

GOD, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

Romans 11.1-32

We don't have all the answers. Quite often we find ourselves asking, "Why?" The fact that we must ask that question reveals that our understanding is limited. And all too often we think that because we do not have the answers, no one does.

But we should never confuse our situation with God's. We should never think that because we do not understand that God does not understand. God not only understands what is going on, he is working out a well defined plan for all of humanity. You see, God did not simply spin this world off into space and walk away. He is not making it up as he goes. He is intimately involved in the human situation.

We see this in his dealings with Israel, an illustration of how he is bringing salvation to all people.

We all know that Israel is God's chosen people. The Lord called them and made a covenant with them that he would be their God and they would be his people. Over the years, they rebelled and God dealt harshly with them. He chastened them because he had chosen them. Yet, when he sent the Messiah, Jesus, they rejected him outright. And so God set them aside. But he has not forgotten his people. And he will deal with them again. And he will again reveal to them that salvation is by grace.

There Is a Remnant Chosen by Grace

*"So too, at the present time **there is a remnant chosen by grace**. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace."* Romans 11.1-10

1 Kings 19.10, 14, 18; Deuteronomy 29.4; Isaiah 29.10; Psalm 69.22, 23

The teaching of the Bible concerning salvation is that salvation is always by grace. This is seen throughout the whole of Scripture, even the Old Testament.

"Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." Genesis 15.5

'What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'" Romans 4.1-4

Do Not Be Arrogant

*"But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. **Do not be arrogant**, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness."* Romans 11.11-24.

God judged Israel. Israel had rejected God, but God did not reject Israel.

Mercy for All

*"Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience **so that he may have mercy on them all.**"* Romans 11.25-32

Isaiah 59.20, 21; 27.9; Jeremiah 31.33, 34

God's glorious plan of salvation reveals his mercy. God has mercy for all.

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