

BLESSED ARE THE DISOBEDIENT

Romans 11:23-36

Typo or heresy?!! 32 “God has bound all men over to *disobedience*, so that he may have mercy on them all.”

God had to demonstrate Israel's disobedience before they'd accept His MERCY!

Only people who *disobey* can receive mercy!

If we could “do it ourselves”, we wouldn't *NEED* mercy.

ISRAEL IS “EXHIBIT A” FOR THE GOSPEL

Rom 9 Past: They lost it; thought they had it made

10 Pres: They're still lost; trying to do it themselves

11 Fut: Disobedience forces them to God's mercy

Good news: they won't be destroyed! How do we know?

God's promise: Jer. 31:35-36 “This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon & stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so its waves roar... ³⁶“Only if these decrees vanish... will the descendants of Israel cease to be a nation before me.”

Rom 11: How does Gospel affect Israel's future?

Is God fed up with Israel? 1-10

Has God rejected Israel? Are they finished? 1 “No way!”

God has **NOT** abandoned His people 11:1-6

God has preserved a remnant by grace—*NOT* works!

God has hardened majority of His people 7-10

Chosen found righteousness by *faith*, by God's grace;
majority sought it by works and *didn't find it!*

God provided way to save pagans 11-22

Purpose of Israel's fall 11:11-16

- NOT intended to DESTROY ISRAEL
- intended to make salvation available to us pagans
- to make Israel jealous so she'd turn back to God

Grafting of wild branches 11:17-21

We're not natural branches!

Branches broken off, so we're grafted into *their* vine.

They're broken off because of **unbelief**

We stand because of ***trust in Jesus!***

Basis of salvation 11:19-22 –*always* by faith

–*always* based on God's grace—His KINDNESS

That's GOOD NEWS for all—Jew and pagan alike!

God provides way to restore Israel 11:23-32

Natural branches will be grafted to their tree

[What's the basis for that hope?]

23-24 *"If they don't persist in unbelief, they'll be grafted in, for God's able to graft them in again. ²⁴After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that's wild by nature, & con-trary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!"*

Israel's fall is temporary 25-26 *"I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery... Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶& so all Israel will be saved."*

[What doesn't he want us to be ignorant of?]

In spite of unbelief, blindness isn't permanent

When attempts to establish *their* righteousness end

...when they trust God's provision,
 ...they'll be grafted back into the tree.

**If God can graft wild branches by faith,
 He can graft natural branches!**

Israel's fall is partial 25-26

Key words: *"in part"* and *"until"*.

"In part"—doesn't affect entire nation—still a remnant.

Continues until pagans God chooses are joined 11:25

All Israel will be saved (26)

Not every single one! Israel as a whole—as a nation

Zech 11: They'll look on the One they pierced, & mourn

God sends Savior to take away sins of the people

26-27 *"All Israel will be saved. As it's written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he'll turn godlessness away from Jacob.' ²⁷This is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."*

God NEVER revokes designation as His people

28-29 *"As far as the gospel's concerned, they're enemies **on your account**; but as far as election's concerned, **they're loved on account of the patriarchs**, ²⁹for God's gifts & his call are **irrevocable**."*

Delicate balance—acknowledges their rebellion

—acknowledges relationship with God—who promised to
 bless them—as well as those who bless them!

Jer.: as long as sea functions normally & heavens follow their
 course, God won't abandon His people!

[How does His mercy relate to restoration of Isr.? To us?]

His call of Israel is irrevocable! => So's OURS!!!

God extends *MERCY* to rebellious people 30-32

"Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience,³¹ 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.³² For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all."

Key word again is mercy. 4X in 3 vs!

2 cases demonstrate principle of salvation *for all*:

Gentiles disobedient until God showed us mercy

Now Israel is disobedient & needs God's mercy.

Now THEY have chance to experience *mercy*

**GOD DRAWS DISOBEDIENT PEOPLE TO HIMSELF
BY SHOWING MERCY**

No one—religious Jew or pagan Gentile—receives God's blessing because we deserve it!

We're included in God's plan because of His *MERCY*!

**ONLY PEOPLE WHO DISOBEY GOD
CAN RECEIVE HIS MERCY**

Paul contemplates greatness of God's mercy for rebellious, disobedient people; he's driven to praise God!

[What does he praise God for?]

God deserves praise because of his plan 33-36 *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom & knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, & his paths beyond tracing out!*

³⁴*“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”* ³⁵*“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”* ³⁶*For **from him & through him & to him** are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen.*

No human could think up such a plan!

All we can do is enjoy it; praise Him for His mercy!

God deserves all the glory & all our praise.

What should we do about message?

1) **Trust him and receive His mercy!**

2) **Don't be proud** (18)—We have no cause to brag!

We don't deserve a place of honor at God's table.

Yet God made way for us to participate in His plan!

That's *GRACE*! We have no cause to boast!

3) **Praise God for His Plan (33-36)**

Appropriate response: trust Him; praise Him for His mercy

PRAYER *“Oh, the depth of YOUR riches & wisdom & knowledge! How unsearchable are YOUR judgments; how inscrutable YOUR ways!... For from YOU & through YOU & to YOU are all things. **To YOU be glory forever. Amen***