

**All Israel Will Be Saved**  
**Romans 11:25-29**  
November 10, 2021

**Review and Context**

*Theme of Romans:* The gospel of God (1:16-17)

Chs 9-11 The gospel and Israel

- In 9:1-5, the apostle in a very personal way introduced the problem (from the human standpoint) of Israel's unbelief (rejection of the Messiah)
  
- *Thesis:* 9:6a "But it is not as though the word of God has failed."
  - The OT's numerous promises to the nation of Israel, of spiritual salvation through the Messiah
  
  - Examples include Deut 30:6; Eze 36:24-28; Jer 31:31-36; Zech 12:10-13:1
  
- The apostle proves that the word of God has not failed, using five arguments that center on the following:
  1. God's sovereign election of some individuals and not others (9:6b-29)
  2. Israel's reliance on works rather than faith (9:30-10:21).
    - Israel is responsible for their failure to believe in Christ
  3. The remnant of believers within Israel (11:1-10)
  4. God's temporary rejection of Israel (11:11-24)
  5. Israel's future salvation (11:25-32)

*Key phrase:* **11:26** "...all Israel will be saved..."

*Question:* What reason(s) are given in this passage why all Israel will be saved?

**The manner in which all Israel will be saved (25-26)**

**25** "Lest you be wise in your own sight..."

- Paul is teaching the doctrine of this section lest the Gentiles believers to whom he is writing arrogantly think God is done with the nation of Israel (cf. 18, 20)

**25** "...I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers..."

1. The Holy Spirit, through the apostle, is revealing "this mystery"

2. In Paul's writings, the term, "mystery," speaks of a truth that in the past God had not revealed or had only partially revealed, but now has fully revealed
  - **Rom. 16:25–26** "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—"
  - **Eph. 6:18–20** "To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."
3. The mystery is stated in verses 25a-26a
4. The mystery relates to the order of salvation concerning the Gentiles and Israel

**25** "...a partial hardening has come upon Israel..."

1. It is partial in that the remnant is not included (11:5)
2. It has been enacted by God (11:7-10)

**25** "...until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

1. The hardening that is upon Israel is temporary
2. This term "fullness" was used in reference to Israel in verse 12
3. Israel has been hardened until the Gentiles God has purposed to save in this age have come into God's people and God's salvation (11:17, 24)

**26** "And in this way all Israel will be saved..."

1. The way that was outlined in verses 11-24 and summarized in verse 25b
2. "All Israel," as opposed to "only a remnant" (9:27)
3. God will bring about a mass-conversion of Israelites, who will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
4. Israel as a whole will be saved, meaning the great majority of Israelites alive at that time
5. They will be saved through the gospel
  - **Rom. 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
6. For that generation, Paul's prayer will be fulfilled in **Rom. 10:1** "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."

7. This will be occasion for great joy, a reversal of Paul's great sorrow in **Rom. 9:1–3** "I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

### **OT prophecy that all Israel will be saved (26a-27)**

#### **verses 26-27**

The apostle quotes from...

1. Isaiah 59:20-21a, possibly together with Psalm 14:7 (Rom 11:26a-27a)
2. Isaiah 27:9 (Rom 11:27b).

Isaiah 59:20-21a

1. The context speaks of Israel's sin (59:1-3, 7-8)
2. The context speaks of Israel's salvation (59:15-16)
3. The context speaks of the New Covenant (59:21)

When the apostle quotes this in Romans 11:26-27a, he recognizes that it will be fulfilled when Christ comes in the future as the Deliver from the heavenly Zion.

Isaiah 27:9a

1. The context speaks of judgment that is restorative (27:7-9a)
2. The context speaks of Israel's restoration (27:6, 12-13)

The apostle Paul's quotation of Isaiah lays emphasis on God's removal of their sins, and reminds us of **Jer. 31:34** "...For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Salvation is the forgiveness and removal of sin, the eradication of that which separates fallen man from the holy God.<sup>1</sup>

With this whole quotation, Paul indicates...

1. When Israel's salvation will take place (when the Deliverer will come from Zion)
2. How it will take place (by the forgiveness of their sins provided in the New Covenant)

### **The basis on which all Israel will be saved (28-29)**

#### **verse 28**

Israel currently has a dual status. This dual status is the dilemma that occasioned the whole argument of chapters 9-11.

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *Romans 9-16-*, 130.

“As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake.”

1. Israel’s temporary situation from the standpoint of the gospel
2. As enemies of God they are unbelieving, disobedient, and contrary toward God (10:21; 11:20); and are hardened and rejected by God (11:7-10, 15).
3. In God’s sovereign plan, this is for the sake of the Gentiles, that they would be saved

“But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.”

1. Israel’s permanent, eternal situation from the standpoint of God’s sovereign choice
2. Israel is God’s elect nation, as revealed in God’s promises to their forefathers
3. God’s eternal election guarantees their enmity is not permanent

### **verse 29**

“the gifts”

- The privileges listed in 9:4-5

“the calling”

- God’s election of Israel to be holy unto Him (11:16) and to serve Him as a light to the nations

“irrevocable”

1. Lit, “without regret”
2. Cannot be revoked
3. They stand forever
4. The Word of God to Israel has not failed (9:6a) but will most certainly be fulfilled
5. Just as God’s sovereign grace and election cannot be earned, neither can they be rejected or thwarted

### **Conclusion**

This passage should keep us from having the mindset of entitlement

1. No group of people is entitled to salvation
2. God has the sovereign right to turn the focus of salvation history away from one group of people and toward another group of people

*Question:* How does this passage about Israel's future salvation give us hope?