

Romans 11 “God’s Not Done With Israel”

All right today we are going to finish what I would call the 4th section of the book of Romans. We might break down this book of the Bible by saying that Romans 1:1-3:20 describes the utter sinfulness of man. Romans 3:21 to the end of chapter 5 speak of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ. Then in Romans 6-8 we have what I would call the sanctification of the believer. This section the 4th section covers Romans 9-11 and if this is your first time here you might go back and listen to those previous teachings as today we are building on what we have talked about the last two weeks.

Next Sunday we’ll begin the last section of Romans that covers chapters 12 through 16 and I would title that the practical application section or the BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS section of the book of Romans.

I have to address something here as we begin and I won’t do it for long but I want to point out to you that there is an erroneous viewpoint of the scriptures that is called Replacement Theology and I read a statement that defines what this is and I wanted to read it to you.

It goes like this. Replacement Theology is the belief that the Jews are no longer God’s chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel. Furthermore, the Christian church is now the “Israel of God” and all the promises to Israel now apply to the church.

To make it simple the belief is that God is done with the Jewish people, that they have been let go of by God forever and the Gentile believers in Jesus are now those chosen to be blessed by God...and I just have

to say that Romans 11 really just obliterates this idea as this chapter right away in the first verse is going to speak against that and we'll see that Paul as he wrote to the church in Rome had much hope for his Jewish brothers and sisters...and we might remember the last few weeks in our study that Paul has expressed his great desire that all of Israel would be saved just as he is.

As we roll into the text here, I want you to look with me at Romans 10:21 which says this **But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."** As Paul wrote he simply pointed out that God desires greatly that His people would come to know Him...Sadly history makes it clear that the people of God were rarely obedient to His Word, they rejected the prophets constantly and they rejected the Messiah who is Jesus Christ.

This wasn't a one time thing or something that only lasted for a few years but instead the history of the Jewish people is filled with their choices to reject the things of God.

Let's begin here in verse 1 of chapter 11 which says **I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.** This is a natural conclusion to the fact that Israel constantly rejects God...People conclude that the Jewish people are done, that God isn't for them any longer, that He has cast His people away.

And Paul in response to this simply says Certainly not! And then he gives himself as an example. Paul was fully Jewish, he was at one time a man that rejected Jesus and looked to be right with God based on his pedigree and his keeping of the law...Paul for all intents and

purposes was just like the rejecting Jews of his culture...and yet Paul came to know the Lord...It's clear just from his own life example that God still desires the Jewish people to come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

He continues on giving a second example of God's future work in the Jewish people in verses 2-4 which says this God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ³“Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? ⁴But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

At one time if you know the story of Elijah he felt like he was all by himself, that no one else of all his people would ever obey God or follow God by faith. This took place in the Old Testament in 1 Kings 19:1-18 if you wanted to look at that for homework and really you might read all of chapter 18 as well to get the context.

I have to just briefly say that if you feel like you are alone as you follow Jesus that this simply isn't true. One tactic of our enemy Satan is to try and isolate individuals and we all know when a wild animal finds itself alone the enemy can quickly pounce...You and I who believe are not alone whatsoever and we should remember that.

Here in our text before us we are looking at a time in the life of Elijah when he was on Mount Carmel with the prophets of Baal and they were having a contest of sorts and the prophets of Baal were trying to call down fire from heaven to consume their sacrifice...they worked at

it for several hours and even began cutting themselves but there was no response.

Then Elijah takes his turn and he had those who are there pour multiple jars of water on the sacrifice and then he prayed and asked God Almighty to consume the sacrifice and God surely did as fire came down.

After this there was a woman named Jezebel who threatened the life of Elijah and he ran and hid and then said what we have here in verses 2-4 of Romans 11. Elijah felt like he was alone, that there were no others in the land that loved God or lived for Him...The Lord spoke at that time correcting Elijah by simply saying I have 7,000 who have not bowed to Baal.

Look at verses 5-6 or Romans 11 which say ⁵Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Just as God said to Elijah that there was a remnant so also Paul as he is speaking by the Holy Spirit is saying there is a remnant of Jews who will come to faith one day.

Those that do come to know the Lord will do so by the same method you and I and all of humanity are saved and that is as they come to faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross...It won't be the keeping of the law, it won't be because of their pedigree, it won't be because they do good or religious things but instead it will be by grace.

If you remember the word grace means to receive something that is unearned...it can be define by making the word grace into an acronym...GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE.

If you remember a few weeks ago in Romans 9:31-33 we had a description of the Jewish people and how they tried to be right with God based on their works...It says the following just to remind us when it says ³¹ **but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

What Paul is saying in our text in Romans 11 is that one day there will be a remnant of Israel who will be saved as they come to Jesus by faith.

Look with me at verses 7-10 which say ⁷ **What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written:**

**"God has given them a spirit of stupor,
Eyes that they should not see
And ears that they should not hear,
To this very day."**

⁹ **And David says:**

**"Let their table become a snare and a trap,
A stumbling block and a recompense to them."**

**¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see,
And bow down their back always.”**

To summarize Paul says Israel hasn't obtained what it seeks simply because they didn't seek to obtain the promises of God by grace but instead by works...**The elect though**, Paul says have obtained it...**The elect** here from the context I believe is speaking of those Gentiles that God has worked in and even those Jewish individuals like Paul that have come to faith in Jesus Christ.

We might remember that when people harden their hearts against God as the Jewish people had done **that there comes a blindness over that person's heart**...Of course God continues to work in that person but if you harden your heart enough the Lord will honor those decisions you have personally made.

As discussed previously the people of Israel had been blinded and Paul as he speaks of this quotes really three scriptures from the Old Testament and just for a reference you might write down Isaiah 29:10, Deuteronomy 29:4 and then Psalm 69:22-23...Paul uses all three of these to simply demonstrate that God has currently given the nation of Israel over to a place of stupor and blindness.

I will say that wasn't really a blanket statement for Paul had come to know the Lord as had many other Jewish people and still to this day there are a few of the Jewish people that have come to faith. In general, the nation because they tried to attain the righteousness of God on their own rather than by the grace of God found in Jesus Christ had been given over that they might not see or understand.

It's a sad thing when people whether Jewish or Gentile have physical ears and eyes and minds but when it comes to spiritual matters and the truth of Jesus Christ they are for all intents and purposes dead. It's sad because Jesus is the only hope. It's sad because often times people are in this position because they have consistently rejected truth as it has been presented to them.

Today if you are here, I can't encourage you enough to bow your head and your heart and receive the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart for He is the Savior of humanity.

Let's look at verse 11 which says this ¹¹ **I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.**

The idea here to make it simple might be better translated Have the Jews fallen to a point that they can no longer be reached? Or you might say have they rejected the truth so much that they are beyond recovery?

The answer again...Certainly not says Paul and then he just explains that because of their fall the Gentiles have discovered salvation...And the Gentiles as they live life, as they serve Jesus, as they love and adhere to the scriptures of the old testament and the blessings of Abraham are said to be used to provoke the Jews to jealousy. That's not the first time we have heard this in Romans...Over in Romans 10:19 we had the very same phrasing.

Verse 12 says this ¹² **Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!** Paul

here to make this simple is just saying that the Jews chose not to believe, they were **blinded** and the Gentiles came to faith and experienced great riches and certainly we have as we have entered into the rich history of the Jewish people through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul also makes a second statement here saying how much more their fullness and really this is talking about how much more of a blessing would the life of faith be if the Jews came to the faith as well.

Look at verses 13-15 which say ¹³**For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**

Remember Paul as he is writing this letter is primarily writing it to Gentiles who live in Rome...There were Jews who lived in the area as well and so Paul as he is writing he briefly mentions his own ministry to the Gentiles and how he hoped it would bring about a jealousy in the hearts of the Jewish people that some might be saved.

We should remember that Paul as he ministered almost always went to the Jew first and then after they rejected the truth he would turn to the Gentiles...Paul was commissioned by God and called to be an apostle to the Gentiles and yet as we have seen on multiple occasions he had a real passion for his fellow Jews to know Jesus.

Paul then simply states that as the Jews are cast away as they are blinded and now unable to hear truth the Gentiles have been

reconciled to God and if you remember they had done this through faith in Jesus Christ.

It's interesting that Paul then says that if the Jews did accept Jesus what would it mean but life from the dead...I'm going to go ahead and just leave that as a small mystery but I do think it has to do with the resurrection from the dead...and I think Paul is kind of alluding to what will be said later on in this chapter and how the Jews will one day come to know Jesus as Messiah and really the timing of that is speaking of the end times.

Look with me at verses 16-18 which say ¹⁶**For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.** ¹⁷**And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,** ¹⁸**do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.**

This may be a little confusing if you are here today and I promise you that the whole Bible is not like this...this just happens to be a very heavy passage in the scriptures but I will say it is critical to our understanding of God's plan for His people Israel and the Gentile world.

So Paul here uses a common every day example that was found in the Jewish culture. It's the olive tree and the olive trees in Israel are known to be quite old with some being dated to be 2,000 to 4,000 years old...and you know how it is in life don't you? I mean the older you get the less productive your body will be and it's the same for the

branches of a tree, they just don't produce as much as they used to as they get older.

Paul has already conveyed that because the Jews rejected Jesus that God had turned His attention to the Gentiles and that's what Paul is speaking of when he says some of the branches were broken off...The Jewish people had an incredible heritage or "root system" in their lives. If you remember over in Romans 9:4-5 the Word said this of the incredible heritage of God's people if you just listen to that.

⁴who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

So the root system of the Jewish people was strong...the branches weren't bearing fruit though as they refused to believe by faith and so God in His sovereign wisdom allowed the branches of Israel to be cut off and then took wild olive branches and grafted them in that they might partake of the root and fatness of the tree.

You and I as Gentiles have then been grafted in and as we come to know Jesus we then partake of the rich heritage of the blessings of God's people.

We also have a warning here that says don't boast for the root supports you not the other way around...We ought not sit here and act like you are better than the Jewish people or that we have accomplished some great feat...How was it you were saved? Based on what you did? Or based on grace as you came to Jesus by faith?

We must keep a humble heart as we go through life knowing we deserve none of the goodness of God. We are recipients of His many blessings but it surely doesn't make us better than anyone else.

Let's continue on here, if you look at verses 19-21 which say ¹⁹You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." ²⁰Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

In keeping with the thought of boasting Paul simply reminds them really of the blessing of God that they had been grafted in at all. This was undeserved of course and we have talked about this.

Pride or boasting is certainly a danger that we all face on a regular basis. We might remember that our enemy Satan was full of pride when he had his great fall. Pride is sneaky for sure and it's my opinion we should continually pray for humility in our lives...I am equally reminded that if you pray for humility how do you think you will see that come into your life? You'll probably have to be humbled and while that is a hard process to walk through we can trust that the Lord is building our character and helping us to have the right heart.

Paul here also speaks of how the natural branches were not spared and they may not be either. I think at the end of the day we need to remember that God is sovereign, that He hardens the hearts of those that He chooses to, that He chooses to show mercy on whom He chooses to show mercy and we talked about that back in Romans 9 verses 15-18.

I think I'm personally learning a lot about God's sovereignty. It's a hard thing to work through mentally because it is far beyond our comprehension and yet the Bible makes it clear that He has His hand on all things in this world and in this universe...God turns the events of time according to His will and not ours.

As such you and I should have a reverent fear of the power and the might and majesty and the choices of our God. You and I as Gentiles should be thankful for the grace of God that has been extended to us. I am reminded that when Jesus came He could have chosen to only save a specific group of people if He wanted to or no one at all...and yet His love is full towards all of humanity as we choose to come to Him in faith.

Let's look at verses 22-25 which say ²²**Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in *His* goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?**

Paul says here to just think about how God has acted in His choices towards humanity. He has been good towards the Gentiles in that we get to enter into the blessings of the people of Israel...And severe at the same time in that the Jewish nation has been cut off from their Messiah, blinded for a time because of unbelief.

And then notice that Paul says here that if the Jewish people do not continue in unbelief that they will be grafted in once again. The grace of God is an amazing thing indeed. I am always amazed that those who reject God have multiple opportunities to come to know Him. God doesn't give up on people, He doesn't shut the door on us, He doesn't look at us and say we have rejected Him one too many times. Jesus will take anyone that simply comes to Him and places their faith in Him.

And that promise is especially towards His people the nation of Israel. How much more readily willing is God to not only accept His people but to also once again graft them back into their own olive tree as they come to faith in Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the lynchpin to entering the Kingdom of God. In John 10:9 Jesus said this ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. If you want to enter the blessings of God, if you want to be attached to the source of God's truths? It's all done when you come to Jesus Christ...Outside of Him you cannot be grafted into the life giving flow of the olive tree that represents the kingdom of God.

Let's look at verses 25-27 and I will just tell you now we are doing a flyover of this and I'll give you some resources if you want to dig into the scriptures and what they say about these verses. They say the following ²⁵**For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶**And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:**

“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
²⁷ For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”

The first thing I want to point out to you here is found in verse 25. Paul says I DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE IGNORANT OF THIS MYSTERY...

There are at least 4 times in the NT that Paul wanted those he wrote to, to not be ignorant of things. We have this instance that we will look at today.

In 1 Corinthians 12:1 Paul said he did not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts.

In 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 Paul spoke of his suffering and I think the context of that is pointing to how you and I will also suffer for the name of Christ.

And then over in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 he wanted them not to be ignorant about those that had died and really that leads into a section on the rapture of the church.

I have to say just looking at the 4 things Paul didn't want us to be ignorant about that the Christian world struggles greatly with them. It's as if Paul as he wrote by the Holy Spirit knew how the church would be and the things they would pass through. Today there is much confusion about Israel and God's plan for His people. The church has a hard time when it comes to spiritual gifts. Many believe that Christians are going to have health, wealth and prosperity and no trials...and there is much confusion about the rapture of the church.

Here in these verses Paul didn't want us to have a hard time with understanding the nation of Israel and God's plan for His people...Currently God has blinded the nation so they can't see. Why? Because of their unbelief and refusal to accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah...**Because of this blindness God has FOR A TIME turned His attention to the Gentile world** and we are currently in what is called the church age or the age of grace where God is reaching all nations of the world and bringing them to Himself.

As history unfolds there will come a time that the last Gentile will get saved and it's a time that only God knows but when that last Gentile comes to Christ something incredible will happen...**The** rapture of the church will take place and if you don't know what that is it is a moment in time when God will call all Christians to Himself, it will take place in a moment in the twinkling of an eye as we who believe are caught up to heaven to be with Jesus.

Now for homework on these ideas you might go online to our media section and just find a message that is in the book of Revelation titled "Let's Talk about the Rapture" and in that teaching I cover the basics of the rapture of the church. You might also go and find our teachings in the book of Daniel that cover Daniel 9:24-27 and I think there are a few of them that work through those verses.

When the rapture of the church takes place the attention of God will turn once again. This time from the Gentiles back to His people Israel. This time frame will encompass what is called the final 7 year period or the tribulation period...Daniel refers to this as the final week which is spoken of in Daniel 9:27.

When this time period takes place and the church is removed from the scene during the rapture then Revelation chapters 6-19 will take place.

There will come a particular moment during that final 7 year period where the Jewish people begin to realize who their true Messiah is and the Jewish people will turn to Jesus and come to faith and it is at that time that God will truly graft them as a nation back into the Olive tree or the promises that He has given them.

It is then that ungodliness will turn away from Jacob and this is another name for Israel and a time that God will take away their sins as a nation.

Take a look up here at the screen as I want to just share a scripture with you from Zechariah 12:10 which says this ¹⁰ **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”**

Yes, one day the people of God, the nation of Israel will come to know and serve King Jesus. They will bow before Him, they will become complete in Him and when they do they will realize it is all because of the grace of God...not based on their works or efforts but because they came to know Jesus Christ.

Now I know that's a lot of information especially if this is your first time here and I want to promise you that beginning next Sunday things are going to become a lot easier to work through but these chapters that cover Romans 9-11 are really incredible and powerful chapters

for us to work through and think about. If your head is spinning join the club, it's a lot to digest I know...I have questions as well but I believe very firmly the scriptures support that God is not done with Israel as a nation. If someone says otherwise it is my opinion they are in error of the plain teaching of the scriptures.

Let's move on here if you look at verses 28-32 which say

²⁸ Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

Currently the Jewish people are enemies of Jesus for our sake that we might benefit from coming to know Jesus.

But understand that they are the elect nation of God, the nation God has chosen to use and bless for His glory...and simply said that calling from God is IRREVOCABLE meaning what God has said and promised to this nation will never be taken away.

You and I have obtained mercy through their disobedience and as they are now disobedient and rejecting Jesus one day they too will obtain the mercy of God as He begins to work in them as a nation once more...The Jewish nation must and will come to the end of themselves one day and when they do the Olive tree that is the kingdom of God will be complete. Jew and Gentile alike finding nourishment from the

truths and promises that God has given so long ago, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

Now let's look at verses 33-36 as Paul kind of wraps up Romans chapters 9-11 they say this

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

**³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has become His counselor?”**

**³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?”**

³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

I think that pretty much hits the nail on the head when you think about all that is found in these chapters. God's wisdom and knowledge and how He works in the hearts of His people Israel and in the Gentile world is beyond understanding.

His ways are beyond our ways, there is no way we could ever fathom the depth of the riches of knowing Him. His judgments are past finding out.

For all intents and purposes God is over all and you and I are piles of dust that for whatever reason God has chosen to bless and minister to and save from the depths of hell as we come to put our faith in Jesus.

It says here that of Him and through Him and to Him are all things. Of God come all things that exist, without Him nothing exists...through Him come the blessings of life eternal and to Him is the goal you and I should have as we live life.

May all glory be given to Him.

In closing today I must tell you that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners, to forgive us of our sins, to wash us clean, to give us a life that is abundant...but you can only enter into these blessings if you choose to receive Jesus Christ in your heart by faith.

Perhaps today you are here because the Lord wants to accomplish the work of salvation in your life and you know as you are here and your heart is pounding within you that Jesus is calling you to come to Him. I want to encourage you as we close in worship that you would come forward that I might talk and pray with you.

And secondly...perhaps you have been away from Jesus for a while...maybe you used to walk with Jesus and talk with Him and read His Word on a daily basis...and for whatever reason that changed...Maybe today God is calling you to make a new commitment unto Him, to walk in a deeper relationship than you have ever had before...If that's you I want to just encourage you to come forward and I'll pray over you.

Let's pray and listen if that is you and God is tugging on your heart just come on forward and I would love to talk with you.

Let's pray

Romans 11 “God’s Not Done With Israel”

Cross References

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Verses 16-18

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Verses 25-27

Zechariah 12:10