



Epistle to The Romans



Lesson 16, Israel's Future: Romans 11:1-24

General Review

- † Chapters 1-8: the definitive analysis of sin and salvation.
- † Chapters 9-11: all about Israel.
 - ☆ – Chapter 9: Israel Past - elected
 - ☆ – Chapter 10: Israel Present – rejected
 - ☆ – Chapter 11: Israel Future – accepted
- † God has a destiny for Israel, He's not through with them yet!
 - ☆ – Romans 10:16ff: Israel Rejected → Chronology of Israel
 - ☆ – Romans 10:19: "Provoked to jealousy" by the Gentiles
- † Sets us up for Romans 11...

Israel's Future: God's Sovereign Choice Fulfilled

Israel's rejection was not total (Rom 11:1- 10; cf. Isa 65:1-8): Even though unbelieving Israel will be judged, there always will be a remnant...

Isaiah 65 will set us up for the lesson. **Read Isaiah 65:1-8**

Even though unbelieving Israel will be judged, there always will be a remnant...

Israel's Rejection Not Total

Paul continues....

Read Romans 11 Verse 1

In the Greek, the question is asked to elicit a negative reply: "God did not reject His people, did He?" A firm negative answer, "By no means!"

Paul presents himself as his first proof: "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee" (Phil 3:5). This is Paul's Jewish pedigree. The main point is, If God could save Paul (Acts 9: 22; 26), He certainly could save other Jews (1 Tim 1:15-16).



Read Romans 11 Verse 2

In this verse Paul is quoting from 1 Sam 12:22; Ps 94:14. The phrase "...whom He foreknew" means to have knowledge beforehand or to "have a meaningful relationship with." God had chosen Israel as His covenant people from eternity past and entered into

a relationship with them that will never be destroyed. [Author James M Stifler points out that Israel is the only nation He foreknew (Amos 3:2).]

You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Amos 3:2

Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 31:37 (Rhetorical comment).

Paul's second proof that God has not rejected His people was taken from Israel's history during Elijah's ministry. The prophet was deeply depressed, having fled for his life from Jezebel.

Read Romans 11 Verse 3

Paul then quoted Elijah (1 Kgs 19:10, 14). Elijah considered himself the only believing person left in Israel.

Read Romans 11 Verse 4

God was not limited to one fearful, depressed prophet; He had reserved for Himself a godly remnant in Israel that numbered 7,000 (1 Kgs 19:18). The preservation of the faithful remnant was a work of God.

Read Romans 11 Verse 5

There was always going to be a "remnant." God always has his remnant, no matter where, Israel, Washington, even Hollywood. Paul, at the time, was only one of many in his generation elected to faith from the people of Israel. In every generation of the church "a remnant chosen by grace" has been called from among the Jews.

Read Romans 11 Verse 6

Paul added that this choice is totally by God's grace (Eph 2:8-9). He emphasized the antithesis between grace and works (Rom 4:4-5; 9:30-32). Paul has reiterated this point again and again throughout the earlier parts of Romans; God's free gift of grace with no work of man involved.

Read Romans 11 Verse 7

Israel sought God but failed to find Him (works); Gentiles, who were not looking, found Him (faith). Israel was sincere, but sincerely wrong (Rom10:1-4). You cannot strive to find God without Him revealing Himself to you. The Jews zealously sought to be accepted by God on the basis of works and the righteousness of the Law (Rom10:2-3). However, they were not accepted by God; only the elect were accepted, because of God's sovereign choice by grace. The others were hardened (cf. Rom 11:25). What implications does this have in our world today?

Read Romans 11 Verse 8

What it means to be hardened is seen from Paul's explanatory and supporting quotations. Paul is going to quote from both Deut. 29:3-4 and Isaiah 29:10. This indicates that hardening involves 'spiritual drowsiness.' The Greek word means 1) a pricking, piercing; 2) severe sorrow, extreme grief; or and more apropos here, 3) an insensibility or lethargy of the mind, such as **numbness** resulting from a sting; blindness, and deafness (cf. Isa 6:9-10).

Read Romans 11 Verses 9 & 10

Second quotation: Psalm 69:22-23, which predicts that the very things which should have been the source of nourishment and blessing to Israel. (Psalm 69 is a remarkable Psalm).

The word "...table" in verse 9 means their blessings from the hand of God, which should have led them to Christ (cf. Gal 3:24), became the occasion for their rejection of God, in other words a snare and a trap, a stumbling block (cf. Rom. 9:32-33). Also, in verse 9 the word "recompense" means God's judgment on them.

In verse 10 the phrase "Bow down their back" means because they refused to receive God's truth (cf. Isa 6:9-10; Jn 5:40), their backs will be bent under the weight of guilt and punishment.

Salvation Unto Gentiles

Read Romans 11 Verse 11

The Greek means, "They did not stumble so as to fall permanently." [NIV: "beyond recovery."] But the tense of the verb "fell" and its contrast with the verb translated "stumble" imply the idea of falling beyond recovery. Once again, the question in Greek was worded to elicit a negative answer, and for the 10th and last time in Romans, Paul responded, "may it never be!" (God Forbid).

Israel did not experience a permanent fall, but a stumbling. It served at least two divine purposes: 1) to offer salvation to the Gentiles (Eph 2), and 2) to make Israel envious or "to the provoking of them to jealousy" (cf. Deut 32:21).

Read Ephesians 2:11-13 and Read Ephesians 5:30-31

Read Romans 11 Verse 12

The word "...diminishing" is a numerical word meaning not all are rejected (remnant). The grammar requires "they will have" meaning they will be coming into their fullness. Not saying "if" but instead "when." In other words, if we (the Gentiles) are blessed by their (Israel) stumbling, how much more will we be blessed by their restoration.

Read Romans 11 Verse 13

The church at Rome was predominately Gentiles of house churches; Paul keeps the Jews and Gentiles distinct in this passage. Paul understood and then affirmed his special position as the apostle to the Gentiles (cf. Acts 9:15; Gal 1:16; 2:7-8; Eph 3:8). Twice already in his ministry Paul had turned away from unbelieving Jews to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46; 18:6), and he would do so at least once more in Rome (Acts 28:25-28).

Read Romans 11 Verse 14

Paul is called to the Gentiles; but his heart is still with his countrymen.

Read Romans 11 Verse 15

This is an idiomatic verse that is widely misunderstood. Greek has for conditions for the if clause, here the "...if" is a 1st class condition meaning "and it is" (Cf. v.12 and v.15 (climactic)). We could use "since" instead of "if."

Life From the Dead

Some equate "Life from the dead" in verse 15 to mean Israel's "acceptance" of Christ and related to "the first resurrection" Rev. 20:4 -6 or the resurrection of life of John 5:29.

Paul is going to get into a few areas that require some overview.

To Clarify about **Resurrections...**



The **First Resurrection** is a category, including several events:

- a) Christ's resurrection, the "first fruits" (Mt 27:52,53).
- b) Dead saints at the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- c) Martyred Great Tribulation saints raised at Christ's return (Rev 20:4, 5b).
- d) Believing Old Testament saints (Dan 12:1-2).

The **Second Resurrection** category will include all the wicked dead to be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:5f). Not two events chronologically but two categories. Not simultaneous; elements are separated in time.

To Clarify about **Judgments...**

- 1) **Bema Seat of Christ** (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:11-15) for Christians.
 - a. Rewards: crowns, assignments
 - i. Kingdom Parables: Talents, Virgins, Uninvited...
 - b. Call of the Bride to the Marriage of Lamb
 - i. "Bride" of Messiah (vs. Adulterous "wife" of YHVH)
- 2) **"Sheep & Goat" judgment** (Mt 25:31-46)
 - a. On the earth: (three separate parties involved)
 - b. Mortals are judged on the basis of "works"
- 3) **Great White Throne** (Rev 20:11-15)
 - a. At the end of the Millennium
 - b. Then: New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem



Events Following the Harpazo (Rapture)

- In Heaven:
 - The Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema)
 - The Marriage of the Lamb
- On the Earth:
 - The Emergence of the World Leader(s)
 - The Great Tribulation
 - Campaign of Armageddon
- The Second Coming of Christ
 - The Davidic Kingdom Established

Back to **Life From the Dead**

The teaching that there will be one general resurrection of all humanity at one time fails to take these distinctions into account. Here, however, “Life from the dead” used by Paul appears to be in a national sense (Ezek 37:11-14); Israel is in the land, then God gives them His Spirit. These arguments should’ve ended on May 14, 1948. Next this for Israel is a Terrifying war (Dan 11:36-45).

*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, **such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time**: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:1-3*

Daniel describes much more than what took place in “a.d. 70”! These events are just before the resurrection, Second Coming, restoration of Israel, etc. Restoration includes the resurrection (of those who missed the Harpazo (Rapture))...

Read Romans 11 Verse 16

The first of two illustrations (from Num 15:20): After entering Canaan and reaping their first wheat harvest, God instructed Israel to take “a cake from the first of [their] ground meal and present it as an offering.” The cake made from the first ground wheat of harvest was sanctified or made holy by being offered to God. This offering was to be repeated each year at their harvest. As Paul explained, “If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy.” The “First Fruits” is the Covenant to Abraham...in which “all nations of the world will be blessed.”

Read Romans 11 Verse 17

Paul’s second illustration was that of a tree: if the root is holy, so are the branches. Branches are the Israelites; (You,) are the wild olive tree aka the Gentiles, taken against

nature and made partakers of the sustenance. In both illustrations the principle is the same: what is considered first contributes its character to what follows after.

Read Romans 11 Verse 18

Paul says do not boast or “Do not be arrogant...” Root here is Abraham. The root of the tree is the source of life and nourishment to all the branches; Abraham is “the father of all who believe” (Rom 4:11-12, 16-17).

So Gentile believers are linked to Abraham; in one sense they owe their salvation to him, not vice versa. [Origen: tried to make the church the root (?).]

This passage does not teach that the national promises to Israel are now being fulfilled by the church. Paul said Israel’s fall is temporary. While believing Gentiles share in the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:3) as Abraham’s spiritual children (Gal 3:8-9), they do not permanently replace Israel as the heirs of God’s promises (Gen 12:23; 15:18-21; 17:19-21; 22:15-18). “Salvation is from the Jews” (Jn 4:22).

Read Romans 11 Verses 19, 20, & 21

“If” translates as since, a 1st class condition which is assumed true. “Thee” the Gentiles; it depends on your volition. A good message to America!

Warning to Gentiles

This section explains the righteousness of God’s sovereign choice and a call to be cautious (Rom 11:11-21):

- Israel’s “fall” (Rom 11:11), “loss” (Rom 11:12), and “rejection” (Rom 11:15).
- For “the branches have been broken off” (Rom 11:17) “because of unbelief” (Rom 11:20).
- Thus, If God is righteous in temporarily putting aside Israel as a whole for unbelief, He certainly could put aside the Gentiles for boasting and haughtiness

Read Romans 11 Verse 22

Paul here summarizes his whole discussion of God’s sovereign choice in temporarily putting Israel aside corporately and proclaiming righteousness by faith to all mankind.

In this verse the word “Goodness” in the Greek means moral goodness, integrity; kindness. Also used when referring to God (Rom 2:4; Eph 2:7; Titus 3:4). The word “Severity” means a sternness; only used here in New Testament.

Why should God have more patience with us than He did with faithless Judaism? God’s continuing goodness to the Gentiles depends on their continuing in His kindness. If Gentiles do not continue in God’s kindness, they also will be cut off.

This does not suggest that a Christian can lose his salvation; it refers to Gentiles collectively (suggested by the singular “Thou”) turning from the gospel, much as the nation of Israel had done.

Read Romans 11 Verse 23

“They” here is Israel. As Paul wrote earlier, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13).

Read Romans 11 Verse 24

“Much More”! Normally a branch of a cultivated olive tree is grafted into a wild olive tree. He knew that grafting the wild into the cultivated was not the norm (though it was done), for later he said it was “contrary to nature.”

Critical Issue

The destiny of Israel—as declared by God Himself—is, strangely, a controversy that divides the denominational churches from the Biblical view. Study carefully yourself to resolve this in your own mind; it is critical if you are to understand the times in which we live.

Read Romans 11 Verse 25

The critical word “until” in verse 25 is the critical pivot point that we really need to understand. Don’t confuse “the fullness of the Gentiles” with the “times of the Gentiles.” We shall discuss this issue in the next lesson.

Next Session

Romans 11: Israel’s Future – Part 2 of 3, The Kingdom Mysteries. Read the rest of the chapter.



ROMANS CHAPTER ELEVEN

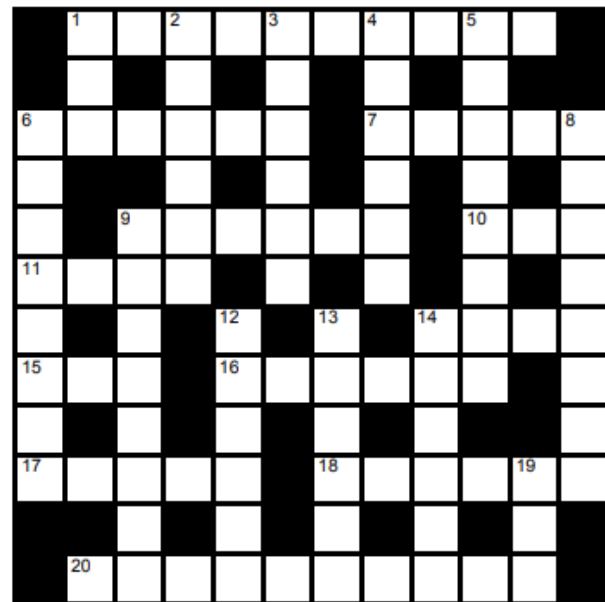
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Across

- 1 Remorse (10)
- 6 Consecrate (6)
- 7 Break a Commandment (5)
- 9 Make a hole (6)
- 10 Pot (3)
- 11 What Ai became (4)
- 14 This initially watered the earth (4)
- 15 Samuel's mentor (3)
- 16 Small river (6)
- 17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)
- 18 Prophet in David's time (6)
- 20 Biblical garden (10)

Down

- 1 Take flight (3)
- 2 One of the twelve (6)
- 3 All living things (6)
- 4 Response (6)
- 5 Guardians of Eden (8)
- 6 The father of Levi (8)
- 8 Grow (8)
- 9 Forbearance (8)
- 12 Second longest book (6)
- 13 Statue metal (6)
- 14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)
- 19 Wood splitter (3)



by Philologus

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