

“VOICE OF PAUL-x-LUKE” SERIES

This series shows how the writings of the apostle Paul and his traveling-&-writing assistant Luke, all tie in together to construct “the basic frame of the entire New Testament” from 16 of its books. Under Paul’s unique influence, all these writings emphasize *God forging His People into a new kind of Followership whose “growth policy” involves embodying every kind of people & heritage.* It is within the framework of this people-building endeavor that (1) the Forgiving-&-Restoring Power of Jesus especially gets to be displayed, and where (2) its best participants are those whose lives have God’s Presence “pouring forth” within them.

study #27: Paul Writes Romans: “God’s Turning of the Nations”

— covering **Romans chapters 9—11** —

ACTION #1. For 3 chapters in his letter to the Romans, Paul writes an explanation about how the fate of Israel and the Jewish people are *still* playing a role in God’s plan to impact the world: God is not just utilizing individual followers and churches, but also using whole nations or ethnicities. Read **Romans 9:1-8 & 10:1-3**, then discuss:

- describe Paul’s feelings about the fact that so many Israelites in his day were rejecting Jesus as the Christ.
- Paul seems to be saying there is a difference between the fact that **God gave Abraham a promised son** and the fact that **God gave Abraham a relationship of Promise.** *Is there really a difference?... explain*
- in **vv. 10:1-3**, what does Paul pinpoint as being the Jewish people’s error in their whole approach to God?

ACTION #2. Read **Romans 10:12-13** and also **verses 16-20** and then discuss:

- what do these verses say needs to *simply happen* to be saved, & what does that say of God’s character?
- what did God foretell about how whole nations would react to His generosity towards other nations?

ACTION #3. Read **Romans 11:11-20** and then discuss:

- re-describe the way Jews-&-Gentiles ends up taking “turns” at being known as God’s People?
- Paul is describing how entire peoples reject good things out of jealousy!... what does he warn & predict?

ACTION #4.

Read **Romans 11:33-36** where Paul pauses to praise God for His incredible utilization of nations and their jealousies. Then, discuss in your group how the image below matches what you read, or doesn’t match it, or what it helps you realize about God’s plans.



EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Romans 12:1—15:13**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... (=daily reading + cover full NT+Psalms during series): read **GC** plus **John 12-15**