



Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36 (HCSB)

A Hymn of Praise

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!
How unsearchable His judgments
and untraceable His ways!

³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been His counselor?

³⁵ Or who has ever first given to Him,
and has to be repaid?^[a]

³⁶ For from Him and through Him
and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

English Standard Version Bible - *Study Bible*¹

Romans 11:33-36

11:33-36 Concluding Doxology. As he concludes his setting forth of God's great plan in the history of salvation ([chs. 1-11](#)), Paul breaks forth into praise. God's wisdom and ways are far beyond the understanding of human beings, and hence he deserves all the glory.

11:34-35 The words of [Isa. 40:13](#) teach that no human being knows **the mind of the Lord** apart from revelation, and no one can serve as God's adviser. Likewise the majestic words of [Job 41:11](#) are a reminder that no one ultimately gives anything to God. Instead, everything humans have is a gift from God ([1 Cor. 4:7](#)).

11:36 Since **all things** are from God, and through God, and for God, it follows that he deserves all the **glory forever**. God's saving plan brings him great honor, praise, and glory forever and ever.

Holman Christian Standard Bible - *Study Bible*²

Romans 11:33-36

11:33-36 In these verses Paul concludes his line of reasoning that Israel's current unbelief is no argument against the truth of the gospel. He is moved to exclamations of wonder at God's wisdom, power, and plan. Who could have foreseen what God was working out? Paul cites various OT texts to express God's incomprehensible purposes. God is to be honored because He is the Alpha and the Omega—the Creator, the sustainer and ruler, and the goal of all things (cp. Cranfield, *Romans*, 2:591).

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

Romans 11:33-36

11:34-36 The implication of these questions is that no one has fully understood the mind of the Lord. No one has been his counselor. And God owes nothing to any one of us. Isaiah and Jeremiah asked similar questions to show that we are unable to give advice to God or criticize his ways ([Isaiah 40:13](#); [Jeremiah 23:18](#)). God alone is the possessor of absolute power and absolute wisdom. In the final analysis, all of us are absolutely dependent on God. He is the source of all things, including ourselves. He is the power that sustains and rules the world that we live in. And God works out all things to bring glory to himself. The all-powerful God deserves our praise.

1. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 11".

2. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 11".

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1916.

Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary⁴

Romans 11:33-36

[11:33-35](#) Here Paul bursts into a song of praise as he concludes his entire treatise in [chapters 1–11](#) on God’s sovereign plan for our salvation. It is **impossible for us to understand**. Paul quoted from [Isaiah 40:13](#), pointing out that God alone knows the plan. In his unsearchable wisdom he designed it. No human being was, is, or will ever be involved in giving him advice or making new suggestions. Then Paul quotes loosely from [Job 41:11](#) to point out that God is in sovereign control. He is not in our debt, we are in his!

[11:36](#) God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Omega of all life. Everything **comes from him** and is for him to use for **his glory**. God is almighty and all-powerful, but even more, he cares for us personally. No person or power can compare with God.

Paul began his letter with the statement that God left his imprint on the world he created, but that the human beings of that creation had chosen rebellion. In the past eleven chapters, Paul has examined God’s marvelous plan for bringing the rebels home. God has chosen to “have mercy on everyone” ([11:32](#)). What more can any believer, saved by grace, say than, **to him be glory evermore. Amen.**

4. Barton B. Bruce et al., *Life Application New Testament Commentary*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 622.

Study and Discussion Questions



Doxology - [Romans 11:33-36](#)

Topics: [God](#), [Knowledge](#), [Praise](#), [Wisdom](#), [Worship](#)

Open It

1. What was your idea of God when you were a child?
2. *How has your idea of God changed as you have grown up?
3. When are you most inclined to praise God?

Explore It

4. How did Paul describe God's judgments? ([11:33](#))
5. What is beyond our understanding? ([11:33](#))
6. *How did Paul describe the mind of God? ([11:33-34](#))
7. What force or power is higher or wiser than God? ([11:33-34](#))
8. How did Paul describe God? ([11:33-36](#))
9. Why did Paul praise God? ([11:33-36](#))
10. *What does God owe? ([11:35](#))
11. *What is God's place in the universe? ([11:36](#))
12. What is from God, through God, and to God? ([11:36](#))
13. How did Paul summarize his doxology? ([11:36](#))

Get It

14. Why do you think Paul concluded his discussion of Israel's salvation with this doxology?
15. How do skeptics and agnostics try to explain God?
16. *In what ways do we underestimate God?
17. What limits all human explanations of God?

18. *What reasons do we have to worship God?
19. How can God's wisdom help us?
20. How does God hold you and your life together?

Apply It

21. *How can you worship and praise God with enthusiasm and devotion this week?
22. What is one way you can reflect God's character to others through your personal life?