



PART 13: *ROOTS & SHOOTS*

INTRODUCTION – SURPRISE QUIZ!... Romans 11:26

“And so all Israel will be saved.”

AND SO

- In light of everything I've been saying...
- And in addition to everything I've been saying...

ALL

- Every person within this category.
- Every person who God chooses from this category (i.e., a “remnant”).
- This category of person in general, with possible and probable exceptions.

ISRAEL

- God's people with the faith of Abraham, now understood as Jew and Gentile together in Christ (**Romans 2:28-29; 4:9-17; Galatians 6:16; Philipians 3:3**).
- The ethnic/national people Paul sometimes calls “Israel according to the flesh”.

WILL BE

- As a recurring aspect of the present course of history
- A unique one-time, future event at or just before the second coming of Christ

SAVED

- Will have eternal life with God as a gift received through faith in Christ.
- Will have eternal life with God through Christ, whether or not they explicitly place faith in him.
- Will have eternal life with God by remaining faithful to the Old Covenant.

Look To The Book – Passage Summary

Romans 11

- Paul has made it clear that there is no division of approaches to God for different people groups. Jew and Gentile do not have separate paths to follow. But if a majority of Jews do not follow Jesus, what should be said about Israel?
- 11:1...** Is Israel's rejection of her Messiah a sign that God has fully and finally rejected her? Paul points to his own Jewish identity as evidence that God is still in the business of using Jewish people in special ways.
- 11:2-6...** Just as God has always preserved a “remnant” of faithful Jewish followers, even when the majority of Jews rejected his will, so he is doing today.
- 11:7-10...** Israel's fixation on Law and status and ethnic identity has left them unable to embrace the radically inclusive message of the Messiah (**Proverbs 16:18; 1 Timothy 4:2; Mark 3:33-35; John 10:16; Colossians 3:11**).
- 11:11-16...** Although Israel has stumbled, they have not fallen beyond recovery. In fact, God is hoping that Gentiles who embrace and follow the Messiah will eventually produce fruit that will make Israel jealous and provoke some of them to follow Christ. When Jews trust Christ, we are all richly blessed.

- 11:17-24...** God's people are like an olive tree. Unbelieving Jews are cut off and believing Gentiles are grafted in. A new tree does not “replace” the old tree, but Gentiles have the privilege of joining believing Jews in their heritage. Faith (or lack thereof) is the determining factor, not ethnicity nor God's arbitrary choice. Our response should be humble gratitude, lest we repeat the pattern of Israel and become cut off ourselves because of pride and false security.
- 11:25-28...** Because of Israel's hard hearts, more Gentiles are able to come into Christ's Kingdom along with believing Jews. This is how God is fulfilling his promises. [Note: This pattern of Jewish *rejection* leading to Gentile inclusion is repeated in Acts (**Acts 13:13-52; 14:1-3; 18:1-8; 19:8-10; 28:17-29**), but was a surprising twist on the Old Testament expectation that Israel's *restoration* would lead to Gentile inclusion (**Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 2:1-4; 42:1-9; 49; 55:4-5; 56:6-8; 60:1-7; 66:18-23; Micah 4:2; Zechariah 2:11; 14:16**).]
- 11:29-32...** In light of this, Paul again reminds his readers that God has not closed the door on Israel, but continues to love her people very much. He offers mercy to all.
- 11:33-36...** Paul's doxology, quoting both Scripture and Stoic philosophers.

So What?

TAKE OUT #1:

For a Jew to embrace Jesus as the Messiah is to _____ a faithful Jew. Paul challenges the anti-Semitism of those who would say that Jesus now calls *all* to follow him... _____ the Jews.

TAKE OUT #3:

When communicating the truth of Jesus, plant seeds where the soil is _____ (**Romans 11:13-14; Matthew 7:6**).

TAKE OUT #3:

Current Western Evangelical fixation on the _____ and _____ of *national* Israel is a product of 19th century speculations, not 1st century apostolic writings. (Paraphrased from N. T. Wright.)

CONCLUSION – Who Are You Making Jealous?

Romans 11:11-14

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP & REVIEW...

- Use your notes to review this week's message, including our key text. Take your time and as you go, talk about what challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- Read Jesus' *Parable of the Violent Squatters* in **Matthew 21:33-46**. a) How does this seem to predict the situation Paul is wrestling with in **Romans 11**? Take a few minutes to examine the points of connection. b) What transferable lessons does this parable hold for Christ-followers today? c) How does all of this relate to Christ's words in **Matthew 8:11-12**?

SO WHAT?...

- Re-read Paul's words in **Romans 11:11-14**. What about how you live your life might provoke a non-believer, whether Jew or Gentile, to jealousy?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, July 3 / 10 , 2005