

Title: Antisemitism's Antidote

Passage: Romans 11:16-36

Summary:

- I. Beware of the impartiality of God (v. 16-18)
- II. Behold the kindness and severity of God (v. 19-24)
- III. Be informed about the purposes of God (v. 25-32)
- IV. Boast in the incomprehensibility of God. (v. 32-36)

Key Truths:

- Biblical support of Israel is clear. This does not mean we agree with whatever they do. But we must support God's promises to Abraham for them to be in that land. God gave them that land. They didn't force themselves into that area.
- We should pray for them to be saved through Jesus Christ. Do not write off God's promises for the nation of Israel.
- Pride vs. humility. In humility, those genuine in their faith would be in wonder of God's love that He would sovereignly choose me to having saving faith in Jesus Christ. In pride, one thinks they are entitled or proud of their perceived status of being "saved" and look down on others.
- Only one qualification is needed for anyone to receive God's mercy: disobedience.
- Doxology (Romans 11:33-36): "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE REPAYED TO HIM? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Pride is blindness to God's kindness. How can pride so easily intrude into our thinking?
- How may you grow in fear of the Lord to be like Jesus and not a Judas Iscariot?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Question: What is eschatology?

Revelation 1:1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

- Eschatology = study of end times = who Jesus Christ is and what He will do.
 - Including what He will do with Israel.

In today's passage, find the attitude to antisemitism.

Overview

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EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

Romans 11:13-14

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.

- What God is doing in the church today is to move Jews to jealousy to come to Christ.

I. BEWARE OF THE IMPARTIALITY OF GOD (v. 16-18)

Romans 11:16

“And if the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.”

- Reference to the whole of the Old Testament:
 - Number 15 (law), Ezekiel, Nehemiah 10 (writing)
- Meaning = If the small portion of God's promises are sure, then the rest of the promise will be fulfilled.
- Root = Abraham / Israel
 - Branches = Gentiles

Romans 11:17-18

“But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became a partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast against them, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.”

- False theology: Gentile Christians are the “true Jews”
- Gentile Christians are “wild olive branches”
- Temptation: prideful that we are entitled to be part of God's family.
 - Truth: Humble joy recognizing God's mercy.
 - We were dead and have been graciously grafted into life!

A prideful response is expected...

II. BEHOLD THE KINDNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD. (v. 19-24)

Romans 11:19–24

“You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” Quite right! They were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be haughty, but fear, for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?”

Romans 11:19

“You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.””

- prideful response.

Romans 11:20a

“Quite right! They were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith.

- But we are only in Christ because God has given us the miraculous gift of faith.

Romans 11:20b

Do not be haughty, but fear,”

- Fear = godly fear and respect of God.
- Pride is faithless and fearless of God.

Romans 11:21

“for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.”

- If your pride continues, you are revealing you are not really saved at all.
- False theology = “Once saved, always saved.”
 - Truth: “Once saved, always repenting.”
 - Repentance is not proud.
- Meaning = God will have no problem to break off those who are not in Christ, who are not fruitful in Christ.

Romans 11:22

“Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.”

- Note: Judas Iscariot
 - he served as treasurer of the disciples. He did miracles in Jesus' name.
 - Yet he wasn't genuine in faith in Christ and broken off.
- Fear of the Lord.
 - one is not afraid of God.
 - Yet one is humble before God in wonder of God's love that He would sovereignly choose me to having saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pride
 - Is blindness of God's kindness.
 - I have a clean life. I am ok before God.

Isaiah 11:3a

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Romans 11:23

“And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.”

- God's promises remain open to Israel.

Romans 11:24

“For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?”

- Reminder of how unnatural Gentile Christians are.
- Biblical support of Israel
 - Not means we agree with whatever they do.
 - But support God's promises to Abraham for them to be in that land.
 - God gave them that land. They didn't force themselves into that area.
 - We want to see them saved.

III. BE INFORMED ABOUT THE PURPOSES OF GOD. (v. 25-32)

Romans 11:25a

“For I do not want you, brothers, to be uninformed of this mystery

- The truth must be clear and be known.

Romans 11:25b

so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;”

- “a partial hardening has happened to Israel“

- hardening is not total, not permanent.
- “until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”
 - At the perfect time, God will save Israel.

Romans 11:26a

“and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

- God’s promise is sure and clear.

Romans 11:26b-27

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”

“AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.””

- This is clearly about the nation of Israel.
- References to Isaiah 59, Psalm 14

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

Isaiah 60:22

The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

- Do not write off God’s promises for the nation of Israel.

Romans 11:28

“From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;”

- God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He loves the nation.
 - Just like God loves us.

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- We do not write-off enemies of God. He still loves them. Just as He loved us while we were still sinners.

Romans 11:29

“for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

- God does not take back His gifts and calling.
 - It is unfathomable for that to occur!

Romans 11:30–32

“For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.”

- Key words: disobedience, mercy
- Only one qualification is needed for anyone to receive God’s mercy: disobedience
 - Shall we not be humble and tremble and pray “God save the nation of Israel. Bring your beloved enemies into your kindness.”?

IV. BOAST IN THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF GOD. (v. 33-36)

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

- God is no less than His Word but He is so much more!

Romans 11:34

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- What God judges right - it is unsearchable.
 - God sent His only Son to die for you.
 - How unsearchable is that truth!
- God’s ways are unfathomable.
 - Beyond our imagination and comprehension.

Romans 11:35

***For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?
Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE REPAYED TO HIM?***

- Clear answers: No one!
- References Isaiah 40, 55

Romans 11:36

***For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.
Amen.***

- Eternal truths of God.

- All things: your faith, salvation, sanctification, and glory.