

(25) Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the ‘fullness of the Gentiles’ has come in. And in this way ALL Israel will be saved, as it is written,

(26b) “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; “and this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (Isaiah 59:20; 27:9)

(28) As regards the Gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience --- that He may have mercy on all!

(33) Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

(34) “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?” (Isaiah 40:13)

(35) “Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?” (Job 35:7)

(36) For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Think on These Things

- 1) Don’t be “ignorant” (i.e., unknowing) of the mystery. In the Bible, especially in the New Testament, mystery refers to a “new” revelation God is giving to His people (Colossians 1:25-27, for example). According to the end of verse 25, what is the mystery Paul refers to now?

- 2) In the Old Testament, we are told that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart. Why did He do this? See Exodus 4:21 & 10:20, and Romans 9:17-18. Why has God hardened the Jews’ hearts for a time?

- 3) Who are God’s people? Let’s review Romans 9:6-8, 25-28; 10:12-13; and 11:11-12. Look also at Galatians 3:26-29. So, when you read “all Israel will be saved,” does this promise belong just to the Jews? In regards to the Jews, will it be a mixed-obedience “all” or an obedient “remnant”?

- 4) Read Daniel 9:20-27. Daniel is told that there are “70” weeks until sin is ended, and vision and prophecy comes to an end (v.24). There will be “69” weeks until the Anointed One comes and then is cut off (killed, v.25). The 69 weeks --- each week representing “7 years” --- applies to the 1st coming of Christ: 483 years (69x7) from the decree from Cyrus for the Jews to return to Jerusalem. The final “week” of 7 years (v.27) is a description that fits the Tribulation period found in Revelation. So, what about all the years between the death of Jesus until the beginning of the tribulation? Some scholars refer to them as “the times of the” what (Romans 11:25b)?

- 5) Explain why the Jews are considered “enemies” of the Gospel (v.28).

- 6) How do you understand v.29, God’s calling and gifts are irrevocable? How might understanding this be helpful to your walk with the Lord? What does this mean for the Jews?

- 7) What is the end of this “hardening” period the Jews are in today? See v.32.

- 8) Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Verses 33-34 from this chapter make it clear that sometimes it’s hard to understand God’s thinking and plans...like this “fullness of the Gentiles” mystery. What can help us? See 1 Corinthians 2:16.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: