

Romans 11:7~8, part 2

What a blessing it is, to be given an inside view of the series of events leading up to the rejection of Christ by His people the Jews...

According to Paul... Only a very small number of Jews were able to “Recognize” WHO Jesus was...
(Vs 7b) ...*the rest were **blinded***...

Paul uses an interesting choice of language to explain what happened.

⁷What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he “*seeketh*” for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Paul says... Israel DID NOT Find what they were LOOKING for...

What was Israel “*Seeking*” for?

Paul answered that question back in 9:30~32...³⁰*What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. ³¹But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, **hath not attained** to the law of righteousness. ³²Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.*

What was Israel “*Seeking*” for? *Righteousness with God...*

Israel’s downfall was that they “*sought it*” by the “*works of the Law...*”

(10:2~3) ²*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God*

“Ignorant” means “Void of understanding.” They were “*Spiritually Dumb*”, walking in error, they did not know the way that righteousness was attained. They were “*Void of Spiritual Truth*” that would result in righteousness. Here in 11:7, Paul describes them as **BLIND**...

Here in verse 8, Paul reveals that God was the one responsible for making them blind. That as he called it, *God had given them a spirit of slumber...* that they should not see, though it be right in front of them, nor hear, even though they be clearly told.

God had “**Blinded**” Israel to Spiritual Truth...



The one who had “*Created their eyes*” has the ability to adjust them, and determine how they **SEE**!

Though they had 20/20 Vision, and could SEE everything with great clarity...

Spiritually, they couldn’t SEE anything! They were Blind as a Bat! I am still amazed at this... how that two people can look at the same thing, and SEE things so different!

In Isaiah 29... we are told of the reason for God’s Blinding of Israel...

¹³*Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: ¹⁴Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent*

men shall be hid. ¹⁵Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who sees us? and who knows us?

God “Blinded” Israel as a result their seeking to “HIDE” their sin from God!

Their hearts were not right with God, but they pretended to be, by seeking to hide it. They continued to partake in the “worship activities” of God, attending synagogue, functions at the temple... Outwardly, they appeared to be living in a way that was pleasing to God, but truth was, they weren’t honoring God from the heart...it was phony. It wasn’t genuine worship, it was false worship. Truth was, their hearts were given to other things, the things of this world, and to sin... What made it so bad, was the fact they thought they were “*hiding it*” from God.

They were playing God for a “Fool”, as though He couldn’t SEE the TRUTH.

They thought they could come to the Temple, and go through the motions of worship, then on the way out, hang God up till next week, and that was fine. But as Paul told us back in 10, God is a Jealous God, he doesn’t take lightly anything else taking His rightful place!

So as a result...because they tried to “Cover up” their sinful heart, because they tried to “Hide it” from God... God “HID” as it were, HIS Things from them!

Israel had been given all the knowledge of God’s wisdom (scripture).

They possessed the truths of the universe...

They held in their hands...the “Book of Life!”

(Vs 11~12) **Illustration of “Closed Book.”** But because of their sin...of seeking to Hide their sin from God, God Hid his truth from them. They couldn’t understand any of it! They could read all they wanted too, study it diligently, but it would be like a “Closed Book” to them.

The Illustration makes clear... **They wouldn’t know ANYTHING!**

They would be “Spiritually Ignorant!” **Spiritually Blind...**

The Christ of Scripture would be completely hidden from them!

In their hands, Israel would hold the “Holy Scriptures” of God...yet not understand them in the least.

They thought they did, they thought they KNEW much...but in the end, God revealed to the whole world the fools that they were. The ones to who possessed the scripture, the laws and commands of God, the written prophecies concerning their Messiah...the one people that should have known Christ when He came on the scene, did not!

Because of the spiritual blindness and spiritual deafness God placed upon them, no matter what Christ did, or what Christ said...they wouldn’t have a clue it was Him!

(Vs 14) In Christ, God would “Unmask” Israel and reveal the “Hidden Man” behind it...

¹⁴**Therefore,** behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

God was going to EXPOSE them...by revealing the true condition of their heart to the whole world. Israel’s great scholar’s, the scribes, Pharisee’s, lawyers, etc...those who boasted of their great wisdom, knowledge, and understanding...**(as a result of God’s blinding them)** had NO CLUE WHO He was!

Through Christ... God would make FOOLS out of them... while at the same time manifesting their "TRUE FEELINGS" towards God!

Israel didn't love God as they professed too... but rather hated Him, and wanted nothing to do with Him! There was "*No Room*" in their heart for God... they wanted to do their own thing, go their own way! The message of Christ was one of repentance! To turn away from self-will, self-desire and this world, and follow the Lord. But they would have none of that! By rejecting Christ, they open manifested their rejection of God in their heart!

(Vs 14) *¹⁴Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.*

Paul quotes this last part over in 1Corinthians 1...

¹⁷*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, (Man's Wisdom) lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

¹⁹*For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. ²²For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: ²³But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; ²⁴But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. ²⁵Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

The so-called great Scholars and teachers of Israel... had no clue what they were talking about! They thought they did, but given the fact that all of Scripture was given in testimony of Christ, and the fact that they "rejected Him" affirmed that they didn't have a clue! It revealed the fact they were "*Spiritually Blind!*"

One of my favorite examples of this is the children in the Temple... **(Mt 21:12~16)**

Jesus quoted from Psalms 8... *Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou might still the enemy and the avenger.*

God would use "*little Children*" to SHAME the so-called scholars and so-called wise men!

Think about, what they SAW as "*Foolishness*" was God's Wisdom...
What they SAW as "*Weakness*" was God's Strength...

(1Corinthians 2:1~5) So Paul kept his message simple... Christ Crucified!

(1Corinthians 2:6~16) The “Revelation” of Scripture...

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.*

For those of us in Christ, our eyes have been opened to SEE the truth of Scripture... Truth that Israel could not SEE, truth that was HIDDEN from them.

If they had known the truth of scripture...they wouldn't have crucified Christ!

⁹*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

(Illustration) ¹¹*For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.*

¹²*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴**But the natural man (The unregenerate man)** receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Israel walked in “Spiritual Darkness...” Christ came into the world so that he might be LIGHT to those in Darkness. And there was a handful, that upon hearing his words, realized their spiritual condition, and repented and followed Him. But for the most part, Israel as a whole rejected Him.

In John 15, Jesus said...²²**If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.**

What does he mean by that? Simply this... If Christ had not come, and shed light on the JEWS, revealing their sinful, rebellious hearts, they would still be deceived into thinking they were “*Right with God*” by their “*Supposed...Obedience to the Law...*” But during His time there, He exposed their sinful hearts, Jesus made it clear, they were no different than the Gentiles, that doing the works of the Law didn't make them right with God! That they too needed to REPENT and turn to God.

(Righteousness of Law = Cloak) Jesus took away their righteousness in the law, leaving them naked before God in their sin! If they perished, it would not be for ignorance, but for willingly to chose to stay in sin rather than repent and yield their heart to God!

2Co. 4:1~6...lest the **light** of the glorious gospel...

Matthew 6:19~24... *The light of the body is the eye...*

Ephesians 5... *Awake thou that sleeps...*