

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Friday, June 9

Reading: Romans 11:25-36

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!*

Paul now reveals a mystery not previously revealed in the Old Testament – It was necessary for Israel to reject the gospel so that it might be opened to the world! God's sovereign plan is on display as Paul describes His dealings with His people.

God's Promises are Unchangeable (11:25-29) – God had made a promise to Abraham and his descendants that was not dependent on their actions. It was solely based on His will and eternal plan. For a time, their eyes have been blinded to the gospel so that God could call the Gentiles. Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations but their unbelief had made them a hindrance. But this will not be their final outcome. When this age of the Gentiles is complete, Christ will return and Israel will turn to Him as their Savior and be saved. God's promises are unchangeable!

God's Mercy is Unbelievable (11:30-32) – It is unbelievable that God would extend His mercy to those who were disobedient. It is even more amazing that God used Israel's rejection as means for the Gentiles' salvation. A final amazing truth is that God uses the blessing of the Gentiles to bring His people Israel back to Himself (11:13-14). God's ultimate plan is to show His mercy to all those (both Jews and Gentiles) who turn from their disobedience to Christ. (see Psalm 103).

God's Wisdom is Unsearchable (11:33-36) – All the truths Paul has shared cause him to break out into a song of praise. To have a better understanding of theology should always lead to the praise of God. While God has revealed some of His eternal purpose and plan to us in His word, it is not possible for mere humans to understand the mind of God. This should be a comfort to believers for it reminds us that God is greater than us. If we could understand God then He would be on our level – like us – and thus not able to save. We should rejoice in the fact that we serve a great God whose ways are higher than our ways and whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). This is shown in that He is the Source of all things ("from Him"), the Power behind all things ("through Him"), and the Reason for all things ("for Him"). It is for these reasons that He alone deserves all the glory.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. "All Israel Will Be Saved." Some Christians say that God is done with the nation of Israel – that it has been replaced by the Church. I think they need to read Romans 10-11 again. There IS a future glory for God's chosen people where they will receive all the promises God made to Abraham, Though most of the nation presently rejects their Messiah, one day (at the last minute) Israel will turn to their Messiah. We should pray that God will open their eyes to see the Savior today
2. "Oh the Depths of the Riches of the Wisdom and Knowledge of God." Often our picture of God is too small. We try to fit Him into our little box and believe that He is more like us than the infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing God of the universe! Take some time to meditate on the closing words of Romans 11. Then consider how you have "limited" God in your thoughts. How do verses like these affect the way you think about God and what He can do in your life?