

The Book of Romans

Chapter Eleven - The Future of Israel

I. Introduction - Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian!

This one Book in your Bible condenses down into 16 chapters the greatest themes of all humanity - the themes of sin, judgment, justification, sanctification, victory, eternal security, and service!

II. Book Review So Far - There are *Six Sections* (main subjects) in Romans

A. SECTION ONE - **Sin** - Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 1. **The Righteousness and Wrath of God** - Describes the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (ruined utterly in character or quality)!

Chapter 2. **The Sin of Self-Righteousness** - There are so many people who look at the list and find some way of excusing THEMSELVES, and looking down at OTHERS - "civilised" vs "heathen" and the lower classes

B. SECTION TWO - **Our Great Salvation** - Chapters 3-5 (*Justification*)

Chapter 3. The fact of There Being No Difference - No Excuses

Chapter 4. How To Become Strong in Faith

Chapter 5. The Benefits of Salvation

C. SECTION THREE - **The Christians' Sanctification** - Chapters 6-7

D. SECTION FOUR - **The Beliver's Security in Christ** - Chapter 8

E. SECTION FIVE of the Book of Romans - **The Special Place of Israel in God's overall plan.** This section explains a lot of the background to the history in the Middle East, and help us Gentiles understand the level of God's commitment to us! There are 3 chapters in this section (chapters 9, 10, 11).

Chapter 9. The Position of Israel - A special place of use

Chapter 10. The Need of Israel - to get the Gospel

Chapter 11. The Future of Israel - How they fit in God's plan for the future

III. Focus Verse: Romans 11:1

IV. Study Outline of Romans Chapter Eleven - The Future of Israel

A. God's Attitude Towards Israel (11:1-3)

1. Israel are _____ God's People - His elect (11:1) - His chosen ones
 - a. Israel is called "_____ " (Ex 3:7)
 - b. Israel cannot be "discarded" (1 Sam 12:22; Rom 11:29)
 - c. God chose Israel on the basis of Abraham's faith (Dt 7:8,9). EX: of a man marrying a wife, and loving the family on the basis of thw 'wife' and not the family!
 - d. Israel never stops being "the elect" (Rom 11:28; 1Pet 1:1,2)
 - e. Election here means "_____ , _____ ." It does not mean *automatic salvation*. There is no "predestination" to heaven, or to hell - only destined to being used by God:
 - 1) Pharaoh was predestined to be used by God
 - 2) Moses was predestined
 - 3) Israel was predestined to be used
 - 4) Christian's are predestined to be used by God
 - 5) Saul of Tarsus was "elected" to be used (Acts 9:15)
 - f. So, Christians are also referred to as being "elected" (Eph 1:3-5, 11-13) but only because of responding to the Gospel, and because God chooses to use us to reach the world!
2. The Jews can and do still get saved (11:1,2).
 - a. Paul is a perfect example of this (Acts 9:1-6)
 - b. As are the 3,000 on the day of Pentacost, and the 5,000 etc.

- c. Salvation is based upon OUR choice. Election is based upon how God chooses to use a person in His overall plan. In other words, no matter HOW a person responds to the Gospel, God will use that person to fulfill His own will (Rom 8:28).
- 3. God _____ Israel's "fall" before He chose them (11:2,3).
 - a. This is critical because people think election means *perfection* or, that God fixes you without your choice
 - b. When God challenged Abraham to simply believe His promises, God already knew what would happen (Gen 15:13-16), and that Abraham's descendants would turn away from God over and over (Judges, and throughout their history), and that they would crucify His Son, etc.
 - c. God foreknew *your* failures when He offered you eternal life, even though you are not worthy! And He chose to use you knowing you are prone to fail! Thank God - What an honour!

B. God's Work on Israel (11:4-10)

- 1. Why God Worked in and on Israel - His Design (11:2-5).
 - a. _____ (Lk 19:10) - referring to Israel, to get them not to **bow**! Notice that they were reserved since they did not bow
 - b. _____ - to provoke others to repentance. God "elects" people, and nations to provoke other nations to get right with God! God worked on Israel because He needed someone to show His grace and mercy through - that He stays with people who are rebellious and dis-interested!
 - c. _____. He loved Abraham (called His friend; Isa 41:8), and so wanted to bless all Ab's children because of Abraham!
- 2. How He accomplished His design (11:4,5).
 - a. He always had a "remnant" who were an open testimony to the rest of the people (11:2-5)
 - b. He always showed great mercy and grace toward those not interested (11:2-4; Act 28:17-28)
 - c. He ultimately had to give people what they wanted (**Jam 1:13-16**). Principle: you get what you want!
 - d. Either you submit to God's righteousness (10:3) and get eternal life, or establish your own righteousness, and receive eternal death!
 - e. The **election of grace** (11:5) is God's commitment to Israel way-past the time that He should ever had had anything to do with them:
 - 1) They killed God's prophets - hated God's word
 - 2) Destroyed God's altars - despised God's lamb
 - 3) Crucified God's Son
 - 4) And yet they are still elect (11:28,29)
 - f. Grace is a **gift**, not a force (11:6). It is God's acceptance of a sinner on the basis of the WORK of Christ which is imputed to a sinner who clings only to Him, by faith (Eph 2:8,9; **Rom 4:1-8**)! People can frustrate God's grace (Gal 2:21)!
 So, the meaning of the phrase "**according to the election of grace**" is that God's choice is to have grace towards those who do not deserve it (Mt 9:13) - i.e., the choice of tolerance!
 - g. So, Israel as a whole has not obtained salvation, or the fulfil-ment of all God's promises (11:7; 9:31) but _____ has!
 - 1) The election process works! See it work with Abraham (saved by faith), Issac, David, O.T. believers, N.T. believers - all saved by faith, not by forced dictation.
 - a) The election process is God's chosen way of saving
 - b) God chose that if anyone simply takes God at His word (faith), and obeys it, then they get eternal life (Heb 11:8; Ro 6:16,17; 1Pet 4:17)
 - 2) The rest were blinded - given sleepy eyes - God responds to us based upon our response to His word and work in our lives (Pr 3:34; Rom 2:4,5)
 - 3) And they were rewarded with trouble (11:9; Ps 69:22,23)
 - 4) All because of their unbelief (Heb 3:15-19; Mt 13:13-15)!

C. **How Election Works!** (11:11-25)

1. The election process (whereby God extends salvation to an unworthy sinner, and allows that sinner to respond to it) works because it accounts for our _____ - _____ and _____ (11:11-12).
 - a. Israel fell - as did Adam and Eve - and yet God's plan was not defeated. Election meant that God "elected" to stay with Adam and Eve, and with Israel, and with ANY SINNER who trusts the Lamb! So Israel did not fall completely.
 - b. God knew that Israel would "fall" and has a way to restore them (11:12) - He is going to bring them back to Him!

2. The election process used the fall of Israel for the speeding up of the salvation of the rest of the world (11:13-14).
 - a. Notice that the authority for this is the *apostle to the Gentiles* - not Peter, but Paul (11:13). And Paul is proud of it!
 - 1) Jesus worked primarily with the Jews (Ro 15:8)
 - 2) Peter worked primarily with the Jews (Gal 2:8)
 - b. Paul went out of his way to make the Jews *mad* enough about the Gentiles getting saved so that they would really understand what is going on and get saved themselves (11:14)
 - 1) Good soul-winning _____, gets people to think things through instead of just ignoring the facts!
 - 2) But good soul-winning also sometimes *provokes* - gets them mad enough to consider what you are saying
 - 3) Don't be afraid to say and do some things that will offend people (Mt 15:8-14) in order to save them (Jude 22,23)!

3. The election process now uses the Gentiles to work on the Jews (Rom 11:15-25; Rom 10:19; Dt 32:21)
 - a. The Jews were used to bring Christ the Saviour to the world
 - 1) Remember, Israel gave us the Bible (not the church)
 - 2) Israel gave us His birth
 - 3) Then brought about His death, burial and resurrection
 - 4) And when they took responsibility for crucifying Jesus, "***His blood be upon us...***" God used the casting away of the Jews to enable the reconciliation of the world back to God - God is never "put off" by our stupidity!
 - 5) But be aware that the receiving back of the Jews in the near future will be miraculous - "life from the dead"
 - 6) If the casting away was something great, what do you think their reunion with their God be? What if 144,000 Jews got sold-out for Jesus Christ? They would do what Christianity has not done for 2,000 years! Win the world!
 - b. Now, the Gentiles are being used to bring Israel back to God (11:11) - very _____, but necessary!
 - c. Example of the _____ Tree (Rom 11:16-25) _____
 - 1) Remember, God is giving us an illustration about how He deals with the Jews as a NATION, and with the Gentiles as a WHOLE - not with individuals!
 - 2) The nation of Israel was a carefully planted and nurtured *good* olive tree. God was the Farmer, or "husbandman"
 - a) The *firstfruit* (11:16) is referring to Abraham - first fruits of God's dealings with Israel from the start
 - b) The *lump* is referring to everything that followed Abraham - the lump, the pile of harvested fruits
 - c) If the root be holy - the root is the most important part of any plant - most vital operation takes place in the roots. Without good roots, the tree is doomed. Here the root is *God's commitment to Abraham*

- d) The branches are referring to the Jewish offspring
 - e) Notice that only **some** of the branches were “broken off” (11:17) *because of unbelief* (Heb 3:19;4:1)
- 3) The Gentiles are called a “_____ olive tree” (11:17) - it cannot produce any good fruit. Just “looks” pretty! Must be grafted into a good olive plant to produce any fruit. And the olive fruit is referred to as *righteousness*.
- a) The unsaved must come into the good olive tree
 - b) Supplied by the good olive tree: no self-righteousness
 - c) Have nothing to boast about - you are the wild branch - the Jews are the natural branch - they belong, you don’t
 - d) The root (Abraham, by faith) is the thing to honour, not the branches (your own endeavors, or religion)
 - e) The Gentile believer did not “replace” the Jew, but joined with them by faith (11:17)
 - f) The Gentiles get into the place of blessing because of the grace (tolerance) of God - GREAT grace!
- 4) Be careful of your attitude toward the Jews (11:18-24) - remember, you are a nobody (Eph 2:11-22)
- a) We might say that Israel was taken away so that we were not blocked from getting to Christ - True (11:19,20). The Jews had become a hindrance instead of a help to the world getting saved!
 - b) Just remember, we Gentiles are where we are by **faith** (11:20) - so fear! A great attitude (1Cor 10:12)
 - c) You see, the nation of Israel fell out due to unbelief - and so have been on the bottom of God’s task list, and you Gentiles have been “on top”, so to speak.
 - d) But, be careful, because when unbelief saturates Gentile Christianity, then God will drop the Gentiles, and place Israel back in the forefront of His attention (Rom 11:21)- He is working at that right now
- 5) A great contradiction of character exists in God (11:22)
- a) Both goodness and severity (harshness) co-exist
 - b) Both mercy, and judgment co-exist
 - c) Both love and hatred: love of the sinner hatred of sin
- 6) So the **fear** is that God’s timetable moves on (11:22)
- a) Moved from the Law to Grace at the cross
 - b) Will move from Grace to the Tribulation
 - c) Will then move from Tribulation to the Millennium
- 7) Every Jew that gets saved, gets grafted in. And the Jewish nation will be restored as the people of God - no longer just on paper, but in their own hearts (11:23,24)
- 8) The Jews have just been blinded by their own foolishness (11:25) in rejecting Christ (2Cor 3:14-16). Called a “mystery” because until more revelation, no one could understand why God’s people would act the way they do! If a man thinks God is all through with Israel, there are two things about him: a) he's ignorant, and b) he's wise in his own conceit (deluded - stupid)
- 9) The “fullness of the Gentiles” (11:25) refers to God’s patience toward a group of people being counted as “full up” (Gen 15:13-16)
- D. _____ **Israel Shall Be Saved!** (11:26-32; Ezek 37 & 38)
1. Dealing with two things: 1) the coming Tribulation, and 2) the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
 - a. Israel gets saved right in the middle of the Tribulation
 - b. The deliverer will arrive soon after
 - c. The “New Covenant” (which we hold to and believe) will be established with Israel (11:27; Jer 31:31-34) - all Israel alive at the time will be “saved” - God will “take away their sins”

2. Concerning the Gospel, Israel is an enemy of God because of us Gentiles getting saved. Right now, God has placed them on the bottom of the stack so to speak, and focused on us Gentiles.
 3. Concerning God's election (His plan), Israel remains beloved because of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's sake! Why?
 - a. God's gifts are not retractable - salvation, mansions in heaven
 - b. God's calling (purpose) is unchanging
 - c. *Without repentance* means there is no changing God's mind
 4. God used the unbelief of the Jews (their failure) to reach you Irish (11:30)!
 5. God is interested in us Christian Gentiles having MERCY on the Jews and giving them the Gospel so that they may obtain GOD's mercy (11:31). Because they NEED it (11:32)
- E. **Oh How Great Are Our God's Ways** (11:33-36) God's plan is too fantastic to fully comprehend
1. God alone has been able to bring about His design in spite of:
 - a. Unbelief on all man's part (11:32)
 - b. Satan's attempts to wipe out God's people the Jews
 - c. Sin's dominion in the place of God and true righteousness - God had to work out His plan, all without forcing His way, and without us being able to help Him!
 2. All glory goes to God for His unsearchable wisdom and greatness!
 - a. He offers that wisdom to anyone who asks (Jam 1:5)
 - b. Basically, everything we are, and can be is because of God (11:36; Ps 100)
 - c. Let's make sure that we give Him all praise and honour and glory (Rev 4:11; 5:12)