

ROMANS CHAPTER 11

- vs. 1 In light of all that Paul has said (9:1 thru 10:21) can we conclude that God has rejected the physical nation of Israel? In short, did He change His mind or adjust His eternal plan in time? Nothing is farther from the truth! (God's eternal plan is never adjusted), Chapter 11 details God's plan to fulfill His eternal purpose, which includes the national salvation and restoration of the literal nation of Israel, comprised of Jews who are now scattered over the face of the earth with a remnant occupying Palestine.
Paul first deals with the individual Jews that God foreknew through their history, he being one.
1. a physical descendent of Abraham, who also exercised the faith of Abraham Rom. 4:12.
 2. a Jew who comes from the tribe of Benjamin, the only tribe that stayed with Judah when the nation split into two kingdoms 2 Chron.10:1-11:14; 1 Kings 11:9-13
- vs. 2 Paul defines the Israel that is not rejected – the individuals that God had made Himself known to, Gal.4:9, because they were foreknown by Him before their earthly history had begun. John 6:37, 44, 65. (NOTE: When Jesus said this, the church was not yet born, thus He was still in the O.T. economy.)
- vs.2b-4 Paul illustrates this truth by referring to O.T. experience. (This truth is also witnessed by the Law and the prophets. Rom. 3:21.) The example comes from 1 Kings 19:1-18.
1. Because they had killed Jehovah's prophets and destroyed His altars, 1 Kings 18:3-4, Elijah assumed that he was left alone.
 2. He had just stood in opposition to 850 prophets of Baal and the Asherah, 1 Kings 18:19-39, defeated them and killed them. 1 Kings 18:40.
 3. He decided that he was no match for Jezebel and ran. 1 Kings 19:1-3
 4. Elijah only knew that which was his experience. God is not controlled or limited by our experience. God had 7,000 who were the one's chosen by Him to be His "people" at that low time in Israel's history. He has chosen those that are His in every phase of history.

- vs. 5 Paul makes application of the above truth to his present time. Though the nation as a whole had rejected the claims of Christ and crucified Him, there were individual Jews who had believed in Christ Jesus being justified by faith. Gal. 2:15-16.
Those who had believed (a remnant) were the result of God's gracious choice! All believers in every generation are the result of God's gracious choice.
- vs. 6 Grace is God acting sovereignly according to Himself while works is man seeking to present to God a human ground for blessing. These are utterly opposed to each other. Acts 15:7-11; Rom. 4:4-5
- vs. 7 A concluding statement of "fact" – This is the bottom line!
In context, we are looking at Israel's experience:
1. That which the nation as a whole was seeking for, has not been obtained;
 2. The remnant, who were chosen by God before the world began, did obtain it.
 3. Those that did not obtain it, did not, because they were hardened;
 4. This is Romans 9:6-18 applied!
- vs. 8-10 Again, the Law and the prophets confirm this application:
1. As a people, Israel has been hardened. They cannot see because God has allowed a 'veil' to lie over their heart. 2 Cor. 3:14-16
 2. Their sharing at God's table became a snare and a trap:
 - a. Their leaders ate and drank with God. Ex. 24:9-11
 - b. Their priests ate the sacred food. Lev. 6:16
 - c. The people ate from their own peace offerings.
Lev. 7:18, 20; Lev. 23:6.
The Israelite began to trust not in Jehovah, but in his manner of eating. Acts 10:9-16, esp. vs. 14.
 3. Their eyes were darkened to see not. At the same time, they closed their own eyes. Matt. 13:14-17; John 12:39-43 and they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.
 4. And bend their backs forever – Israel will not believe during this present world order. She will not believe until the return of Christ, which begins the new world order. Rom. 11:25-28.

Verses 11-24 overview the plan of God for mankind with a special emphasis on Israel's part within that plan.

vs. 11 Did the nation (national election) stumble so as to be permanently removed? Is God finished with the nation of Israel that is currently represented in Palestine? Perish the thought. (God's plan includes a future salvation for that nation.)

Their rejection of the God of Israel has produced two results:

1. The inclusion of the Gentiles in God's eternal kingdom;
2. That inclusion making them jealous thereby positioning them for a future salvation.

vs. 12 Their rejection of Christ formed the basis for :

1. riches for the world; Matt. 22:1-14
2. riches for the Gentiles. Acts 10:34-35; 13:44-48

How much more will their (these same Jewish rejectors) fulfillment (national salvation) be!

NOTE: Each statement in this section assumes that God is not finished with Israel as a nation.

vs. 13-14 Paul is stressing how God is working among the Gentiles for two reasons:

1. He has been given a specific ministry among the Gentiles Acts 9:15;
2. He loves his kinsmen according to the flesh and never ceases attempting to lead them to the Christ that he has met. Rom. 9:1-3

vs. 15 God's casting away of the Jew...resulted in the reconciliation of the world:

1. As long as God maintained fellowship with Israel on the grounds of the Mosaic Law, Gentiles were out of His direct favor;
2. As a result of Israel's rejection of Jesus as their Messiah, Matt. 27:22-25, 27-31, and their requesting Pilot to crucify Him; God used their sin to perform the greatest work (reconciliation of the world) ever done since the world began. 2 Cor. 5: 14-21 NOTE: Acts 4:27-28)

If God was able to work His greatest work using Israel's rejection of Him, Paul asks us to imagine what God will accomplish when He saves them as a nation. Again, their national salvation is assumed!

God's return for them will result in "life from the dead" for the whole creation. Isa 11:1-10; 40:1-5; Rom 8:18-21

vs. 16 There is an "Israel of God". Gal. 6:16 They are representative of the whole that is to follow. This is pictured in the offering of the "first of your dough". Num. 15:18-21; Rom. 11:28

Verses 16b thru 24 build this concept using the picture of an olive tree:

1. The root is Abraham who received the promises;
 2. The tree is the Divine blessing, which grows up from these promises that were made to Abraham and to his Seed.
Gal. 3:16 (Singular)
 3. The natural branches are those who first partook of the tree's roots – the Jewish nation.
- vs. 17
4. Individual's who were a part of the nation and therefore beneficiaries of the blessings by affiliation were broken off;
 5. We, Gentiles – as individuals – were grafted into the blessings which are nourished by the promises among them (there has always been a believing remnant).
 6. We believers of this present age have become partakers of the promise with them and are now being nourished from the rich root. Gal. 3:6-9
- vs. 18
7. We must remember that we are recipients of the blessings given to them. We are receivers, not givers. Our attitude towards the Jew ought to be one of humility. What are we now receiving that we were not given and all that we have been given finds its basis in sharing in that which He gave to them.
- vs. 19 Review – This summarizes what Paul has been saying
- vs. 20-21 Makes application to the truth just explained. Israel's sin was that of unbelief. That unbelief placed them in their present position. Should we not take warning from their experience?! 1 Cor. 10:1-12
- vs. 22 Behold:
1. the kindness of God – if you continue in His kindness;
Acts 2:42-47

2. the severity of God – if you don't continue in His kindness.
Rom. 2:4-11; Heb. 3:6-19

vs. 23 We know from a multitude of prophecies that Israel will not continue in unbelief. Deut. 30:1-6; Ezk. 20:33-44; Jer. 31:27-37; Zech. 14:1-11

vs. 24 Paul concludes this word picture with a warning. That which God has done is contrary to that which works naturally. We are to be thankful and at the same time careful in our attitudes and actions in relationship with both the roots and trunk of the tree that we have been grafted on to, and the branches that were removed to make room for us!

Verses 25-32 – The ultimate Plan that God has.

vs. 25 Let us not be uninformed lest we be “puffed up” in our estimation of our own position and importance as Gentiles:

1. There is a ‘fullness of the Gentiles’ that God has privileged to become a part of the kingdom. These Gentiles are the result of divine election.
2. In order for these Gentiles to come in, a “hardening” (judicial, sovereign) had to envelop the Israelites.
3. Israel, as a nation, will not believe until the church gathering is accomplished.
4. Israel's hardening is in part! There is a remnant that is being saved during this period of national hardening.

vs. 26 At a yet future date, after the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, (at the end of the tribulation period - Matt. 24:29-31; Ezk. 20:33-44; Deut. 30:1-6; Zech. 14:1-6) all those who are alive, having survived the Great Tribulation, will believe en masse and the whole nation will be saved on that one day.

vs. 26-27 The Deliverer will come from Zion. Heb. 12:22
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob – “all Israel will be saved”
2 Cor. 3:14-16 The veil will be removed. They will believe as one.
Jer. 31:31-34 They will enter into the bond of the “New Covenant”.
(Israel will not cease to exist, for this day is the day that their God has waited for. Jer.31:35-37 God loves them with an eternal love.

The Old Covenant (Mosaic) will be replaced with the new covenant.

Heb. 8:7-13. They will become the recipients of God's sovereign grace. "The house of Jacob will possess their possessions."
Obadiah 17

vs. 28 They are enemies of the gospel for our sake. Rom. 11:17-19. From the standpoint of Divine election, they are "beloved" (objects of His love). Israel has a national election where we in the church are chosen as individuals. God has a place in His plan for both!

vs. 29 They are irrevocable even in light of our failures. In Israel's case, Isa. 66:22.

vs. 30-32 Our experience (Gentiles) will become their experience.

Gentiles were once disobedient to God
but now have been shown mercy
because of Israel's disobedience.

Israelites who are not disobedient
will in the future be shown mercy
because of the mercy we gentiles are now being shown.

Both Jews and Gentiles have had their time of disobedience.
Both Jews and Gentiles will be shown mercy in their time.

vs. 33-36 Conclusion – reaction of any who would consider that which God has done.

vs. 33 The depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God
The wisdom of this world is foolishness when contrasted with God's!
1Cor. 1:18-25

vs. 34 Isa. 40:15, 17 "The nations are like a drop from a bucket...are as nothing before Him...less than nothing and meaningless". Mankind adds nothing to the plans of God.

vs.35 1 Cor. 4:7 What do we have that we did not receive? If we are only recipients – what have we given and what would be the basis for our "being paid back"?

vs. 36 For from Him – as the one great cause and source; and through Him – as the mighty God who brings into realization that all exists; and to

Him – the right and proper, and necessary object and end of all things...

To Him Be The Glory! Ps 150:1-6, esp. vs. 6