

Romans 11:1-10
For the week of October 22, 2023

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

A 'disobedient and contrary people' Israel might be, but God had no more written them off now than in earlier days when they rejected his word through Moses and the prophets. 'Those whom he foreknew he also predestined' is a principle not set aside in their case. As in Old Testament times, so in apostolic times God's purpose in choosing his people was safeguarded by his reservation of a faithful 'remnant'. In Elijah's day, when national apostasy had assumed the dimensions of a landslide, there was a loyal minority of seven thousand who refused to worship Baal; so now in Paul's day there was a believing minority of Jews who had not rejected the gospel. Paul ought to know: he was one of them. Of Paul's membership in one of the tribes of Israel there could be no doubt; yet he was a believer in Jesus, as were many more of his kinsfolk 'according to the flesh'. They constituted a faithful remnant, chosen by God's grace, and their existence was in itself proof that God had not abandoned Israel or given up his purpose for them. Even if Israel as a whole had failed to attain his purpose, the elect remnant had attained it. The 'hardening' which affected the majority had been foreseen by God. But it was not to be a permanent condition.¹

Observation (vs. 1)

3. What argument is Paul making in this verse?

Interpretation

4. Why does Paul cite his Israelite credentials (see also II Cor. 11:22 and Phil 3:4-6)?

¹ F. F. Bruce, [*Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 208–209.

Application

5. Will God ever forsake you? Why? (see also Deut 31:6, I Sam 12:22, Psalm 94:14, Matt 28:20, Heb 13:5)

Observation (vs. 2-4)

6. What is Paul saying? (see also Psalm 94:14, I Kings 19:10-18)

Interpretation

7. Define *foreknew*. (see also Romans 8:29)

8. What is the meaning of God's response in verse 4 (see also 1 Kings 19:18)

Application

9. How does God reply in faithfulness to you?

Observation (vs. 5-6)

10. What is being said in these two verses?

Interpretation

11. Define *grace*.

12. How do works cancel grace?

Application

13. How is God's grace evident in your life?

Observation (vs. 7-10)

14. What is being said? (see also Rom 11:25)

Interpretation

15. How does the quote from Isaiah 29:10 and Psalm 69:22-23 support Paul's argument in verse 7?

Application

16. How has God given you a softened heart? (read Ezekiel 36:26-27)