

A Doxology in Praise of God and His Plan (vv. 33-36)

VERSE 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God

(ὦ βάθος πλούτου καὶ σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως θεοῦ· [interj. O! + noun nom.f.s. bathos depth noun gen.m.s. ploutos wealth + conj. kai + noun gen.f.s. sophia wisdom + conj. kai + noun gen.f.s. gnosis knowledge + noun gen.m.s. theos])!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways (ὡς ἀνεξεραύνητα

τὰ κρίματα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀνεξιχνίαστοι αἱ ὁδοὶ αὐτοῦ [adv. hos “How” + adj.nom.nt.p. anezeraunetos unfathomable; 1x + d.a.w/noun nom.nt.p. krima judgment + pro.gen.m.s. autos + conj. kai + adj.nom.f.p. anexichniastos unsearchable; also at Eph. 3:6 + noun acc.nt.s. plautos riches + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. Christos])!

VERSE 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME

HIS COUNSELOR (Τίς γὰρ ἔγνω νοῦν κυρίου; ἢ τίς σύμβουλος αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο [interrog. tis who? + conj. gar + aor.act.ind.3s. ginosko know + noun acc.m.s. nous mind, thinking + noun gen.m.s. kurios + conj. e or + interrog. tis who? + noun nom.m.s. sumboulos counselor, adviser + pro.gen.m.s. autos + aor.dep.ind.3s. ginomai])?)

VERSE 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO

HIM AGAIN (ἢ τίς προέδωκεν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνταποδοθήσεται αὐτῷ; [conj. e Or + interrog. tis who? + aor.act.ind.3s. prodidomi give first + pro.dat.m.s. autos + conj. kai + fut.pass.ind.3s. antapodidomi repay + pro.dat.m.s. autos])?)

VERSE 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things (ὅτι ἐξ αὐτοῦ

καὶ δι’ αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν τὰ πάντα· [conj. hoti for + prep ek + pro.gen.m.s. autos + conj. kai + pro. dia through + pro.gen.m.s. autos + conj. kai + prep eis + pro.acc.m.s. autos + d.a.non.nt.p. + adj.nom.nt.p. pas all]).

To Him be the glory forever (αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, [*pro.dat.m.s. autos + d.a.w/noun f.s. doxa glory + prep. eis + d.a.w/noun acc.m.p. aion age*]).

Amen (ἀμήν. [*part. amen*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 33-36

1. Paul concludes this section of his letter (chps. 9-11) with ecstatic praise of God for His plan.
2. These chapters started off with his heartbroken sorrow for his people according to the flesh.
3. His emotions range from one extreme (soul pain) to another (ecstatic adoration of God and His plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles.
4. As Paul takes in the various facets of God's counsel as they bear upon the plan of salvation for mankind he is overwhelmed by the magnitude of it all!
5. Israel's fall from divine favor led to the elevation of the Gentile world to even greater heights as per this elite dispensation.
6. Israel's end-time recovery from centuries of unbelief results in the fullness of Jew and Gentile in the kingdom of God.
7. The wisdom and knowledge to bring all this to pass is described as "the depth of [divine] riches."
8. This expression refers to the extensive means at God's disposal to accomplish all His purposes.
9. "Depth" refers to the profound wisdom and knowledge of God based on His divine attributes.
10. "Riches" refers to what God knows based on His attribute of omniscience.
11. No one can explore this vast depth of wisdom and knowledge (cf. Col. 2:3).
12. The greater is named first the lesser is named second.
13. Knowledge refers to God's all-inclusive and exhaustive cognition.
14. There is not detail that eludes Him.
15. Wisdom refers to His application and arrangement of all that He knows to bring to pass His righteous purposes.
16. Over and above of all that God has revealed to man there is an infinity of knowledge no one can fathom.
17. All that God does to advance His plan in the lives is largely a sealed volume.
18. A lesson we should glean from all this is that we should not call into question what God does nor should we dictate what God should do unless we have clear biblical information.
19. "Depth" is described as "unsearchable" and "untraceable."
20. God's decisions called His "judgments" cannot be searched out.
21. The word "untraceable" means we human cannot retrace where God has been.
22. His ways are perfect and just and full of perfect knowledge and wisdom.
23. The incomprehensibility of all God's ways is beyond collective humanity's capability to know.
24. Believers should focus on learning and apply BD.
25. Isa. 40:13 (LXX) bears witness to the unfathomable wisdom of God.
26. God totally apart from any outside entity devised His plan.
27. Job 41:11 is from the Hebrew text.
28. Paul makes a change from the 1st person to the 3rd person.
29. The use Paul makes of the verse is that God is under no obligation to consult anyone.

30. He owes no one any justification of explanation for His ways and decisions.
31. Verse 36 should be compared to similar statements by Paul as in: 1Cor. 8:16; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:16; cf. Heb. 2:10).
32. In v. 36 three ascriptions are predicated to God:
 1. He is the source of all things as all things have proceeded from His as the Creator.
 2. He is the agent through which all things subsist and are brought to their proper end.
 3. He is the end-all to whom all things will redound (cf. Prov. 16:2 “The LORD has made everything for its own purpose; even the wicked for the day of evil.”).
33. Rev. 4:11 “Worthy are You our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For You created all things, and because of You they existed, and were created.”
34. We should all say “Amen!”

END: Romans Chapter Eleven

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