

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

²⁰ ...Do not be conceited, but fear; ²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—

(Romans 11:18, 20-21, 25)

Summary of Israel's Condition

⁷ What then? That which Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; (Rom. 11:7)

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.

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

¹³ But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

¹⁴ if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them.

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

(Romans 11:11-15)

God's Peculiar Purposes

1. Israel's Rejection...Gentile Salvation

- Israel's unbelief and hardening by God has resulted in the salvation of multitudes of Gentiles

¹¹ I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹² but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(Matt. 8:11-12)

⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

(Matt. 21:43)

⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us,

'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES,
THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

(Acts 13:46-48)

²⁵ And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, ²⁶ saying,

'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY,
"YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;
AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE...'

²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen."

(Acts 28:25-28)

God's Peculiar Purposes

1. Israel's Rejection...Gentile Salvation

- Israel's unbelief and hardening by God has resulted in the salvation of multitudes of Gentiles
- because of Israel's rejection we (Gentiles) have received "riches" and "reconciliation"

God's Peculiar Purposes

2. Gentile Inclusion...Jewish Jealousy

- when Israelites see Gentiles as recipients of God's mercy and inheritors of the Abrahamic promise, they will desire these for themselves
- Paul saw his ministry to the Gentiles as indirectly for the sake of Israel – that he might "save some of them"

God's Peculiar Purposes

3. Israel's Fullness...Greater Riches!

- Israel as a whole (full numerical strength) will enjoy salvation-blessing ("acceptance")
- Israel's fullness will bring to us the consummation of all things – the life of the resurrection

God's Peculiar Purposes

➤ Principle:

- God is able to purpose and use evil for our good and to the display of His glory