

# Lesson 9, ROMANS 11

Romans 11 is the final connecting of the dots between Christianity and Judaism. To me this chapter is one of the most intriguing in this letter. In chapters 9 and 10, Paul has been making logical Old Testament supported arguments in hopes to lead his Jewish brothers to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Yet he realizes that as a nation, Israel is refusing the offer of righteousness through faith in Jesus.

1. In verses 1-10, Paul is answering the question, “Did God reject his people (the Jews) since they have rejected Jesus as the Messiah? These verses answer the question. What two examples does Paul give about those God has chosen to reveal the truth of Jesus to?

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2. Read verses 11-16. Paul answers the question, “Did they (the Jews) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?” According to these verses, what was the blessing God brought about through the rejection of the Jews to the message of the gospel?

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3. In verses 16-24, Paul is addressing what the Gentile reaction to the Jews needs to be. He uses a cultivated olive tree as a metaphor. If the olive tree is the Abrahamic covenant that promises a place of privilege and blessings to the Jews, how does Paul describe the Gentile believers? What is his conclusion?

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4. Read verses 25-32. What was the plan of God from the beginning according to these verses? What do Isaiah 45:17 and Jeremiah 31:31-37, have to say about the salvation of Israel as a nation?

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5. Read verse 32 again. Why did God go through such lengths? When have you received mercy from God?

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6. In verses 33-36, Paul seems to be overwhelmed with the mind and love of God for the world and for his Jewish brothers. What are your thoughts as you read through these verses?

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**APPLICATION:** Christianity has its roots in the Hebrew faith. Think about the country of Israel. It was reestablished as a country in 1948 after the horrors of World War II that annihilated millions of Jewish people in Europe. How do you see God’s hand in that dark time in the history of the world and today in Israel?

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**PRAYER:** Everlasting Father, you are a global God whose mind is so multi-faceted we cannot even fathom it. Help us to see you in the everyday occurrences of our lives but to also see you in the global challenges that we face. Guide our leaders to be in step with you. Help us to remember that you always save a remnant for your purposes. We ask for the nudging of the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers for our Jewish brothers. We rejoice that their rejection of Jesus spawned the reconciliation of the world to You. We look forward to the day where their acceptance of Jesus Christ will mean life from death. We pray this in the name of our Messiah and Savior, Jesus. Amen.