

May Jesus Christ be Praised - Part 3

THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAISE Romans 11:1-24

STIMULATE

** In our study together last week we learned the importance of preparing our "**Proclamation of Praise**" so that the world around us could hear the "good news", and having heard they could believe, and having believed they could "call upon the name of the Lord" to be saved!

** How has preparing your testimony effected your walk with the Lord?

For myself, I have enjoyed an 1) Increased intimacy and an 2) Increased accountability

MOTIVATE

** As the course of human events unfolded throughout the centuries of time, how is it that we were privileged to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ? Today in part 3 of "MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED", we are going learn the significant role that the nation of Israel played in our personal salvation and what kind of response that we are to have to the kindness of God. Please open your Bibles to Romans, chapter 11, verses 1-24.

Read Passage (V.1-5) (V.6-10) (V.11-18) (V.19-24)

Opening Prayer

The Privilege of Praise

INVESTIGATE

V. 1 ** What were the two outstanding characteristics of the nation of Israel that we learned about last time? (Romans 10:21)

They were: 1) disobedient 2) obstinate [antilego] lit. "contradict" or "to speak against"

** Has God rejected His people for being so obstinate?

"May it never be" [me genoito] Paul uses this term 10 times in his letter to the Romans, most often to repudiate an anticipated misunderstanding by his readers. It is the strongest negative in the Greek language and means "No, No, No, or Impossible". This same phrase is translated idiomatically by the King James version as "God forbid". There is no way that God would reject His own people or go back on any promise that He has made to them!

** What initial proof does Paul offer that God has not rejected Israelites for salvation?

Paul is saved and he is an Israelite! cf. Philippians 3:5
"A descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin"

V. 2-4

** What addition proof does he offer?

Scripture - From 1Kings 19:10, 14 & 18, Paul draws an example of how faithful God is to Israel, even when Elijah thought he was the only one left who was still following Him.

** What was the nature of Elijah's complaint?

Woe is me..."I alone am left...", he gave himself a pity party! (V.3)

** What was God's response?

"I still have 7000 men who worship Me!" (V.4)

God had not rejected Israel then, in Elijah's time, and He was not rejecting Israel now!

V. 5 ** As Paul was preaching the gospel, were any Israelites hearing and believing in the Messiah?

"...there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

V. 6 ** If God's loving grace chose certain Israelites for salvation, was their salvation then by works?

No, it was by God's grace, otherwise the works or efforts of men would eliminate the need for grace and God's grace would cease to be grace but instead would be payment for a job well done.

V. 7 ** Had Israel (nationally speaking) obtained the righteousness it was seeking, by keeping the Law?

No. "That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained..."

** Had any individual Israelites obtained that righteousness by faith?

Yes. "...those who were chosen obtained it..." Remember, there is no distinction with God, both Jew and Gentile are saved by grace through faith.

** What about the rest, what happened to them?

They were hardened! Here the word for hardened is "poroo" and is in the passive tense, indicating that the hardening was caused by an outside power. God, Himself hardened the rest of Israel! All see - Exodus 4:21, 9:12, 10:20

Why does God harden? For His glory sake! cf. Exodus 9:16, Romans 9:17

V. 8 ** Was this some new revelation that Paul was giving to his Roman readers, or should they have already known about God hardening the hearts of the nation?

It was promised! Paul borrows from the law (Deuteronomy 29:4) and the prophets (Isaiah 29:10) to illustrate God's intention to harden Israel's heart.

V. 9-10

** Even King David knew this was going to happen, what does he mean by referring to "their table"?

"A person's table is generally thought of as a place of safety, feasting, and substance. The Jews considered God's Word, in particular the Torah, to be their spiritual sustenance--which indeed it was. But because of their

rebellious unbelief, that Word became a judgment on them, a stumbling block and a retribution." [John MacArthur, Romans, page 104]

** These two verses come from the Messianic Psalm 69, verses 22 and 23, where David foretells the judgment of God upon Israel. What is significant about them losing their sight?

The Messiah came to give sight to the blind!

cf. Matthew 11:2-6, Jesus sending word back to John the Baptist about His Messianic credentials, but Israel had been blinded spiritually by God!

V.11 ** So if God has not rejected Israel (V. 1), what was the purpose of their stumbling in unbelief?

It was not to "fall" into judgment, but to bring salvation to the Gentiles! All see Acts 13:44-48

** The "Praise" of Jesus Christ that we all share in our common salvation was granted to us as a "Privilege" because of the unbelief of Israel. What impact was our salvation supposed to have upon Israel?

It was to make them jealous, that they too would desire to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

V.12 ** What value then, was the sin of Israel to the rest of the world?

It proved to be "riches" for the world and in particular the Gentiles, providing the opportunity to gain eternal life by faith.

** What will be an even greater blessing to the world?

The restoration or fulfillment of Israel as God sets up His Millennial Kingdom.

cf. Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:26-27, Revelation 7:4, 9-10

V.13 ** How does Paul feel about the importance of his ministry to the Gentiles?

He defends his calling to be an apostle to the Gentiles and unashamedly "magnifies" his efforts.

V.14 ** Why does he increase his outreach to Gentiles?

So that he might "move to jealousy" his fellow Israelites and by that "save some of them".

cf. Romans 9:3

V.15 ** How does Paul explain the "cause and effect" of Israel's jealousy?

Paul refers to Israel's rejection of the Messiah producing the reconciliation of the world, as the cause and Israel's jealousy leading them to acceptance (which produces spiritual life from the dead) as the effect!

V.16 ** Paul now uses an analogy to describe how unique Israel is in God's eyes. Who is the "first piece" of dough and the "root" which are both holy? Hint: Remember this is regarding the beginning of the nation of Israel.

Abraham! cf. Verse 1, Abraham represented Israel as a holy (set apart) nation, unto the Lord.

V.17 ** In his analogy, what does Paul say happened to some of the "branches"?

They were broken off, some of Abraham's descendants fell away in unbelief!

** How does Paul refer to the Gentiles?

They are "wild" olives, which had been grafted into the rich root of the olive tree.
cf. Matthew 3:8-9

V.18 ** Well, since God thought so highly of us so as to graft us into the "root" of Abraham, should we feel pretty proud about ourselves?

Me genoito! Absolutely not! "...do not be arrogant toward the (natural) branches..." which had been broken off, as if you are better than they.

** Why not?

Because "it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you"! Abraham was saved by faith establishing the course and showing us the way we were to follow at a much later date!
cf. Romans 4:9-11

V.19 ** What would the arrogant heart likely say about those Israelite "branches" which had been broken off?

"Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in!" A loathsome display of pride!

V.20 ** While that is a statement of fact, what should be our response in light of their being broken off?

"Do not be conceited, but fear!" cf. 1Corinthians 10:11-12, Philippians 2:12-13 Our response should be one of reverence and awe for a holy God who was willing to save us!

V.21 ** Why did God not spare the natural branches?

Because of their unbelief! cf. V.23a

** To what conclusion does all of this bring the apostle Paul?

"To Him be the glory forever. Amen." God alone deserves our praise and His Name is to be glorified in our lives!

EXTRICATE

** What was the mystery, hidden from the Old Testament saints, that we learned today?

That God was causing a partial hardening upon the hearts of the nation of Israel, until the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled.

** What was the wonderful promise put forth by Paul in verse 29 of our passage, upon which we can base our praise to Jesus Christ?

"...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." God if faithful!

DELINEATE

** For all who are saved, what have we received from God to ensure our salvation so that we do not have to rely on our merit according to verse 30 ?

The mercy of God!

EVALUATE

** Does your heart burst with love and appreciation for God who has done so much for you? Not only in your salvation, but by making you part of His family He enables you to live for His glory by living a life which continually proclaims, "MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED"!

ACTIVATE

** Please go before the Lord in prayer now and let Him know of your desire to show others the joy of your salvation, so that they may ask you of the hope that is within you! To God be the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer