

# Romans 11

## The remnant of Israel

**11** <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” <sup>4</sup> But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” <sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, <sup>8</sup> as it is written,

God gave them a spirit of stupour,  
eyes that would not see  
and ears that would not hear,  
down to this very day.

<sup>9</sup> And David says,

Let their table become a snare and a trap,  
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;  
<sup>10</sup> let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,  
and bend their backs forever.

## Gentiles grafted in

<sup>11</sup> So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. <sup>12</sup> Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup> in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup> If the dough offered as first-fruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup> Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” <sup>20</sup> That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast

through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup> Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

## **The mystery of Israel's salvation**

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob;  
<sup>27</sup> and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins.

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

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

<sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"  
<sup>35</sup> Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?

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

## **Cross References**

Romans 11 v 3, 4 – 1 Kings 19 v 13 to 18: And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus... Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him..."

Romans 11 v 8 – Isaiah 29 v 10:

For the LORD has poured out upon you  
a spirit of deep sleep,  
and has closed your eyes (the prophets),  
and covered your heads (the seers)...

Romans 11 v 9 – Psalm 69 v 22, 23:

Let their own table before them become a snare;  
and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.  
Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see,  
and make their loins tremble continually...

Romans 11 v 12 – Acts 13 v 46: And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles...”

Romans 11 v 12 – Acts 18 v 5, 6: When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles...”

Romans 11 v 12 – Acts 28 v 25 to 28: And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: ‘Go to this people, and say,

You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.  
For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed;  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen...”

Romans 11 v 25, 26 – Genesis 13 v 14, 15: The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever...”

Romans 11 v 25, 26 – Genesis 17 v 7, 8: “And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God...”

Romans 11 v 25, 26 – Hosea 5 v 15: “I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me...”

Romans 11 v 25, 26 – Zechariah 12 v 10, 11: “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo...”

Romans 11 v 25, 26 – Matthew 23 v 37 to 39: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'”

Romans 11 v 26, 27 – Isaiah 59 v 20, 21:

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.

“And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and for evermore...”

Romans 11 v 28, 29 – Genesis 12 v 1 to 3: Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed...”

Romans 11 v 30 to 32 – Romans 3 v 22, 23: For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 11 v 30 to 32 – Ephesians 2 v 1 to 3: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived...

Romans 11 v 34 – Isaiah 40 v 13:

Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,  
or what man shows him his counsel?

Romans 11 v 35 – Job 41 v 11:

Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?  
Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine...

Romans 11 v 36 – Colossians 1 v 16: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him...

Romans 11 v 36 – Ephesians 1 v 12: ... so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory...