



Epistle to The Romans



Lesson 17, Israel's Future Part 2 Romans 11: 25-36

For this lesson we are going to explore the rest of Roman's Chapter 11 and what many consider to be an enigmatic verse, Romans 11:25. This verse comes after Paul has addressed Israel's future for the first 24 verses.

For us to understand Paul's meaning verse 25, we need to briefly review a few key points.

As you recall in our lesson on Chapter 9, we looked at four covenants that God had made with the Nation of Israel. One of these covenants applies to our lesson today.

The David Covenant

The Davidic Covenant basically states that the throne of David will be re-established, not in Heaven, but in the city of Jerusalem. Two main characteristics of this covenant are:

- 📖 Cannot be applied to the Church (Ezek 37:21-28).
- 📖 It will begin with the relief of nature's curse (Isa 11:1-13; 65:17- 24; Micah 4:1-5; Zeph 3:14-20; Zech 14:1-21).

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:31-34 KJV

When will all this happen?

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me earnestly. Hosea 5:15

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as

gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. Zechariah 13:8,9

According to Zechariah two thirds of all the Jews will die during the tribulation, also referred by the Bible as the time of Jacob's trouble.

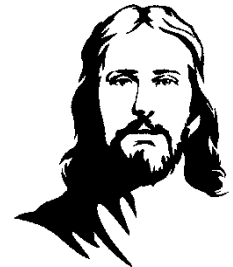
The Pivotal Verse

Romans 11: 25 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

"Mystery" the Greek word means a truth previously unrevealed (and therefore unknown), which is now revealed and publicly proclaimed. The concept would be similar to revealing a password to someone. It is not just something hidden, it is something hidden and now revealed and publicly proclaimed. It is hard for some to understand, but there are aspects in the Scripture that are deliberately hidden, especially from the unbeliever. Again, these mysteries are there, but they are hidden from unbelievers. Now we will look at some examples and discuss why Christ talked in Parables.



If you asked someone who has been to Sunday school, why did Jesus speak in parables? The most basic and obvious answer, "Well, He spoke parables to make hard concepts clearer and easier to understand." While on the surface, parables can be used for that purpose, in all actuality, like so many things in the Word of God, there is a much deeper meaning. Let's take a look:



Why Parables?

There is a point in Christ's ministry where He totally shifted gears and that point is Matthew 12. It is a major turning point in his Gospel. The Pharisees had just recently attributed Jesus' miracles to Satan. Matthew 13 is one of the major discourses in Matthew where Jesus proclaims seven parables.

The Use of Parables

Up to that point, Jesus had authenticated His power by various miracles. But growing opposition to Jesus climaxed when Israel's religious leaders (the Pharisees) concluded that Jesus worked these miracles, not by divine power, but by satanic power (Mt 9:34; 12:22-37). At the end of Chapter 12, the die was cast.



Therefore, Jesus turned to His disciples and began to instruct them using parables. The word "parable" comes from two Greek words, which together mean "to throw alongside." A parable, like an illustration, makes a comparison between a known truth and an unknown truth; it throws them alongside each other.

After this point Jesus' only outside communication with the multitudes was in parables. Also, Jesus never explained the parables to the public, only in private to the disciples! (Mt. 13:34).

Jesus, in Matthew 13:35, tells us that the meaning of those parables are things that were hidden up until then. This means the truths were not to be found in the Old Testament because they were kept secret since the foundation of the world (Mt 13:35)! Also, the fact that they are hidden up until now tells us this is new information.



The disciples asked Jesus why He was speaking in parables. The Lord gave three reasons:

- ① He was communicating through parables in order to continue to reveal truth to His disciples (Mt 13:11-12). The Lord was making known to the disciples the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. This term in the New Testament referred to truths not revealed in the Old Testament, but which now were made known to those instructed. Now Jesus unveiled certain additional facts not given in the Old Testament about His reign on earth.
- ② Jesus spoke in parables to hide the truth from unbelievers. Secrets of the Kingdom would be given to the disciples but hidden from those who rejected Him (Mt 13:11). In fact, even what they had previously known would no longer be clear to them (Mt 13:12).
- ③ He spoke in parables to fulfill prophecy (Isa 6:9-10). As Isaiah began his ministry, God told him that people would not comprehend his message. Jesus preached the Word of God and many people saw but they did not truly perceive; they heard but did "not understand" (Mt 13:13-15).

Many Old Testament prophets had predicted that the Messiah would deliver the nation Israel and establish His kingdom on the earth. Jesus came and offered the Kingdom, but the nation rejected Him.



The "secrets" of the kingdom parables spoke by Jesus, reveal that an entire age would intervene between Israel's rejection of the King and her later acceptance of Him, the Church Age.

In Ephesians 3 and some other passages Paul says that it is his privilege to reveal the truth that was hidden in the Old Testament—The Church! Paul tells us that these Parables deal with the Church Age (Eph 3:1-5ff).

But let's quickly take a look at Mysteries, in general, in the Bible...

While it is true that God reveals the glorious truth of salvation through Jesus to everyone, the Bible indicates that God also gets more glory when He conceals, rather than making things extremely obvious. So for some truths, it is more glorious for Him to hide and have us seek.

Another aspect, the Bible says that, “it’s the glory of kings to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2). We are kings and priests to our God (see Rev. 1:6). Our royal identity never shines brighter than when we pursue hidden things with the confidence that we have legal access to such things. Mysteries, in a way, are our inheritance. Our role in ruling and reigning with Christ, comes to the forefront when we seek Him for answers to the dilemmas of the world. It is important to note, ruling from God’s perspective means “to be the servant of all.” Too many today have embraced wrong theology and others have used it as a for wrongdoing in ways Jesus so often foretold and warned against. That is why for some, certain truths stay hidden.

True believers in Christ have legal access to the realm of God’s mysteries. The hidden things are placed in waiting for the believer to discover. They are ours by inheritance.

Mysteries Mentioned Throughout the Bible

📖 *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 1 Corinthians 14:2*

📖 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. Corinthians 2:7*

📖 *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 1 Corinthians 4:1*

📖 *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2*

True students of the Bible discover that it is full of unrevealed truths, or mysteries. Below are twelve major mysteries listed in the Bible. Most of these unrevealed truths are very deep indeed, meaning they have multiple levels of understanding that span various Bible books and concepts.



12 Mysteries

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Mystery of the Kingdom of God | 7) Mystery of the Seven Churches |
| 2) Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven | 8) Mystery of the Rapture |
| 3) Mystery of the Incarnation | 9) Mystery of the Bride of Christ |
| 4) Mystery of Israel’s Interim Blindness | 10) Mystery of Iniquity |
| 5) Mystery of Salvation by Faith | 11) Mystery Babylon |
| 6) Mystery of the Gentile Fellow heirs | 12) Mystery of the Consummation |

Although we won’t delve into all these mysteries now due to time and space, we will focus briefly on the mystery that Paul refers to in Romans 11:25

Read Romans 11 Verse 25

The Greek word for “Blindness,” ‘porosis’ means hardness, more specifically 1) the covering with a callus 2) obtrusiveness of mental discernment, dull perception 3) The mind has been blunted by stubbornness, inflexibility. Differs from the verb used to describe Pharaoh’s of stubbornness used by Paul in Rom 9:18.

Israel’s blindness was declared by Christ in Luke 19:42 “...this thy day.” The story: Jesus is riding the donkey into Jerusalem, some of the crowds are singing “*Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.*” Our friends the Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke the disciples, meaning “do not let them call you King.” Jesus said, “*I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*” When Jesus approached the city, He wept. Jesus said, “*If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*”



This day was specifically (exact day) prophesied by Gabriel to the Prophet Daniel (Dan 9:25). Jesus was holding them accountable to know the day of his triumphal entry and being proclaimed Messiah the King. Their blindness will last only until the event spoke of by Paul in Romans 11:25.

Why was the Temple destroyed and Jerusalem slaughtered in a.d. 70? “...*because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation...*” (Luke 19:43-44).

“Until”

The “Until’s” of Israel or the conditions for restoration: First, in Matthew 23:37-39 it says “Until they say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord...” (cf. Hosea 5:15).

Second, read **Luke 21:24**. The times of the gentiles is a term referring to Gentile dominion over Jerusalem started with Nebuchadnezzar and will end with the anti-Christ.

“Fullness of Gentiles” The Greek word ‘pleroma’ that which is (has been) filled; a maritime term, of a ship that is fully manned with sailors, rowers, and soldiers, etc. Implies a specific specification that is now complete. The Fullness of the Gentiles in Verse 25 is Paul’s technical term for the complete of the Church.

In Romans 11:25 are two specific facts about Israel’s hardening: 1) It is partial, “in part” because throughout this time “there is a remnant chosen by grace” (v. 5); 2) It is temporary because it will end when God’s sovereignly chosen number of Gentiles has been saved.

A Provocative Conjecture

The “fullness” indicates a specific number for completion. Satan must know that such a specific number exists, but he doesn’t know what the number is. When the number is complete, it fires a starting gun and he only has a little bit of time. For 2000 years he has been in shock treatment: every time someone puts their trust in Christ, the divine counter

increments by one. And each time, Satan doesn't know whether that increment renders it "full" and the Father says to the Son, "Go get them." Who is the one holding us all up?

Read Romans 11 Verse 26

After "the fullness of the Gentiles" the church is complete, the partial hardening of Israel will be removed and "all Israel will be saved," that is, "delivered." In the OT the word "saved" often means "delivered" from the terrible Tribulation by the Messiah, "the Deliverer."

To confirm this, Paul quoted from Isaiah 59:20-21 and 27:9. The statement, "All Israel will be saved" does not mean that every Jew living at Christ's return will be regenerated or saved in a theological sense, but the country shall be delivered in a corporate sense. Con the contrary, many of them will not be saved, as seen by the fact that the judgment of Israel, to follow soon after the Lord's return, will include the removal of Jewish rebels (Ezek 20:34- 38).

Read Romans 11 Verse 27

Following this judgment God will then remove godlessness and sins from the nation as He establishes His New Covenant with regenerate Israel (cf. Jer 31:33-34).

Read Romans 11 Verse 28

Here Paul summarized God's dealings with Israel and with the Gentiles: In order for God to bring "the gospel" to Gentiles He had to deal with Israel corporately as "enemies." But in relation to God's selection of Abraham and His covenant with him and the patriarchs, Israel is beloved.

Because God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (cf. Rom 9:6-13), He loves the nation and will carry through on His promises. God means what He says and says what He means. This is another reason Israel's hardening must be temporary (cf. Rom 11:15, 22-25) and she must finally be saved corporately: God chose her for this destiny.

Read Romans 11 Verse 29

"Without repentance" here means irrevocable. He does not revoke what He has given or whom He has chosen. [What about apostasy? 2 Peter & Jude...]

Read Romans 11 Verses 30 & 31

In verse 30, the Gentiles to whom Paul wrote were at one time disobedient to God, but in this Age of Grace Gentiles (you) have now received mercy. When Adam disobeyed (Rom 5:19) all were constituted sinners because all humanity sinned in Adam (Rom 5:12). We all inherited Adam's defect (Cf. "disobedient" in Eph 2:2; 5:6; and "disobedience" in Heb 4:6, 11.)

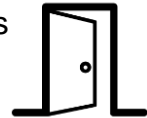
Israel (they) is now corporately disobedient to God so that when God's mercy to the Gentiles (you) reaches its full number (Rom 11:25), Israel will again receive mercy (cf. vv. 26-27).

Read Romans 11 Verse 32

"Concluded" in this verse means to shut up together, enclose (of a shoal of fishes in a net); to shut up on all sides, shut up completely.

God's ultimate purpose is to have mercy on...all. To do so justly God has "enclosed, shut in on all sides" all men over to disobedience. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). "Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin" (Rom 3:9), so that "there is no difference" (Rom 3:22).

When the Gentiles rejected God and disobeyed Him (Rom 1:17-21), God chose Abraham and his descendants as His special people. Now the disobedience of the Jews enables God to show mercy to the Gentiles. Then, when that purpose is achieved, He will again show mercy to Israel corporately. When the door shut for Israel it opened for the Gentiles. Conversely, when the door closes for the Gentiles, it will reopen for Israel.



Read Romans 11 Verse 33

Having concluded his discourse on God's righteousness in His sovereign choices, Paul now bursts out with praise.

The Greek word for "unsearchable" translates to the meaning "incapable of being traced by footprints." In Ephesians 3:8, its only other use in the New Testament refers to the riches of Christ.

Read Romans 11 Verses 34 & 35

In verse 34 the apostle then quoted Isaiah 40:13, which shows that God is the sole Designer of His wise plan.

Paul then in verse 35 uses a free quotation from Job 41:11, which testifies to God's sole responsibility for His acts. God is indeed the Sovereign of all things, the One to whom all creatures are accountable and whom all should glorify. He is under no obligation to repay anyone, for no one has ever given Him anything.

Read Romans 11 Verse 36

Paul's emotional wrap up of Chapter 11. God is the first Cause, the effective Cause, and the final Cause of everything. His deep ways are beyond man's discovering (Rom 11:33); beyond man's knowing (v. 34a), beyond man's counseling (v. 34b), and beyond man's giving (v. 35).

“All things” come from Him and by means of Him (Jn 1:3; Col 1:16a; Rev 4:11) and are for Him and His glory (Col 1:16b). God is the only proper One to magnify (1 Cor 1:31; cf. Rom 15:6; 16:27; 1 Pet 4:11; Rev 5:12-13).

The danger among believers today according to some theologians is a pride of race; a pride of face; a pride of grace. Paul said he had nothing to glory in. If he had none, then certainly we have none! Seek righteousness—and meekness.

Next Session

We begin the final (practical) section of the three major sections of the Epistle to the Romans: Romans 12 - 16. The “So what?” question for you and me! Some incredible discoveries lie ahead.

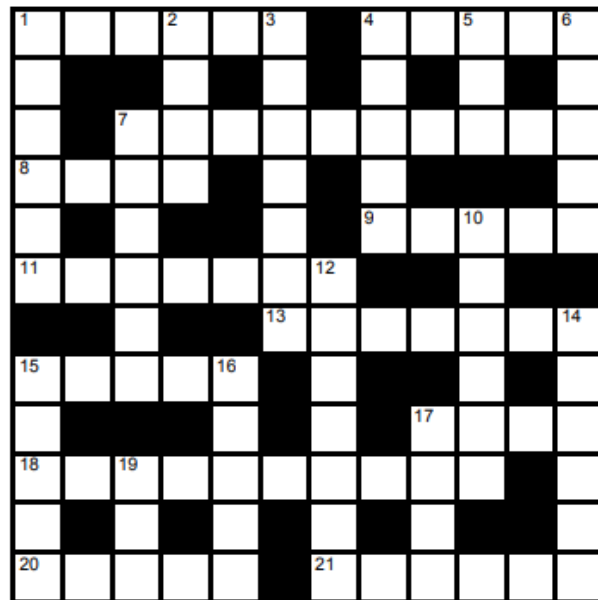
QUICK BIBLE CROSSWORD VIII

Across

- 1 Conflict (6)
- 4 Implement of war (5)
- 7 Forty years were spent here by Israel (10)
- 8 Watery downfall (4)
- 9 Consumed (5)
- 11 Testimony (7)
- 13 Sow (7)
- 15 Healed (5)
- 17 Tear (4)
- 18 Providential (10)
- 20 Humble (5)
- 21 Language (6)

Down

- 1 Obtain temporarily (6)
- 2 Jacob, for example (4)
- 3 Eternal (7)
- 4 Attend (5)
- 5 First woman (3)
- 6 Resurrected (5)
- 7 Season (6)
- 10 Tenths (6)
- 12 Red (7)
- 14 Enigma (6)
- 15 Biblical transport (5)
- 16 Decomposition (5)
- 17 Destroy (4)
- 19 Uncooked (3)



by Philologus

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Q. This is an unusual paragraph. I’m curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

A. The letter e, which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

Across: 1 Battle, 4 Spear, 7 Wilderness, 8 Rain, 9 Eaten, 11 Witness, 13 Scatter, 15 Cured, 17 Rend, 18 Miraculous, 20 Lowly, 21 Tongue.
Down: 1 Borrow, 2 Twin, 3 Endless, 4 Serve, 5 Eve, 6 Risen, 7 Winter, 10 Tithes, 12 Scarlet, 14 Riddle, 15 Camel, 16 Decay, 17 Ruin, 19 Raw.