

Session 9

Rom 11:33–38: Concluding Praise

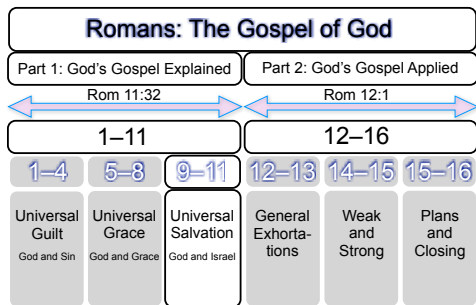
Romans 9–11: "Paul's Story of Israel," © 2024 Gerald L. Stevens

Romans: The Gospel of God

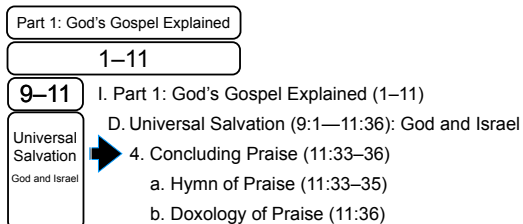
Part 1: God's Gospel Explained
(Rom 1–11)

- 🌐 Introduction (1:1–17)
- 🌐 God and Sin (1:18–3:20)
- 🌐 God and Grace (3:21–8:39)
- 🌐 God and Israel (9:1–11:36)

Paul's Story of Israel: Romans 9–11



Paul's Story of Israel: Romans 9–11



Part 1: God's Gospel Explained

God and Israel: Universal Salvation in God's Promise (9:1–11:36)

"to all" (11:32)

- 🌐 Refocusing Israel's Story (9:1–29)
- 🌐 Restating Israel's Failure (9:30–10:21)
- 🌐 Revealing Israel's Salvation (11:1–32)
- 🌐 Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

🌐 Hymn of Praise (11:33–35)

🗨️ *Triple Conclusion (Romans 11, 9–11, 1–11)*

- Possible early hymn, sophisticated, reflecting on wisdom of gospel
- Structure of two triads: three nouns, three questions, motif of "depth"
- Creates beautifully balanced chiastic unit

🗨️ *Noun Triad (11:33)*

- Depth of God's riches of grace (2:4; 9:23; 10:12; 11:12)
- Depth of God's wisdom (justification, 3:21–26; salvation, 11:26)
- Depth of God's knowledge (1:20–23; 6:4; 8:19–22, 29; 9:20–23; 11:2)

Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

🌐 Hymn of Praise (11:33–35)

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Chiastic Structure of Concluding Hymn of Praise (Rom 11:33–35)

A1: Riches (noun)
B1: Wisdom (noun)
C1: Knowledge (noun)
C2: Knowledge (question)
B2: Wisdom (question)
A2: Riches (question)

Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

🌐 Hymn of Praise (11:33–35)

🗨️ *Question Triad (11:34–35)*

- Who has known God's mind (11:34)? Cf. Isa 40:13
- Who is God's counselor? Cf. Job 41:11 (creation of Leviathan, cosmos)
- Who made God a debtor (11:35)? Creator of all in debt to a creature?

🌐 Doxology of Praise (11:36)

🗨️ *Jewish Character*

- Traditional Jewish wisdom that sound theology should inspire doxology
- Jewish authorial *ethos* of Paul developed since beginning of letter

Concluding Praise

Another time when deliverance for Israel seemed impossible

Hymn of Praise (11:33–35)

Question Triad (11:34–35)

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Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

Hymn of Praise (11:33–35)

Question

Fundamentally, God owes his mercy to no one, ever.

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- Who is God's counselor? Cf. Job 41:11 (creation of Leviathan, cosmos)
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Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

Doxology of Praise (11:36)(cont.)

Structure and Function

- Triadic: perhaps intentional mirroring of hymn of praise
- Paul's personalized "amen" to the hymn of praise

Triadic Prepositions

- Emphasizing gospel as gospel of God
- Literary *inclusio* back to first verse (1:1), so ties together all of first part
- Three prepositions, one point: God is everything, and God alone ("from" = God as singular source; "through" = God as singular instrument; "to" = God as singular goal)

Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

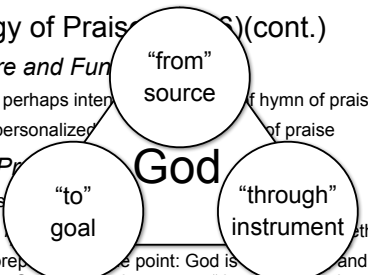
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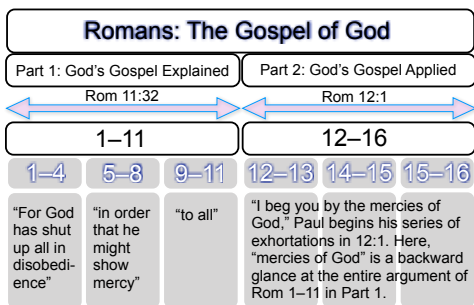
Concluding Praise (11:33–36)

• Doxology of Praise (11:36)(cont.)

“God, and God only, is to be praised for all the riches of salvation. Paul fulfills the function for which humans were created, to bring all praise to the all powerful God in all loving gratitude. In so doing, he reverses out the Adamic rebellion that doomed the human race” (Stevens, 455).

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