

SALVATION OF FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES AND OF ISRAEL – Dr. F.N. Lee

Romans 11:1-15f

October 6

"Don't you know what the Scripture says about Elijah? ... Even so, then, also at this present time, there is a remnant according to the election of grace.... Has God cast away His People? May that never be! For I too am an [ethnic] Israelite....

"I say, then -- have they [the ethnic Israelites] stumbled in order that they should fall? May that never be! But rather -- so that through their fall, salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke them [the ethnic Israelites] to jealousy.... For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the World -- what shall the receiving back of them be, but life from the dead?.... Blindness in part has happened to [ethnic] Israel -- until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And thus shall 'all Israel' be saved.... For God has concluded all in unbelief -- so that He might have mercy upon all."⁴⁴¹³

As already seen at the very beginning of this work,⁴⁴¹⁴ in Romans chapter eleven we are given a more detailed prophetic account of the process of the yet-future christianization of the World than anywhere else in Scripture. Previously, Paul had disclosed how God (through Christ the Second Adam) saved the first Adam⁴⁴¹⁵ and his elect descendants -- and also how He saved Abraham, so that the latter could become the "heir of the World."⁴⁴¹⁶ And now, Paul proceeds to disclose how the elect inhabitants of this "World" are to become converted into children of Abraham.⁴⁴¹⁷

Let us then shortly state the eschatological teaching of Romans chapter eleven. We do so, in the order in which the predicted events were recorded for their later realization.

The various branches of the Gentile Church are now growing from the **very same root** as did the Older Testament's Israel. For God is not a bigamist, but has only one bride -- "Israel" alias His Church.

Much of **ethnic** Israel had been broken off the root of the tree of God's Covenant. This was done, in order to make room for the grafting in of the Gentile Church upon that very same root.

So, through ethnic Israel's fall, **salvation has now come to the Gentiles**. One of the reasons for this -- is precisely in order to **provoke ethnic Israel**. Why? Well, God wished and still wishes to provoke ethnic Israel first unto jealousy -- and then unto re-conversion.⁴⁴¹⁸

Meanwhile, ethnic Israel's fall brings **riches to the World and also to the Gentiles**. But Israel's later fullness (or rather re-conversion to the Triune God of both the Older and the Newer Testaments) will bring **still more riches to the (by-then-fully-christianized) Gentiles**.⁴⁴¹⁹

The **World** is to be reconciled progressively to God -- as a result of Israel's rejection. And **ethnic Israel's reception back into the Covenant** (in its Newer Testament administration) at some future time -- will be **life** from the dead.⁴⁴²⁰

The holy root of God's covenantal tree has produced and will continue to produce **many holy branches**.⁴⁴²¹ While the **Gentile branches** are being engrafted into the tree of God's Covenant, they **thrive** and **acquire fatness**.

In addition, many but **not all** of the ethnic Israelites were broken off. Yet the Gentile branches have been and are still being engrafted onto the tree of God's Covenant -- in the place of **those** of the Israelitic branches which were broken off the tree, on account of their **unbelief** in Christ. Later, also unfruitful Gentile branches get broken off the same tree.

Yet even **those** broken-off branches -- **if they do not keep on abiding in unbelief** -- shall be **re-engrafted back** onto the tree! And at least **some** of them are being re-engrafted constantly, even now.⁴⁴²²

God has easily engrafted wild-Gentile olive-branches into the covenantal Israelitic olive-tree. **How much easier**, then, would it be for God again to **engraft** the broken-off Israelitic branches back onto their own covenantal olive-tree!⁴⁴²³ Meantime, however, while the fullness of the Gentiles continues to be brought into the Covenant -- **ethnic Israel is blind**. Yet, indeed, **only partly so**.⁴⁴²⁴

Not all but at least the "**fullness**" of the **Gentiles** will (together with the still-faithful part of ethnic Israel) come into the Newer Testament's Church. And then the "**fullness**" of **ethnic Israel** too shall come into the Church.

In this way (or "so"), and at that time (or "then"), **all Israel shall be saved**. And 'all Israel' here means the whole Christian Church, whether of Jewish or of Gentile origin.⁴³⁹⁶

Now this 'all Israel' shall be saved by the "merciful" witness **to** both Jew and Gentile, **by Zion** -- alias the by and large now-overwhelmingly-Gentile Christian **Church**.⁴⁴²¹ For it is "out of **Zion**" alias out of the **Church**, that Jesus Christ comes forth -- even as His Preachers introduce and offer Him to others.

Thus He keeps on coming forth, invisibly yet in Spiritual power, as He is preached savingly by the Church to the unbelieving Nations. In this way, He turns away ungodliness not only from the Gentile Nations but also from "Jacob" alias the ethnic Jewish Nation too.⁴⁴²⁵

Regarding the latter, **Christ will yet "take away the sins" also of ethnic Israel**. "For the gifts and calling of God, are **without repentance**."⁴⁴²⁶

So even ethnic Israel shall yet obtain mercy. God has concluded **all** in unbelief -- the whole sum-total of God's elect (both of ethnic Israel and of the Gentiles). And He has done this, **so that He might have mercy upon all** -- upon all elect ethnic Israelites **and** upon all elect Gentiles.⁴⁴¹³

Now after ethnic Israel shall (again) have obtained mercy, God will bless **all of the Nations together** -- in an international (but not an anti-national) **Pan-Christian World Order**. Meantime, the Gentile Christian Church must "provoke" unsaved ethnic Israel "to jealousy" -- and convert her "from the dead" through the "mercy" of the Church's mission to those ethnic Israelites.⁴⁴²⁶

Thus ethnic Israel too shall be saved. But this christianization of ethnic Israel will in turn bring new "life" even to the Church Universal. Indeed, so too did Elijah bring new life to the sluggish Covenant People of his own day and age.⁴⁴¹³

So, at her future conversion, ethnic Israel will bring greater "riches" to the Christian Church as a whole than ethnic Israel's previous rejection did. For ethnic Israel herself, presently "gentilized" through her own unbelief, will one day enrich the Christian Church as a whole -- **still more**.

That will occur when ethnic Israel, then the last remaining unchristianized Nation, will herself be christianized as a Nation. Thus will she **further enrich** all the other Nations (by then already-christianized).⁴⁴²⁷

As the *Geneva Bible* comments,⁴⁴¹³ God has concluded all -- "both the Jews and the Gentiles" -- in unbelief. Yet He did so -- **in order that He might have mercy upon all** of the **Nations**.

Extended excerpts from Calvin's comments on this whole passage, are full of light. Observed the genius of Geneva:

"The fall of the Jews had resulted in the salvation of the Gentiles. It had, however, this purpose -- that the Jews should be stirred up by jealousy, and thus turn their minds unto repentance....

"If the fall of the Jews could raise up the Gentiles, and their diminution enrich them -- how much more would their fullness? The former took place contrary to nature -- but the latter would come to pass, naturally....

"The rejection of the Jews has been able to occasion the reconciliation of the Gentiles. Will not their reception be much more powerful, and should it not raise them even from the dead? ... God has marvellously brought life out of death and light out of darkness. How much more...**ought we to hope that the Resurrection of a People virtually dead, will bring the Gentiles to life.... The 'fullness of the Gentiles' means a great number.... When the Gentiles have come in, the Jews will at the same time return from their defection to the obedience of faith."**

It seems the above will be accomplished, over the centuries, in seven distinct stages. These are more or less chronological, as follows.

First. The Christian Church initially consisted **exclusively of saved Jews**. The **un-saved Jews**, and **all** of the Gentiles, were still outside.

Part of ethnic Israel (in Paul's own day) had been smitten with **blindness**; had rejected Christ; and so had gotten broken off of the tree of the Covenant.⁴⁴²⁸ But the **rest of ethnic Israel** (believing in Jesus and joining the Newer Testament's Church) -- then represented the true continuation of the Older Testament's faithful Israel.⁴⁴²⁹

Second. The Christian Church as the true Israel of God would be expanded to include **more of the broken-off Jews**⁴⁴³⁰ and **especially the ever-increasing converts from the Gentile**

Nations.⁴⁴³¹ And such Jews and Gentiles would become converted to Christ, through the testimony of Christ's Disciples.⁴³¹³

Third. While **parts of the Jewish Nation still continue to be christianized**⁴⁴²⁹ -- the **Church gradually takes in the fullness of the Gentiles.** In our own twenty-first century, we are clearly still in this as-yet-uncompleted third phase.

Fourth. The above uncompleted phase will continue until all the Nations in the World **except the Jewish Nation** -- will finally become christianized **as Nations.**⁴⁴³² Then, when ethnic Israel is the only Nation not yet christianized -- this fourth phase will have been completed.

Fifth. **After** the christianization of the "fullness"⁴⁴²⁴ of all of the Gentile Nations -- **the Jewish Nation** will also be christianized **as a Nation.** This will occur as a result of large-scale Christian missions to Jews, conducted by the then-powerful Christian Church throughout the World.⁴⁴³⁵

Sixth. The christianization of all the Jews as a Nation, and apparently as the last Nation ever to be converted as a Nation -- will itself greatly enrich and enliven all of the other Nations (by then all christianized). It will also be a blessing to the entire international Christian Church as such.

As the *Geneva Bible* comments: "The Jews now remain as it were in death -- for lack of the Gospel. But when both they and the Gentiles shall embrace Christ, the World shall be restored to a new life." For "the time shall come that the whole Nation of the Jews, though not every one particularly, shall be joined to the Church of Christ."⁴⁴³⁵

Last. After the christianization also of ethnic Israel as a nation -- **the then-all-christianized Nations of the World** will continue to increase in numbers. **Then they will long expand as saved Nations.**⁴⁴³⁶ Indeed, they will then live in **international Christian harmony**⁴⁴³⁷ in the World-wide Christian Church -- until Jesus' final and visible return for His bride at the very end of History.

In summary, then, the past diminishing and the previous fall of the ethnic Israelites shall yet prove to have been the enrichment and the riches of the World. And, after all the Nations of the whole of humanity have been reconciled (by the fullness of the Gentiles having been engrafted into the olive-tree of Christ's Church) -- also ethnic Israel's eyes shall be opened. Then, when the fullness of ethnic Israel too is brought into Christ's Church -- it shall be life from the dead.

This will enrich the then-christianized Gentile Nations beyond what those Gentile Nations' own previous christianization did. For God has concluded all Nations (both Jewish and Gentile) in unbelief -- so that He might yet have **mercy upon all** of them.⁴⁴¹³

O Christian, God's Word promises an international Christian World Order in the future! Let us then work toward that end! Let us tirelessly witness about Christ to both Gentiles and Jews!

Let us do this, as the Saviour goes forth **out of Zion** alias the Christian Church -- to both

Gentiles and Jews -- through the powerful preaching of His Word, and the winsome life-style of His children. And let us keep on doing this, until He shall turn ungodliness away from both Gentiles and Jews⁴⁴³⁹ -- and until all the Nations on Earth worship together at the foot of Jesus!

So on, then, Christian soldiers! Onward, to victory!

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4413. Rom. 11:1-5,11-15f,32. 4414. Cf. this study for Oct 6 with that written for Jan. 1. 4415. Rom. 5:12f.
4416. Rom 4:13 cf. Gen. 17:4 & 22:18. 4417. Cf. Gal 3:27-29. 4418. Rom. 11:11,23,36f.
4419. Rom. 11:12. 4420. Rom. 11:15.
4421. Rom. 11:16 cf. v. 26. Verse 26's "Zion" is, of course, not World-Jewry, nor the A.D. 1948f Country in the Near East currently known as "Israel" -- but the international Christian Church. See: P. Fairbairn's *Prophecy* (T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1865, pp. 283-86) and his *Typology of Scripture* (Evangelical Press, Welwyn, 1975 rep., I:389-391). See too n. 4022.
4422. Rom. 11:17,23a,24b,25b (only "in part"); v. 26a ("so," meaning "in this way" and not merely meaning "only then"). 4423. Rom. 11:24.
4424. Rom. 11:25. The word "fullness" here does not mean "sum total of God's elect from the Gentiles" -- but only "future increase in numbers" as opposed to the then-present numerical paucity of Gentile Christians. That this is the true meaning here, becomes obvious when the use of the word in vv. 12 & 15 is compared to its use in v. 25 -- and when the significance of vv. 30-32 is duly considered.
4425. Rom. 11:25f,31f. C. Vanderwaal (*And It Shall Come To Pass In the Last Days*, Industrie, Oudkarspel, Neths., 1977, p. 49) limits the to-be-converted Jews to those prior to the infliction of the promised curse in 70 A.D. However, Kuyper & Greijdanus & Potgieter *etc.* all extend the 'saveability' of the to-be-converted Jews to all ages. See Dr. A. Kuyper's *Common Grace* (Kok, Kampen, Neths., 4th ed., I:387f); S. Greijdanus's *Commentary on Romans* (Kok, Kampen, Neths., n.d., p. 516); and F.J.M. Potgieter's *Christ and Israel* (D.R.C. Pub. Co., Cape Town, 1961).
4426. Rom. 11:27-32 cf. n. 4435. Cf. J. Murray: *The Epistle to the Romans*, Marshall, Morgan & Scott, London, 1970 ed., *in loco*.
4427. Rom. 11:12,15,30-32 cf. vv. 15,32,36,11,15,17,23,28,31,12,15,32. 4428. Rom. 11:8,10,17,25f.
4429. Rom. 11:1,4f,25. 4430. Rom 11:16-23. 4431. Rom. 11:11.17. 4432. Rom. 11:12,15,25.
4433. Cf. Rom. 4:11-13. 4434. Mt. 28:19. 4435. Rom. 11:12,15,25f,31.
4436. Rom. 11:15,26,32 cf. Rev. 20:2f. 4437. Isa. 2:1f & Mic. 4:4. 4438. Eph. chs. 2 to 4 cf. Rev. ch. 1.
4439. Rom. 11:26.

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THE TRIUNE GOD'S COMPREHENSIVE ETERNAL COUNSEL – Dr. F.N. Lee

Romans 11:16-36

January 1

"If the Root be holy," declares the Triune God, "so are the branches.... You [ingrafted Gentile Christian branches] do not uphold the Root [meaning the Triune God of the Older Testament's Israel]; but the Root upholds you.... And if they [the faithless and broken-off branches of ethnic Israel] do not keep on remaining in unbelief -- they shall be ingrafted back.... Blindness has, in part, come over Israel -- until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in" -- into Membership of the Visible Church, as the ingrafted People of God. "And thus -- all Israel shall be preserved!" Exclaims Paul: "O the depth of the riches of God's Wisdom as well as of His Knowledge!... Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His Advisor? ... For all things are from Him, and through Him, and to Him -- to Whom be glory for ever!"¹

Christians should **always** praise the Lord. At all times, and especially at the beginning of each New Year, they should thank God for all His many benefits to them. As His "branches" -- they should extol God as their "Root." They should exalt the great and **eternal Triune Jehovah Elohim** -- God the Father and Son and Spirit -- the Father Who elected, created and preserves them; the Son Who justified them; and the Spirit Who sanctifies and glorifies them.

Jehovah Elohim has always been and always will be **triune**. From before the beginning of time, from all eternity past and unto all eternity future, **the divine Father and Son and Spirit have always loved One Another** in a **Covenant Bond** or **Accord** of everlasting **Fellowship**. And a **triple bond** or "a **threefold cord** is not broken."²

"In the beginning, God created Heaven and Earth." In the original Hebrew, this reads, literally: "At the beginning [of time], the **Tri-une God [Elohiym]** created **the two Heavens and the one Earth**" [alias the **Tri-Universe**].² Genesis 1:1-3 & 1:26 & 2:2-4. Indeed, at the end of time, God's elect still wear His Triune Name on their foreheads for ever. Matthew 28:19 *cf.* Revelation 7:2-4 & 14:4 & 22:3-5 & 22:16-21.

Once everlastingly sealed by Holy Baptism **in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**² -- God's elect should thenceforth ever love and bless His Name. For the triune **Elohim** is **Jehovah** -- the One Who always **was**, and Who always **is**, and Who always **shall** be. For "all things are **from** Him, and **through** Him, and **to** Him -- to Whom be glory for ever!"

All things are **from God the Father** -- from Whom every good and perfect gift descends.³ All things are **through God the Son** -- by Whom all things consist or hold together.⁴ And all things are **to God the Spirit** -- for Whom we are to work, out of gratitude for all God has done for us.

For the Triune God Himself created all things. He is the One Who garnishes the Heavens.⁵ And it is He Who leads the entire Universe unto its consummation -- by unfolding it, in time, toward its predestinated goal.

Even the New Years of our lives descend upon us, one by one, from our eternal Triune

God.⁷ In Him we live, and move, and have our very existence. Indeed, all of our seconds and minutes are secure in the hollow of the hand of the great 'Ancient of days' Himself.⁸

For the Lord has been man's dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or before God ever formed the Earth and the World -- even **from everlasting, and to everlasting, He is**⁷ -- and **triunely** so.

Our great Triune God, then, **is**. He **is, triunely**. He **is, covenantally** -- **from, and in, and unto** all eternity.⁷ So too is His **Eternal Triune Counsel** or His Plan and **Covenant with the entire Universe**. Jeremiah 31:31-35 & 33:20-25.

In terms of that Plan or Counsel, the three Persons of the Triune God have always been in an **Eternal Covenant with One Another** -- an everlasting promissory agreement also concerning everything They would ever bring to pass.⁹ And this eternal Triune Counsel involves Each of the three Persons of the Trinity in His Own characteristic way -- whether paternally, filially, or spiritually.

First. The Eternal Triune Counsel involves God the **Father**. So, our above quotation from the writings of the Apostle Paul asks: "Who has known the mind of the Lord?" Indeed! What time-bound creature ever foreknew the mind and Eternal Counsel of the all-knowing Lord God Almighty, the **Father of lights**?³

Second. The Eternal Triune Counsel also involves God the **Son**. "O the depth of the riches of **God's Wisdom!**" -- exclaims Paul. Consider, that Apostle declared, the riches of the Wisdom of God -- the riches of the divine Father's eternally-begotten Son! For that Son is the only Wisdom and sole Word of God the Father.

The Father always possessed that filial Wisdom, even from the very beginning of His Own Way -- from before the Earth existed; from everlasting. And that Wisdom is Himself the eternal God the Son, Who always accompanied God the Father (and also God the Spirit). For the **Son** was always "**alongside**" the Father, as the One Who **fellowshipped covenantally with the Father**. Indeed, the Son always rejoiced in the presence of His Father (and of Their Spirit) -- and also in the Triune God's Eternal Counsel.¹⁰

Third. The Eternal Triune Counsel involves also God the **Spirit**. For Who was it that eternally counselled with the Father -- and, continued Paul, "Who has been His Advisor?" Who indeed? -- except the eternal Father's and the eternal Son's co-eternal Holy Ghost -- the "**eternal Spirit**"¹¹ of God Who always counselled with the Father and the Son even before time began.

"Who has directed **the Spirit of the Lord** or, as **His** Advisor, has taught **Him**?"¹¹ No one! For "by the Word [or the Son] of the Lord [God the Father], were the Heavens made; and all the host of them were made by the Breath [or the Spirit] of His Mouth." Indeed, that "**Counsel of the Lord**" -- that **Agreement way back in eternity** between the **Three Persons of the Triune God** concerning all of His creatures and all of their actions -- always "**keeps on standing for ever!**"¹²

Yet the Apostle Paul, in his doxology in Romans eleven, not only rejoiced in the Triune God and His Triune Counsel **as such from all eternity past**. He rejoiced also, in the **present** --

in the certainty of the **realization of God's future events**. And he did so, specifically as regards the ongoing **expansion** of the Kingdom of God **throughout the World** -- right here on Earth.

By God's revelations to him, Paul knew that the Divine Family of the Triune God had created Adam and his human family as His Own triune image. Genesis 1:1-3 & 1:26-28 & 2:22-24 *cf.* Acts 17:24-29. Paul (and so too Epiphanius and Witsius) knew that Adam was therefore a Trinitarian, both before the Fall and again also later -- even in spite of the Fall. Genesis 2:16-18 & 3:8-22 *cf.* Romans 5:12-19 and First Corinthians 15:22-28 & 15:45-49. And Paul also knew that even after the Gentiles had paganized -- the Older Testament's Israel had **re-trinitarian-ized** and then long worshipped the one and only true Triune God. Romans 9:4-7 & 10:1*f* & 11:1-5*f*.

In his own day, Paul knew that **part of the previously-trinitarian ethnic Israel** had (just like modern Judaists and Muslims) become **blinded through unitarian unbelief** -- in rejecting the true Jehovah-Jesus. In so doing, that part had been broken off from the true People of the one true Triune God. Yet, immediately prior to penning his following doxology, the Apostle made a very important announcement -- around 56 A.D.,¹³ and while under the infallible inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

For Paul then announced that the Triune God -- during the as then¹³ still **future** "ages to come" -- would continue to preserve and to expand that **other part of ethnic Israel** which had never at all de-trinitarian-ized but instead had truly **trusted** in the Spirit-filled Jesus Whom the Father sent. And, far more wonderful than even that, according to His **Eternal Counsel and Covenant** -- God would bring **also** the **fullness** of the **Gentiles** alias all of the paganized **Nations** descended from Adam *via* Noah, **back** into the Church of Christ as the visible People of the one true Triune God.

Judeans and Israelites who **trusted** in the Lord **Jesus**, together with christianized Gentiles, collectively constitute those who are **faithful and true** -- alias God's chosen People of the Newer Testament. Such are true Members of the Church -- namely all those who have been converted to Christ as a result of the powerful testimony of the Christian Church down through the last twenty centuries A.D. (and indeed even from the very fall of Adam onward).

They alone inherit all of the spiritual and all of the material promises of the Older Testament. They alone are engrafted into **covenantal fellowship** with God as the **Root** of the very same original olive tree which nourished Adam and Noah and Abraham and Judah and Moses *etc.*

Only such faithful Christians constitute the **branches** or **legitimate continuation** of the **faithful and true Israel of the Older Testament**. For the Older Testament's Israel was the **trunk** which itself previously grew from the same **Base** -- the Triune Elohim's Jehovah-Jesus, the divine **Root** of David.¹

So, over the millennia, God is gradually bringing the **fullness** of **all** the **Gentile Nations** as well as the elect remnant of **ethnic Israel** to Christ -- and then engrafting them into the **Christian Church** of the **Triune God**. Thus, "**all Israel**" is being preserved and shall be saved. Ultimately, the **entire World as a whole** will be enriched and enlivened -- and pardoned and favoured.

For the Triune God will have mercy upon the fullness of **all the Nations**. This means, in course of time, that He will convert and then pardon not only the Gentiles alias the Heathen -- but also **even** the **Nation** of **ethnic Israel** itself (as part of the racial offsprings of that pre-Israelitic and faithful Gentile Abram whom God renamed Abraham).

John Calvin comments that "the 'fullness of the Gentiles' means a **great number**." He **also** says that "**when the Gentiles have come in** -- at the same time **the Jews will return from their defection, to the obedience of faith**."

For, during the times of the Older Testament, first the Gentiles apostasized into Paganism and later even the Israelites lapsed into Unitarianism. Both fell into what Calvin called "**defection**" from the one true Triune God. Both groups now need to **re-trinitarian-ize** -- to **come back** to Him -- and even **as Nations**.

Indeed, both shall! For Jehovah-Jesus Himself has commanded His Church: "Disciple all **Nations**, baptizing **them** into the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." **All** the Nations -- Nation after Nation. Therefore also the **Jews** as a **Nation** -- as one of the **Nations**. And **meantime**, all the '**first-fruits**' of the **Jewish Nation** as well as of the **Gentile Nations** -- would begin, increasingly, to come to Christ.

Thus too the 1560 *Geneva Bible* -- so much admired by the Calvinistic Puritans in Britain and America. Edited by British Reformers like John Knox and Mrs. John Calvin's brother-in-law William Whittingham, it comments here: "The time shall come that the **whole Nation of the Jews**, though not every one particularly, shall be joined to the Church of Christ."

Considering the tiny number of Christians in contrast to the huge number of worldlings in his own day, the Apostle Paul took courage for the future. This he could do, because -- under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit -- he accurately foresaw (and also foretold his readers about) **the final conversion of the entire Earth as a whole**.

Both the Gentiles and the Jews would become converted to Christianity -- and then worship the one true Triune God. For God's Eternal Counsel, in which He pre-ordained even this amazing future development, shall most surely come to pass. It shall be fulfilled -- right down to the smallest detail (even as regards the future conversion of the entire Earth as a whole). For the whole World will yet be saved; the whole World (qualitatively though not quantitatively) -- the **World as a whole**.

Catching a distant glimpse of this spectacular vista of an ultimately **saved World** -- no wonder Paul cried out and praised his glorious Triune God! For **from Him** and **through Him** and **to Him** are all things -- including even the **very conversion of the World**. Accordingly, even in trying times, Paul could be absolutely confident of the ultimate fulfilment also of this precious prediction within God's Eternal Counsel.

My Christian reader, may also you and I never be perplexed or discouraged by the present resistance of the World to our Saviour's Lordship! Instead, may we believe with Paul that the Triune God shall sooner or later re-trinitarian-ize alias christianize **the World as a whole** (including even the Chinese Communists and the European Humanists and the Unitarian Jews and the Monotheistic Moslems) -- despite all the machinations of the evil one!

To that end, may we tirelessly witness to the Lord Jesus: before all unitarianized Jews and Moslems, as well as to all paganized Gentiles everywhere! For it is certain that the fullness of all the Nations shall yet come in and become re-trinitarian-ized, so that thus "all Israel" shall be saved.

"O the depth of the riches of God's Wisdom as well as of His Knowledge! ... Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His Advisor? ... For all things are from Him, and through Him, and to Him -- to Whom be glory for ever!"¹

All things are **from** God the Father; and all things are **through** God the Son; and all things are **to** God the Holy Spirit. So on, then, Christian soldiers! Onward, to victory!

1. Rom. 11:16-18,23-26,33-36 (cf. too: Ex. 3:14f; 12:2; Gen. 1:1; 8:13; II Chr. 29:3f,17f; Lk. 4:18f; Rev. 1:4; 4:8-11; 22:16).
2. Gen. 1:1-3 & 1:26 & Jn. 1:1,2,18 & 17:5,24 & Heb. 9:14 & I Jn. 5:5-9 cf. Ps. 33:6 & Prov. 8:12,14,22-31 & Eccl. 4:9-12. The noun "J^hoovaah" seems to be a combination of *Jiyjeh* and *Hooveh* and *Haavaah* (a rather antiquated form of *Haayaah*), which are the future and the present and the past participles of the Hebrew verb "to be." So "J^hoovaah" or *Jehovah* then means: "the One Who always was, Who still is, and Who always shall be." Cf. Gen. 2:4 & also 11:5-7 with Ex. 3:14 & 6:3 and Rev. 4:8. In Gen. 1:1f & 1:26 & 2:2f, the noun "'Eloohiyim" (compare the so-called "Royal We") quite literally or exactly means -- "more than two Gods." It is the plural (viz. three or more) form of the singular noun 'El or 'Elooh -- meaning the one "High God." But "'Eloohiyim" -- cf. "Us" in Gen. 1:26 & 3:22 -- is neither the singular form 'Elooh nor a dual form such as 'Eloohayim (which would mean "two Gods"). Too, inasmuch as 'Eloohiyim (meaning "more than two Gods" and hence "three Gods") is used with a singular form of the verb accompanying it -- e.g. not 'Eloohiyim baaruw' with the meaning "Gods [plural] created [plural]"; but "'Eloohiyim baaraa'>" (meaning "God Triune created [singular]" in Gen. 1:1) -- it is very clear that not three Gods but exactly a threefold plurality within the ONE and the only true God created. For inasmuch as the same singular God 'Eloohiyim soon thereafter governs verbs not singular but plural in form -- it is clear that 'Eloohiyim is indeed tri-une. Thus Gen. 1:26's wayyoo'mer 'Eloohiyim "na^hasjeh!" or "And God said [singular]: 'Let Us make [plural]!" Thus too Gen. 3:22's wayyoo'mer J^hoovaah 'Eloohiyim "Heeyn, ha'Aadaam haayaah k^e'aachaad mimmenuw!" or "And the Lord God said [singular]: 'Look, man has become like One of Us!" Thus also Gen. 11:6-7's wayyoo'mer J^hoovaah... "nerdaah w^enaablaah!" or "And the Lord said [singular]: 'Let Us [plural] go down and let Us [plural] confound!" etc. Consequently, it is this one (tri-une or tri-personal) God alone Who has created. So Gen 1:1 needs to be rendered: "The Triune God created" etc. See: Ps. 103:1f cf. Mt. 28:19 & Mt. 3:16f; Rom. 4:11; 8:1f; 8:31f; II Cor. 1:20f; 13:14; Eph. 1:13; 4:4f,22f,30; Col. 2:11f; I Jn. 5:6-8.
3. Jas. 1:17. 4. Col. 1:13-17. 5. Job 26:14.
6. Gen. 2:3s "created to make" (cf. too: Gen. 1:2; I Cor. 2:10-16; Rom. ch. 8 esp. vv. 1,11, 13f,19-23,26f).
7. Ps. 90:1f,10f; Job 14:5f; I Tim. 1:17; 6:15f; cf. n. 1 (above). 8. Ps. 31:15 & cf. Dan. 7:13 & Acts 17:28 cf. n. 2. 9. Ps. 33:11-15; Isa. 42:15f; Zech. 6:13; Jn. 17:4f,24. 10. Prov. 8:12,14,22f,30; Lk. 7:34f; Jn. 1:1-18; Isa. 9:6.
11. Isa. 40:13f & Heb. 9:14. 12. Ps. 33:6,11.
13. Rom. 11:12,15,25f,32-36 cf. Gen. 6:18 & 9:1-9f & 9:27 & 10:1f. Cf. our study for Oct. 6 below. Re the date of A.D. 56 for the inscription of Romans, see *ABEN (Afrikaans Bible with Explanatory Notes)*, United Protestant Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa, 1959, 3:834. It is true that Rom. 11:26's *kai houtōs* means "accordingly" or "thus" alias "in this way" (namely through conversion of the Gentiles). It does not mean "and then" (alias only after the conversion of the Gentiles). Indeed, it is now especially through the testimony of christianized Gentiles that an increasing contingent from ethnic Israel itself is to get christianized -- even while the fullness of the Gentiles is itself being brought into the Christian Church. Yet despite the fact that v. 25's word "until" may perhaps mean "while" (rather than "up to the time that" as in Rom. 5:13) -- Rom. 11:25-31 also teaches that the fullness of ethnic Israel will be brought into Membership of the Christian Church chiefly after the fullness of the Gentiles has been brought in. The "fullness of the Gentiles" (alias all Gentile Nations in the World), will certainly be christianized -- and

