

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: TOWARD A NEW CREATION
UNIT THREE – LIFE ON GOD’S TERMS

“TWO PEOPLES...ONE GOD’S MERCY AND GRACE FOR ALL”



Sunday School Lesson No. XII– August 21, 2016
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Romans 11:11-24

Required Reading: Romans 11:1-36

Motto Texts: Romans 11:22 (NLT), *“Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.*

II Peter 3:9 (NLT), *“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”*

Reliable Resources: All the Books and Chapters of the Bible (H. Lockyer); Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible (Dr. David Jeremiah); Expository Notes and Outlines on the Book of Romans (E. C. Gillentine); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); George Brooks Preaching Commentary; Analytical Bible Expositor; Wiersbe Expository Outlines, The Bible Exposition Commentary (Be Series), Warren Wiersbe; The Outline Bible, H. L. Willmington; Romans: God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility by Dr. David Jeremiah

INTRODUCTION

According to Butlers Commentary: “This is the third and climatic chapter of the three Chapters of Romans (9, 10, 11) which deal especially with the issue of Israel’s rejection of the Gospel. This chapter is the longest chapter (in number of verses) in the book of Romans.”

Dr. Warren Wiersbe writes: “This chapter discusses Israel’s future, and answers the question, ‘Has God permanently cast aside His people, or is there a future for the nation?’ Paul states that the answer is Yes-That there is a future for Israel, and he presents several proofs.”

H. L. Willmington also shares that “Paul offered himself as proof along with many other Jews of his day who accepted Christ (11:5-6; see Acts 6:7). Even in one of the worst times of Israel’s history, when Elijah thought all was hopeless, many Israelites had remained faithful (11:2-4). A few Jews had found salvation (11:7)... unfortunately, however, most remained blinded by legalism (11:8-10; Ps. 69:22-23; Isa. 29:10, 13; compare II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:18).”

Now let us turn to our **Anticipated Power Points**, taken from Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator’s Devotional Outline by Martin R. Dahlquist, page 171:

- **Salvation came to Gentiles. Romans 11:11-12 (NLT)**
- **Israel Provoked to Envy. Romans 11:13-16 (NLT)**
- **Gentiles Should Avoid Arrogance. Romans 11:17-21 (NLT)**
- **Israel will be Restored. Romans 11:22-24 (NLT)**

“DEVOTIONAL OUTLINE

I. Salvation came to Gentiles (Rom. 11:11-12).

‘Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.’ God was using the unbelief of Israel to fulfill His purpose of redemption of the Gentiles. Paul desired that at least some of his fellow countrymen would come to Christ.

II. Israel Provoked to Envy (Rom. 11:13-16).

‘I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead! And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.’ Why did Paul work so hard at his calling of being ‘the apostle of the Gentiles’? Because Paul believed that the more Gentiles who were saved, the more Jews would come to God. These saved Jews would be only the firstfruits of a great future harvest of Jewish believers.

III. Gentiles Should Avoid Arrogance (Rom. 11:17-21).

‘But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree. But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root. “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. For if God did not spare the original branches, he won’t spare you either.’ Paul’s grafting illustration was now turned on its head. Following the normal procedure, a domesticated branch was grafted into wild stock to produce good fruit. But in this case Gentiles were the wild stock that was grafted into a domesticated root stock.

This entire process was contrary to normal practice. Consequently, Gentiles should never become proud or presumptuous. God could break them off if they became like Israel and did not remain faithful.

IV. Israel will be Restored (Rom. 11:22-24).

‘Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.’ In ancient Israel, grafting was often used to invigorate an olive tree. As the goodness and severity of God works its course throughout the ages, Israel will be grafted back into God’s promises at the end.

God’s ways are not man’s ways. Only God can and will use man’s rejection to accomplish His eternal purposes. God has not failed. God is not through with the descendants of Abraham. Whether through goodness or severity, God has not forgotten Israel.” (Outline from Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, Martin R. Dahlquist)

CLOSING

Precepts For Living by UMI states: “Paul does not envision the church as a replacement for Israel, nor of separate Jewish and Gentile churches, but rather a church made up of Jews and Gentiles. The God who was able to bring Gentiles to faith is able to restore unbelieving Israel into His one people. If the incorporation of Gentiles into Israel is possible, how much possible is the restoration of unbelieving Israel to the people of God? God is able!”

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Looking Ahead: August 28, 2016

Romans 12:1-2; 13:8-10

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School Lesson