Much in every way! Chiefly because **to them were committed the oracles of God.**"

--through the eyes of faith the blessings God gave Israel pointed in a glorious way to Christ... but through the eyes of the flesh and unbelief the blessings God gave Israel actually made them blind so that they could not see Christ for who He really was – their eyes were "darkened, so that they do not see..."

--11:11,15: "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles..."

--11:11a: "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not!" (the NIV wording is a little more clear – "Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?")

--Paul again uses the strongest negative in Greek (*me genoito*) and repeats the same point he made in verse 1: "I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!"

--even though Israel as a nation has fallen into a state of rebellion, one day they will turn to Christ in faith – "and so all Israel will be saved" (11:26)

--11:11b: "But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles."

--the concept of God provoking Israel to jealousy is taken from Deuteronomy 32:21 which Paul quoted in Romans 10:19 in the beginning of his current explanation about unbelief in Israel.

--in a speech in Deuteronomy 32:21 Moses repeated the words of the Lord to Israel shortly before he died: "They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation."

--these words were both historic and prophetic...

--the rebellion at Mt. Sinai was the beginning of a long cycle of rebellion which ultimately led to God using Assyria and Babylon ("those who are not a nation" and a "foolish nation", that is, those who did not have a covenant relationship with God) to judge Israel and cause them to turn back to God ("provoke them to jealousy")

--"what is not God..." – at Mt. Sinai this was a golden calf, and at the time of Christ this was dead religion and ceremony that the religious leaders served rather than serving God (in the words of Hebrews 9:14 – serving "dead works" rather than "the living God.")

--in Romans 11:11&14 Paul is simply highlighting the parallel between God using Gentile nations in the past through war as a catalyst to cause Israel to turn back to Him and God using salvation of Gentiles to cause Israel to turn back to Him.

--in verse 14 Paul applies this principle, in a limited sense, to his personal ministry – "if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh [*that is, fellow Israelites*] and save some of them".

--11:12,15,25-27: "...12...15... **25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.'**"

--11:25: "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

--the "mystery" of the Old Testament that has now been revealed...

--in Old Testament times God's plan was focused on Israel, and on the surface it looked like the rest of the world was left in the dark.

--"the mystery" of the Old Testament that has now been revealed is God's plan in the spiritual dimension and Israel's temporary blindness while His plan in the spiritual dimension reaches the whole world (the Gentiles) – "until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

--all along the Spirit of God has been working in the hearts of all people (Romans 1:19-21;10:18, John 3:21); and after Christ made final payment for all sins, the inner work of the Spirit reached a new level where there is no barrier between Jews and Gentiles, a reality that is hard for Jews to grasp.

--in Colossians 1:25-28 Paul speaks of "**the riches of the glory of this mystery** which has been hidden from ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints" as being "**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"

--through Christ, in the spiritual dimension, there are no barriers... "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
(Galatians 3:26-29)

--the mystery they couldn't understand in Old Testament times...

--they knew that a substitutionary death was required to make payment for our sins, and that this sacrifice had to be administered by a priest functioning as an intermediary between God and man...

...through close study of the Old Testament Scriptures they could see that the Messiah would be the final sacrifice for our sins...

...but the mystery that they didn't understand is that the intermediary work of the priests would be replaced by the work of Christ in our hearts...

...the fellowship with God that was once only available through the Mosaic law in Israel is now available through Christ to anyone, anywhere in the world!

--Jesus spoke of this revolutionary change to the Samaritan woman at the well...
"Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain [*Mt Gerizim where Samaritan Jews claimed the temple should be, opposed to Jerusalem*], nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father [*neither through the temple in Jerusalem*]. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth** [*by faith through the Holy Spirit*]; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:21-24)

--the moment Jesus died, "the veil of the temple [*in Jerusalem*] was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38), signifying that "**a new and living way**" (Hebrews 10:20) to God's presence had been opened; **and anyone, anywhere, anytime, by the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:12), through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26) can speak to God in their spirit more intimately and infinitely more securely** than the high priest of

Israel could only once a year under strict regulations of the ceremonial law... to the Jews who lived under the ceremonial law this was mind-boggling!

--not only was the veil torn, but 40 years later the temple was completely destroyed by the Roman army and has never been rebuilt since, a historical reality that points to the end of temporary payments for sin under the ceremonial law.

--in 11:14 Paul speaks of his hope in his personal ministry to Gentiles "to save some of them [Israel]" through the principle of Romans 11:11 (salvation of Gentiles being a catalyst for salvation of Jews); but in the future God's work of salvation will culminate in all Israel as a nation being saved – "and so all Israel will be saved..." (11:26)

--not only will the salvation of Gentiles be a catalyst in Israel's salvation but also the wrath of unsaved Gentiles when every Gentile nation in the world goes to war against Israel...

--Zechariah 12:14 describes the entire world going to war against Israel near the end of the Great Tribulation and Israel's subsequent salvation and Christ's return.

--Paul's quote (from Isaiah 59:20 & 27:9) in Romans 11:26-27 speaks of Christ's return and the work of the Holy Spirit in Israel – "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [*Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, represents Israel as a whole*]

--Zechariah 12:10: "And I will pour on the house of David [another name representative of Israel] and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced..."

--Zechariah 13:9-14:3: "I will bring one-third through the fire [*one-third of Israel will survive the war*]... 9... They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.' ... 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... 3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations... ... 5 ... Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You. ... 9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth..."

--in Romans 11:12&15 contrasts what happens after Israel turns to Christ with what happened after they rejected Christ... "Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ... 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?"

--after Israel rejected Christ salvation came to all the world and after Israel turns to Christ in faith Jesus will return and "be King over all the earth" during the Millennial Kingdom, and we will reign with Him in our glorified bodies...

--Revelation 20:4-6: "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

--11:28-32...

--"Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake [*Jews were enemies in the sense that they persecuted Christians*], but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers [*we are to love our enemies, and one day Israel as a nation will be saved*]. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. [*God made a covenant with Israel as a nation that He cannot break*] 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, [*while Israel rejects the gospel, the gospel is spreading to the entire world... and when the gospel has reached every corner of the world Israel will turn back to God and embrace the gospel – when "the fullness of the Gentiles has come in" v. 25*] 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. [*the salvation of Gentiles will somehow be a*

catalyst in the salvation of Israel as a nation] 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience , that He might have mercy on all. [Israel's rejection of Christ came as no surprise to God, and in His sovereignty He planned to use their rejection of Christ for the good... namely, opening a window of time for the gospel to reach the rest of the world]."

--11:33-36...

--Paul concludes his discussion about Israel by recognizing the limits of our finite understanding... "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."