

Romans 11:25~36

What a privilege it is, to possess the eternal word of God, to be given “*insight*” to the mind of God. Each one of these words was derived from the mind of God. Infinite wisdom... When you consider creation, and the wisdom that is clearly seen there, it gives us just a little insight of how wise God must be. Think about the human body, and all its complexities. Here we see the wisdom of God.

²⁵*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be **ignorant** of this **mystery**... lest ye should be wise in your own conceits...*

Paul says, “You need to **Know** what God is doing, so that you don’t end up with the wrong conclusion.”

Without *all the facts*, we might be wise in our “*own conceits*,” in our own understanding, and “*Think*” something to be true that is not true at all! If we don’t have all the facts, and base our judgment solely on *the way things appear to be*, there’s a very good chance that we be wrong in our assumptions. We might perceive something to be one way, when just the opposite is true. I don’t know about you, but there’s been several times I thought I understood a certain situation, only to learn that I didn’t have a clue, that I was totally wrong. And the reason being, I was lacking important information that helped explain the situation, I based my judgment on the way things appeared to be.

Here, Paul warns us to be careful not to be quick to judge a matter, based solely on our limited knowledge of it. Without having all the facts, it’s very easy to *form the wrong opinion*.

The specific example Paul has in mind here concerns the nation Israel... One might think, that because Israel rejected Christ Jesus, and had Him crucified, that God has washed His hands of them. That God would want nothing more to do with Israel. One might think that Israel has gone to far and that God is angry with Israel. But that’s simply not the case, Paul declares in this section, that all the events that had transpired in recent days, specifically concerning Israel and their rejection of Christ, was simply the fulfillment of God’s plan as outlined in Holy Scripture. Rather than “*Hinder*” God’s plan or disrupt it in any way, God used it to bring about His plan of redemption of the world.

This “**Mystery**” Paul is referring to here, is that of the “**Inner workings**” of Gods plan of redemption. This word refers to the “*hidden things*,” the things that are “*Unknowable*” without a *special revelation*.

Paul says...I do not want you to be ignorant of “*what God is doing*...”

It refers to the things you cannot see, such as *the motives or reasoning* behind the actions. WHY something happened. All we know is what we see taking place at the present time, we may not have a clue what it will lead to, or the reasoning behind it...but God knows.

One of the best illustrations of this would be the war in Iraq. You don’t have to look far to find an opinion about it. There’s been some “*Harsh words*” spoken against the leader of our country over it. And looking at it from “*face value*,” I completely understand where they are coming from. They’re looking at the turmoil, the death toll, the chaos, etc, and blast the President for all of it. And I admit, it is a bad situation. But I will say this, even though I don’t understand it all, even though it bothers me to see all the carnage, I do believe it’s the Lord’s Will... I don’t say that as a “*Republican*,” I say that as a *Christian*. It wouldn’t matter to me who was in office. (Proverbs 21:1) *The Kings heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turns it withersoever he will*. In short, God is “*In Control*.” Things are going exactly according to plan. Looking at the war at face value, its easy to see the opposition. But knowing nothing happens outside God’s will, changes everything. What if, there’s a specific reason God has in mind for allowing this war to take place? The Middle East is a “*Ticking time bomb*” waiting to explode. The scriptures tell us, that “*in the last days*,” leading up to Christ return, the Anti-Christ shall come and set up

his reign. He will do so as a great political leader, who begins by bringing about world peace. Can you imagine a more highly esteemed man than the man who could come up with a solution to the crises?

²⁵*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; ...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

The events that have transpired in recent days...are all part of God's Will and Plan. Paul reveals that "**blindness**" has come upon Israel, (*the nation as a whole*), as a "*Divine result*" of God's Will and Plan. Paul says "*in part*," because there is a "*small remnant*" of Jews, who have received Christ, there is a small part of the nation who have "*eyes that see, and ears that hear.*" But the larger part of the nation as a whole has rejected Him, and do so unto this day! Paul declares this historical event, that changed the world, was all a part of God's plan.

Here in Romans, Paul reveals this "**Spiritual Blindness**" was imposed on them by God Himself! God closed their eyes and ears as it were, so that they would not know who Christ was, resulting in their rejecting Him and in having Him crucified. *Which all worked together* to bring about His divine plan.

God used Israel to bring about the salvation of the world, by using them to offer up the sacrificial Lamb of God, for the sins of the world. By crucifying Christ, Israel was bringing about the atonement for mans sin.

All of this was "*foretold*" of by the O.T. Prophets and writings long before hand. But it was "*hidden*" from their understanding; it was a "**mystery**" unto Israel. On one hand, God revealed everything He was going to do concerning His plan of redemption, through Holy Scripture. But at the same time, He *concealed His intentions* from Israel, by "*darkening*" their understanding of those scriptures. God had "*hidden from Israel*" what He was about to bring about and do through them.

(1Corinthians 2) ⁶*Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught: ⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

If the "*wise and noble*," the "*teachers & Rabbis*," the "*leaders*" of Israel had KNOWN who Christ was, they would have never had him crucified. But God "**darkened**" their understanding, He hid it from them as it were. Which, if you understand what Paul is saying here, is amazing. The most knowledgeable men of Holy Scripture in all of Israel, didn't have a clue who Christ was! Reason being, salvation wouldn't come by man's wisdom! In the cross, God would bring the "*Wisdom of men*," to NOTHING!

Their rejection of Christ would "*Reveal*" the "**Blindness of their heart!**"

"blindness"... *stupidity or callousness:—blindness, hardness. (a kind of stone); to petrify.*

It simply refers to the fact that Israel is walking in "*Ignorance*" to the truth of God's Word. Their hearts are "*calloused, or hardened*" to the message of Christ, they won't listen to it, thus to this day they are yet in "**darkness.**"

But the point here being, that this "*blindness*" has come upon the nation, by the "*Divine Will of God.*" God Himself has brought this *blindness*, this *darkening of the eyes* of Israel. It is all part of His plan to redeem the world. Not only does Paul reveal that Israel's blindness is God's doings...and that God has set a specific *length of time* the nation will be in this condition...

...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

Paul reveals that Israel will remain this way until the "*fullness of the Gentiles*" be come in, which means the "*full number*" or the "*complete number.*" Israel will reaming in this "**blindness**" until every last

Gentile (*that is going to be saved*) comes in. Once all of the Gentiles (*that are going to be saved*) are saved, God will remove the “*blindness from Israel*,” thus resulting in “*all of Israel being saved*.”

(Vs 25b~27) ²⁵...*blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.* ²⁶*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

Paul quotes from Isaiah 59:20~21, declaring God’s promise of a Israel’s salvation. Paul declares that these words of Isaiah were speaking of Christ second visit to earth. When this “*present time*” has run its course, and this part of God’s plan fulfilled, God will restore Israel to its rightful place. But not until then.

(Vs 28~29) *Paul reveals to us, that in the future, Israel **will be** reconciled to the place of blessing, but for now, they are fulfilling God’s plan by their opposition to Christ!*

²⁸*As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes. ²⁹For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

Right now, Israel is the enemies of Christians, and the gospel we preach. As far at the preaching of Christ goes, as far as the gospel message, Israel is enemies of it, they oppose it to this day! But Paul says, even though they reject Christ, and reject the message of Christ, and everyone associated with the gospel message, they are still the elect of God, God’s chosen people, and nothing will ever change that. That’s what Paul means by...²⁹*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

When God makes a promise, He never goes back on it. God is faithful to His word. Even though they rejected Christ and are the enemies of the gospel...they are still the “*beloved*” for the fathers sake, (*speaking of the patriarchs.*) God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and as a result, God will fulfill that promise no matter what! He will keep His word to the children of Israel.

(Vs 30~32) *Paul reveals a very interesting truth... ³⁰For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: ³¹Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. ³²For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

God’s *blinding of Israel* was for the purpose of *bringing them to salvation*...

This sums up everything Paul has been saying to this point. From 9:30~10:3...Paul has declared Israel “*dead in their sins*,” and that they have fallen short of righteousness with God. You see, the whole matter is, Israel thought they were right with God by their “*obedience*” to the Law, when in fact they were not. The blinding of Israel was to bring them to down, to humble Israel, to bring them to a place where they saw their need for Christ! Everything God did, He did to bring about the salvation of Israel.

Paul says...Israel’s salvation will be no different than the salvation of the Gentiles.

³⁰*For as ye in times past... ³¹Even so have these also now...*

A somewhat similar sequence of events will occur in the future. Israel’s disobedience will be turned into obedience by “*God’s mercy!*” Just as the Gentiles hearts have been turned to God by the Grace found in Christ, so will it be with Israel in the future, when God turns the hearts of His people back to Himself when they see Christ and His wounds! It will be abundantly clear to all in that day, that “*Righteousness comes not by the Law*,” but by Grace!

(Vs 33~36) ³³*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unreachable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ³⁴For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath*

been his counselor? ³⁵Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? ³⁶For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

“Judgments” here refers not to God’s role as judge, but His role as executioner of salvation history. They are the “decrees” He has issued in order to bring about His plan for the world! A lot of things that God does and allows to happen, may not make sense to us, we may have a hard time understanding certain things that happen. But one thing we can know...God is faithful, and He will do what’s right!

Paul breaks out in a doxology of PRAISE!

Oh how deep are God’s riches of wisdom and knowledge...(What a “BLESSING” they are to the soul!)
God’s wisdom and knowledge far exceeds mans...His ways are *too high for us!*

Who is able to know *what He is thinking?*

Has anyone here ever *given God advice?*

Or is there anyone who God *owes anything* too?

³⁶For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.