God’s Guarantees
Romans 11:25-36

Introduction

God never made a promise that was too good to be true.


How important is a guarantee to you? Does it depend on the product?

Jonathan received a digital camcorder for his birthday. We purchased the extended warranty.

How valuable is the item? How long should it be expected to last?

The history of Israel was filled with promises, guarantees, covenants.

The atheists are planning a march on Washington. They are calling it, “A march for godlessness”.

Dr. Jerome Frank at Johns Hopkins talks about our "assumptive world." What he means is that all of us make assumptions about life about God, about ourselves, about others, about the way things are. He goes on to argue that when our assumptions are true to reality, we live relatively happy, well-adjusted lives. But when our assumptions are distant from reality, we become confused and angry and disillusioned.

-- Haddon Robinson, "How Does God Keep His Promises?," Preaching Today, Tape No. 130.

Does God really love human beings? Does God love mankind with an infinite, comprehensive, love? Is God’s love unchanging? The Bible makes it abundantly clear that God is love, unchanging, immovable, committed to expressing that love and making that love available to all who desire His love! The message of the Bible is God’s love is available, restoration obtainable, fellowship available, for all who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God demonstrates His love in His attitudes and actions toward Israel. If God’s promises can fail to Israel—they can fail for you! But if God’s promises are unfailing and unchanging towards Israel, this gives us great hope and confidence that we can trust the Lord for our lives.

Have you ever seen the Men’s Wherehouse commercial? “I guarantee it”.

God’s Guarantee; Guarding the Jews (vv.25-26)
The first guarantee has to do with the revelation about Israel.

The word ‘mystery’ in the Bible means something previously hidden is now revealed. Something secret is now told.

The Greek word is ‘musterion’. It is does not mean something completely unknowable or difficult to understand.

What is the ‘mystery’ Paul is talking about? Paul is speaking about the mystery of Israel’s future! What is going to happen to Israel? Paul declares the future of Israel. Why is God revealing Israel’s future? The text tells us—“for I do not desire, brethren that you should be ignorant of this mystery”. God is letting us know for our own good. So we would not be ‘wise in your own opinion’ or as the KJV says, ‘in your own conceits’.

Paul is speaking to the saints to ‘brethren’. Can Christians become arrogant and conceited in their new found faith? The answer is yes! Paul wants to spare us the pitfalls of personal conceit. Christians may not be cut off from the branch but they can certainly be puffed up! Low-self esteem does not seem to be the biggest problem the Bible warns us about. Our biggest problem is pride, conceit, self-elevation! We run the danger of looking down on the Jew—or even anti-Semitism—irrational hatred toward the Jews—because Jewish people are different. Jewish people—for the most part have rejected Jesus Christ and are opposed to Christianity—remaining pretty much to themselves. There are Jews who participate in Christian functions—with no apparent ill-will. We run the same risk as the Jews of old—being puffed up—thinking we are more acceptable to God—because we look with favor upon Jesus Christ and are more open about confessing Jesus as Lord. We can begin to Lord it over our Jewish cousins. We can become wise in our own conceits as we contemplate the future of the Jews.

Their blindness is ‘in part’. There were Jewish followers in Paul’s day and there are Jewish believers in Jesus in our day. The blindness and hardness, the almost unreasonable and unreasoning hatred for Jesus—and the gospel is only partial. Certainly the Scriptures make it clear that many Jews have rejected and still reject Christ—as a nation they have stumbled, tripped, fallen over the rock of offense, the chief cornerstone of God’s new temple.

This temporary condition will last for only a time. How long? Paul says “until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”. What in the world is that? The fullness of the Gentiles is the completion of the purposes of God in this age.

Whatever this passage means—whatever the fullness of the Gentiles is—when it is over Israel’s blindness will be removed!!

What are some of the possible meanings of ‘the fullness of the Gentiles’?
A certain number of Gentile converts are to be saved—to fill up the cut off branches of Israel (vv.17-21). God is taking out a people for his name (Acts 15:12-14).

The end of the Gentile age, a time when the emphasis of salvation will no longer be upon the Gentiles, but upon the Jews.

The end of the Gentile age, a time when God will rapture the church (all believers) and cause a revival among the Jews who will then become the primary witnesses for Him.

(v.26) “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written”

No passage could be more simple or more powerful or more hopeful. God will keep His promise. Israel will be saved. The text does not say Israel will be lost, Israel will be forgotten, Israel will become a memory, Israel will be replaced—no Israel will be saved.

God’s Surety: The Promise of the Scripture (vv.26-27)

How does Paul back up his claim, “all Israel will be saved”? He quotes the Scripture.

Scripture is our ultimate authority. Paul strings together phrases from two or three Old Testament texts. The first part of the phrase comes from Isaiah 59:20;

Isaiah 59:20 (NKJV)
20 “The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the Lord.

The Hebrew targum gives the passage a Messianic significance. But the Aramaic is uncertain.

The text says ‘the redeemer will come to Zion’ but Paul says ‘from Zion’. Paul may have been depending on the Septuagint that had the equivalent of the word ‘from’ in the text. It may be that Paul is paraphrasing the text in order to make a theological point. What is that point? We can’t be certain—but a clue is given in Hebrews 12:22 where “Zion” is associated with the heavenly Jerusalem, the site of Jesus’ high-priestly ministry. “Perhaps, then, Paul changes the text to bring out a bit more clearly a reference to the Parousia” (Zondervan Illustrated Bible Commentary Vol. 3 p.72).

How are we to interpret the passage—‘All Israel will be saved?’ It cannot mean every Jew who ever lived will be saved, or converted, but rather the Jews living when the Redeemer returns will see Him, receive Him and be saved. Zechariah 12-13 gives the details (see Wiersbe p.552-553). Warren Wiersbe writes; “It seems to me that there are too many details in these Old Testament prophecies of national restoration for Israel for us to spiritualize them and apply them to the church today”(see p.553).
God’s Promissory Note: His Pleasure with the Forefathers (vv.28-29)

Paul tells us not to be too harsh towards the Jew. True they are enemies of the gospel—the good news of Jesus the truth about Jesus. But even that in part is for your sake.

“but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers”. Here ‘election’ means grace not merit, chosen by God by grace. Why did God do such a thing? In part because of God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Lord refuses to break the agreement, to dissolve the covenant.

(v.29)

Romans 11:29 (NLT)
29 For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

Things change. People change. God never changes.

Malachi 3:6 (NLT)
6 “I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already completely destroyed.

Numbers 23:19 (NLT)
19 God is not a man, that he should lie. He is not a human, that he should change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

Remember the context—God is speaking about Israel, God’s call to Israel cannot be taken back or changed! If that were true—God would not be consistent with His own perfect nature.

“The fact that Israel may not enjoy her gifts, or live up to her privileges as an elect nation, does not affect this fact one bit. God will be consistent with Himself and true to His Word no matter what men may do. “Shall their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?”(Rom.3:3 Literal translation)(Wiersbe p.553).

What has God promised you? What has God called you to do? Has God’s call on your life changed because your denial, unbelief, or inconsistency?

God’s Assurance: Grace for the Believer; A Witness For the Jew (vv.30-31)

Paul points out the common circumstance of every Gentile person—you were once disobedient. You used to be blind, hard, calloused, deceived, immoral, self-absorbed sinful. When the Jewish people dropped the ball, it gave you an opportunity to pick it up!

Isn’t it ironic how their disobedience resulted in mercy for you?
Jesus became the ultimate substitute. John MacArthur writes; “On the cross Jesus was guilty of nothing but God treated Jesus as if he had committed personally every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe. . .though in fact he committed none of them. That’s what substitution means.

**(v.31)** Romans 11:31 (NLT)

31 And now, in the same way, the Jews are the rebels, and God’s mercy has come to you. But someday they, too, will share in God’s mercy.

Over and over again, Paul reminds the Gentile reader, saved Gentile Christians, of their obligation to provoke Israel to jealousy (Rom. 10:19; 11:11,14). Israel’s hardness is only partial, individual Jews can be saved.

**God’s Covenant: Commitment to Holiness and Mercy (v.32)**

God has included all in unbelief Jews and Gentiles—so that all can be saved by grace. If God can save Gentiles by His grace and mercy—can God save Jews by his grace and mercy?

Do you know what all sinners have in common? The opportunity to be saved!

Why did God chose the Jewish people? Who knows. Whatever the reason—included in the reason—was for Gentiles to be saved!

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

1 Then the Lord told Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you.
2 I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others.
3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”

One of the biggest mistakes Israel ever made—was to exclude the Gentile from God’s love and blessing!

Why did God save you? Why did God redeem you? Why did God gift and call you to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you think it would be so God could bless you, make you famous, and make you a blessing to others?

The Jewish people made the mistake of thinking Gentiles had to become Jews in order to be right with God. But God declared that both Jew and Gentile were equally lost, equally condemned, equally in need of mercy—grace—love—peace—and most of all a Savior.

**God’s Pledge: Salvation for All Who Come to Christ (vv.33-36)**

v.33 “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”
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How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracking out!

Now theology becomes doxology. Paul kind of disappears into one of his mind-blowing theological praise songs! Paul has been contemplating God’s plan of salvation, for Jew and Gentile. And so he starts to sing!

Have you ever done that? You contemplate God’s love, Jesus’ ministry of love, and you remember that ministry of love was meant for you. To save you. To keep you out of hell. To positively redeem you and send you to heaven! How can you keep from shouting? How can you fail to say hallelujia or amen! If I told you your barren wife was going to have a baby or your son with fatal cancer was cured, you would weep and shout for joy!

Only a God as wise and wonderful, pure and powerful as our God, could take the fall of Israel and turn it into salvation for the Gentiles. God’s plans will not be aborted. God’s will cannot be thwarted. No part of His plan will lack fulfillment.

The more you study the Bible, the more you understand His character and His ways, you must praise Him!

How could we ever come to the conclusion, “God you don’t know what your doing!” God you have made a mistake. God—why did you send me this trial, this circumstance —God why-God why-God why.

There were people who thought God had a plan—and Israel ruined God’s plan!

Do you ever think you ruined God’s plan? God is wise.

The word judgments does not really refer to God’s role as judge but rather as God’s role in executing salvation in human history. God has planned for your salvation. He invented it, procured it, and will insure it.

“Paul’s attempt to explain the plight of Israel in his own day is rooted in his desire to demonstrate the agreement between God’s Old Testament promise and the gospel” (Zondervan Illustrated Bible Commentary Vol. 3 p.73).

v.36

The Lord God is the source and the sustainer and the goal of all things.

Conclusion
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“Paul summoned five witnesses, and they all agreed; there is a future for Israel. When Israel recovers from her ‘fall’ and enters into her ‘fullness’, the world will experience the riches of God’s grace as never before. When Jesus Christ returns and sits on David’s throne to reign over his kingdom, then Israel will be reconciled and received and it will be like a resurrection” (Wiersbe p.553).