

Behold the Kindness and Severity of God

Romans 11:17-24

Biblical Context – Romans 11 is one of the most important passages in the whole Bible, because here is a New Testament author explaining the mystery of Israel's current hardening, so the Gentiles can be saved, but that God is not finished with Israel, but will eventually save them and take away their sins, 11:27. There remains then a grand day of salvation and blessing for ethnic Israel, after the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, 11:25. Paul does not need to give the details of Israel's salvation and blessing because all the Major Prophets and some of the Minor Prophets describe the details of Israel's Restoration in volumes of promises, including right in the plain reading of the New Covenant Promises. The concluding section of Romans 11:23-31 emphatically makes the point that Israel will again be forgiven and restored by God, and once again become partakers of His saving Covenant.

Historical Context- In order to bring clarity to the Jew/Gentile controversy in the Roman church, Paul explains the wisdom and mystery of God's plan with Israel and highlights God's faithfulness to his Word and Promises to them. Even though Israel's current state is hardened (verses 7-10) and broken off (verse 17), they will eventually be grafted back in to the rich root of God's covenant promises. They will also be softened again by God and receive soft hearts of flesh and God will regenerate them and fill them with the Holy Spirit, when they become partakers of the New Covenant promises and are saved. This is of course according to those great New Covenant promises in Jeremiah 31:23-40, Ezekiel 36:22-36, 37:11-28, Zechariah 12:6-13:1.

In today's text, **11:17-24**, Paul warns us **Gentile Christians** not to be **arrogant** about their **salvation toward the Jews**, and explains that **God's severe judgment** on Israel will one day **turn to Israel's salvation**. The **Gospel calls** us Gentile Christians to **humble reverence** toward the **Jewish people** in the **fear of God**. Let us understand that **God is not finished** with Israel, even though currently they have been **hardened** and **broken off** of the saving covenant, but will **come the day** when they are **grafted back in** and **saved**. We **Gentiles** then should **behold** both **kindness of God's mercy** in **saving us**, but also the **severity of His judgment** toward the **spiritual pride** that can often accompany **salvation**. **Saving faith** is **humble** and **respectful**.

In today's text **Romans 11:17-24** we will see...

- **11:17-21 - The Olive Tree and its Branches**
- **11:22 - Behold our God**
- **11:23-24 – Israel's Hope, Saved by Faith**

Ephesians 2:19-20 - 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,**
NASB

John 1:11-13 - **11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,** 13 who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. NASB

James 4:6-10 - 6 But **He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."** 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. **10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.** NASB

Titus 3:4-8 - 4 But **when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,** 5 **He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy,** by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NASB

Ephesians 1:3-6 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,** 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace,** which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NASB

Ephesians 2:6-7 - 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, **7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. NASB

Ephesians 2:11-13 - 11 Therefore **remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh,** who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands — 12 **remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** NASB

Ezekiel 36:22-36 - 22 "Therefore, say to the **house of Israel**, 'Thus says the Lord God, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, **but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.** 23 "And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. 24 "For I will take you from the nations, **gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.** 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. 28 "And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. 29 "Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. 30 "And I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, that you may not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. 31 "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. 32 "I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord God, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!" 33 'Thus says the Lord God, "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. 34 "And the desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passed by. 35 "And they will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.' 36 "Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the Lord, have spoken and will do it." NASB