

Romans 11:11–36 in the Context of Romans 9–11

In view of God's sure, complete salvation (*Romans 8:28–30*):

Foreknown—Predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son—Called—Justified—Glorified

1. No Greater Sorrow (9:1–5)

*Romans 8 leads us up the mountain to marvel at so great a salvation. Romans 9–11 leads us higher up to keep marveling even more at **so great a Savior**.*

2. No Greater Solace (9:6–10:4)

RESOLUTION (9:6a): **God's word has not failed.**

- a. (9:6b–13) God's redemptive promise is for the remnant, chosen by grace.
*"For not all who are from Israel are Israel" (9:6): Ethnic Israel and **Elect** ethnic Israel*
- b. (9:14–21) God's redemptive election is rooted solely in his sovereign, free will—*not in human effort or will.*
- c. (9:22–29) God's redemptive purpose is to publish his glory—*in judgment and especially in salvation of his predestined, multinational remnant.*
- d. (9:30–10:4) God's redemptive righteousness revealed in the law can be attained only by grace through faith, not by works of the law, which is why so many among ethnic Israel have stumbled—*for Christ is the end of the law.*

3. No Greater Strategy (10:5–11:10)

- a. (10:5–15) Our Strategy in relation to God's Word of Redemptive Promise
 - i. (10:5–13) Receive the gospel: *simply presented, simply received, simply for all*
 - ii. (10:14–15) Retell the gospel: *sending—preaching—hearing—believing—calling—saved*
- b. (10:16–11:32) God's Strategy in Accomplishing His Word across Redemptive History
 - i. (10:16–21) Prophesied Rejection from Ethnic Israel
 - ii. (11:1–10) Prophesied Remnant among Ethnic Israel, with the Rest Hardened
 - iii. (11:11–32) Prophesied Reconciliation of the World and Restoration of Israel
*"in this way, **all Israel** will be saved" (11:26)*

4. No Greater Savior (11:33–36)

- a. (11:33–35) Incomprehensible Wisdom: *knowledge, judgments, ways, self-sufficiency*
- b. (11:36a) Comprehensive Sovereignty: *author, agent, aim*
- c. (11:36b) Everlasting Glory: *our ascribed glory rooted in his intrinsic glo*

... **Romans 12:1a** | I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...

In other words: God's word has not failed (*his word = his redemptive promise to and purpose for Israel*).

Most of ethnic Israel did fail. But **elect ethnic Israel** did not and will not fail.

Moreover, the failure to believe Christ among the majority of ethnic Israel has unfolded precisely according to God's sovereign plan to bring salvation to the Gentiles, many of whom God also has elected unto salvation. And so, Christ's elect church includes the fullness of elect Jews and fullness of elect Gentiles—*each of whom he has chosen entirely by grace, for his own glory.*

Romans 11:11–36 in More Detail

I. Don't Give up on Jewish Unbelievers (11:11–12)

WHY? *Though many Jews have stumbled in rejecting Christ, God has not forsaken his purposes toward ethnic Israel.*

- (11:11–12a) **Because of the purpose and result of their hardening:** Through the rejection of Christ by ethnic Israel's majority ("their trespass"), God has brought salvation to the Gentiles, and through God's salvation of his elect among the Gentiles, he intends to incite unbelieving Jews to jealousy. That jealousy among ethnic Jews will lead some to repent so that the fullness of elect Israel will be saved, resulting in exponential riches.
- (11:12b): **Because of the nature of their hardening:** The fact that some Jews have believed in Christ proves that God's present hardening of Jews is only partial, not pervasive/ exhaustive. (i.e. not every Jew is hardened). Moreover, the fact that some Jews will become jealous and be saved proves that God's present hardening of not-yet-converted ethnic Jews is not necessarily permanent in every case; that is, not every Jew who presently is hardened will refuse to repent before they die. Some will repent and believe during their life on this earth, showing that they belong to elect ethnic Israel.

Pray | Pursue | Proclaim | Pray

II. Don't Be Arrogant toward Jewish Unbelievers or Believers (11:13–32)

WHY?

- (11:13–16) **Because through his riches to you, Gentile Christians, God is fulfilling his ongoing purposes for elect ethnic Israel.**

Through the apostasy of many ethnic Israelites (*i.e., their rejection of salvation in Christ, who is the end of the law*), God is working out his salvation purpose to bring in his elect from around the world. This reconciliation of the world will make elect-but-not-yet-converted Jews jealous of God's riches received by the Gentiles. That jealousy will lead these Jews to repent and put their faith in Christ so that they too will be accepted by God and raised to new life in Christ—along with every other person who receives the gift of justification by faith. Elect Israelites of old, such as the patriarchs, are only the first elect Israelites of many more elect Israelites to come in God's redeemed family.

- (11:17–18) **Because God's saving grace toward you, Gentile Christians, is rooted in his ancient grace toward elect ethnic Israel.**

Natural branches, some broken off
Wild olive shoot grafted into tree
Root of riches



- (11:19–24) **Because God will judge all unrepentant unbelief (including any apostasy among you Gentiles) and save all repentant believers (including not-yet-converted elect ethnic Israel).**

In his **severity**, God will judge unbelief among Gentiles who only associate with the church outwardly (without saving faith), just as he judges such unbelief among Jews. In his **kindness**, God will incorporate in his redeemed family all presently unbelieving Jews who repent and believe in Christ, just as God has incorporated believing Gentiles into his redeemed family.

- (11:25–32) **Because, although in the past God had prophesied that he would save all elect ethnic Israel, now he has revealed more fully the way in which he will save them, including through his grace to you, Gentile Christians.**

“Mystery”: *something hidden in the past that now has been revealed with Christ’s coming*

God is fulfilling his redemptive plan toward elect Jews in a manner that was prophesied in the Old Testament but is being fulfilled in a surprising way. God is doing so through: a partial hardening upon unconverted ethnic Israel (see 10:16–11:10) [some of whom will turn to Christ] and the ingathering of the fullness of elect Gentiles.

“This Mystery”: “... a partial hardening has come upon **Israel**,

until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

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

*For God has consigned **all** to disobedience,*

*that he may have mercy on **all**.” (11:25b–26a, 32)*

Partial hardening on “Israel”: *ethnic Israel or elect ethnic Israel?*
Salvation of “all Israel”: see box to the left

Consignment to disobedience: “*all*” *without exception or distinction?*

Receiving mercy: “*all*” *without exception or distinction?*

Verse 26 Linguistic Options (*theologically possible ones bolded*):

1. “All Israel” refers to every ethnic Jew in every age.
2. “All Israel” refers to every ethnic Jew in the last generation at the end of the age.
3. “All Israel” refers to an exponential number of ethnic Jews in the last generation at the end of the age.
4. “All Israel” refers to every elect ethnic Jew (*the remnant chosen by grace*), without promising a mass turning among ethnic Jews at the end of the age. *9:6 & 11:25–26 are intentional bookends in clarifying that “all Israel” is elect ethnic Israel.
5. “All Israel” refers to the church as spiritual Israel (*every elect Jew and Gentile*). *in v. 25 the remnant of Jews + fullness of Gentiles = in v. 26 “all Israel” as the complete church

In 11:25–32, Paul brings the argument he began in 9:6 to a **climax** that **poetically reiterates** truths he already has established:

- God’s partial hardening of unconverted ethnic Israel (“*But they have not all obeyed the gospel,*” 10:16; “*so too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace,*” 11:5; “*the elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,*” 11:7);
- God’s full ingathering of the elect among the Gentiles (“*vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles,*” 9:23b–24)
- God’s salvation of all his elect among ethnic Israel until Christ returns (“*God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew,* 11:2).

III. Glory in the One Who Saves All His Elect from Every Nation (11:33–36)

WHY?

- (11:33–35) **Because of His Incomprehensible Wisdom**
Knowledge Judgments Ways Self-sufficiency
- (11:36a) **Because of His Comprehensive Sovereignty**
Author Agent Aim
- (11:36b) **Because of His Eternal Glory**
Our ascribed glory to him is rooted in his intrinsic glory.

Table Discussion

(1) What is your main takeaway from Romans 11?

(2) What are your 2026 goals for making progress in praise and proclamation?