



- For This World!

4. This Is Something That:

- Joseph Learned Himself:

- During His Exile In Egypt!

- As He Would Later Tell His Brothers:

- Genesis 50:20 - "But As For You, Ye Thought Evil Against Me; But God Meant It Unto Good!"

- Joseph Learned That:

- Even Though God's Plans:

- May Not Be The **Same**:

- As Our Plans!

- God's Plans:

- Are Actually **Better** Than:

- Our Plans!

- And - Nothing Can Frustrate:

- His Plan & Purpose!

- Nothing Can Get In His Way!

5. And This Is What We Will Also Find:

- In The Verses We Come To This Morning:

- Back In The Book Of Romans:

- Romans 11 - Where The Apostle Paul:

- Is Explaining To Us:

- God's Ongoing Plan & Purpose:

- For His Old Testament People, The Children Of Israel!

- In 11:1-6 - Paul Reminds Us:

- About The **Goodness** Of God!

- And His Grace:

- In Keeping For Himself - A "Remnant!"

- Even Within That "Disobedient & Gainsaying People!" (10:21)

- And This Is Why:

- We Can Keep Trusting & Resting In:

- His Grace!

- 11:5 - "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace!"

- But Then - In 11:7-12 - The Verses We Come To This Morning:

- Paul Will Remind Us:

- About The **Greatness** Of God:

- To Bring About His Purposes & Plans:

- No Matter What!

- So That - Absolutely Nothing:

- Can Frustrate:

- The Plan Of God!

- Not Even The "Evil" Things:

- That Seem To Get In The Way Of Our Plans:

- And Frustrate Us!

6. Lets Read Together:

- 11:7-12 - "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded / (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. / And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: / Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. / I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation [is come] unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. / Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"

- In These Verses - We Find:

- Three Things That Often Get In The Way:

- Of Our Plans - But That Will Never:

- Frustrate God & His Plans!

- The Failure Of Man!

- The Frailty Of Man!
- The Faults Of Man!

\* So - The First Thing We Learn Is That:

**1. No Failure Of Man:**

- Can Frustrate The Purposes Of God!
  - **No** Failure Of Man:
    - Like the Failure Of The People Of Israel:
      - That We Read About In 11:7a - “What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded!”
    - **IE:** One Way To Easily Get Frustrated Is When You Can’t Find Something That You Are Looking For! This Happens All The Time To Me When It Comes To My Tools! And I Really Have Noone To Blame But Myself! I Leave Them In One Place - And Then Need Them In Another - And Forget Where I Used It Last! And That’s Frustrating!
      - Well - In A Much More Serious Way - This Is What Happened To The People Of Israel! They:
- Failed To Attain:
  - As Paul Tells Us - “That Which He Seeketh For!”
    - Now - What Was It:
      - That The People Of Israel:
        - In Their Best Days:
          - Were Looking For?
    - If We Go Back To 9:31-32 - Paul Tells Us!
      - “But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness! Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law!”
    - So - For The Most Part:
      - The People Of Israel Were Seeking For:
        - “Righteousness!”
          - A Righteousness They Thought Would Please God & Put Them On Good Terms With God!
      - But - They Were Looking For It:
        - In All The Wrong Places!
          - They Were Looking For It:
            - In Their Own Works!
      - So - Israel Failed To Attain & Obtain:
        - “That Which He Seeketh For!”
          - But This Was Because - They Also:
    - Failed To Apprehend:
      - What They Were Looking For!
        - Even As We Were Also Told Back In 10:3:
          - “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God!”
        - **IE:** Have You Ever Looked For Something Online Or At The Store - And Didn’t Really Know What It Was That You Were Looking For? Or What It Was Called? I Have! I Know There’s A Tool Out There For Something I Need To Do - But I Don’t How To Find It!
          - This Was The Problem That Israel Had!
            - They Didn’t Even Understand:
              - The Kind Of Righteousness God Required:
                - To Enter Into His Presence!
      - And - If They *Had* Known Their Failures:
        - They Would Have Been Very Frustrated!
          - But - Did Israel’s Failures - As A Whole:
            - Frustrate God’s Purpose For Them?
              - No!
          - Because Of What We Are Told Next In:
            - 11:7 - “But The Election Hath Obtained It!”
              - Here - Paul Points Us Back To 11:5!
          - You See - God Made Sure:

- That His Plans For & His Promises To Israel:
  - Would Be Fulfilled!
- Because God - Out Of Nothing But Grace:
  - Personally Chose Some From Among Them:
    - Who Would Believe & Find Their Righteousness:
      - In His Son, Jesus Christ!
- Because - This Is The Only Way:
  - For Anyone To Satisfy God's Demands:
    - And To Stand Before Him Some Day!
  - You Must *Not* Rely On:
    - Your *Own* Righteousness:
      - Because - In Truth - You & I Have None!
        - 3:10-11 - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God!"
  - No - Instead - You Must Rely On:
    - The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ!
      - As We Are Told In Philippians 3:9 - "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith!"
  - You Must Turn To & Trust In:
    - The Lord Jesus Christ:
      - If You Ever Want To Appear Before God:
        - As His Friend - And Not:
          - As His Enemy!
  - Otherwise - You Will Be Eternally Frustrated:
    - Because Of Your Failures:
      - To Attain & To Apprehend:
        - What Truly Pleases & Satisfies God!
  - Have You Done That?
    - As We Saw Back In 10:13:
      - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!"
  - And - When You Are Saved:
    - It Will Reveal That You Too:
      - Are Part Of God's Own Remnant:
        - "According To The Election Of Grace!"
  - Which Proves Again That Nothing:
    - Not Even The Failure Of Man:
      - Can Frustrate The Purpose Of God:
        - To Save & To "Shew Mercy On Whomsoever He Will Show Mercy!" (Exodus 33:19)
  - Not Even *Your* Failures:
    - Can Frustrate The Purpose Of God:
      - To "Save [You] To The Uttermost"
        - When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - Because - As We Will See:
    - God's Plan:
      - Even *Included* The Failure Of His People!

\* But Then - Second - We Can Also Learn That:

**2. No Frailty Of Man:**

- Can Frustrate The Purposes Of God!
  - *No* Frailty Of Man:
    - Like The Frailty Of The People Of Israel:
      - That We Read About Next In 11:7b - "And the rest were blinded!"
    - So - In 11:1-6 - Paul Told Us About:
      - The "Remnant" Of Israel!
        - Here - He Tells Us About:
          - The "Rest" Of Israel!

- And - The Frailty Of The “Rest” Of Israel:
  - Was That They Were “Blinded!” (11:7b)
    - Or - As It Can Also Be Translated:
      - “Hardened!”
  - The Underlying Greek Word:
    - Is “Porosis” - Which Is Still Used For A Medical Condition:
      - In Which - A Hard Callus Is Formed On A Bone, As The Body Repairs Itself From A Fracture!
- But - For Israel:
  - The Callus Was Not Formed On Their Bones:
    - But On Their Eyes - And:
      - In Their Ears - And:
        - Upon Their Hearts!
  - And - This Time:
    - Their Condition Was Induced:
      - By God Himself!
  - And We See This:
- In A Prophecy About This Condition:
  - In 11:8 - In Which The Apostle Paul:
    - Joins Words From Two Old Testament Passages:
      - Isaiah 29:10 & Deuteronomy 29:4:
        - “According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear; unto this day!”
  - God Himself Gave To Israel:
    - “The Spirit Of Slumber” - Or - “Stupor!”
      - Which Means - They Grew More & More Insensitive To:
        - The Things Of God!
          - Things That They Did Know & Did Hear!
  - **IE:** Isn’t This How A Callus Develops? Those Who Play The Guitar Build Up Calluses On Their Fingers
  - Because They Keep Pressing On Those Strings! At First - It Hurts! Over Time - As The Callus Gets Harder - Fingers Are Desensitized To The Pain! In A Similar Way:
  - In Deuteronomy 29 - Moses Told Israel:
    - About All The Things They Had Seen:
      - With Their Own Eyes!
        - Even Signs & Great Miracles!
    - But - How Did They Respond?
      - They Closed Their Eyes:
        - And Did Not Believe!
  - In Isaiah 29 - Isaiah Reminds Israel:
    - About All The Things They Had Heard:
      - With Their Own Ears!
        - God’s Own Words!
    - But - Again - How Did They Respond?
      - They Plugged Up Their Ears:
        - And Did Not Believe!
  - And So - As Part Of God’s Judgment On Them:
    - He Just Gave Them:
      - What They Wanted!
        - And Desensitized Them To His Word & His Wonders!
    - After All:
      - They Didn’t *Want* To See!
      - They Didn’t *Want* To Hear!
    - So - God Gave Unto Them:
      - This Hardening, “Spirit Of Slumber!”
- Remember:
  - “It Is A Fearful Thing To Fall Into The Hands Of The Living God!” (Hebrews 10:31)
    - And - If You Don’t Respond:
      - To What God Has Shown To You & What God Has Said To You:

- There May Come A Day In Your Life:
  - When - Like Israel - You Will Become Desensitized To All The Great & Good Things Of God:
    - As A Form Of Judgment!
- But - Paul Continues In Romans To Show Us:
  - That Israel's Condition Could Also Be Found:
- In A Prayer About This Condition:
  - In 11:9-10 - In Which The Apostle Paul:
    - Quotes From King David's Words:
      - In Psalm 69:22-23 - "And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: / Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away!"
  - This Is One Of Those "Imprecatory" Psalms:
    - In Which God Used David:
      - To Render His Judgment:
        - On His - That Is - God's Own Enemies - Even Among His Own People!
  - In The New Testament:
    - We Find Many Of The Words Of This Same Psalm:
      - Referring To The Messiah:
        - The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - So - In Effect:
    - Jesus - As Judge - Used David:
      - To Ask God The Father To Take:
        - All That He Gave Israel To Be A Blessing – "Their Table!"
          - And Turn It Into A Curse!
- So - The Vast Majority Of The People Of Israel:
  - Have This Spiritual Infirmary! Even Today!
    - But They Don't Even Know It!
      - **IE:** How Many People Have You Known Who Were Diagnosed With A Disease Only To Find Out That They Had It For Years! That's Frustrating!
  - But - Does Israel's Frailty - Their Blindness & Hardness:
    - To The Things Of God:
      - Frustrate God's Purpose For Them?
        - Once Again - No!
    - Because - As We Will See:
      - God's Plan Even **Includes:**
        - The Frailty Of His People!
  - And - What Is True For Israel:
    - Is Also True For You - As A Christian!
      - Not Even **Your** Frailties:
        - Can Frustrate God's Plan!
  - As The Lord Told Paul:
    - His "Strength Is" Even "Made Perfect In Weakness!"
      - So - No Matter How Frail Or How Fragile You May Be:
        - Keep Serving Him! Keep Doing What You Can For Him!
  - Because:
    - Nothing Can Frustrate:
      - The Purpose Of God!

\* Because Then - Third - We Also See That:

### 3. **No Fault Of Man:**

- Can Frustrate The Purposes Of God!
  - **No** Fault Of Man:
    - Like The Faults Of The People Of Israel:
      - That We Find Next In 11:11 - "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy!"
    - Here - Paul Describes Israel's Spiritual Failure:

- As A Stumble! But:
- Not Even A Stumble:
  - Can Frustrate God's Purpose:
    - For His People!
  - **IE**: Israel Was & Still Is:
    - Like A Person:
      - Looking For A Flashlight:
        - In The Dark - Because:
          - The Power Went Out!
      - And The Flashlight:
        - Is On The Top Shelf:
          - Of The Closet!
  - But - The Only Thing They *Could* Find:
    - Was The Furniture:
      - They Hit With Their Toe!
    - And Yet - Instead Of Getting Frustrated:
      - That Chair Was:
        - What They Needed:
          - In Order To Reach The Flashlight They Were Looking For!
  - The Reason Israel:
    - "Hath Not Obtained That Which He Seeketh For!"
      - Is Because Israel:
        - Is Spiritually Blind!
  - And - Because They Are Blind:
    - As We Were Told Back In 9:32:
      - "They Stumbled At That Stumblingstone!"
        - But That "Stumblingstone" Is The Lord Jesus Christ!
          - He Was The One They Needed In Order To Stand Before God In Righteousness!
  - But - Does Their Spiritual Stumbling:
    - Mean That God Is Through With Them?
      - Does It Mean:
        - There Is No Hope For Them?
  - In The Words Of Paul:
    - "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid!" - No!
      - Because No Fault Of Man:
        - Can Frustrate God's Purpose:
          - For His People!
            - But Even More:
- Not Even A Sin:
  - Can Frustrate God's Plan:
    - For His People!
  - In 11:11b - Paul Adds:
    - "But rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy!"
      - The Word Translated "Fall" In This Part Of The Verse Is Different Than:
        - The Word Translated "Fall" In The First Part Of The Verse!
      - Here - It Means:
        - An Offense Or A Trespass:
          - A Sin!
    - So - Paul Is Not Minimizing:
      - Their Spiritual Blindness & Rejection Of God!
        - Their Stumbling Was Still A Sin!
      - But Even Their Sin - And:
        - Even **Your** Sin:
          - Is Not Enough To Get In The Way Of:
            - God's Plan!
    - Because - He Can Even Use Evil:

- For His Good!
  - As He Did For Joseph:
    - He Can Do For You!
- So - Through The Faults Of Israel:
  - Blessing Has Come:
    - To The World!
      - 11b - "Through Their Fall Salvation Is Come Unto The Gentiles!"
    - And - Instead Of Frustrating God's Plan:
      - They Fulfilled God's Plan!
        - And Then:
  - Through The Blessing Of The World:
    - Benefits Will Come:
      - To Israel - Once Again!
        - 11:11c - "For To Provoke Them To Jealousy!"
    - The Gentile's Blessing:
      - Will Cause Israel To Be:
        - Jealous With A Good Kind Of Jealousy!
      - Because They Will Be Jealous Of:
        - All The Good Promises Of God!
    - All That Israel Sought:
      - But Never Found:
        - Through The Keeping Of The Law!
    - The World Has Found:
      - By Faith Alone In Jesus Christ:
        - Including His Pardon, His Peace, His Power, And His Presence!
  - So - As God Used Israel's Rejection Of The Gospel:
    - To Bless The Gentiles - God Will Use:
      - The Gentile's Reception Of The Gospel:
        - To Benefit Israel!
  - And This Means That:
    - No Failure Of Man!
    - No Frailty Of Man! And:
    - No Fault Of Man:
      - Can Ever Frustrate:
        - The Plans & Purposes Of God!
    - Because - Even What Man Means For Evil:
      - God Can Use For Good!

### **Conclusion:**

1. And This Is What We Find In:
  - 11:12 - Where Paul Gives Us A Summary:
    - Of What We Just Learned:
      - From 11:7-11!
  - Because Of "The Fall Of Israel":
    - Their Faults & Stumbles & Sins:
      - Have Truly Become:
        - "The Riches Of The World!" - And:
    - Because Of "The Diminishing Of Israel":
      - Their Failure To Attain & To Apprehend God's Will:
        - Really Has Become:
          - "The Riches Of The Gentiles / Nations!"
      - **IE:** Last Week - I Got An Email From A Pastor Who Was Requesting A Letter Of Transfer For One Of Our Members - I Emailed Him Back - And Told Him That - Our Church's Loss Is Their Church's Gain!
        - Well - This Is What Paul Means By "The Diminishing Of Them!"
          - What They Lost:
            - Became Our Gain!
2. But - Once Again - Paul Doesn't Leave It There!
  - He Keeps The Door Of Hope Open:



- For Anyone Who Is Of The Family Of Israel!
    - Because - 11:12 - "If the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"
  - Imagine Just How Rich:
    - The Body Of Christ Will Be:
      - When Those Who Were First Given The Gospel:
        - The People Of Israel:
          - Are No Longer Lost:
            - But Found!
          - Are No Longer Blind:
            - But See! And:
          - Are No Longer Deaf:
            - But Can Hear!
    - Because - By God's Grace:
      - They Finally Receive The "Fulness" Of God's Blessings:
        - That Were Promised To Them:
          - Because They Have Turned To & Trusted In Their Messiah:
            - The Lord Jesus Christ!
    - When They Can Finally Sing:
      - With All The Saints:
        - Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings,  
Through His blood I now am saved!
  - 4. And So We See:
    - That In All Of God's Plans & Purposes:
      - Absolutely Nothing:
        - Can Get In His Way!
      - Absolutely Nothing:
        - Can Frustrate Him!
          - No Failure Of Man!
          - No Frailty Of Man!
          - No Faults Of Man!
            - Not Israel's!
            - Not Yours!
  - 5. As God Himself Says:
    - In Isaiah 14:24:
      - "Surely As I Have Thought, So Shall It Come To Pass; And As I Have Purposed, So Shall It Stand!"
- \* Are You Living A Life Of Frustration - By Not Trusting In Jesus Christ?  
 \* Are You Trusting In The Truth That:  
 - Nothing Can Frustrate God's Plan?  
 - For This World! For You!

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