**Salvation has come to the Gentiles**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 11:8-14**

**Wednesday Evening**

**November 20, 2024**

**Romans 11:8-14**

8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." 9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always."

11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

**8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day."**

Saints, the Jews being made unresponsive was confirmation of their inability to understand and their insensitivity to God’s word and God’s call.

When God judged them, he removed their ability to see, hear, and repent; thus they would experience the consequences of their rebellion.

But this is not the same as rejection; rather, it confirms their response to God.

**Isaiah 6:9-10**

And He replied: “Go and tell this people, ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ / Make the hearts of this people calloused; deafen their ears and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

**John 12:39-40**

39 For this reason they were unable to believe. For again, Isaiah says: 40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so that they cannot see with their eyes, and understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.”

**Acts 28:26-27**

26 ‘Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” 27 For this people’s heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.’

**2 Corinthians 3:14-15**

14 But their minds were closed. For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed. 15 And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

**9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them.**

Saints, quoting from Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10, their unresponsiveness was like a deep sleep.

**Deuteronomy 29:4**

Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

**Isaiah 29:10**

For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

Saints, when people repeatedly refuse to listen to God’s Good News, they eventually will be unable to hear and understand it.

Israel’s present misinterpretation of their Scriptures and refusal to accept Christ as their Messiah is a continuation of their tendency to misunderstand God’s plans and purposes for them.

Paul saw this happening in the Jewish congregations he visited on his missionary journeys.

**10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always."**

Saints, Next, Paul quoted from:

**Psalm 69:22-23**

22 Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually.

These words of David were originally a curse directed at Israel’s enemies.

Paul turns the curse around and points it at the Jews! These blessings should have drawn Israel to God and thus led them to Christ; instead, they became a snare, a trap.

**Matthew 13:14-15**

14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

**John 12:40**

"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

Israel’s blessings had led to pride that led them away from God.

Thus, not only did they miss the Messiah when he came, but they also persecuted and killed him.

**11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.**

Saints, this is the tenth time in this letter that Paul has asked a question only to respond in a strong negative.

No, Israel’s stumbling did not cause them to fall so that God has declared the nation beyond recovery.

Their blindness is not permanent; their fall is not fatal. Israel’s stumbling means that salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Israel’s rejection of Christ was a part of God’s plan all along, as essential as God’s sovereign choice of Jacob over Esau (9:10-13) and his hardening of Pharaoh (9:17-18).

**Romans 9:10-13**

10 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac 11(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

**Romans 9:17-18**

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

But the salvation of the Gentiles is not the end of the story. It too has a purpose—to make the Jews jealous.

The blessings offered to the Gentiles would spur Israel to end their hostility toward the gospel and ultimately bring them to faith.

God desires to restore Israel to himself.

**12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!**

Saints, God took the riches that the Jews should have received and offered them to the Gentiles, who gladly received them.

The Gentiles were enriched—those who received the gospel received great riches for eternity; and believers, in turn, have an influence for good on the rest of the world.

Paul looks beyond the present to a future time when the Jews will accept the riches of salvation that God offers.

Israel’s acceptance does not mean that the riches given to the Gentiles will be taken away; rather, when the Jews are saved, the Gentiles will enjoy even greater blessings along with them.

**13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,**

Saints, we can almost sense the intensity of Paul’s words as he defines his audience.

If we are not Jews, we know that the next words are meant for us.

Paul singles out the Gentile believers to listen carefully to what he is going to say.

We are being given an opportunity to understand their role in the divine plan of God.

Paul will explain that the salvation of the Gentiles both depends on Israel and contributes to Israel’s salvation.

All of the apostles were preaching both to Jews and non-Jews, but Paul had been specially appointed by God to go to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15; Galatians 2:3-10).

**Acts 9:15**

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

**Galatians 2:3-10**

3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. 6 But from those who seemed to be something--whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man--for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter 8(for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

**14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.**

Saints, throughout this ministry he had been a strong (and at first lone) advocate for Gentile freedom from the Jewish law.

Beyond that, Paul hoped that the Jews would want what the Gentiles had been given, and so they would be saved.

Paul hopes to cause the Jews to recognize that God greatly blessed the Gentiles when they believed in the Jews’ own Messiah.

The Jews might then realize that those blessings are still promised to them as part of God’s covenant with them, but they can only be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ.

Again Paul is revealing his great desire to see his people be saved.

**1 Corinthians 9:22**

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

**Acts 13:45**

But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they blasphemously contradicted what Paul was saying.

**Acts 28:24-28**

24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. 25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,

26 saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; 27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

28 "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

**1 Thessalonians 2:16**

hindering us from telling the Gentiles how they may be saved. As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them.

**Matthew 23:37**

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**