**Romans 11: God has a plan for the world**

**Roman’s overview and definitions**

**Wrath: God’s anger toward unrighteousness and sin 1:18, 24, 26, 28 – God gives men over; enslaves men to their sin. Since all have sinned, all are enslaved.**

**Salvation: Deliverance from enslavement. There are two necessary steps to be delivered or saved from enslavement: 1) Justification by faith alone in Christ alone. Paul is “proud” of the good news he preaches because it can deliver men from enslavement (1:16-17) by faith. 2) Justified people have peace with God due to the death of Christ (4:25). Now justified people can be delivered by His life (5:9-10) as they walk in the Spirit (8:10-11).**

**Israel: Illustration of God’s wrath**

**Romans 9: A nation under wrath**

**Romans 10: Israel’s two mistakes: Justified, but unsaved?**

**Romans 11: It ain’t over**

**Romans 11: The Text**

**I. National Israel is blinded (11:1-10)**

**11:1-2 - Is God done with Israel? Absolutely not! Paul is proof of that!**

**“Whom He foreknew” God made promises to Abraham long before the nation existed (Rom. 4:19-22; 9:6)**

**Ezekiel prayed AGAINST Israel and for God’s rejection. Yet, God informed Elijah of God’s work “behind the scenes” preserving those who responded to Him.**

**11:3-5 – So it is today with Israel. The phrase translated as the election of grace” is not a reference to election to eternal life, but according to Professor Zane Hodges, former chairman of the Department of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he taught for 27 years. He writes about this phrase, “As in Elijah’s day, God had graciously chosen at the present time to preserve for Himself a remnant of Israel. Many Jews in Paul’s day were believers.”**

**“The words according to His choice is not a reference to election before time. The simplest and most obvious meaning of the phrase in question is something like “the choice God has made in grace.” Just as in Elijah’s day God had “kept for” Himself those who had “not bowed the knee to Baal,” so also in Paul’s day God had*kept for Himself* those who had responded to His grace in Christ.**

**“Here then Paul is concerned with the fact that grace is the basis upon which God has chosen the remnant of Israel*at the present time*.” Consistently, “blinding” comes from hearts that are unbelieving (9:21-33; 10:16, 21)**

**11:6 Hodges’ perspective is supported by the context that follows, where Paul explains in verses 5-6 the significance in God’s choice in grace. Jewish believers are “place holder” until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.**

**11:7-8 Consistent with our study in chapter 9, God is free to select those through whom He brings the blessing, those whom He uses. In real time, Israel’s rejection led to their hardening (9:33; 10:31). Contrariwise, those who respond are God’s “choice” to use, as Hodges later notes, “God’s “choice” of a Jewish remnant involved those Israelites who received His grace in Christ.” Eph. 1:2-9 the “Jews first” distinction does not mean “separate entity”.**

**II. National Israel will be restored (11:11-32)**

**11:11 - Demands a negative answer. Their “fall” isn’t permanent. It was an occasion to show mercy to the Gentiles. Again, as in ch. 9, God seeks to reach and bless the world. Israel’s failure to respond opened a door which caused God to turned to the Gentiles as a vehicle of blessing and to experience escape from wrath.**

**11:16-17 - The “root” of the olive tree is the Abrahamic Covenant through which the world would be blessed. The “natural branches” are national Israel, which currently, but not permanently “broken off”, and the Gentiles are “grafted in”, like from a “wild olive tree”.**

**11:16-25 Israel has been temporarily “set aside” due to their rejection until the full number of Gentiles are reached. Then, God will deliver the remainder of Israel -11:26. They have to believe in their hearts and acknowledge Him as Lord/call upon Him (10:9-10:11:26-27).**

**11:28-32 - God is not finished with His people whom He “called” so many centuries ago, though they are currently “enemies” of the gospel, yet forever loved due to the promises given to the fathers, like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God’s choice involved accomplish His purposes in the world through the descendants of the patriarchs. And that does not refer to eternal salvation from hell. He has called Isreal into special relationship with Himself to bless and reach the world, and that will not end, nor will the gifts that come with that.**

**Israel’s disobedience meant mercy to the Gentiles. God’s work among the Gentiles will one day work in the hearts of Israel to turn them back to God.**

**III. Our wise, powerful amazing God!**

**11:33-34 – God’s amazing plan was designed to reach both Israel and the Gentile world for who Christ died. Humanities free will, all the way back to Adam, has made this a twisted journey that will one day result in praise to God for His love and wisdom, in spite of our hard hearts. NO ONE could have seen this coming! Our wise God will pull it off!**